

reason that every candidate who has a following in his district equal to the necessary quota is certain of election. This would obviate most of the causes of the "mud-slinging" which so disgraces political campaigns under the present system.

31. Gives Freedom to Electors: No one can seriously contend that, under our present system of elections, the electors really choose the candidates they want. The men for whom they are asked to vote are largely chosen for them by a party caucus; and both party platforms may contain some planks which they approve and others of which they disapprove. It is not always possible, under the present system, to vote for a Liberal who is in favor of both free trade and prohibition.

32. Voting at Cross Purposes: Frequently, in order to vote for prohibition, for instance, the elector is now compelled to vote for a protective tariff, even though he is only less bitterly opposed to it than to the demon rum. He must, therefore, either stultify himself on one or the other important issue, or stay away from the polls. Such is not the case where proportional representation is in use. He may have the choice between a Liberal who does and a Liberal who does not believe in prohibition.

33. Brings Political Harmony: Wherever proportional representation has been introduced, it has brought a measure of political harmony not otherwise attainable. In Belgium, before its adoption, the non-representation of racial and religious minorities was seriously threatening the peace of the country. Said Count Goblet d'Alviella, then vice-president of the Belgian Senate, in 1899: "Belgium was on the eve of a revolution,—a revolution which was only avoided by the immediate and complete introduction of proportional representation into parliamentary elections." The result has been the political consolidation of Belgium.

34. Canada's Ontario Versus Quebec: The same conditions which formerly existed in the "cockpit of Europe" to-day exist, in a less aggravated form, in Canada, where we have our "solid" Quebec and our "solid" Ontario duplicating Belgium's "solid" Flanders and "solid" Wallony. These conditions also exist as between the French and English speaking inhabitants of many of the Quebec cities. Proportional representation is a remedy which should satisfy both elements in the population, as it did in Belgium.

35. A Belgian Statesman Testifies: Mr. Georges Lorand, the Radical leader in the Belgian Chamber of Representatives, has said: "We have used proportional representation for thirteen years, and we have had six general elections with the new system, and the result is that not a single party nor fraction of a party is opposed to the reform; its extension is inscribed in the programme of all the parties. It has been said, by opponents of proportional representation, that it would lead to the splitting of parties, but it has had the opposite effect; parties, far from splitting into fragments, have brought their ranks closer together, but within these