

are shown to have a majority of nearly 7,000 in the country districts. If the figures were thoroughly investigated we are convinced that a majority of the farmers of not less than 15,000 or 20,000 was rolled up against the N.P. Except the farmers are prosperous the prosperity of the towns and cities, which depends upon the agricultural districts, cannot endure. That they are not doing well is unmistakably demonstrated by their votes on March 5.

These figures show an astonishing result when we consider the influences used by the Government. The election was sprung upon the Liberals at five weeks' notice. The alien and dead vote was brought in free of freight charges from all over the continent. Huge sums of money were spent in the cash purchase of votes. The red-parlor men extorted cast iron pledges from their workmen that they would vote for restriction at the peril of prompt discharge. The banks exerted pressure and the business interests in some of the centres of population took a strange alarm at the hysterical predictions of the boodle press and red-parlor orators. But in spite of it all the Government was saved from defeat only by the gerrymander. Some of the Liberal papers have declared since the election that the effects of the gerrymander have been overcome. This is not so. That unholy instrument was of great advantage to the Government in the recent election. It is true that in Bruce it has been partially and in Huron wholly overcome. But the Conservatives still hold North Bruce and South Norfolk and South Wentworth by the agency of that infamous measure. In Middlesex County, which gave a majority of 52 against the Government, three out of the four seats allotted to the county are held by the Conservatives. Muskoka or North Ontario belongs to the Liberals. Farther east the Liberals are weakened by the operation of the gerrymander. Under a fair redistribution, a fair vote and a fair count the Liberals of Ontario would hold eight or ten additional seats in the new Parliament. The figures prove that their leaders have the confidence of the country, and that the policy of trade restriction is doomed; and no influence that can be employed by the desperate restrictionists can avail to retard for long the triumphant advance of the forces that make for trade emancipation.

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