

but the old men with safe seats in the Reichstag demanded either its abolition or reforms detracting from its much-vaunted accuracy of representation. Hitler's abolition of other parties was one consequence of popular resentment easily inflammable against the ineptitude of a Reichstag composed of thirty parties. And there were thirty parties because, owing to P.R., each was entrenched in its own fortified 'Quota' dug-out."

In the report of the Proportional Representation Society (May, 1932, to April, 1933) referring to the operation of P.R. in Germany, it is said:—

"It is the more necessary to examine the circumstances leading to the fall of parliamentary government in Germany because proportional representation was in use, and it has been asserted by many that the fall was due to the effects of P.R. The proportional system was not of the British type; it was different from the single transferable vote, with the free expression of choices which the latter affords. The German system was very rigid in form. The elector could vote only for a party as such: Each party was given a number. The elector voted for, say List No. 1, or List No. 5, or some other individual list; he could not vary names on the list or the order in which they appeared.

The constituencies in which P.R. operated *were much larger than is proposed in Great Britain*, so that a constituency of average size (5,200 square miles) would be as large as Kent, Surrey, Sussex and Hampshire all rolled into one. This fact, *coupled with the impersonal method of voting*, was said to disassociate the elector too much from the representatives of his constituency and to diminish his feeling of personally playing his part in the machinery of self government.' J ←