

The CHAIRMAN: Are there any further questions the Committee would like to ask Mr. MacNeil?

*By the Chairman:*

Q. You are through with your statement?—A. Yes.

*By Mr. Denis:*

Q. What is the membership of your organization?—A. Roughly, the enrolled membership is around two hundred thousand.

Q. And as you have just told us, your central organization is in favour of proportional representation, and so is every one of your local or provincial councils?—if you call them so—is that what you said?—A. Every provincial council that has expressed itself is—

Q. Is in favour of it?—A. Yes.

*By Mr. Harold:*

Q. In answer to a question which we put to Mr. Haydon in regard to the single member constituencies, do you agree with his views that the candidates should have a majority of the votes behind them?—A. We prefer, of course, the single transfer votes to the group constituency.

Q. But where that is impracticable—A. The alternative vote only as an improvement upon the existing system, and to more definitely insure that the elected representative has a majority of the constituency behind him.

*By Mr. Denis:*

Q. To make your idea clear, you are in favour of the single transfer vote first?—A. Yes.

Q. Failing to secure that, you would be in favour of an alternative vote rather than sustain the present system?—A. Only where it has been proven that the single transfer of the vote would be wholly impracticable, and only as some improvement upon the present system.

*By Mr. Thomson (Qu'Appelle).*

Q. In case the House refuses to adopt proportional representation,—that group constituency—would you prefer we should adopt the other system, that is, the alternative vote system, rather than retain our present system—generally?—A. Yes, we regard that as progress.

Q. You regard that as a forward step?—A. Yes.

*By Mr. Crowe:*

Q. Do you think it would be fair, Mr. MacNeil, to have in one part of a province proportional representation, and in another part of the province the single alternative vote? You are acquainted with the western provinces. Some of those constituencies are very large, and it would be almost impossible to group them. Take the province of British Columbia. There are three representatives who take in probably three-quarters of British Columbia. It would be almost impossible to group these three in one constituency. Do you think it would be advisable to have proportional representation applied to the cities and to the larger populated farmer constituencies, and have the larger constituencies single representation?—A. It was our opinion, sir, that there would be very few portions of the Dominion where it would not be possible to group constituencies.

Q. There is the northern part of Ontario and the northern part of the four western provinces—it would be almost impossible to group the constituencies there.—A. Well, that would have to be—I would not presume to answer that question very definitely. It will have to be gone into by experts, and examined very closely.

[Mr. C. G. MacNeil.]