

The vote was 31 Oliver, 5 Griesbach. The Griesbach voters were the railway pump men and the officers of the poll. The Falher settlers tried to secure railway accommodation but were refused it.

The settlers in range 21 started for McLennan on Sunday morning and most of them arrived on Sunday night. There were only 100 ballot papers in the box. When these were all used, substitute ballots to the number of 81 were issued by the deputy returning officer. These were used by duly qualified voters in the regular way, but on the authority of what he gave as a wire from the returning officer the deputy refused to count these ballots, and they have not been counted, although they are in the box. The 100 regular ballots were counted, 94 Oliver, 4 Griesbach, 2 spoiled. After all the hardships they had endured nearly as many voters were disfranchised by shortage of ballots at the McLennan poll as were allowed to vote.

Such are a few of the examples of what happened in Alberta. The happenings in Saskatchewan were evidently similar in character, as may be judged by a paragraph from the Regina Leader. The Minister of Immigration and Colonization (Hon. J. A. Calder) will be able to tell the House a little later in the debate whether the Regina Leader is able to speak for what happened in Saskatchewan. The article reads:

Now that the elections are over, and the results of the polling are fairly complete, one thing stands out with startling clearness, and that is, that not only was the War-Time Elections Act a huge mistake but it was absolutely unnecessary even as a political weapon.

Perhaps no one Province in Canada was harder hit by that un-British and utterly disgraceful piece of legislation than was the Province of Saskatchewan. Nothing in the past political history of this country so aroused and antagonized our people, British-born and foreign-born, Liberal and Conservative, Protestant and Roman Catholic, as that "scrap of paper" enactment. Feeling over the defeat of Reciprocity by the eastern Tories was as nothing compared to the feeling existing in this western country against the War-Time Elections Act.

And later in the same article the Regina Leader proceeds:

We repeat, the War-Time Elections Act was a mistake no matter from what standpoint it is viewed. It created hard feelings and division where there was no necessity of doing so and when no good object could be served thereby. It has given a serious, even dangerous, setback to the Canadianizing of our non-English-speaking citizens. It has shattered the confidence of these people in what was one of this country's greatest assets in securing immigration—belief in British justice and fair play and in the pledged word of all Governments under the British flag.

Now that the elections are over and Union Government sustained, one of its first acts should be to wipe this stain off our country's honour. The people of western Canada expect this; they have a right to demand it. They do demand it.

[Mr. Murphy.]

In view of the widespread condemnation of the War-time Elections Act and of the clear call for its repeal issued by Premier Martin and by other supporters of Union Government, I shall suspend further observations on the subject until the Government shall have declared what it intends to do in the matter.

Mr. Speaker, if I have devoted considerable time to a review of some of the men and the methods employed to bring about Union Government, it is not because I think they are the chief concern of the moment. They are not. The chief concern of the moment is that Union Government has been accomplished at the expense of the loss of the good-will and confidence of three millions of Canadians. Smarting under a sense of wrongs inflicted either through disfranchisement or through wanton attacks upon their religion, three millions of Canadians are to-day sullen and distrustful, and they are not to be reinstated in their former respect for constitutional Government by the huckstering that is going on in farm tractors, postmasterships, senatorships and customs collectorships. That sort of thing may be smart trading, designed to placate certain classes and individuals, but it is not constructive statesmanship such as Canada needs at the present moment.

While such is the need of the moment, the newspapers announce that the member for Durham (Mr. Rowell) and some other ministers are chafing to get away to a conference in London. Mr. Speaker, if these ministers are well advised they will pay attention to what needs very careful attention in Canada and they will let British statesmen look after Imperial affairs in London. It is idle to pretend that several Ministers have to run off to England to the neglect of pressing Canadian matters. The unity of this Dominion is of vastly more importance to us than the discussion as to where new boundary lines for some European country are to be laid down—a discussion at which Canadian ministers would, in any event, be mere onlookers. At present Canada is governed partly from London, but mostly from Washington. Only a few days ago we were called upon to acclaim the opening of a direct wire from Ottawa to Washington. Let none of my friends on the opposite side of the House grow nervous; for the sake of cabinet harmony I will not make any allusions to the no-truck-or-trade-with-the-Yankee-campaign of 1911. What I desire to point out is that the people of this country elect their