

Q. That is, one tends to wipe out minorities and the other tends to give the minorities representation?—A. That, of course, is the intention.

Q. I mean, the alternative vote system wipes out minorities?—A. With the alternative vote, yes, minorities secure no representation; that is, there is always a minority, and rather a substantial minority, that secures no representation.

Q. In Alberta you show 40,000 Liberal votes and no seat?—A. One seat.

Q. One in 40,000?—A. 47,000 odd.

Q. What about Social Credit?—A. 50 seats for 123,000 odd.

Mr. HEAPS: There is an illustration. Of course I have given thought to that question myself, and to me it seems to put our trouble back. P.R. is introduced for the purpose of giving minorities representation and the alternative vote wipes them out. I do not see how you can have the two at the same time and give a fair representation to any population.

The CHAIRMAN: A proper question, Mr. Heaps, might be: How are you going to have proportional representation in a rural constituency?

Mr. HEAPS: Well, we attempt it.

Mr. MACNICOL: You have to take a lot of candidates together. It would be impossible in this country. For instance, out in Saskatchewan just picture taking five present ridings from cities as they suggest—or in Alberta—and put them into one seat. It would make an impossible situation in Alberta or Saskatchewan either.

The CHAIRMAN: You would never see anybody.

Mr. MACNICOL: No.

Mr. HEAPS: In these days of radios and aeroplanes, there is no telling what may happen.

The CHAIRMAN: I was up in an aeroplane once, and I am not very anxious to go up again. Proceed, Mr. Butcher.

WITNESS: Then I have a number of quotations from Messrs. Hoag and Hallett's books, showing the time taken in the count under proportional representation. I thought that might be interesting to members.

Mr. MACNICOL: It would be very interesting if it included what happened in Christchurch, New Zealand.

→ WITNESS: I have not that. Then I have taken from Messrs. Hoag and Hallett's book on "Proportional Representation" the following facts:—

In Alberta proportional representation was made optional for municipal elections in 1916, and was adopted by Calgary and Edmonton. In British Columbia this record will show that it was adopted in 1917 for municipal elections by seven city municipalities, and according to Hoag and Hallett's book five of them abolished the system later; but I have been this morning informed that West Vancouver and South Vancouver have also abolished it. Do you
→ know if that is the case?]

Mr. MACNICOL: I think Calgary is the only one left in the whole list.

WITNESS: I have not the last information. If that is so, it is practically all abolished. In Saskatchewan, four cities adopted the principle of proportional representation for the municipal elections, and all of them have since abolished it.

By Mr. MacNicol:

Q. Would you give the names of the towns or cities?—A. Regina, Saskatoon, Moose Jaw and North Battleford. In British Columbia: Nelson, Port Coquitlam, New Westminster, Mission, West Vancouver, South Vancouver and Vancouver. I am not quite sure about South Vancouver and West Vancouver.

[Mr. H. Butcher.]