

## REFORM OF THE BRITISH ELECTORAL SYSTEM IS NEEDED

Balfour, Asquith and Other Leaders Urge Proportional Representation Plan for Next General Election — This Would Ensure Each Large Minority a Fair Voice in the Government.

London, April 27.—The impending general election, which may come at any moment and is not likely to be delayed beyond the autumn, is inducing keen examination and animated discussion of the present system of electing representatives to the House of Commons and other public bodies in the United Kingdom. Many politicians and private voters of all parties are more or less dissatisfied with the existing method, which fails to secure a fair representation of public opinion and hence does not give due expression to the collective will of the people.

Under the present system it is not only possible, as frequently happens, for a Parliamentary seat to go to the candidate who polls only a minority of the votes cast in the constituency, but for the House of Commons as a whole to be elected by less than half of the total votes recorded throughout the country; in which case it would misrepresent the views and wishes of the electorate. Some degree of misrepresentation there always has been, and the fact that it cuts both ways does not equalize matters, for in practice the electoral system which now obtains tells more in favor of one—the Conservative—party than of any other.

For instance, At the last general election, in 1918, in round numbers 5,500,000 votes in all were polled for Coalition candidates, and 4,100,000 for their opponents—a proportion of 6 to 4. Yet the former obtained 428 seats and the latter only 81. Under a system of equal representation the Coalition, taking into account uncontested seats, would have a majority, not of 414, but of only about 114 members. To put it in another way, the average number of votes per seat obtained by a successful Coalition candidate was 13,000, while that of a successful opposition candidate was 51,000. Hence the latter can claim that he has behind him four times the voting strength of every Government member. This disparity is apt to be very marked at bye-elections.

In Spun Valley in 1919, a Labor candidate gained the seat with 11,962 votes, as against 18,378 divided between his two opponents, Sir John Simon, ex-Cabinet minister, who secured 10,244 votes, and a Coalition Liberal; so that we have the anomalous position of a candidate who was supported by only 40 per cent of the voters going to Parliament and the 60 per cent being unrepresented.

### Present System Obsolete.

The dissatisfaction of political parties that has been in progress in recent years tends to accentuate the unsatisfactoriness of the existing electoral system. We now have Coalition Conservatives and Independent Conservatives, Coalition Liberals and Independent Liberals, Laborites and Communists, not to mention other aspirants for political honors. The refusal of the Labor party to co-operate or come to any arrangement with the Liberal party alone will lead to an increased number of three-cornered contests where the minority candidate may still win.

In these circumstances other methods than that by which is elected a candidate who obtains a bare majority of votes over his opponents taken separately are being scrutinized and canvassed, and a legislative change is strongly advocated. The system that finds most favor is that of proportional representation unanimously recommended this method for large towns and other densely populated areas, and two years ago it came before the House of Commons in the form of a private member's bill but was defeated by 211 to 112. It is not surprising that the number of members of Parliament is slow to change a system that has been in operation for hundreds of years.

Proportional representation, however, has the support of many eminent men and women of all parties and of none, and its manifest fairness is winning to its side an increasing volume of public opinion. Lord Balfour, Lord Birkenhead, H. H. Asquith, Lord Robert Cecil, Arthur Henderson, John Clifford, H. Fawcett, Mrs. Snowden, H. Wells, Arnold Bennett, the editor of the Spectator, and many other influential people occupying equal status have demanded a Parliamentary party representing the broad divisions of political opinion in proportion to their strength in the country, and that we can only make certain of such a Parliament by adopting the system of election called proportional representation. Never was that reform so urgent as it is today, when there are many who challenge the moral right of parliamentaries (elect-

ed as ours is at present) to speak for the people.

In recent years proportional representation has been introduced for local government elections in Ireland, for education authorities in Scotland, for University representation in the Imperial Parliament, and for an ever-growing number of parliaments in the British Dominions and in foreign countries.

