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# MANITOBA PROVINCIAL ELECTIONS.

THE provincial elections in Manitoba on August 6th resulted in a victory for the Norris government which practically swept the Conservative organization in that province out of existence. With three deferred elections to be held, the standing of the Legislature will likely be Liberals 42, Conservatives 5, Independents 2. Fifteen Conservative Candidates lost their deposits.

#### Greatest Popular Majority in History of Province.

The Liberals carried the province with what is said to be the greatest popular majority in the history of provincial elections in Canada, no less than nine Opposition cadidates losing their deposits. The few seats lost were all on close votes. The tremendous increase in the majorities in seats which went Liberal in 1914 and the equally remarkable turnover in seats, many of which went Conservative by considerable majorities a year ago, showed undeniably just how thoroughly public opinion had been aroused to the enormity of the offences against good government and public decency by the Conservative machine Government of the past fifteen years.

### Prestige of Federal Ministers Failed.

All of the prestige of the Federal Conservative government in Manitoba was brought to bear on the contest by Hon. Robert Rogers who was personally in Winnipeg throughout the greater part of the fight directing the remnants of his once famous Manitoba machine. The Hon. Arthur Meighens, Solicitor General and Hon. Dr. Roche, Minister of the Interior also took part in the campaign. The enormous popular majorities in Winnipeg and close by constituencies against the Rogers-Aikins candidates showed plainly how complete was the revolt of the people of Manitoba against Roblinism and Rogerism. Sir J. A. M. Aikins, who resigned his Federal seat in Brandon to lead the fight for Rogers as head of the so-called "reconstructed" Independent Liberal-Conservative Party, went down to defeat in Brandon at the hands of S. E. Clements, a young Liberal who ran up a majority of close to 700 in spite of the frantic efforts of the Conservative Federal machine. W. H. Sharpe, who resigned the Federal seat for Lisgar to enter the contest as firstlieutenant to Sir James also suffered decisive defeat in his own home constituency, a circumstance which added fresh bitterness to the pill which Hon. Robert Rogers was forced to swallow at the hands of an outraged electorate.

## The Corrupt Electoral Machine.

While the amazing revelations of robbery and graft in connection with the building of the new Capitol at Winnipeg was undoubtedly the chief issue in the election, there were signs in every part of Manitoba that the people looked upon these revelations as merely one of the incidents in the record of a thoroughly corrupt electoral machine. The revolt of the people was less against men proved guilty on this one count than it was against a machine which for fifteen years, under the leadership of Roblin and Rogers, had fastened on the province a system of spoliation and autocracy that made a jest of law and the interests of the people. The audacious attempt of Mr. Rogers to keep his corruption machine alive and in working order under the guise of a "new" "independent" party was quickly appraised at its true value, and thousands of men in Manitoba who had never voted anything but Tory in their lives joined with Liberals and Independents in putting the last nail in the coffin of the ill-famed Conservative machine in Manitoba.

the last nail in the coffin of the ill-famed Conservative machine in Manitoba. The people of Manitoba have spoken in no uncertain tones that they will not knowingly condone political rascality and crookedness. This expression can leave no doubts as to the essential soundness of public opinion in Manitoba.

#### The Duty of the New Liberal Leader.

Premier Norris is confirmed in power in Manitoba with an unequivocal mandate from the people to go ahead and clean up the mess left by his Conservative predecessors. He is surrounded by a strong cabinet which includes men of outstanding ability. They have a heavy task ahead to clean up the unusual mess of public affairs left to them. From public statements made by the ministers during the election campaign, there will be several investigations into contracts let by the Roblin government in the past five or six years which promise to reveal a state of affairs quite as bad as already proved in connection with the Parliament Buildings. These include the building of the Agricultural College and of the Asylum for the Insane at Brandon, the contracts for which were let during the regime of Hon. Robert Rogers as Minister of Public Works. The new Law Courts at Winnipeg are also to be the subject of investigation. All of these matters will be probed immediately after the Capitol investigation has been completed.