

The Liberals are the only possible alternative to Social Credit, and some day we expect them to be a serious factor in Alberta politics. Parliamentary democracy depends on the availability of an alternative government. It is bad for Alberta that for so long there should have been no strong opposition party, ready and capable of assuming office. All governments eventually come to an end, and eventually the Social Credit administration will be set aside. When that day comes we hope the Liberals will be worthy of forming the government.

But the plain truth is that today the provincial Liberal party is immature, irresponsible and badly led. It is a young party, and as is so common with youth, it lets its tongue run away with its head. If it grows up and learns to appreciate the serious problems of government, it will be able to make a more convincing appeal to the electorate four or eight years from now. Whether it does this, only the party itself can answer.

So that brings us back to Social Credit. All economic philosophies aside, the Social Credit Government has been a good government and offers better prospect for the next four years than does any other party.

"OUR STAND on the PROVINCIAL ELECTION"

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OUR STAND ON THE PROVINCIAL ELECTION

(NOTE: THE CAPITAL LETTERS AND THE BOLD FACE
TYPE ARE OURS)

The Albertan urges the re-election of the Social Credit Government in the election to be held on August 5. We have two reasons for taking that stand. **ONE IS THE PLAIN FACT THAT ALBERTA HAS BEEN GETTING GOOD GOVERNMENT FROM THE MANNING ADMINISTRATION. THE OTHER IS THAT NONE OF THE ALTERNATIVE PARTIES IS ACCEPTABLE.**

As anyone who has followed this paper's editorials knows, we do not believe the present government is perfect. On many points it is weak, and we have never hesitated to speak out on these points. Nor does our support for the government in this campaign mean that we will cease from criticizing it when it deserves criticism.

BUT ON THE ESSENTIAL POINTS IT HAS BEEN EMINENTLY RIGHT. It does not deserve all the credit for the prosperity in which the province finds itself, but to the extent that governments can influence such things, it must be given top marks.

In Mr. Manning we believe that Alberta has by far the best premier in Canada. His integrity, his talent

for grasping and dealing with the great problems of state, and his way of inspiring his ministers, his legislative supporters and the people, are rarely found in leading public figures. There is a danger that these things will be taken for granted. The citizens of Alberta should reflect on their good fortune, and entrust to Mr. Manning the premiership of the province for the next four years.

With four parties in the field, it would be unfair to single out any one for support without looking at the other three. So let's look at them.

The Conservatives can be quickly dismissed. They are only now emerging as a provincial entity, after about 15 years of hibernation. They have little in the way of a program. They won't run enough candidates to form a government should all of them be elected.

The C.C.F., while it has been lurking in the shadows for many years, has not earned the confidence of more than a fringe of the electorate and for a very good reason. It is nothing more than a small conspiracy of congenital pallbearers. Its program is simple: the transplanting into Alberta of the last eight years of Saskatchewan legislation. But while some of that legislation has been good, much of it has also been bad. And the success of any such program depends on the ability of the people who do the transplanting. While their intentions may be good, all the Alberta C.C.F. could grow is weeds.