

It must be apparent to all that the present system of election in single member constituencies meets fully the purpose intended only when not more than two candidates are nominated. Recent experiences in elections in Canada have brought home to our people the fact that where three or more candidates present themselves in single-member constituencies, the candidate declared elected may, and often does, represent merely a minority of those voting in the constituency.

Your Committee believes that in constituencies where more than two candidates present themselves the adoption of the alternative vote offers a solution of the difficulty, inasmuch by such method the candidate finally declared elected would represent the choice of the majority of the electors.

The system of the alternative vote has its application only in those constituencies in which more than two candidates present themselves. The work of the elector is simple. Instead of marking a cross opposite the name for which he desires his vote to count his privilege is to place the figures 1 and 2 after the names of his first and second choices. If upon the counting of the ballots it is found that a majority of those voting have placed the figure one (1) after the name of one of the candidates, then that candidate is declared elected. Should, however, it be found that none of the candidates has received an absolute majority, then in such event the following procedure is adopted: The candidate having the lowest number of first choices is dropped and the second choices expressed on his voting papers are transferred to those indicated on such ballots. This procedure of dropping the candidate having the lowest number of votes after each count is continued until but two candidates remain, and the candidate who has the greater number of votes of these two is declared elected.

Your Committee is of the opinion that this system will give a truer reflection of the desires of the voters in the various constituencies than will be obtained where more than two candidates run under our present method of counting the votes.

Your Committee recommends that their proceedings submitted herewith be printed in the appendix to the Journals of this session and that Rule 74 in relation thereto be suspended.

*(For Minutes of Proceedings and Evidence, accompanying this Report, see Appendix to the Journals, No. 5.)*

Mr. Armstrong (Lambton), from the Select Standing Committee on Railways, Canals and Telegraph Lines, presented the Ninth Report of the said Committee, which is as follows:—

Your Committee have had under consideration Bill No. 217 (Letter W5 of the Senate), intituled: "An Act respecting The Calgary and Fernie Railway Company," and have agreed to report the same without amendment.

Mr. Steele, from the Select Standing Committee on Miscellaneous Private Bills, presented the Eleventh Report of the said Committee, which is as follows:—

Your Committee have had under consideration the following Bill, and agreed to report the same without any amendment, viz.:—

Bill No. 218 (Letter D6 of the Senate), intituled: "An Act for the relief of Susan Lee Johnson Bell."

Mr. Steele, from the Special Committee on the future fuel supply of Canada, presented the following as their Second and Final Report:—

On March 23rd the House adopted the following resolution:—

That, in the opinion of this House, the future fuel supply of Canada should be considered by Parliament, and that a Special Committee of the House of Commons