

PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION.

The important fact that the British House of Commons in February last passed an act empowering the election of representatives to the House from one hundred constituencies by the Proportional Representation method will be sufficient warrant for all close students of political matters to give their earnest attention to the series of articles at present running in the Monthly.

This reform in electoral method is receiving the consideration of leading statesmen of all shades of political opinion, and seems likely to become one of the vital influences to be utilized in the reconstructive period after the war.

Two more articles will follow in subsequent issues and any further information on Proportional Representation will be given on application to the Proportional Representation Society of Canada, Citizen Building, Ottawa, Ont.

CANADA'S TRADE.

The following table of export values illustrates the growth of Canadian trade:

	1917.	1916.	1914.
Munitions.....	\$ 240,302,414	\$ 73,904,586	\$ 13,353
Mfrs. grain.....	51,942,056	40,433,503	25,114,512
Explosives.....	40,917,856	7,080,926	228,312
Cond. Milk.....	1,371,610	770,566	666,941
Cheese.....	36,721,136	26,690,500	18,868,785
Butter.....	2,491,992	1,018,769	309,046
Bacon.....	43,011,439	25,710,767	3,763,195

PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE.

On March 25th, 1918, the Hon. Mr. Rowell, President of the Privy Council, informed the House that the Director of Public Information, Mr. M. E. Nichols, receives a salary of \$5,000 a year, that ten persons were employed in his office and that the total estimated cost of maintaining the office was \$4,000 a month.

A fairly good publicity ornament for any Government and supervised as it is by Mr. Rowell, should prove of great assistance.

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THE FAME OF
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TOTAL SOLDIER VOTE POLLED AND COUNTED AND THE NUMBER REJECTED.

	Total Soldiers' Vote Polled	Total Ballots Counted	Total Votes Rejected
North America.....	54,500	37,386	17,114
England.....	104,377	85,126	19,251
France.....	128,073	113,048	15,025
	286,950	235,560	51,390

In other words approximately 18 per cent of the Soldier vote was rejected and why? That will remain a mystery until the details of all the manipulation is made public.

WOMEN SHOULD VOTE.

What are the arguments that can be, and have been brought forward against giving women the vote? There is the argument that woman is queen of the home. I often think she is more queen of the dishpan or of the washtub. The idea that a woman sits regally enthroned by the fireside is very pretty, but it is not according to facts, because as a rule, women have to work longer hours, go through greater drudgery, and enjoy fewer holidays than men do. The idea that women are going to be in any way lowered by mixing in politics does no credit to the political atmosphere of this country. If our political atmosphere is low we must endeavour to raise it to make it worthy of the women we are admitting to our ranks to-night. It has been suggested that women will have to go to political meetings. Of course they will. I will say that they go to political meetings already; they certainly do in the county which I have the honour to represent.

Mr. A. R. McMaster M. P. for Brome Que. in the House of Commons, Apl. 11th. 1918.