The latest and most important application of the system was in the election of the two houses of Parliament in Ireland, Northern and Southern, this being its first use within the United Kingdom for parliamentary elections in large constituencies. In the south there were no contests, but in the north every seat was keenly contested. The method worked well, it was easily applied, and the results gave general satisfaction. The Swedish Parliament and the German National Assembly were elected on the basis of proportional representation, and it has been used for parliamentary or municipal elections in Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and the United States.

### Applicable to All Elections.

Proportional representation is, of course, equally adaptable to all kinds of elections, national or local. The largest election yet held in Britain on this system took place in Scotland, in March, when the Glasgow education authority was chosen. The returning officer had to deal with 366,473 voters; they were all counted in one day, and the spoiled papers amounted to only 248 per cent, although more than half the voters were using the method for the first time. In the latest electoral division, returning nine members, one of 43,043 votes, 43,387 (more than 50 per cent) were used in the election of the successful candidates, so that practically the whole of the electorate had a share in electing the authority.

In striking contrast to this equitable result are most municipal elections under the old system. For instance, at the last St. Pancras Borough Council election, "Municipal Reform" candidates received 8,623 votes and obtained all the nine seats, while the "Progressives," who polled 7,232 votes, had none, so that the large body of voters were unrepresented.

The form of proportional representation that has been adopted in England is the single transferable vote. Inapplicable to single-member constituencies it requires that constituencies shall be large enough to return several members each. Every candidate who receives a certain proportion of votes is declared elected.

If a constituency returns, say five members and 10,000 electors vote, the quota would be 2,000, and if a candidate has received more than this number of votes, he is elected, and the surplus votes are transferred to those candidates marked on the ballot papers by the voters as their next preference. If a second-choice candidate obtains the needed vote, it is transferred to the third choice, and so on. The vote transferred to a candidate is added to the votes originally obtained by him, and whenever a candidate's total reaches the quota he is elected. After all surplus votes have been transferred, there may still remain votes, called, to be filled. In that case the candidate at the bottom of the poll is declared defeated, and his votes, instead of being wasted, are transferred to those candidates who are marked on his ballot papers as the voters' next choice.

Again the votes transferred to candidates are added to the votes already obtained by them, and whenever a candidate's total is equal to the quota he is declared elected. In this way each quota of electors obtains one representative. In building up these quotas the returning officer is guided by the wishes expressed by the electors on their ballot papers. The first choice has first claim on the vote and retains it if he can make use of it. "Plumping" does not benefit him.

### XAVIER BUCKSHOT IS NOW IN JAIL

Is Accused With Having Killed Wilfully, His Brother Michael.

Bryson, Que., April 28.—Xavier Buckshot, the Stonecliffe Indian, who is accused with having wilfully killed his brother, Michael, is now in the Pontiac County Jail here.

Sheriff Sloan stated the accused man was arrested at his home, which is five miles from Rapids des Roches, the scene of the crime, and that the prisoner had not opposed the officers.



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### Weddings

#### Freeze-Hall

At the residence of the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. E. K. Hannah Hall, Penobscot, at five o'clock in the afternoon, Miss Edith Mable Hall and Harold McLeod Freese were united in marriage in the presence of many relatives and friends. The marriage ceremony was performed by the Rev. D. J. MacPherson, of Sussex. The bride was given away by her father. She was beautifully gowned in a travelling suit of navy blue with hat to match. She carried a bride's bouquet of white carnations and roses. The ceremony was performed under an evergreen arch trimmed with roses. Mr. John Taylor, of Salisbury, cousin of the bride, presided at the piano. The groom's present to the bride was a substantial amount in cash, and to the organist a fountain pen. Immediately after the ceremony all sat down to a sumptuous repast. The happy couple left on the evening train for Portland, Boston and other New England cities. On their return they will reside at Penobscot, where the groom is a prosperous farmer. The happy couple have a host of friends who will wish them much future happiness.

