

20. Experience is Best Teacher: My own experience is that, though I have been voting industriously ever since I was twenty-one years old, sometimes travelling a distance to do so, never yet have I had a representative on any governing body. I have always been misrepresented by men against whom I purposely voted, and this sort of "representation" I most emphatically repudiate. At times, almost forty-nine per cent of the electorate have voted for the same candidate as I, and yet we have had to be misrepresented by the other man.

21. The Consent of the Governed: Despite all the bitterness of our political contests, in this country we are fortunate in possessing a general agreement, at least in form, as to the basis of government. With us, the consent of the governed is accepted as the one possible foundation on which a government can be based; and the criticisms which men of different parties pass on the present state of affairs all take this as their starting point. That popular consent is necessary, all agree.

22. Machinery Has Been Neglected: Now, under these conditions, isn't it a remarkable thing that so little heed is given to the all-important machinery by which the consent of the governed is to be expressed. Certainly machinery which produces governing bodies that misrepresent or totally fail to represent the electorate does not meet the need of the hour. Its weaknesses being pointed out, and a suitable remedy suggested, should we not proceed to avail ourselves of that remedy?

23. Gerrymandering Impossible: To the politically uninitiated, the word gerrymander does not seem very dangerous; but anyone who has ever been interested in the mechanics of elections knows otherwise. A politician named Gerry found that, by dividing a geographical area so his expected majorities would be slight and his opponents' majorities heavy, he could gain a very considerable unfair advantage that would give to him offices to which the total popular vote did not entitle him. In other words, he found that, by cleverly juggling the boundary lines of his single member districts, he could frequently defeat the will of the people when they were against him. This is practically impossible under proportional representation.

24. The Multi-Member District: When a constituency returns only one member, the representation can not be apportioned; but necessarily falls to a single party, sometimes, in fact often, by a plurality which is not a majority. When constituencies return several members, it is possible to give representation within each electoral area to more than one party, so gerrymandering does not work. To-day, the possibility of rigging the election machinery to produce certain results which certain private interests may wish, against the popular will, are so great that shrewd, unscrupulous men spend a lifetime at its study and grow rich as professional politicians. Under proportional representation this particular