

Mr. HOOPER: That is a very long question. I have my answer to that question prepared at some length, and the purport of it is to show that it will not have that effect.

Mr. CURRIE: The gentleman said he wanted every party and group represented.

Mr. HOOPER: All phases of political opinion.

Mr. CURRIE: That makes for the formation of a number of parties. It has proved so in Belgium.

Mr. HOOPER: On this point I will give one striking quotation from the speech delivered in London by M. Georges Lorand, the leader of the Radical party in the Belgian parliament:—

"It has been stated," he says, "that proportional representation would lead to the splitting of parties but it has had the opposite effect; parties, far from splitting into fragments, have brought their ranks closer together; but within those ranks they have found room for such diversity of opinion as may exist, nay, as is essential within any living and active political force." Monsieur Lorand spoke from experience. The Liberal party in Belgium, which before the introduction of proportional representation had been divided into Moderates and Radicals, and which had been nearly excluded from parliament under a majority system, at once united its groups, and in the very first parliament elected under proportional representation, took a strong position in both Houses. The split vote had no terrors for them under proportional representation.

The CHAIRMAN: What are the main objections to grouping rural constituencies?

Mr. HOOPER: The main difficulty appears to some persons to be the extent of the ground that the candidates have to cover, but, as I have pointed out, it is not necessary for him to cover, or even attempt to cover, all the ground. I can see, however, that there might be a practical difficulty in getting all the ballot boxes together in a short time. They must be all brought together before the ballots can be counted.

Mr. MOLLOY: It might cause some difficulty of that kind?

Mr. HOOPER: Yes. The whole state of Tasmania is about the size of New Brunswick and is divided into six constituencies, one of which is about the size of half of New Brunswick. They have no difficulty there in counting the ballots though it takes a week to get the result of an election.

Mr. MOLLOY: How about counting the votes?

Mr. HOOPER: That, of course, is a process that requires considerable care.

Mr. MOLLOY: Would you not have trained officers to do that?

Mr. HOOPER: You would need about three trained men.

Mr. CURRIE: I notice a pamphlet from Milton Hersey, copies of which have been sent to all the members here. It is written by a Mr. Mullen. I suppose you know Mr. Mullen?

Mr. HOOPER: I have had correspondence with him; I do not know him personally.

Mr. CURRIE: This is issued at the instance of your body in Montreal.

Mr. HOOPER: No, we have no body in Montreal.

Mr. CURRIE: It is so stated here. Paragraph 57 reads as follows:—

57. The "Red" and "White" Terrors: The "Red Terror" is always preceded by a "white Terror" and, if the "red terror" temporarily fails, as in Poland, Siberia, Hungary, Germany and elsewhere, it is invariably followed by a reign of "white terror," which makes the "red terror" look just like pink by comparison. The "red" Russians under Lenine and Trotzky were so far outdistanced by the "white" Poles under Mannerheim that it makes the former pair look like a pair of Sunday School teachers.

[Mr. Ronald H. Hooper.]