## Counting the ballots

The first choices on the ballots will be counted by the Deputy Returning Officer in each polling booth at the close of the poll and he will publish a statement of the result of his count. The actual process of counting will be as follows : The Deputy will arrange the ballot papers in separate heaps according to the candidates for whom the figure 1 is marked on the ballots. If all the candidates have been voted for the Deputy will have 31 separate heaps at the end of his count, and each heap will consist of ballot papers marked number 1 against a particular candidate's name. For instance, all the papers in the Ames' heap will have number 1 marked opposite Ames' name.

Having completed this preliminary count, each candidate's bundle will be tied up separately and placed in the ballot box, and the ballot box will then be delivered to the Returning Officer at his head-quarters. This official will have a staff of counters and supervisors who will take charge of the subsequent counting. The Deputy Returning Officer's figures will be checked and the figures handed to the Returning Officer. All ballot boxes will have to be in the hands of this official before any further step is taken.

## Calculating the Quota

Having received details of the first count from each Deputy Returning Officer the Returning Officer can proceed. Space available will not permit a detailed description of the procedure which would be followed in an election where ten members are to be elected out of 31 candidates, but a simple illustration of the counting process is submitted hereunder. In the illustration given it is presumed that four members are to be elected out of 8 candidates. A statement of the result of this imaginary election is submitted herewith.

If this statement is examined it will be noted that 4,995 ballots have been cast. The first step to be taken after this information is secured is to ascertain the quota, *i.e.*, the least number of votes required by a candidate in order to ensure election. This is done by dividing the total of the ballots cast (4,995)