



2.30 a.m. DECLARATION OF STRATTON

MRS. DARLINGS 184 MAJORITY FOR R.D.C.

An outstanding feature of the District Council and Parish Council tricentennial elections in the Highworth R.D.C. area on Saturday was the phenomenal polling in Stratton St. Margaret, where 9,524 votes were cast, 1,176 ballot papers being issued.

Mrs. Darling, at her first bid, beat all records for the division of the R.D.C., by polling 795 votes, which gave her a commanding lead at the head of the poll. She had a majority of 184 votes over Mr. F. A. Blake, who for 40 years had always been returned at the top.

This completes a double triumph for Mrs. Darling, for in the recent County Council election at Stratton she led the field with 1,195 votes, a majority of 960 over her opponent. This, it has been since ascertained, was a record majority for the whole of England, with the single exception of one division in Somerset.

Candidates and voters waited until after 2.30 a.m. on Sunday morning for the declaration of results at Stratton, where for the Rural District Council seats, no fewer than 2,886 votes were cast for the six candidates compared with 1,941 votes for the seven candidates in the 1934 election. For the 25 parish council candidates 6,638 votes were cast, compared with 4,701 votes for 28 candidates in 1934.

Labour had a triple triumph at Stratton in the parish council contest, increasing its numbers from four to seven.

The new labour members are Messrs. W.Townsend, J.W.Birds and K.Cockhead with Messrs. F.E.Smith, S.L.Casson, W.J.Ball and Mrs.A.A.F.Brooks, who is the only woman member of the council.

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