

assemblies by assemblies, from the lowest local council up to the supreme legislature. In every case the suffrage might be really exercised, and at each step upwards we should come to a higher grade of intelligence and a larger capacity for extended choice. Nobody can doubt the immense superiority of the Senate of the United States to the House of Representatives, and it arises chiefly from the mode of election. If any system would call out the ability and integrity of the community, this would. We may wish that the people could exercise the highest franchise directly themselves, nominating and electing their representatives in the supreme legislature: but experience shows that they cannot, and the privilege, when given them, is little more than a name. This view will appear to some, perhaps, revolutionary, to others reactionary: we hold it firmly, however, and believe that in graded elections will some day be found the salvation of elective institutions.

—Gratitude is due to the Agricultural Commission, and the Government by which it was appointed, for the carefully prepared and well-digested Report which is now before us. If the inquiry has been expensive, it has probably covered its cost by the collection of information valuable to our farmers. On one point we should have liked the Report to be more explicit. The two most serious questions for this country at present, are the destruction of the forests and the exhaustion of the soil. On the second of these, we hoped the Agricultural Commission would reveal the truth, whatever it might be, and, if the danger was serious, sound a sharp note of warning, at the same time inculcating the use of the means necessary to restore fertility. In this we are disappointed. A good deal may be gleaned from the evidence of individual witnesses, and it points to a constantly decreasing yield as the general fact, and to the total exhaustion of a good many farms; the main cause being improvident farming, a secondary cause being the loss of shelter for the crops through clearing. But we have failed to find any