

## Canada Keeps the Faith

Decisively and emphatically, the people of Canada have spoken and given to the Government of Prime Minister King the free hand he asks for in the conduct of the war. Their verdict is clear-cut and representative in eight of the provinces where large "Yes" majorities were recorded, and it means but one thing—a mandate to Mr. King to muster all the resources of the Dominion and wage total war. Quebec alone voted "No" in heavy numbers and its attitude has the effect of depriving the country of that unanimous and overwhelming affirmative that was hoped for.

Incomplete returns indicate that the general vote was not quite as large as was anticipated by those who believed that the greatest number of electors in Canada's history would go to the polls yesterday. There were approximately seven million names on the voters' lists, including close to a half million men in the armed forces. Canadian civilians, however, to the numbers of slightly more than four million, exercised their franchise and reflected the country's will and the temper of its patriotism. As the two most populous provinces, Ontario and Quebec were the areas which produced the largest polls, the former definitely affirmative, the latter almost as strongly negative. Observers who felt that the isolationist sentiment in Quebec came only from a minority are now obliged to revise their opinion, as the returns show that, for every elector in Quebec who voted "Yes," considerably more than twice as many voted "No." Thus the problem of "Canadian unity," which was one of the important reasons for this plebiscite, remains unsolved. But if democratic processes are to function, Quebec should graciously accept the majority wish of the other eight provinces and not attempt to "Balkanize" itself by still holding aloof.

The voting in Hamilton and Wentworth was gratifying both as regards the large percentage of the electorate who expressed their citizenship and the manner in which they supported the affirmative. The three local ridings voted "Yes" by six to one.

Favourable weather prevailed in most of Canada and it is a tribute to the loyalty of those in rural areas that, pressed as they are with work at this season and short of help, they went to the polls in large numbers. The Canadian Institute of Public Opinion, which serves the Spectator, enhanced its reputation in the plebiscite by forecasting the general result with extraordinary accuracy.

Canada has manifested to the world where it stands in this struggle. While its attitude was never seriously doubted by those who knew its inner fervour, this further evidence of its faith to the common cause of freedom will reassure all of the United Nations that this Dominion stands staunchly with them and is eager to play its full part. In a word, the Canadian people pledge their all for victory in this crisis. It therefore devolves upon Premier King to give them the leadership in this war that they desire above everything else.

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