

(l) Of which there were Government supporters.....	28
(m) " " Opposition members	22
(n) Average majorities of Government members elected.....	476
(o) Average majorities of Opposition members elected....	230

These are the actual returns. The number of votes polled for the members elected, is not furnished, but the figures given (e), (f), (n) and (o) admit of this being calculated approximately as follows:—

(p) Votes polled for 123 Government candidates <i>elected</i>	231,238
(q) Votes polled for 92 Government candidates <i>defeated</i>	137,119
Total as above (e)	368,357
(r) Votes polled for 92 Opposition candidates <i>elected</i>	168,350
(s) Votes polled for 123 Opposition candidates <i>defeated</i>	183,752
Total as above (f)	352,102

Several striking deductions may be drawn from these statements. I shall refer to two only.

First. If we examine (k), (l) and (m) the exceeding instability of the political equilibrium will at once be apparent. Fifty members on both sides, nearly one fourth of the whole House were elected by majorities under 100. Of these fifty, twenty-eight were elected Government supporters, by less than 2800 votes. Obviously the reversal, by any means whatever, of so small a number as 2800 votes, distributed over twenty-eight constituencies would give the following result:—

Members elected to <i>support</i> the Government.....	95
Members elected to <i>oppose</i> the Government.....	120

A result which would defeat the Government by an adverse majority of 25 and produce an administrative revolution. It is a possible result, and the illustration brings out one of the glaring defects of our electoral system; establishing that a possible change of 2800 votes out of 720,459 the total votes polled, might revolutionize the Government. What better proof could we have that our electoral system fails to give us a fair representation in Parliament of the solid sense of the people, when the oscillation of a few votes, perhaps of the least intelligent voters, might reverse the whole public policy of the Dominion?

Second. The returns point to an extraordinary dualism in the House of Commons. We have in all 215 members artificially separated into two antagonistic classes or divisions. Class A, the most numerous consists of 123 members. Class B, of 92 member; two perfectly distinct organizations continually at war in all public matters. Power and authority is thrown into the hands of one class A while the other B is excluded from all participation in the direction of public affairs.

The 123 members composing class A were elected by the votes of 231,238 electors, and it is these voters alone who have any effective representation in Parliament. There was a total of 720,459 votes cast, if we take into account those given to the 123 Government supporters, there remains 489,221 votes describable as wasted, for they were given to defeated candidates and to opposition members neither of whom have any participation or voice in the Government. Thus the representatives of less than one third of those electors who went to the polls and recorded their votes, assume all power, and retain the right to exercise it in the name of the whole people.

Again, if we consider the whole electoral body, an anomaly still more striking presents itself. There are in the electoral lists 1,132,201 voters, but the comparatively small number of 231,238 of this number absolutely control Parliament. That is to say the Dominion of Canada is governed, today, not by the whole people or by representatives of the whole people, according to the theory of our constitution, but by the representatives of only one-fifth of the electors. There remains therefore four-fifths of the whole electoral body without any share whatever direct or indirect in the administration of public affairs.

From these indisputable facts established by the latest statistical returns, we may ask if we have made any advance in the development of popular government since introduced in the early centuries of the Christian era by our Anglo-Saxon forefathers. Every sphere

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