

ing the express image, in miniature as to numbers, of the people which it represents.

10. An Old Political Problem: There have been many occasions in the past when the party polling the least number of votes has elected a majority of the representatives. A noteworthy instance occurred when Gladstone was hurled from power in 1886—by a minority; for though he had a popular majority of fifty-five thousand votes throughout the country, yet the election machinery seated a majority of one hundred and four members of the opposition in the House. Can such a government, by any form of sophistry, be said to represent and have a mandate from the people?

11. Canada Needs the Solution: In the general election of 1896, the Conservative party in Canada polled eleven thousand more votes than did the Liberal party; but nevertheless the Liberals obtained a majority of thirty seats in the Canadian House of Commons. Such fluke results of the present method of conducting elections, and the political conditions growing out of it, caused Earl Grey, writing to the London "Times" on April 3rd, 1917, to say: "In Canada, the necessity of the two contending political parties to obtain an electoral majority in every district is a corrupting influence which poisons the life of the people from the Atlantic to the Pacific.

12. Canada Seeks the Solution: The recent Royal Commission on Industrial Relations perceived this corrupting and disintegrating political influence observed earlier by Earl Grey, and made to the Government suitable recommendations with respect to Proportional Representation. On July 5th, 1919, Sir Robert Borden, from his place in Parliament, referring to Proportional Representation, said: "I recognize its importance, and I will be prepared to have a Speaker's Conference appointed at the next session of Parliament."

13. Parliamentary or Direct Action: The Ottawa "Citizen" of June 14th, 1919, does not beg the question when it says: "If, for any reason, Parliament is not truly representative, the popular mind becomes disconnected from constitutional government, and the tendency is for sections of the people to seek a solution of their difficulties by extra-parliamentary means, or, in other words, by Direct Action." When any considerable section of the underlying electorate is unrepresented in a governing body, that body has lost its moral authority; and the unrepresented electors are apt to feel not morally bound by the laws it makes, even though force may compel them to obey.

14. A World Safe for Democracy: The sooner we learn that the way to "make the world safe for democracy" is to make democracy "safe" for the people, the better it will be. Otherwise, as is already happening in other lands, the uncomfortable minorities, and even majorities, who are suppressed by our present system of elections, may make it very unpleasant for some of us. My keen interest in this subject at the