

which voting took place were 34,593, with quite a number of polls yet to be heard from.

On the face of it, if every disfranchised voter had voted and voted against Union, which they would have by no means done, Union would not have been defeated in this Province. On the other hand, thousands of Liberals who voted and worked against Union because of this Act would have voted and worked for it had the Act not been passed.

Take Regina constituency as an example. The entire disfranchised vote could never have overcome the Union majority of 5,320. The same thing is true of Saskatoon's 5,531 majority for Union and Moose Jaw's more than 5,000 majority for Union, to mention only three ridings. It is true that had the disfranchised vote been polled in certain constituencies it might have reduced majorities, and even in one or two seats altered the result, but even this would, in all probability, have been offset by the soldiers' votes over-seas.

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 honor. The people of Western Canada expect this; they have a right to demand it. They do demand it.

FRANCE FACES HUGE DEFICIT OF WHEAT.

The food needs and resources of France for the coming nine months were dealt with before the Senate of France, on Dec. 18, 1917, in a statement by Victor Boret, the Minister of Provisions, in which he pointed out that there was a deficit of 36,000,000 hundredweight in wheat.

"The United States and England will only give us tonnage to supply this deficit if we ration strictly," said the minister. "For the civilian population I have a stock of only 607,000 hundredweight, or three days' consumption. Oats are no better and rations of animals must be reduced. Saccharine will replace in part the sugar ration, next month, and there will be no more sugar for the candy makers or the cake makers.

"France's new bread ration still remains larger than that of many enemy, neutral and allied countries. The situation in Italy is so critical that I had on one occasion to supply wheat to the Italian Government, and was glad to do it. I am considering new regulations for potatoes regarding which I shall say nothing as yet, lest speculators might profit."

M. Boret concluded by expressing his determination to secure an intensification of production as well as to enforce the department's restrictions.

FARMERS DISCUSS FOOD PRODUCTION.

Rural Population is on the Decline.

Every Laborer Leaving the Farm Must be Fed.

"Farmers are working fourteen hours a day, and yet production is falling off. Why? Because the rural population has declined by 30, 50 and in some cases, to the extent of 70 per cent."

This statement was made by E. H. Stonehouse, president of the Milk Producers association at Toronto, on December 20th, 1917, at the session of the United Farmers of Ontario.

"As farmers," he continued, "we feel the serious nature of the situation, because we understand the serious nature of the situation as others understand it".

Food Production Essential.

"We are not asking exemption from military service as a class. We realize that our blood is no more sacred than that of others. But we do feel that food production in Canada is as necessary to the winning of the war as service in the trenches in France. To take one skilled laborer from the farm means adding one more to the body of consumers. It does more. It removes from the land one who is in a position to provide food for six or eight others as well as himself".

"If we are to produce food to the limit, not only must we be allowed to retain skilled labor on the farm, but we must have a system of registration under which labor can be placed where needed, under which non-essential industries will be closed and more labor provided for industries which are essential".

"If the law of supply and demand were left alone, and the manipulation of combings eliminated, I do not believe price fixing in any line would be necessary," said R. W. H. Burnaby, of Jefferson, speaking on the fixing of prices of farm products".

Bacon Prices Guaranteed.

"You farmers," Mr. Burnaby continued, "are not guaranteed cost plus a reasonable profit on hogs, but the British Government does guarantee an excellent profit to packers on the bacon made from your hogs".

"The situation is indeed serious when rich and poor in England have to line up and wait for meagre supplies of the necessaries of life. But I wonder if our Government is serious when it allows munition makers, by the offer of \$10 a day, to take labor from the farm. It is not surprising munition manufacturers can pay these wages. One such manufacturer handed over to the Government \$700,000, the profit he made on one contract. How much profit have other munition manufacturers made, that they have not handed over. These men take good labor from the farms to cut their lawns, and then kick at fourteen cents a quart for milk."