

and a few dollars of repair along these lines from year to year or once in 2 or 3 years.

The alternative plan is that the municipalities procure a competent classification along similar lines to the one suggested, and carry out a road policy accordingly.

The latter system is objectionable because of the usual waste in Municipal administration, it being apparently the fact that the average municipality receives about 60 cents worth of value for every \$1.00 it expends in Municipal undertakings, to say nothing of losses due to changes in engineering plans, and of the other incidentals of an administration in which the administrators are elected not from the standpoint of their qualifications for the positions they are to hold, but often because no properly qualified person will undertake the office, under any conditions whatever.

The writer has no suggestions to make as to what particular roads in the Province should be classified as primary, secondary or otherwise. We only make the suggestion in the hope that it will lead those who are competent to deal with the question to take a proper and compelling interest in the question of road-making and thus avoid the terrific waste observable on all sides in British Columbia in this one matter of roads alone.

WHO IS A CANADIAN?

Now that the Native Sons of Canada and their organization, to say nothing of our political leaders, are interesting themselves in our social, political or economic life by supporting the claims of our Native Sons and others to be considered and favored as the real Canadians, we venture to put the question to them all "Who is a Canadian?"

Perhaps these organizations will deem the question a serious one and give such reply to the question as may seem best fitted to the peculiar policy they advocate.

We would be pleased to have the question answered either in the columns of the daily press or by letter, sent in care of this magazine. In the latter case the writers must understand that their letters are subject to publication in this column with such comments as we may deem suitable.

THE DEWDNEY PROTEST

We know by the daily press that Mr. J. A. Catherwood, the sitting member for Dewdney has been unseated, not because of corrupt practices by himself or his agent, not for any political sins that he or they have committed, but because the election officials appointed by the Government were either incompetent or wilfully neglectful of their duties.

This marks a new era in election law and opens a vista of possibilities that is quite startling. For example, a Government knowing the feeling in a certain constituency was adverse, has only to appoint incompetent officers to take the people's ballots. This offers no difficulty whatever as the writer's experience seemed to show that little more than 10% of the average election officials are competent to discharge the duties required of them and the public owe more to the good sense of the representatives of the respective parties and their vigilance than they do to the efficiency of their chosen officials.

This condition is true with respect to both Conservative and Liberal appointments taken on an average as far as the writer's experience goes. No trained set of election officials is provided for by any of the election laws, rules or regulations. Party hacks fill responsible positions with no other qualification in many cases than their partizanship.

Having appointed incompetent officials the Government holds the election, is defeated at the polls and then supporters of the Government proceed to unseat the sitting member because the Government has given every opportunity by designedly appointing inefficient or dishonest election officials.

It may be presumed that the election machinery is provided to allow of a proper expression of the popular will as to who should be our representatives in Parliament. It may also be presumed that the attempt of an election protest in the past has been to penalize those who by reason of their corrupt practices or other political dishonesty have sought to defeat the will of the people and prevent its proper expression in the particular election concerned.

Now this is all to be changed. The candidate must not only be responsible for his own political acts and those of his agents, but he must be subject to disqualification if a Government over which he has no control appoints election officials to whom he personally objects, and who are, as far as possibly may be, united in opposing his selection, and who can be confidently counted upon to minimize to the full extent of their capacity his chances of election.

One cannot take too seriously press reports of legal decisions, but such would seem to be the effect of the Dewdney protest as reported in the public press.

An interesting problem for politicians to work out would be how many centuries it would take to defeat the Oliver administration if they chose wisely and well their election officials in those constituencies favourable to them and were careful to select incompetent or dishonest officials in the other ridings. Does any elector think that the Oliver administration, or any other administration desirous of holding on to power irrespective of the people's wishes, would hesitate for one moment to use this means of retaining power? Further and complete information may show a different solution of the Dewdney problem. If not, we cannot congratulate the legislature who passed legislation which would permit of such conduct, or the judiciary that, realizing this to be the case, would not refuse to be a party to such political philandering.

GEO. T. WADDS

PHOTOGRAPHER

VANCOUVER BLOCK

736 Granville Street

Vancouver, B. C.

Seymour 1002

Established 1893

CENTER & HANNA LTD.

Perfect Funeral Service

Seymour 2425

1049 Georgia Street West

Vancouver, B. C.