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Proportional Representation Society of Canada.

Committee on Political Purity and the Franchise

Your Committee have given special attention (during 1920) to Proportional Representation as a method of voting.

It has for years been in use in Switzerland and elsewhere. It has attained favour in Great Britain within certain limits. It was given an excellent test in Winnipeg in the recent Provincial elections and in the municipal elections. It is before a Committee of the Ontario Legislature, and is likely to be favourably reported for use in Ontario.

The following statement or explanation of what it is and how it works will be useful and welcome :

Proportional Representation

What is Proportional Representation ?

The representation of all classes of citizens on elected bodies in proportion to their voting strength.

How can this be attained ?

By the method of election known as the Single Transferable Vote.

What is the Single Transferable Vote ?

The Single Transferable Vote requires—

1. That constituencies shall be large enough to return several members each.
2. That each elector in such constituencies shall have only one vote.
3. That this vote shall, in certain contingencies, be transferable, the transfer being controlled by the elector.

Why Constituencies Returning Several Members ?

When a constituency returns only one member, the representation cannot be divided. It necessarily falls to a single party. But with constituencies returning several members, it is impossible to give representation within each electoral area to more than one party.