

a quota or nearly so; and these are the elected ones.

The Hare-Spence system has been used with great success in many actual elections.

My limited space prevents me from going further into detail; but any reader who desires to pursue the subject further may obtain ample data by addressing the secretary or any of the officers of the Proportional Representation Society.

LEGISLATION REQUIRED.

Before any municipality can adopt Proportional Representation, some permissive legislation must be obtained. With this view Mr. S. Russell of Deseronto, M.P.P. for East Hastings, has twice introduced into the Ontario Legislature a bill giving municipalities the necessary powers. Following is the bill in condensed shape:

Title: "An Act allowing municipalities to adopt proportional representation."

Section 1. This Act may be cited as the Proportional Representation Act, 1900.

Section 2. In every city, town, township and village where the council is elected by a general vote (that is, without wards), the Council may pass a by-law providing for a quota system of proportional representation in election of aldermen or councillors, which bylaw must be submitted to the electors before finally passing.

Section 2. Any council adopting proportional representation shall adopt also voting by ballot and all other provisions of the Municipal Act that can be made operative under the new plan, and may supplement these by such other directions and provisions as may be necessary.

Section 4. A vacancy may be filled or left unfilled. If filled, it may be either by a new election or by declaring elected the highest of the losing candidates at the last general municipal election.

Section 5. Any municipal council, whether adopting proportional representation or not, may provide for electing its mayor, warden, etc., by a method of preferential balloting in which the elector marks all the candidates in the order of his choice (presumably with the figures 1, 2, 3, etc.), and then in counting the votes the candidate having the least number of first choice votes is dropped, and all his ballots are transferred to other candidates, according to the second choices on such ballots; the process

being continued until one candidate has an absolute majority of all the votes cast.

Section 6. In a municipality where aldermen or councillors are elected by a general vote, if a petition be presented, signed by five per cent. of qualified electors, asking that a by-law for proportional representation or preferential voting be submitted to the electors, then the council shall prepare and submit such bylaw accordingly.

THE VOTING MACHINE.

A mechanical voting apparatus, somewhat on the principle of the cash register, has met with success in Buffalo, Rochester and other cities in the United States. A similar machine has recently been patented for use in Canada. The Ontario Legislature recently legalized the use of voting machines by any municipality that chose to introduce them. It is therefore an interesting question, Can Proportional Representation be adapted to the voting machine? The Hare-Spence system could hardly be worked by such an apparatus. But there is a system invented by Hon. William H. Gove, of Salem, Massachusetts, which is admirably suited for this purpose, and which is strongly recommended for municipalities if the use of the voting machine should become practicable and popular in Canada.

WHAT MAY BE EXPECTED.

With Proportional Representation in operation, the inducements to personal canvassing largely disappear; because each candidate appeals only to that group or quota of the electors who are in accord with his ideas. These electors are scattered over the whole city, and are more easily and effectually reached by printed addresses on the ground of principles and character than by personal persuasion.

Proportional Representation wastes no votes. Practically every voter is represented, and the best men are brought to the front. Public indifference gives place to a deep and intelligent interest in municipal matters. Strong leaders of men take the place of the mediocre or colorless straddlers who are too often elected under the present system. Candor and straightforwardness are promoted by the fact that a candidate appeals only to a group or quota of like-minded electors, not to half-a-dozen diverse interests. The fairness and honesty of the system promotes similar qualities in both candidates and electors. Is it not worthy of your support and assistance?