The majority of the votes, amounting to 53 per cent., were thrown away on defeated candidates; that is, 53 per cent. of the voters were disfranchised and unrepresented.

We have spoken of putting tickets in the field; but this fact about the election of 1898 shows that monopolization of all the representatives by a minority, or by a bare majority, may result from the inherent viciousness of the method itself, and not from any deliberate or organized attempt on the part of any section.

A ONE-NINTH INTEREST.

Keeping to the illustration of nine aldermen elected by nine thousand votes, suppose yourself an elector in that city under the present system of the block vote. What is your position? Instead of being represented in a clear and definite way by one distinct alderman in the council, you have, so to speak, only a one-ninth interest in nine different aldermen, who are persons necessarily of diverse views and opinions on some subjects that you are interested in. Which idea of representation is most in accordance with common sense?

AS MUCH VOTING POWER.

Some persons think that a man's voting power is lessened by his having only one vote that counts instead of nine. This is a fallacy. When everybody else has nine votes as well as you, your additional votes are swamped and neutralized by the additional votes of the other electors; so that you get all the disadvantages of the multiple vote without any increase of your voting power.

THE TRUE PRINCIPLE.

It is evident, therefore, that abolition of the wards ought to be followed by abolition of the multiple or block vote. In its place, let us adopt a system based on true representative principles; that is, some good system of Proportional Voting; for no system is truly representative that is not proportional. As Professor John R. Commons says:

"Voters of the same interests and beliefs should be permitted to come together according to their likings."

This they can do with the utmost freedom by means of Proportional Representation. The mere act of balloting, followed by the subsequent counting of the votes, enables the voters to divide themselves freely into as many equal groups as there are councillors or aldermen to be elected. Every group is represented by the one man of its choice, and that choice is not hampered or interfered with in any way by the other voters.

THE HARE-SPENCE PLAN.

If for instance there are eighteen candidates for nine seats in the council, the weaker candidates are gradually excluded in the process of counting, and the votes cast for them are transferred to the stronger candidates until only nine remain; each of the nine being the elected representative of a group comprising about one-ninth of the electors who voted. If in round numbers nine thousand votes have been cast, then the nine groups number a thousand each. The voters have grouped themselves, not according to location, but according to their views and opinions. They have grouped themselves acording to their likings. An idea of how they do this can be gained by a brief examination of the Hare-Spence system, which is one of several plans of Proportional Representation.

If you are voting on the Hare-Spence plan in an election of nine aldermen, you mark your ballot for nine candidates (or less), in the order of your choice, with the figures 1, 2, 3 4, 5, 6, 7 8, 9. The candidate whom you like best you mark No. 1 and so on in rotation. If your vote goes to help your first choice to be elected, then it does not count for anybody else. But if the candidate whom you have marked No. 1—your first choice—has enough votes without yours, or has so few votes that he cannot be elected, then your vote goes to the man whom you have marked No. 2. If your No. 2 does not need or cannot use your vote, then it is passed on to No. 3, and so forth. In any event your vote finally counts for one candidate.

At each polling sub-division, when the polls close, a count is made of the first-choice votes, and the ballots are then taken to the office of the returning officer, where the counting is finished. The returning officer divides the total vote by the number of seats to be filled, which gives the "quota," or number of votes required to elect one man. In the illustration previously given, the returning officer would divide nine thousand votes by nine seats, giving a quota of one thousand.

Anyone who has a quota or more is declared elected. If he has more than a quota, his surplus ballots are transferred to those candidates who are marked on them as second choices. Then the man at the bottom of the poll, with the least number of votes, is declared "out of the count," and all his ballots are transferred to the candidates marked on them as second or subsequent choices. This exclusion of lowest candidates and transfer of ballots is repeated until only nine candidates remain, each of whom has new