#### Jones-Taylor.

Hillsboro, April 26.—A very pretty home wedding was solemnized on Tuesday evening, April 26th at 8 o'clock at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas M. Taylor, Academy St., when their eldest daughter, Violet Marie, became the bride of John Jones of St. John, formerly of Texas. The ceremony was witnessed by almost 50 guests and Rev. A. S. Bishop of the First Baptist church was the officiating minister. The bride was most prettily attired in a wedding gown of white satin with pearl bead trimmings, wearing a veil and orange blossoms, carrying a beautiful bouquet of bride's roses. She was given in marriage by her father, Mr. Taylor. Margaret Taylor held the bride's bouquet at the appointed time during the ceremony, and she made a very dainty attendant.

After the ceremony all sat down to a wedding supper, the dining room was decorated with white streamers and flowers, and the bride's table was centred with a beautifully decorated bride's cake.

Those serving were Misses Helen Lewis, Dorothy McHenry, Ida Taylor, Lewis Plummer, Joy Slater, and Marion Rose. The bride wore a gown of silver and cut glass; the groom's gift to the bride was a string of pearls, to the planist a pearl ring and to the tiny flower girl a bracelet.

Mr. and Mrs. Jones left on the following day for a wedding trip to the Canadian West, thence to Texas. The bride wore a suit of navy blue with hat of blue trimmed with roses. The groom is the son of the late W. H. Jones and Mrs. Jones of De Leon, Texas, and is in the employ, as superintendent, of the Horton Steel Works, Bridgeburg, Ontario.

The bride is a Hillsboro young lady and has been for three years in the nursing training class of the St. John Public Hospital.

Many friends here wish much happiness to the newly wedded young people.

## OCCUPATION OF HAITI STRONGLY OPPOSED BY SENATOR BORAH

Proposes to Issue Public Defi to Congressional Opponents of Islands' Independence.

Washington, April 27.—The breaking of a people's national spirit through the loss of independence has far outweighed any material benefits which may have accrued to the Haitian people through American occupation, said Wm. H. Borah (R.) Senator from Idaho today in denouncing his determination to take up the cudgels for the people of Haiti and San Domingo against the advocates of continued American domination. The cause of Haitian independence has found a new champion in the Senator from Idaho, who in accepting an invitation to address the National Independence mass meeting in New York on May 1 has served notice that he will take a firm stand in support of the movement. At that time he will publicly issue his deft to the Congressional opponents of independence for the islands and outline his course of action.

Senator Borah outlined the convictions upon which as soon as expedient he will press the Congressional action on the Haitian problem. They are the conviction that the islands are a part of the American continent, that the people of the islands are a part of the American people, and that the islands are a part of the American future.

Senator Borah said he did not know just what steps would be taken to bring this about, but action in the near future was inevitable.

He was arrested as "provocative agents" by the American occupation, and which occasioned determined protests, have brought the matter to a point where he feels public opinion should be directed toward the real facts and his New York address will be directed to that end.

The following three points were outlined by Mr. Borah as the main planks in his "platform" on the Haitian question:

"I take the position," he said, "first, that we should never have gone into Haiti. The people governed themselves for over 100 years, and there was no justification for forcing American rule upon them.

"Secondly, the American occupation has not been carried out to the best interests of the Haitian people. The evidence presented on this point has fully convinced me that outrages have been perpetrated by the occupation, which are a disgrace to America.

"Thirdly, we ought to get out."

Senator Borah said he did not know just what steps would be taken to bring this about, but action in the near future was inevitable.

## NEW REGIME FINDS PORTUGAL FACES SOME HARD PROBLEMS

Things Social and Political Remain Anxious, Uncertain, and Difficult, Although Bomb Throwing Has Ceased.

Lisbon, April 27.—A singular affair, has happened here which seems in a certain degree to illustrate the social measure of responsibility which Portuguese ministers in these days attach to their offices.

