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COMPREHENSIVE ANALYSIS OF RECENT P. R. VOTE IN WINNIPEG ELECTION

Representative of Ontario Government Makes Report to Premier
Drury—Expresses No Opinion, But Simple Statement of
Facts Emphasizes Value of Modern System of Voting.

A comprehensive analysis of the recent election in Winnipeg for members of the Manitoba Legislature under proportional representation has been submitted to Premier Drury of Ontario. It is made by Mr. A. S. Winchester, an official of the Government, who was sent by Premier Drury to get data regarding the operation of P.R.

While the report does not comment on the superior merits of the proportional method, it is made clear that, for accuracy and true representation, it is infinitely better than the old system. The analysis is carried out impartially, and it is clear that the writer is impressed with the results of his investigation. Special Committee.

At the last session of the Ontario Legislature, Mr. Hammett Hill introduced a bill providing for proportional representation in Ontario elections, and suggested to Premier Drury that the bill be referred to a special committee to consider the whole question of the application of proportional representation to Ontario.

A committee was appointed, consisting of the following: Hon. E. C. Drury, W. E. Raney, Manning Doherty, Peter Smith and Rev. Edgar Watson, representing the farmers; Karl K. Homuth, Thomas Tooms, representing Labor; Hon. George S. Henry and Messrs. W. H. Price and Hammett Hill, representing Conservatives; Messrs. J. Racine, John O'Neill and Thomas Marshall, representing the Liberals.

It was also suggested to Premier Drury to send a representative to Winnipeg. This was done, and the report is the result.

Deals With Facts.
The report simply deals with the proportional representation method of electing members by means of the single transferable vote and its results in Winnipeg, and does not comment on its merits. It says that formerly Winnipeg was divided into three electoral divisions, each being represented by two members elected under a system similar to that which is at present in vogue in the electoral divisions of Toronto. All of this was changed by the recent amendment to the Manitoba Act and Winnipeg was made a single constituency with a representation of ten members elected under the single transferable vote system. The single transferable vote system, or proportional representation, was designed to give every party or organization a representation in an elective body equal to the relative strength of that party or organization. Under P. R. a party is bound to elect its proportionate number of representatives, and the voters belonging to that party mark their ballots.

How System Works.
How the system works out is then dealt with in detail in the report. The voter chooses the candidate whom he wishes to have represent him. He signifies his choice by placing the figure 1 in a space provided on the ballot opposite that candidate's name. This is called the voter's first preference or first choice. It may happen that this candidate may not need this vote, and so the voter may make a second choice by placing the figure 2 opposite the name of the candidate he fancies second to his favorite. In a like manner a voter may mark as many preferences as there are candidates. The idea of marking more than one preference is this: if all ballots are properly marked and advantage taken of all preferences it will require a certain number of votes to elect a candidate. This number is called the quota, and is determined by dividing the total number of first preferences by a number greater by one than the number of candidates to be elected, and adding one to the result. To be elected a candidate therefore requires to receive only this quota. All votes over this quota are called surplus votes and are transferred to those candidates opposite whose name the figure 2 has been placed. In a like manner the candidate having the least number of votes after all surplus votes have been transferred is eliminated from the contest and his ballots are distributed amongst the remaining candidates according to the preference marked on the ballot. Dealing next with the actual elec-

tion in Winnipeg the report tells how first the preparation work was done. For the 10 seats 41 candidates allowed their names to go before the electorate. Labor, Conservative and Liberal each had 10 names on their tickets, and there were 11 independents. The ballots were about 18 inches long as a result. But less than two per cent were rejected by being spoiled. It was shown that the voter not only understood his duties, but the officer supervising, no difficulty in making correct returns. All the names were printed in various colors—the Conservatives in blue, the Liberals in red, the Laborites in green and the independents in black. The instruction of electors was done by public meetings, addressed by Mr. Ronald Hooper, of Ottawa, secretary of the Proportional Representation Society of Canada, who also wrote instructive articles for the daily papers.

Counting the Vote.
The organization for the counting of the ballot consisted of chief supervisors, 32 sorters, eight transfer clerks and two calculators. The method of counting the ballots is men detail. The various stages from the first count, when Messrs. Dixon and Johnson were declared elected, to the last are followed by the report in detail. In the final proportional report says, Liberals and Labor each secured four members and the Conservatives the remaining two. Therefore for polling 43 per cent of the total effective vote; the Labor party secured 49 per cent of the representation; for polling 27.2 per cent, the Liberals secured 49 per cent of the vote; the Conservatives secured 20 per cent of the seats.

Results vs. Cost.
The opponents of P. R. the report goes on, state that the expense of an election under that system are greater than the expense of a general election. This is a question, it is said, to be decided by the organization wishing to adopt the system. The defence is that the result that so accurate and representative that the expense should be secondary. By the Manitoba Election Act, every candidate who is not elected and who does not receive a number of first choice votes equivalent to one-fourth of the quota, forfeits his deposit of \$200. This resulted in 25 candidates losing their deposits and adding \$2500 to the provincial treasury. This sum should more than cover the additional expenses.

