

ment of three-fourths of the electors. This dogma has been reiterated by the adherents of the present governing body without their bringing forward a single fact to prove it. It is really remarkable what a repugnance to facts appears to prevail among the supporters of the present board. They shun fact as a cat does water, and suffer from a chronic inability to state things correctly.

We have felt it our duty to ascertain and compare the vote polled at elections in this province during the past ten years under the proxy system with that in Ontario, where proxies do not exist. There the system of voting by a ballot paper (sent by mail or otherwise to the District Returning Officer, on or before the day of election) has been followed for many years past. This system, we may remark, is the one recommended for adoption in this province by the Electoral Committee of the Montreal Medico-Chirurgical Society, as it attains the advantages of a direct vote with a minimum loss of time and a minimum of trouble.

From official information furnished us from the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario we can state that in that province, when there is an active contest in any particular district, the vote polled often includes nearly every registered physician in the district. For example, at a recent election in a district containing 200 registered practitioners, the vote was 180, or 90 per cent. of the possible total. In another recent case, a district with 150 physicians actually polled every vote.

It thus appears that under a system which the supporters of the present Board declare will have the inevitable effect of disfranchising three-fourths of our physicians, we have official evidence that votes of 90 per cent. and upwards are not only possible, but actually recorded. On the other hand, when one is told that 75 per cent. will be disfranchised by the contemplated change, one might imagine that under the present system a much larger vote was polled. But when we count the vote polled at the triennial elections in this province during the past decade, under the proxy system, which the present Board seem unwilling to change, we find it to be absurdly small. Out of 1,300 licensed physicians, the highest total vote recorded in the case of those names happening to be on all the tickets has never exceeded 314, this number being reached once only (in 1892). So that, as a matter of fact, under the existing conditions 75 per cent. or more of our physicians have been practically disfranchised by the method of election now in vogue. Indeed, 232 votes in 1895 and 206 votes in 1892, as the total vote, is only about one-sixth of the electorate.

These figures show clearly, first, that it was the stay-at-home votes