Mr. Barosa Magalhães, the Foreign Minister in the most recently formed Government, of which Mr. Antonio Maria da Silva is Premier, is, besides, a lawyer with a fair practice. The new Government had not been long in office before Mr. Magalhães found himself with the opportunity of appearing in an important case in the courts of Coimbra. Without hesitation, he took up the brief allotted him and away he went, appointing a deputy to act in his stead as Foreign Minister until such time as he could return and defend this about, but action in the near future was inevitable.

The deputies in Parliament thought this was going rather far, even for a Portuguese Minister, and gave way to a debate upon the matter in the Chamber. Realizing feeling was strongly against him, that difficult questions were likely to arise, and that his lawyer's practice was worth more to him than his very insecure tenure of a Cabinet office, Mr. Magalhães, from Coimbra, telegraphed his resignation to Lisbon, intimating he would not return to act in his ministerial capacity again. On the following day, it was decided to introduce a short bill into Parliament whereby ministers would be prevented, in the future, from exercising the profession of lawyer during their period of office.

No Fundamental Change.

Meanwhile, the condition of things, political and social, remains anxious, uncertain and difficult. Outwardly, there is a certain calm. Bomb throwing has stopped for the time being, for which the presence of thousands of troops in a ring round the capital may be held largely responsible. These troops constitute an extraordinary spectacle under the circumstances. The Premier the other day, desiring they should be inspected and reviewed, and perceiving obvious inconveniences in doing it on the appointed day, thus exposing himself to possible unfriendly attentions of a critical multitude, determined to accomplish the business by surreptitious means. He accordingly, perhaps, was the first time a Prime Minister had reviewed nearly a whole army from the air.

The scene seems to have encouraged him. Returning to terra firma, the government began immediately to put the screws a little harder upon the Syndicalists and their works, as it had declared it would do the intention as announced at the beginning of this new government's career, being to sweep the country quite clean of anarchy and their like. However, many arrests were made. The headquarters of various Socialist, Syndicalist and other revolutionary organizations were closed, and it is now announced, somewhat prematurely and optimistically perhaps, that the danger of a revolutionary strike, a detailed plot for which had been discovered, has been averted. The railway service has been partially restored.

Seeks to Weaken Guard.

The more immediate and intense preoccupation being thus disposed of, the Government takes the opportunity of furthering other important business, and in particular that concerning the reorganization, reduction, and weakening of that danger to republican peace, the National Republican Guard. A decree has been published reducing its strength to 12,000 men, who will be controlled in the future by the Minister of the Interior. They will not be permitted to belong to any political organization. They will have no artillery or machine guns, such as they have possessed. In this way, it is stated, they are to be made a more important character, an economy of 35,000,000 escudos annually will be effected. It may be noted that while the Guard has hitherto done very much as it pleased, with Lisbon, which it has regarded as its own special preserve, a section of the army on several occasions has just been brought into the middle of the city.

The general idea seems to have been to try to make the Guard as much like the Spanish Civil Guard as possible. In all things, the Portuguese are more disposed to follow Spanish example than any other, and there are frequent instances of the working of this disposition in these

Master Jackie Coogan.

If there is any one in pictures who can look more pathetic or arouse more sympathy than Jackie Coogan we have yet to see him. One can just feel one's heart being wrunged and the tears coming by merely reading the announcement that Jackie is to star in "Oliver Twist."

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Just at this moment, there is evident one of the recurring waves of Hispano-Portuguese sentimental interest, and there have been exchanges of visits of eminent persons belonging to either country.

Prof. Leonardo Coimbra has been on an exhibition to Madrid, where he has been lecturing. On returning to Lisbon he was welcomed by the demonstrations of sympathy toward Portugal he had witnessed. He has received invitations from the municipal councils of Vigo, Corunna and Santiago to lecture there.

