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Liberal Conserative

HAND BOOK

ON

. . Organization . .

AND

Qualification of Electors.

Issued by the Liberal-Conserative Union of Ontario,
for circulation among the friends and workers
of the Liberal-Conserative Party.

ROBT. BIRMINGHAM,

Sec-Treas. L. C. U. Toronto.

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**TO THE
LIBERAL CONSERVATIVE PARTY.
OF ONTARIO.**

These hints are compiled for the use of our friends throughout the Province to aid in the systematizing of the canvass.

The Electoral Contest

may be divided into three periods :

First or Preliminary.

(1) The Candidate having been nominated, if Committees have not already been formed, they should at once be formed in every polling sub-division. If the polling division from any cause requires the formation of more than one Committee, it should be sub-divided and a certain portion of it assigned to each Committee, the Voters' List for the Division being in like manner apportioned.

(2) The Committee having been formed, should at once obtain copies, say half a dozen, of the List of Voters as **FINALLY REVISED** by the **REVISING OFFICER**, and it must be remembered the lists for the Local House should not be used, as they are not the same as those used for the House of Commons. These lists should be kept for use until the fate of the contest is decided.

(3) The List of Voters having been obtained, the names should be carefully gone over, and an endeavor made to classify the voters under these heads :

1. **THOSE CERTAIN TO VOTE FOR OUR CANDIDATE** (none should be so marked without good reason ; there is no more fatal error committed than **ASSUMING** without **KNOWING** that an elector is favorable).
2. **Those whom it is useless to canvass and may be put down AGAINST US.** (Here again it is well that doubtful voters should be seen before being put down as against us).
3. **THE DOUBTFUL.**
4. **THE NON-RESIDENTS.**

(4) Those classed "Doubtful" should be assigned to one or more of the friends who have most influence over them, and these men should make it their business at once to call and see the doubtful electors. It is often, most generally, the doubtful elector who in close ridings settles the fate of the elections.

(5) The list of Non-Resident Voters should be sent to the officers of the Riding Association, or to the Candidate.

The Second or Intermediate Period

has now been reached. It is presumed that the Committees have settled well down to their work—that the canvassers are zealously performing the duties they have undertaken; are making a business of seeing such of the electors whom they have undertaken to see, and are in every way promoting the success of their Candidate.

(1) The Committee should, however, meet from time to time, again scrutinize the list, receive reports from the canvassers, note the result and ascertain how the work goes on. The returns (furnished for the purpose) should be filled up and sent to the Secretary of the Riding Association, or to the Manager of the Election, thus from time to time BRINGING DOWN THE RESULT OF THE CANVASS TO THE EVE OF THE DAY OF NOMINATION.

(2) During the canvass it will happen that some considered at first "certain" for or against, may be found, or it may be rumored that they are wavering. Immediate steps should be taken to have these Waverers seen to ascertain the cause of their supposed change of feeling, and to endeavor, if they have been hitherto classed as on our side, to recall them to their allegiance; if hitherto against us, to show how righteous is the light which is at length dawning upon them.

(3) By Nomination Day the Centre Organization should have returns made up to the last practicable hour, showing the result of the canvass so far.

The Third Period.

The real contest takes place, and the work is to be done after NOMINATION and before Polling Day, AND NOT AN HOUR IS TO BE LOST AFTER NOMINATION DAY IN COMMENCING TO DO THIS WORK. WHAT IS THE WORK THEN TO BE SEEN TO?

(1) The list of voters which each committee is charged with seeing after should once again be carefully gone over, for the purpose of ascertaining whether every voter, and more especially those considered doubtful, has been seen by some person who can speak positively as to what the doubtful man's feelings are; and if he is still undecided, another effort should be made to bring him around to support our candidate.

(2) For this purpose one or more who possess the most influence over him should undertake the duty of seeing the dubious elector.

(3) Next, INSIDE and OUTSIDE SCRUTINEERS should be appointed, two for each, four in all; and the written authority of the Candidate should be obtained for the Inside Scrutineers.

(a) If for any reason it is desirable that the services of a specially skilled or experienced scrutineer should be obtained for any particular polling divisions, application should be promptly made to the officers of the Riding Association or the Candidate.

