

has resigned, because of pressure of private business. Ronald Hooper, a devoted and diligent worker for P. R. has again become General Secretary of the Canadian Society, which now has an office in the Citizen Building, Ottawa. Daniel Whittel is assistant secretary.

#### PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION IN THE UNITED STATES.

Kalamazoo, Michigan, on February 4, 1918, adopted P. R. under the powers in a special charter under the home rule provisions of the Michigan Constitution. The vote was four to one. So there are now three American cities which elect their aldermen by the Hare system: Ashtabula, Ohio, Boulder, Colorado and Kalamazoo. The seven members of the Council, who are elected at large, choose one of their number to act as mayor with the functions of a presiding officer. The administration of the departments except the legal department will be under the control of the city manager with full power. The first election under the charter is to take place on April first.

Clarence G. Hogg, the general secretary of the American Proportional Representation League, Franklin Bank Building, Philadelphia, who is devoting his life to advocating (effectively) proportional representation, is on a lecture tour in the Western United States.

#### COMMISSION-MANAGER CITIES IN THE UNITED STATES.

There are sixty cities with this simplified system of government. In addition, there are officers called managers in the following towns, which do not have commission-manager charters or lack some of the fundamental features of the plan: Staunton and Fredericksburg, Va.; Norwood, Mass.; San Diego, Cal.; Glencoe, Ill.; Grove City and Titusville, Pa.; Morris, Minn.; Clarinda and Iowa Falls, Iowa; Clark, S.D.; Tuscon, Ariz.; Roswell, N. Mex.; Terrell, Tex.; Grand Haven, Mich.; Alhambra, Cal.; Altoona, Pa.

There are state-wide laws permitting cities to adopt this plan in Massachusetts, Virginia, Ohio, Iowa, Kansas, Idaho, Montana, South Dakota and North Carolina.

#### DIRECT LEGISLATION AND THE RECALL.

Practically all commission manager cities have direct legislation and the Recall. About 400 municipalities in the United States have direct legislation and the Recall. As many people as live in Canada have, in the United States, the advantages of direct legislation and the Recall—and the system is being extended steadily for municipalities and state-wide.

#### THE NATIONAL SHORT BALLOT ORGANIZATION.

The Short Ballot Bulletin, the bi-monthly organ of The National Short Ballot Organization, 383 Fourth Ave., New York, is newsy and interesting. Membership in this progressive group will enable one to receive the literature sent out from time to time.

President Woodrow Wilson is president, Richard S. Childs secretary. Dr. A. H. Hatton, Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio (an ardent advocate of proportional representation) is doing field work for The Short Ballot Organization in connection with their commission-manager (with proportional representation) propaganda.

#### P. R. IN GREAT BRITAIN.

The clause in the new Electoral Reform Act passed by the Imperial Parliament registers a modest victory for proportional representation which may become a very substantial one. The Government, through Lord Curzon, stated that it is anxious for an experiment with proportional representation.

The clause is as follows:—

##### Representation of The People Act, 1918.

Clause providing for adoption of proportional representation in constituencies to be recommended by Commissioners:—

1.—His Majesty may appoint Commissioners to prepare, as soon as may be after the passing of this Act, a scheme under which as nearly as possible 100 members shall be elected to the House of Commons at a General Election on the principle of proportional representation for constituencies in Great Britain returning three or more members.

2.—The number of members of the House of Commons as fixed under this Act shall not be increased by any such scheme. For the purpose of such scheme the Commissioners shall (after holding such local enquiries as they may deem necessary) combine into single constituencies returning not less than three nor more than seven members, such of the areas fixed as constituencies in the fifth Schedule to this Act as they may select, but, in selecting these

areas, they shall have regard to the advisability of applying the principle of proportional representation, both town and country.

3.—The scheme so prepared by the Commissioners shall be laid before both Houses of Parliament, and if both Houses by resolution adopt the scheme, the scheme shall, with any modifications or additions which may be agreed to by both Houses, take effect as if it were enacted in this Act, and the constituencies fixed under the scheme shall be substituted, so far as necessary, for the constituencies fixed under the Fifth Schedule to this Act.

4.—In any such constituency any contested election of the full number of members shall be according to the principle of proportional representation, each elector having one transferable vote as defined by the Act.

5.—His Majesty may, by Order-in-Council, make any adaptation of the provisions of this Act as to the machinery of registration or election which may appear to him to be necessary in consequence of the adoption of the scheme.

Lord Courtney of Penwith, chairman of the executive committee of the British Proportional Representation Society in his address in the Lords just prior to the vote being taken evidently had clearly in mind impending political and economic changes in Great Britain. After putting forward the favorable features of proportional representation he said (House of Lords Debates, Tuesday, January 22, 1918, vol. 27; No. 114):—"I will not go on to say anything—I am sorry to be so long—as to the character of the Government or of the Parliament which would result from the reform I am advocating. I will only say this, that so far from thinking that there would be any danger of a weak Executive and a divided Parliament, I am satisfied you would give Parliament new life, and the House of Commons would be strengthened to keep the Executive in order, while the Executive would have the adherence of men thinking for themselves and be strong enough to carry out their policy as they conceived it. We should get no landslide, no swing of the pendulum to change the whole aspect of political life. We should get no great overturnings. I, for my part, do not like them. I said long ago, and I repeat, that they are things which do not give us a healthy, continuous, and stable political condition. We should get a coherence of method, a steady development of education, and a movement which could be relied upon as slow perhaps, but, as sure, from one position to another of political advancement. If at any other time I advocated this with energy I would do so more powerfully than ever now, because, though not afraid, not quailing before possible political changes, I cannot look forward without some grave anxiety as to what may be in store in the immediate future of this country. It is not only that we have to get out of the desolation which war has brought upon all the nations of Europe—we yet want a man of light and leading who shall lead us from that horrible situation—but we have to look forward to a period of reconstruction when the wildest theories and the most extravagant action will be impressed upon the electors and the people of this country. It is not only capital and labor. You can see what that may lead you to, elsewhere. But the principles of taxation, the principles of contract, the principles of citizenship which now mind us one towards another, are all to be brought into discussion, and it is well to have men whose voices may be heard to guide you in this dark future which now lies before us."

The Earl of Selborne, in closing the debate, said:

"It has been a remarkable feature of this debate that practically there has been no answer to the case on which I based my Amendment. There has been criticism of the technical and practical difficulties of proportional representation. No answer, however, has been attempted to what I said, that the dangers in front of this land and of all democracies at the present moment are the elimination of important minorities and the swing of the pendulum.

Then, my Lords, I want to remind you of the fact that all the statistics you have heard about the voting in the House of Commons are worth nothing, because since those votes were given agriculture has made its voice heard, and the effect of the opinion of agriculture on the Members of the House of Commons has yet to be seen. Next, I sweep away altogether the objections of delay which my noble friend Viscount Peel put before this House. Is there one single member of your Lordships' House or any member of the other House who does not know that if the two Houses agree to introduce proportional representation in any form a way will be found out of all these difficulties?"

The vote was then taken, 131 favoring the proportional representation amendment, 42 voting against it.