was useless he said to talk of building up large industrial centres in a province like Saskatchewan where there is practically no water power available for manufacturing purposes.

Proportional Representation

One plank of the western farmers' platform has received consideration in parliament this week. On Monday afternoon J. G. Turriff moved: "That in the opinion of this house, the necessary legislation should be enacted to provide that members of the House of Commons should be elected by a system of proportional representation."

The debate which followed, while along academic lines created considerable interest and it was apparent that many members of the house on both sides were interested in the advantages of the proposed system as explained by the member for Assiniboia. Mr. Turriff explained that it was not his idea that parliament should immediately declare itself in favor of proportional representation. His suggestion was that a committee might be appointed to enquire into the merits or demerits of the plan. The system could not be introduced before the next general election, but he thought that in the event of any enquiry being held it could be tried in a few large constituencies electing three or more members and including the large cities, at the second general election to be held. He emphasized more particularly the fact, that under the present system of one member constituencies large elements of the population secure no representation at all, while it frequently happens that one of the two recognized parties is practically eliminated at elections. He instanced the present position in the Federal House of the provinces of Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia. Saskatchewan and Alberta each have but one Conservative member, while the Liberals of British Columbia have no representative. In all three provinces the minority party polled a vote altogether out of proportion of their representation secured in parliament.

White Favors Investigation

Mr. Turriff's resolution received a sympathetic reception from Sir Thomas White who was leading the government. Sir Thomas admitted that the question was one that had attracted a great deal of attention and has been given a great deal of thought by men interested in the subject of constitutional and electoral reforms. It was therefore a proper subject for consideration by the house. Sir Thomas did not agree with Mr. Turriff that minorities are not well represented in parliament. He thought that all the views expressed throughout the country found championship in parliament. He was inclined to think that many opinions are put forward in parliament that are not supported by any interest in the country. He expressed a fear that under such a system it would be a difficult matter for the government of the day to secure a working majority. He admitted the inequality of representation as between rural and urban constituencies at the present time. He asserted that any change involving disturbance in the limits of constituencies and the representation of those constituencies come very slowly. While not opposed to the proposal to name a select committee to consider the matter, Sir Thomas suggested that this be left over until after the war.

Support for the proposal came from Hon. George P. Graham, W. A. Buchanan, Medicine Hat and George Kyte, the adjournment of the debate being moved by A. B. Copp, of Westmoreland. Mr. Graham thought there was a great deal to be said in favor of proportional representation. He believed it was a matter that should be further investigated and more widely discussed. It was a splendid subject, he said, for discussion before Canadian clubs and by public men everywhere.

Mr. Buchanan claimed that by the adoption of a principle of proportional representation a better class of representatives would be secured in parliament. It would to a large extent eliminate personal canvass. The system in the judgement of Mr. Buchanan provides the best means of getting the opinion of the electors as to the most suitable men for office.

Mr. Kyte believed that proportional representatiin would put the political party machine out of commission. Nothing had done so much, he said, to impoverish public life of this country as the existence of the party political machine. A man who seeks public honor must first go out and make terms with the party machine in order to secure the nomination. It very often happened that the man who is the most competent and the most deserving, and who would be the most effective representative is not the one who is most anxious to seek nomination. Under the system of proportional representation the party machine would not be as successful in placing its candidates in parliament as it is at the present time.

Independent Western Voice

During the course of his speech on the free wheat amendment to the budget W. E. Knowles, Liberal member for Moose Jaw, took opportunity of telling both the old line political parties that they are not abreast of western sentiment in regard to fiscal matters. After somewhat caustically criticizing the record of the present administration since the outbreak of the war Mr. Knowles turned his guns loose on both parties. He prefaced his remarks with the declaration that he was in favor of placing anything possible on the free list and proceeded to say: "Both parties, I think, have too many Conservatives in them, whether you call them Liberals or Conservatives. There are too many Conservative Liberals in our party to suit me. I wish that a committee of western Canadians would be allowed to nominate all candidates for the Liberal party in the next election. That would ensure the selection of true Liberals; there would be no reactionaries in the party, but as the Liberal party ought to do, it would come out frankly and say what its policy was. There are forty-two seats and will be forty-two candidates in the prairie provinces, and I have counselled—and I hope it will be done—that the forty-two candidates of the Liberal party should act as one unit before the election, and then they will come down here with the power they ought to have. I am not for separating from the rest of Canada, as yet certainly. So far as the money goes, we are paying all right for our connection with Canada. There is no protection to us. We are paying protection at every turn we make, and it is a terrible burden on our poor homesteaders, and there are many of them in my own riding. Therefore I say that the western members in the future should lay down a policy to act as one unit, and if they cannot make the two parties sit up and take notice it will be a strange thing. We have the numbers now and we are going to have them. I think it time that the people in this house understood that the people of Western Canada are not tied up to either party externally, but they are tied up with the principle of low tariff and open markets. I believe the time has come when the Dominion of Canada should realize that the best prosperity of the whole Dominion is synonymous and parallel with the prosperity of Western Canada."