(4) The list of voters should then be gone over and marked with the letter "S" opposite the names of those who are to be sworn. (See as to those who should be sworn, page 8.)

(5) One list of voters should be handed to the Inside Scrutineers and one to the Outside Scrutineers. Upon the latter the names of those who are expected to vote for our candidate should be marked, as it is the duty of the Outside Scrutineers, on the day of polling, to see that the voters who have not voted are sent after.

(6) BUT MOST IMPORTANT OF ALL, PROVISION MUST NOW BE MADE FOR BRINGING THE VOTERS TO THE POLLS ON THE POLLING DAY.

(a) A little careful consideration now by the Committee will prevent much confusion, loss of time and unnecessary driving on Polling Day, and may determine the election in our favor.

(b) There are many ways in which the arrangements for bringing the voters out may be made, and these are but suggestions. Ascertain who can bring out their teams, and let the man who takes out his team bring with him all the electors who live on the road he has to travel in coming to the poll.

- (c) Try and so arrange it that every man will be brought to the polls by one of those having a team as he himself comes to the poll, so that it will not be necessary to drive back again, perhaps over the same road that he has already travelled, in order to bring a voter who might just as well have been brought out at first.
- (d) Every elector who has not a team or is unable to take it out should be assigned to the care of some one who has, in order to make certain that his vote will be polled.
- (e) And a list of those to be brought by a particular person should be made out and handed to him.
- (7) The non-resident voter should, if not already seen to, be, without more loss of time, looked after.
- (8) The canvass should be briskly kept up, and our Candidate's meetings, or meetings at which our Candidate is to be represented, should be attended by all our friends.

(9) If there is any reason to suspect that the other side will resort to bribing—and there is reason to believe that in the recent Local Elections money was freely used on the part of the SO-CALLED PARTY OF PURITY—means should be taken to prevent it by patrolling or otherwise guarding districts where it is suspected money will be used, so as, if possible, to prevent and at all events to detect the unlawful methods of our opponents.

Be on your guard against strangers imported into the Constituency at the last hour (generally the day and the night before polling is the time for the Grit Briber to sneak around the concession lines to ply his nefarious trade—to disappear by daylight of polling day), and let it be understood that no Constituency captured by bribery will be allowed to remain with the enemy; but the Central Organization relies for information on the Local Committees.

CAMPAIGN LITERATURE.

The true history of every matter of interest in the contest will be provided in a readable shape and printed for general distribution. But although the UNION will make every effort to distribute this literature, the Polling Division Committee must, without a moment's delay, communicate with the Secretary-Treasurer of the UNION,

Mr. Robert Birmingham, 49 King St. West, Toronto, if it has not received its quota. But when received, the responsibility of distributing it rests with the Committee. For often important Campaign Documents, which have cost both time and money to prepare, are allowed to remain in unrolled heaps in committee rooms, while the electors are anxious for information on the very matters that are treated of in the papers which are intended for distribution.

THE FOLLOWING

HINTS

For the assistance of those appointed Scrutineers may be found useful.

WHO ARE ENTITLED TO VOTE.

GENERAL QUALIFICATIONS.

1. The only persons who can vote are persons whose names are on the Voter's Lists, as finally revised by the Judge or Revising Officer. *This is the first and indispensable qualification.*

2. He must be of the age of twenty-one years.

3. He must be by birth or naturalization a British subject.

The foregoing are essentials in the qualifications of all voters.

Indians.

Indians whose names are on the List of Voters are entitled to vote in this Province.

Persons not entitled to Vote, are

- (1) Judges.
- (2) Revising Officers.
- (3) The Returning Officer and his Election Clerk, but Deputy Returning Officers and Poll Clerks may vote.

(4) Any person who has been employed at the election or in reference thereto, in forwarding the same, and for which services he has been, is, or expects to be paid or remunerated.

(5) Any person bribed to vote or refrain from voting.

(6) Any person paid or who has been promised payment (a) for loss of time (b) travelling expenses (c) hire of team or other service connected with the election.

Appointment of Scrutineers or Agents.

