

Bruce sent three Liberals to the Legislature and therefore the Government almost legislated two of these out of the House. Mr. McDonald being returned in the 1914 general election by the narrow majority of seven. The Government also gerrymandered the County of Essex but this did not result in its favor. The Greys were also distributed in order to strengthen the Conservative vote. In the Niagara District there were formerly two Liberal majorities, Monek and Haldimand, and two Conservative majorities, Welland and Lincoln. Under the gerrymander two Liberal seats remained, namely Lincoln and Haldimand, but the Conservatives effected three seats for themselves, namely Niagara Falls, St. Catharines and Welland.

In the city of Toronto, under the double-member constituencies with A. and B. seats a serious handicap is imposed upon the minority. In the the 1914 general election, taking the 8 "A" and "B" seats instead of the Conservatives winning all eight as it turned out by means of these small constituencies, under a proportional system according to the number of votes cast, namely 45,044 Conservative and 24,066 Liberal, the distribution would have been, roughly, as 5 is to 3.

Single Member System.

The defects of the single member system may be classified under three heads: "(1) **often a gross exaggeration of the strength of the victorious party;** (2) **sometimes a complete disfranchisement of the minority;** and (3) **at other times a failure of a majority of citizens to obtain their due share of representation.** In addition, running through all the results there is an element of instability due to the fact that a slight change in public opinion may produce an altogether disproportionate effect, the violence of the swing of the pendulum arising more from the electoral method than from the fickleness of the electorate."

Before the annual meeting of the Proportional Representation Society in England on the 9th of May, 1906, Sir Fred Pollock declared that our defective electoral system may "Yield a House of Commons so unrepresentative in character as to cease to command the respect and obedience of citizens."

The fruits of that rough and ready system of Parliamentary elections with which hitherto we have been content, are false impressions of public opinion, unstable legislation, the weakening of the legislature, both in authority and in personnel, the degradation of party warfare, the undue exaltation of party machinery, and the heightening of racial differences and of sectional interests.