DEATH OF JOHN BRIGHT

The death occurred on April 22 of John Bright, Dominion livestock commissioner. Mr. Bright was appointed to the position of commissioner on December 1, 1912. Previous to his appointment he was for many years a successful breeder of Clydesdale horses, Shorthorn cattle and Shropshire sheep in Ontario county, Ontario. He had wide experience in connection with livestock associations and had acted as judge at many of the big exhibitions.

UTILIZING WILD PLUMS

In Manitoba the common native species of wild plum is the Prunus Americana. It is surprising that trees of these plums are not planted by everyone having a garden where there is room enough to have a few trees, as they bear young and bear abundantly, and the fruit of the best cultivated varieties, while not as good as the best of the European sorts, is excellent when eaten raw and makes very good jam when properly cooked.

At the Experimental Farm, Ottawa, over 100 varieties of these plums have been tested during the past twenty-eight years. The outstanding or most widely useful variety of Canada plum has been found to be the Cheney, a red variety of fairly good quality which cooks well. The Assiniboine, a new variety, is very promising. On account of its earliness, the Cheney is particularly useful in the prairie provinces where many of the varieties are too late to ripen. Few of the American sorts usually offered for sale are sufficiently early for the prairies, most of them having been originated in the states of Minnesota and Iowa, where earliness is not so important. Seedlings of the native Manitoba sorts are now being grown at the experimental farms on the prairies to obtain other and better ones. The Major plum, which has been brought to notice by the Brandon farm is a very early sort.

It is desirable to have more than one variety of these hardy plums if the best success is to be obtained as they are more or less self-sterile and each variety requires another near it blooming at the same time to ensure a good crop for both.

Your Questions Answered

VOTING IN SASKATCHEWAN

Q.—Can you give me any information re the following:—

(1) What are the conditions under which a man may vote at the coming provincial election?

(2) May a man vote if he has fulfilled the conditions even though his name is not on the voters' list?

(3) How can a man get his name placed on the list?

(4) Is there a day appointed for registration?

(5) Will the women have a vote at the next Saskatchewan provincial election?—PERCY WAINWRIGHT, Sask.

A.—These questions were submitted to the Hon. Geo. Langley, minister of municipal affairs for Saskatchewan whose answers are as follows:

1. He must be 21 years of age, a British subject by birth or naturalization and must have resided 12 months in Saskatchewan and three months immediately preceding the election in the constituency where he intends to vote.

2. Our election law provides that in all cities and towns of 2,000 population or more, a registration shall be held, the same giving time for a revision. After revision has taken place the list is printed, and in these places only the persons whose names are on the list can vote. In the smaller towns, villages and rural districts, enumerators will prepare lists for the use of the deputy returning officer at each polling place. These lists will be made up as accurately as possible, but should the name of any person entitled to vote not be on the list he can make declaration to that effect, and when he has done so he can vote the same as a person whose name is on the list.

3. and 4. The closed list for the larger places was made in September last and will not be revised before the election. The answer given to question 2 makes any further answer for the smaller places unnecessary.

5. All women in the province may vote, their qualifications being the same as for the men.

SASK. HAIL INSURANCE

Q.—What provision has been made by which 1916 claims for hail insurance may be paid?

A.—At the last session the legislature passed an act which provides a method by which claims of 1916 may be paid in full in those municipalities taking the action required under the act. The provision is as follows: A petition signed by at least fifty ratepayers must be presented to the council prior to June 1, and after the presentation of such a petition requesting a vote as to whether the balance of the claims shall be paid or not it is the duty of the secretary-treasurer of the municipality to notify this office, and providing at least fifty municipalities now under this act decide to take such a vote the date for such election may be set any time prior to September 1, and if fifty municipalities decide by a two-thirds vote to raise $15,000 apiece the money shall be paid to the Municipal Hail Insurance Association and shall be distributed by the association among the claimants in the municipalities providing the funds.—J. E. Paynter, Chairman Municipal Hail Insurance Association, Regina.

SYPHONING FROM A WELL

Q.—I have a well 40 feet deep on an elevation 500 feet from my barn. Would the weight and suction of the water in a 500 feet pipe with a 20 foot drop syphon the water from the bottom of this well.

A.—A syphon would not work unless the water of the well was higher than the point of discharge. The weight of the water in the 500 feet of pipe would not add anything to the suction and is in fact a hindrance due to the friction of the water in the pipe. The water cannot be raised in practice over about 25 or at most 28 feet by suction. The raising of the water in a syphon is due to atmospheric pressure which forces the water into the pipe to take the place of that which is being drawn off by gravity and since this will not raise water much above the limit mentioned your scheme would be unworkable as applied to a 40 ft. well.

Water should always be given to horses freely provided it is given frequently. Experience has proven that they should be at liberty to drink both before and after feeding, but the larger supply should be previous to feeding

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