During the week before polling day two intelligent persons for each polling sub-division should be appointed to act as agents at each polling station. The agents should be appointed by written authority, but if no agents have been appointed by the Candidate, any two electors friendly to him can undertake and perform the duties.

These agents are to act in the polling booth, and they should make themselves perfectly familiar with the contents of these hints. They should be furnished with a copy of the Voter's List; and on this list the names of those who are to be objected to and sworn should be marked. The Agent, therefore, would as a general thing only have to insist on the oath being administered.

The chief grounds of objections may thus be summarized :

(1) That the person presenting himself is not the person named, but is *personating some elector*. If the agent is not satisfied of the identity of the person tendering himself as a voter (and one at least of the agents should be well acquainted with all the electors of the sub-division), he should require that he be sworn.

(2) That he is not of age.

(3) That he is not a British subject.

(4) That the Voter has been engaged or performed services in connection with the election for which he has been paid or expects to be paid or rewarded.

(5) That he is suspected to have been bribed.

(6) That his travelling expenses have been paid or promised.

(7) That his team has been hired.

All but the first of these grounds of objection should be considered before polling day, and the Voters' List marked with the letter "S" before the name of each person who is to be sworn. The Agent, however, will have to be guided by circumstances as to who else should be sworn beyond those so marked.

Outside Scrutineers.

One or two persons, each provided with a Voters' List, should be stationed at the entrance of the polling booth, so as to keep track of those who have voted. Their names should be at once erased and those agents should, as electors come up, mark the names of voters to be hunted up and brought to the poll.

The success of our Candidate may depend upon how this work is done.

No time should be lost in securing and bringing the doubtful voters to the poll. A VOTE BEFORE 12 IS STILL EQUAL TO TWO VOTES AFTER 12.

Agents, both Inside and Outside as well, should be on the ground before 9 o'clock in the morning before the Poll opens. If not, bad votes may be slipped in. On no account should both the Scrutineers, either Inside or Outside, be away from their place during the day; one at least must remain and his lunch should be brought to him.

If Deputy Returning Officers, Poll Clerks or Agents have to be at a polling sub-division where they are not entitled to vote, they must procure from the Returning Officer a certificate entitling them to vote at the polling division at which they are to act. A form of certificate is to be had of the Central Organization. Without this certificate they cannot vote.

Oath.

The oath which an elector can be required to take is printed in the appendix for the information of any voter who may desire to know what he may have to swear before going into the polling booth.

It will be observed that no oath as to qualification beyond that the voter is of age and that he is a British subject, is required.

Any person who presents himself claiming the right to vote on the Returning Officer's certificate on the pretence

that he is acting as agent for the opposing Candidate should, before being allowed to vote, be sworn, as in many cases persons who would not dare to present themselves to vote where they are known take these means of slipping in their vote without running the risk of being sworn.

Voters Unable to Mark the Ballot Papers.

Any person who from blindness, or other physical cause, *or who is unable to read*, can have the ballot marked by the Deputy Returning Officer; but the sworn agents of each Candidate *must be present* at the time to see that the D. R. O. acts fairly, and the voter must make oath (in the Form U) as to his incapacity before being allowed to vote in this way.

(1) If a person finds that another person has voted in his name—in other words, that he has been personated—he is entitled nevertheless to insist on voting, but he must take the oath marked in the schedule.

Counting the Ballots.

The Agents must remain in the polling booths and see that the ballots are properly counted.

The ballots which are not to be counted are :

- (1) Those not supplied by Deputy Returning Officer.
- (2) On which votes are given for more than one candidate, except in Hamilton, Ottawa and West Toronto, where every elector is entitled to vote for two candidates.
- (3) On which anything is written or marked by which the voter can be identified.

The objections made to any ballot should be noted by the Deputy Returning Officer. It is the duty of the Agent to see that this is done.

Important.

Before leaving the booth the Agent should obtain, and safely keep, a written statement of the result of the poll, duly signed by the Deputy Returning Officer, the Poll Clerk, and the agents present who are willing to do so.

Changes.

The chief change in the law is that if a man is on the Voter's List he is entitled to vote, no matter whether his qualification is good or bad ; it cannot be inquired into, except as to his age and his being a British subject.



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