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Women overworked by family duties or overtaxed socially find they can't stand anything. Their nerves are all unstrung, face pale, appetite impaired, sleep not sound nor refreshing. Hood's Sarsaparilla gives the blood more vitality and better color, makes stronger nerves, and contributes to the length and enjoyment of life. It is agreeable, pleasant and convenient to take, and it embodies a long-tried and found-true formula

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"Something I read about Hood's Sarsaparilla, the straightforward way in which its story was told, induced me to try this medicine. It was evident something must be done to stop the loss of flesh; strength. I could not walk a quarter of a mile nor sweep the floor. After eating I would have palpitation of the heart."

"The effect of Hood's Sarsaparilla was soon noticeable, in better appetite, return of strength and increase in weight, and so I continued to take the medicine about a year."

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The anemic condition.

Thin, Poor Blood

seems to be entirely gone. I know from experience what Hood's Sarsaparilla will do for a weak, run-down woman. I am naturally very grateful for this medicine. Mrs. Susan H. Eplett.

Better get Hood's today.

### IMPOSING SCENE AT MONTREAL

Table Dedicated to Memory of C. P. R. Men Who Fell in Great War.

Montreal, April 28.—Imposing ceremonies marked the unveiling at the Windsor street station of the C.P.R. this afternoon, when His Excellency Baron Brag, of Vimy, officiated at the dedication of the memorial statue in the concourse, and the bronze memorial tablet on Osborne street, to the memory of the Canadian Pacific men who fell during the great war and in honor of those who served.

### CITY HALL PAY DAY

A total of \$10,522.18 was paid out at City Hall today, in the regular fortnightly labor pay, as follows: Public works, \$4,235.25; water and sewerage, \$3,877.08; harbor, \$1,841.75; ferry, \$568.10.

### Funerals

The funeral of Joseph W. Nichol took place yesterday morning from his late residence, 145 St. Patrick street, to the Cathedral for solemn high mass of requiem by Rev. S. Oram. Rev. A. P. Allen was deacon; Rev. R. McCarthy, sub-deacon; Rev. W. Duke, master of ceremonies, and Rev. H. Ramo, in the sanctuary. His Lordship Bishop LeBlanc gave the final absolution. The pallbearers were John Gallagher, Robert Norris and James W. Cully, from the St. Vincent de Paul

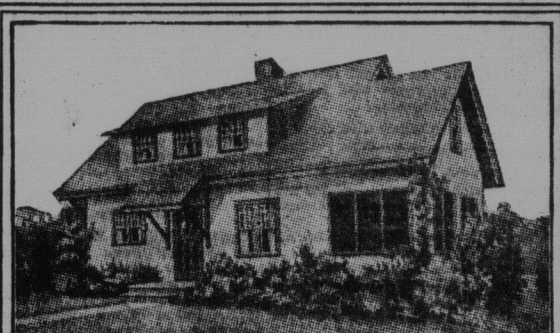
Society, and Fred J. McInerney, Matthew T. Morris and Edward Heaney from the Knights of Columbus, of which societies Mr. Nichol was a valued member. The funeral was attended by many and a large number of spiritual and floral offerings were sent. As the casket was being borne down the aisle of the Cathedral the choir sang "Nearer My God to Thee." Interment was in the new Catholic cemetery.

The funeral of Miss Alice Mullaney was held yesterday morning from her parents' residence, Milford, to St. Rose's church for high mass of requiem by Rev. R. C. Collins. Interment was in Holy Cross cemetery. A large number of floral and spiritual offerings included a crescent of pink and white roses from the staff of the International Harvester Company, with which she was employed.

The funeral of Annie E. Little daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Lawlor, 43 St. Paul street, was held yesterday afternoon.

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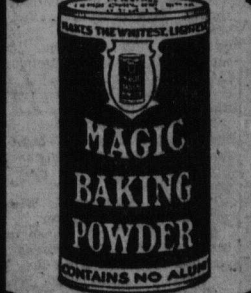
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