

APPENDIX " B "

EARLY HISTORY OF PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION

To Thomas Wright Hill, of Birmingham, England, (Father of Sir Rowland Hill) belongs the distinction of being the inventor of the system known as Proportional Representation with the single transferable vote, certainly before 1821, for Rowland Hill in that year speaks of his own election on a committee of the Society for Literary and Scientific Improvement by means of his father's invention.

The first application of the principle to public elections was made in Adelaide, South Australia, in 1839. South Australia was then a colony of a few hundred inhabitants. It was applied at the suggestion of Rowland Hill.

The first public Proportional Representation elections carried out by ballot were held in Denmark in 1856, the method used being the single transferable vote devised by M. Andre, the Minister of Finance in that country.

Then in 1857 Thomas Hare, an Englishman, developed the system and published a plan for electing members at large throughout the country.

For forty years there was but little development in the movement, but then the "list" system was adopted on the continent.

In 1884 the British Proportional Representation Society was founded, Leonard Courtney (afterwards Lord Courtney of Penwith), Sir John Lubbock (afterwards Lord Avbury) and Albert Grey (afterwards Earl Grey) became ardent advocates of the system and conducted an active educational campaign throughout the country. The most active workers in the cause in more recent times have been Sir John Fischer Williams and Mr. John Humphreys.

PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION AND THE ALTERNATIVE VOTE

Sir John Fischer Williams' definition of Proportional Representation is in part as follows:

Proportional Representation is the name given to all those electoral methods which aim at reproducing in the elected party the opinions of the electorate in their true proportions. . . . all such electoral methods have this in common, that they reject the attempt to represent by one individual the electors resident in one geographical area. . . . and require constituencies returning several members. The members thus elected represent the sections of electors whose votes have caused their election.

The Alternative Vote:

Messrs. Hoag and Hallett:—

The alternative vote has been devised to make it certain that in single-member constituencies no candidate can secure election unless he has behind him the support, if not of the majority of voters in a constituency, at least of a greater number than under the present system elects a member where there are more than two candidates.

Sir J. Fischer Williams in his "Reform of Political Representation" (1918) says, as follows:

The different systems of Proportional Representation need not here be discussed and analyzed. There are said to be some three hundred systems in existence, and the ingenuity of the inventors shows no sign of exhaustion.