

# WESTMINSTER REVIEW

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## Editorial

### The Provincial and the National

*Letter from Earl Grey to Editor Westminster Review*

" . . . I am in full and hearty sympathy with the aims, objects and ideals of the "Westminster Review," and heartily wish you success in your endeavour to create a strong public opinion in support of such electoral reforms as will secure for your country the blessings of 'absolute freedom to both voter and representative alike.' . . ."

As often happens, the month has brought a budget of subjects under review, but owing to the limitations of space and the unusual demands of unforeseen conditions affecting other departments of this magazine, editorial comment is restricted.

It may be in place however, to mention that, at a time when our independent comment on the British Columbia provincial election seems to have proved too much for a prominent provincial politician, we had the altogether unexpected pleasure of receiving a holograph letter from the ex-Governor-General of the Dominion, the Rt. Hon. Earl Grey, who, in addition to writing encouraging words, graciously asks to be added to our subscribers' list.

The letter resulted directly from the reprint of the articles published in this "Review" on Proportional Representation, copies of which were sent from our office to the members of the P. R. Society of Canada, of which Earl Grey is Honorary President.

These articles, it need scarcely be noted, were, like other contributions, given space solely because of their dealing with a subject which commended itself as one worthy of public attention and thoughtful consideration.

Contrary to our usual rule, no name was put to the articles, but that was because the articles were really a work of collaboration. One man, who is nothing if not an enthusiast on this subject, raised the question, through a valued contributor, of our giving publicity to it. The contributor in question collaborated in various ways, and was responsible for the rather striking title. The whole treatise seemed too long for these war times, when every page of type is worth about half a dozen in other days; but after careful revision of the copy and the elimination of redundancies, the editor of this magazine decided that the only fair and satisfactory way to deal with it was to publish it in parts. Lest anyone concerned is held to be making an unwarranted claim, it should be added that the part of the pamphlet requiring most care and capacity, namely, the illustrative election, with the tabulated analysis thereof, was incorporated wholly from a pamphlet previously published on the subject.

It may also be noted that the editing of the reprint, with supplementary notes, was undertaken gratuitously because of our interest in the subject and the publicity the pamphlet gave to the "Review's" service.