"In my opinion," says the writer, "this stiff penalty had a salutary effect in this election and prospective candidates in Winnipeg now know that they must be well and favorably known by the voters before they receive their deposits back, let alone having any chance of being elected."

Was No Confusion.
The system is more complex than the ordinary method and success depends upon the amount of instruction given to and the capacity of the organization for counting and sorting the ballots. To Mr. Hooper, who was the adviser to the returning officer, Mr. C. C. Ferguson, Major McLean, A. J. Parker, the report says, is due in a large measure the success of the Winnipeg election. There was no confusion or congestion at the polls, although 49,246 electors used their ballots. The percentage of rejected ballots was 1.72 per cent, or a total of 819. Under the old system the percentage at the last election was 2.5 per cent. The majority of the spoiled ballots were marked with a cross. The next frequent mistake was the placing of the figure 1 after more than one name on the ballot.

In order to make P. R. a success, the report adds, the following points must be carried out:
(1) Appointment of an efficient returning officer, election clerk, deputy returning officer and staff for counting ballots.
(2) The securing of a proper place to count the ballots.
(3) Instruction of voters in how to mark their ballots.

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THRIFT IS NOT A BRAKE ON INDUSTRIAL MACHINE.

There never has been and can never be too much labor power in the world to provide for the needs and wants of mankind," says Joseph E. Cummings, of the department of economics of the University of Minnesota, in a recent article. "This is true because every increase in production raises the standard of living and causes new and justifiable human wants to become prominent and pressing."

"If we spend for thoughtless and unessential trifles, we are diverting precious labor power to the industries which produce these useless and frequently harmful commodities. If we save some of our income and make safe and sane investments such as have been offered by the government since the beginning of the war, we are turning some portion of the world's labor power to the production of useful and wholesome commodities."

"Purchasing power is the despotic ruler of the industrial world. Machines, raw materials, and labor are devoted to the production of what the individual and the government since the beginning of the war, we are turning some portion of the world's labor power to the production of useful and wholesome commodities."

"The amount of material and energy devoted to the production of one article is in direct proportion to our desire for that article as expressed in terms of purchasing power. The individual and the national characteristics of careless and thoughtless spending is replaced by thrift and investment in war saving stamps, treasury saving certificates and Liberty bonds. Only in case of emergency, we would soon see every factory and every workman energetically devoted to making cream puffs and nothing else."

"The demand for wholesome and substantial food, comfortable homes, good clothing and healthful recreation will increase at the expense of fantastic luxuries and useless novelties. Only in case of emergency, we would soon see every factory and every workman energetically devoted to making cream puffs and nothing else."

"In the 19th century, when I was a clerk, there were two sorts of people whom it was almost impossible to organize; first, the women; second, the clerks."—G. B. S.

Occasion now yawns for some far-sighted manufacturing genius to provide a cheap, dependable "liver airplane."

JUNGLE MAN SPIRIT SHOWN BY EMPLOYERS

President Sam' Compers Fights Non-Union Shop Policy.

"A jungle man spirit" is President Compers' characterization of the recent declaration in favor of the non-union shop by the Chamber of Commerce of the United States. The non-union declaration, with its demand for individual bargaining, involves no principle, said President Compers.

"On the contrary," continues the trade union executive, "it is merely a statement of what the Chamber of Commerce of the United States hopes the employers of the United States will do if they have the power to do it. The spirit of it coincides exactly with the spirit of the jungle man who started out to kill."

"The efforts to make it appear that the so-called 'open shop' contract is so far out-worn and aged as to be obsolete, the right of an individual to undertake and destroy the standards of living and the industrial safety of his fellow workers has been as long since exploded as is unworthy of further discussion. The individual has no such right and no enlightened society anywhere today recognizes such a right."

"It is to be regretted that there are those in America who care so little for human progress, who have so little of the real idealism of the republic, who have so small ability to express themselves in anything but the terms of greed and exploitation, who have so slight regard for the welfare of humanity, as to make declarations of this character possible in this period of our history. But so long as there are those to whom greed is a watch-word, to whom the principles of liberty and justice make no appeal, who have no sense of the sanctities of modern barbarism, who know no humility in the face of humanity's suffering and who have no concept and no longing for a better and brighter day for humanity, to struggle against these forces will be necessary."

Foreman (to new hand): "What are you doin' there?"
New Hand: "Ollin' the wheelbarrow."
Foreman: "Well, just let it alone. What do you know about machinery?"—Punch

"All Philistines and yokels' reason just like these renegades the Kautskys, the Longuets, the Turatus."—Lenin.

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