

ranks they have found room for such diversity of opinion as may exist, nay, as is essential within any living and active political force."

36. **It Works Even in Ireland:** Would you say that a system of elections which had brought a measure of political harmony in Ireland was a good system and worth your consideration? Then listen to this editorial from the Dublin "Times," referring to the municipal elections held under proportional representation last January in the town of Sligo: "Before the extension of the franchise under the Local Government Acts, the Sligo corporation was almost exclusively Unionist, with results not wholly satisfactory. That extension gave the Nationalists a complete monopoly, with results utterly disastrous."

37. **After a Rake's Progress:** "After a rake's progress, which was unprecedented even in Ireland, the town went bankrupt. The election has established, beyond dispute, two big things in favor of proportional representation. The first is that it is a thoroughly workable system. The other big thing—and it is really big—is the proof that in proportional representation we have the Magna Charta of political and municipal minorities."

38. **Geography Versus Opinions:** From the above, we see that the present method of conducting elections by the majority system does not give us a truly representative governing body; in fact, the members rather represent the geography of the country than the thought and desires of its people. Therefore, is it not incumbent upon us, as good citizens, so to amend our governing machinery that it will represent the people properly by letting those who think together elect a representative who thinks as they do? Proportional representation does this, and does it remarkably well as a matter of practical politics. It is a proven theory, not an experiment.

39. **Commission Form of Government:** Strange to say, some of the first attempts to improve North American municipal governments had a trend away from and not towards representative democracy. The early charters granted to what are called commission form of government cities nearly always provided that the commissioners—which is but another name for aldermen that does not necessarily make them smell the sweeter—should be elected at large and by plurality or majority vote. This abolished the ward system; but, as we shall see, made no improvement upon it in the direction of democracy.

40. **Minority Control Possible:** The commissioners need not even be elected by a majority in most cases, and frequently are not where more than two parties are in the field. This form of governing body always means a large unrepresented minority at least; and, not infrequently, entirely unrepresented large majorities are ruled over by a body composed of the candidates of a minority party which