

GENERAL DE GAULLE SWEEPS COUNTRY.

France has come through the ~~first~~ general election ~~since the war~~ determined to ~~put an end to~~ the ~~corrupt~~ and unstable political system that brought her to ruin. For De Gaulle it was a personal triumph and he will remain for some time Head of the Government. For the electors there were two issues: the ordinary ^{party} choice ~~between parties~~, and the Referendum, under which they declared ~~themselves in favour of~~ a single-chamber assembly. This body will hammer out a new constitution but will not have power to overthrow the Government by snap vote. 75

Prime Minister at the time of the fall of France, Paul Reynaud recorded his vote. Leon Blum, Socialist leader, emerges once more as a political power and may before long join the Government. That great patriot and friend of England, Edward Herriot, is more popular than ever by reason of his steadfast resistance to the Germans.

The vote counting showed that a new France has arisen from the ashes of the 1940 defeat. It was soon evident that the three main parties were running neck and neck: Popular Republicans, Socialists and Communists. At a great mass meeting members of the last named party agreed to co-operate with the others. M. Blum, ^{as} Editor of the paper Populaire, was on the platform.

General De Gaulle, with his wife, awaited the election results, imperturbably as usual. If he gives ~~the~~ ^{stability} ~~much wanted stability~~ to French politics he will put his country heavily in his debt.