

**10.—By-Elections from the Date of the General Election, June 11, 1945, to
Nov. 15, 1948—concluded**

Province and Electoral District	Date of Election	Voters on List	Candidates	Votes Polled	Name of New Member	Ratio of Votes Polled to Voters	Successful Candidates	
							Votes Cast for	Ratio to Total Votes Polled
		No.	No.	No.		p.c.	No.	p.c.
Quebec—								
Pontiac.....	Sept. 16, 1946	49,435	5	32,124	R. CAOUCETTE...	64.98	11,412	35.52
Richelieu-Verchères..	Dec. 23, 1946	25,718	3	20,143	G. COURNOYER..	78.32	11,984	59.49
Montreal Island— Cartier.....	Mar. 31, 1947	37,779	6	25,187	M. HARTT.....	66.67	9,649	38.31
Ontario—								
Glengarry.....	Aug. 6, 1945	10,706	2	4,895	Rt. Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING.....	45.72	4,551	92.97
Toronto—Parkdale...	Oct. 21, 1946	41,087	5	23,670	H. TIMMINS....	57.61	8,212	34.69
Ontario.....	June 8, 1948	38,462	3	26,139	A. WILLIAMS....	67.96	10,187	38.97
Algoma East.....	Oct. 25, 1948	1	3	1	Hon. L. B. PEARSON.....	1	1	1
Manitoba—								
Portage la Prairie....	Oct. 21, 1946	16,535	3	11,852	C. C. MILLER...	71.68	4,805	40.54
Saskatchewan—								
Rosthern.....	Oct. 25, 1948	16,951	3	11,945	W. A. BOUCHER..	70.47	6,233	52.18
British Columbia—								
Yale.....	May 31, 1948	38,439	3	28,445	O. L. JONES.....	74.00	12,838	45.13
Vancouver Centre....	June 8, 1948	43,576	3	22,076	R. YOUNG.....	50.66	9,518	43.11

¹ Not available.

The Opposition.—The Opposition occupies an essential place in constitutions based on the British Parliamentary System. Like many other institutions such as that of Prime Minister, for instance, it takes its place with the many unwritten arrangements, tested by time, that have been accepted and become firmly established.

The choice of the Canadian electorate not only determines who shall govern Canada but, by deciding which party receives the second largest number of seats in the House of Commons, it settles which of the major parties becomes the Official Opposition. The function of the Leader of the Opposition is to offer intelligent and constructive criticism of the government of the day.

When criticism by the Opposition becomes sufficiently effective it can overthrow the existing government and the Leader of the Opposition might then, as a result of the ensuing election, find himself in the Prime Minister's seat.

Although the position of Leader of the Opposition is not recognized in the British North America Act, it received statutory acknowledgement in Canada in 1927. The Senate and House of Commons Act of that year provided for an annual salary to be paid to the Leader of the Opposition in addition to his indemnity as a Member of the House. (See p. 87.)

The Franchise.*—Legislation concerning the right to vote at Federal elections is outlined at pp. 72-73 of the 1947 Year Book.

* Revised by Jules Castonguay, Chief Electoral Officer, Ottawa.