

The fourth section is apt to meet with most opposition in that it requires the voting of party tickets. This is an objection, but it is one which upon second thought is brushed aside. It is urged mostly by those who deprecate party government in any form. Now, there is nothing objectionable in party government of itself. It is as natural for men and women to associate together in parties as in churches or clubs, or any other organizations which they may see fit to effect. There has always been a progressive party and a conservative party. Men are so constituted that they fall naturally into one or the other of these parties. The parties do not always bear the same names but their principles are the same. It is just as impossible for a man to be a liberal and conservative at the same time as to be an optimist and pessimist, or a protestant and catholic at the same time. And besides this the principle of proportional representation applies only to the election of legislators, or to bodies in which a number of members of the same grade are elected at once. The choice of an executive officer must be based upon his personality. He is to carry into effect the laws which others have made. It matters not whether he be a conservative or liberal so far as his executive duties are concerned; if he be an honest man he will perform his duties the same whatever may be his political creed. But when it comes to the law makers or the creators, all depends upon their opinions regarding public policies. Conservatives will enact conservative measures, and liberal members will enact liberal measures whether they are wise or foolish, honest or dishonest. Hence it is that the voter may with perfect consistency vote for a conservative executive officer and the liberal legislative ticket. But he cannot consistently vote for a conservative and liberal legislator at the same time, because they propose opposing policies. He may vote for the conservative executive because that candidate is honest and upright while his opponent is not; and he may vote for the liberal ticket because he believes in liberal laws, and knows the members of the party will enact them regardless of their personal character. In a word executive officers should be chosen on account of their personality, legislative officers on account of their belief in the principles of government.

Besides choosing among the several tickets in the field the voter can also choose among the names of the ballot which he does vote. And when the case of presenting tickets is taken into account it must be seen that the probability is that a party representing the belief of every considerable number of citizens will be in the field. It is necessary that the voter shall designate his preference among the names on the ticket; for if the successful candidates were taken in the order in which they appear, the nominating parties would be tempted to place the corrupt and self-seeking at the top and the virtuous at the bottom. This designation of the names by the voter is a safeguard against corrupt primaries, and enables him to exercise a double choice in the selection of his representatives.

Sections five, six and seven designate the method of applying the rules. This is practically the same in all systems based upon the quota principle, but it is much simpler in the method here presented than in either the Hare system or the Swiss. The quota having been obtained the votes of the several parties are divided by it, which shows the number of representatives to which each is entitled. This having been determined the successful men are taken from the ticket in the order of precedence as expressed by their respective votes. If the party polls enough votes to fill but one quota and is therefore entitled to one representative the candidate who has received the most votes on that ticket is declared elected. If the party has two seats the next highest candidate goes in.

Section eight contains a very simple method of filling vacancies. The new man will be one who was voted for at the same time as the men among whom he must serve, and he always stands ready to respond when the proper officials call upon him, without the delay and expenso of holding a new election.

For this method of applying the quota principle of electing representatives these advantages are claimed:

It is much simpler than the Swiss, and more definite than the Hare methods. It secures to each party representation in proportion to the votes polled, and at the same time it is as easy of application as the method now in vogue. It secures to the new or minority parties their just proportion of political power without in any way detracting from the rights of the old parties. By its means independent political parties can put candidates in the field with the full assurance that they will receive representation if they constitute an integral part of the body politic. It secures a representative body in which a majority of the members will always represent a majority of the voters, thus making representative government what it has long claimed to be, a government of the people for the people and by the people. And yet it is all done with so slight a change in the present electoral system as to scarcely be perceptible to the average voter. It involves the overturning of no long established customs, or the wrenching of political ties. It is a simple and logical step in advance of the position now occupied by representative govern-

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