

more consolation for Mr. Bowser in this result than there is for Mr. Oliver.

It is obvious that there are new and growing political forces in the Province. The addition of women to the voters' lists only emphasizes the possibilities of surprise. Now if a minority group in a three-cornered contest in Vancouver could capture 5 out of 6 seats, as in the last provincial general election, what may not happen in a five-cornered contest? With the constituency divided into 5 groups, the strongest group, which may be only one of several minority groups, may capture the entire representation. The present system of elections is archaic and dangerous. The remedy lies in "P. R."

"Proportional Representation" is

a part of the movement throughout the world for making democracy triumphant in the world. It is a contribution of vital importance towards the much-needed improvement of democratic institutions.

It is desirable, in the best interests of the City and of the Province, that the principles of "P. R." should be applied as soon as possible to our election machinery. There is absolutely no legal obstacle in the way of the City Council adopting the "Municipal P. R. Act" by resolution. There is likewise no good reason why the Provincial Government should not make at least a limited application of P. R. by making Vancouver, Victoria and possibly some portions of the lower mainland into multiple constituencies under the P. R. plan.

Tell the Truth—and Shame the Public

Says a local bookseller: "If a stranger comes into my shop and begins to praise my wares I am grateful, but at once begin to look around for a real customer, for I know that there is little chance of selling anything to the flatterer. That is the way with these people who attend lectures and deplore the lack of encouragement of Canadian literature. They laud the works of their countrymen and leave them on the shelves of the bookshop."

And then he told a story which may throw light on another aspect of the same question: "A farmer in the middle west invested part of his savings in the purchase of a bookstore. Taking the store as a going concern, he found himself in difficulties, for his knowledge was slight. To his relief an old friend, representative of a publishing house, came along and endeavored to help him

with advice as to the purchase of stock. He said: 'You see, Bill, you got to be careful in this business. For instance, take this book,' and he produced a copy of one of Thomas Hardy's works. 'Now, this is literature—go light on that. Never more than two or three copies. But when you get a new one by ——— or ———, go to it! Order up a hundred at a crack.'

The public ignores national boundaries in literature and declines to have any standard set for it. Last season in Vancouver a collection of poems by a well-known British Columbia writer received extensive press notices, which included enthusiastic editorials. Large stocks of this book are left on the hands of the booksellers, who, on the other hand, report an extraordinary sale of a third-rate novel by a "popular" writer.

—T. W.