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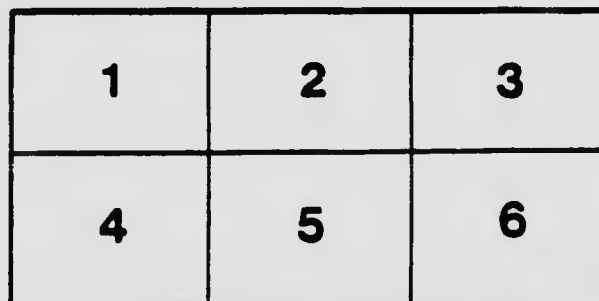
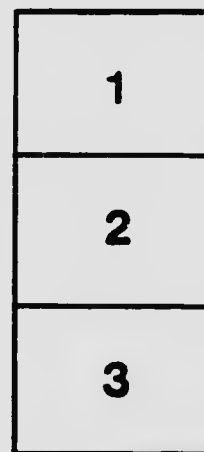
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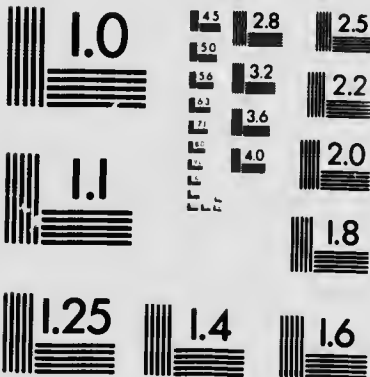
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Sligo (Ireland) Municipal Elections
January, 1919

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of the
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FOREWORD.

During the past few years the opinion has been increasingly held in the United Kingdom that the application of P. R. to the parliamentary and local elections in Ireland would do much towards solving the vexed "Irish problem." Owing therefore to the wide political significance attaching to the recent municipal elections under P. R. in Sligo, Ireland, this pamphlet is devoted to a consideration of that election rather than to a similar P. R. election nearer home.

It should not be overlooked that Canada has not waited for a lead from the United Kingdom in this regard. In December, 1916, the Alberta legislature sanctioned a by-law of the City of Calgary providing that the municipal elections in that city be carried out by P. R. Two elections have since been held and the results have given entire satisfaction. In writing of the second election the Mayor of Calgary, Mr. R. C. Marshall, says:

"The writer's opinion is that it has worked out very satisfactorily, giving all classes representation on the Council; which tends to give better satisfaction and is, therefore, superior to the old system of majority, where one class in the community has control of other classes.

"I would say that the calibre of the candidates elected is entirely satisfactory. The counting of the ballots is necessarily slow, but that is of minor importance if the results obtained are for the good of the whole community. . . . In closing I have to say that the results on the whole are eminently satisfactory, and the fact that all classes with a sufficient following in a community are sure to get representation really means a more equitable solution of our many class and community problems."

P. R. is also used in Calgary for the election of the Public School Board and the Hospital Board.

In British Columbia, by an act of the legislature passed in May, 1917, P. R. is made optional for municipal elections. A number of municipalities, taking advantage of the act, have since elected their councils by P. R.

1997

THE FIRST MUNICIPAL P. R. ELECTIONS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

Sligo Ireland Municipal Elections, January, 1919.*

(Reprinted from "Representation" March, 1919.)

"The system has justified its adoption. We saw it work; we saw its simplicity; we saw its unerring honesty to the voter all through; and we saw the result in the final count; and we join in the general expression of those who followed it with an intelligent interest—it is as easy as the old way; it is a big improvement and it is absolutely fair."—*"Sligo Champion"* (Independent Nationalist), 18th Jan., 1919.

"Sligo has the honour of being the first municipality in Ireland to adopt the principle, and everyone agrees that it was a great success."—*"Sligo Independent"* (Unionist), 18th Jan., 1919.

"It is very plain, very simple, and it means more for the elector than he was ever able to boast of before."—*"Sligo Champion"* (Independent Nationalist), 25th Jan., 1919.

"The election . . . has established beyond dispute two big things in favour 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."—*"The Irish Times"* (Unionist), 18th Jan., 1919.

"The first elections, on the principle of proportional representation by the single transferable vote, have resulted in the fair representation of all parties."—*"Freeman's Journal"* (Nationalist) 18th Jan., 1919.

"Proportional representation has given Sligo a model Council. There is no reason why it should not be equally successful in Dublin and other cities and towns in Ireland."—*"Irish Independent,"* 20th Jan. 1919.

The above quotations from the Sligo and Dublin press give but a faint impression of the interest aroused in Ireland by the first Municipal P.R. election. There has arisen a very strong demand for the extension of proportional representation to all Local Government elections. "If the new Government," said *The Irish Times*, "really intends to live up to its programme it will insist that all these elections shall be decided by proportional representation. No more beneficent measure of reconstruction could be given to Ireland." Within a few weeks several local authorities passed resolutions in favour of P.R., and on 25th February, Mr. Macpherson, the Chief Secretary,

*NOTE.—The Sligo municipal elections, the subject of this pamphlet, did not constitute the first official trial of P. R. in the United Kingdom. The first official trial was made during the General Parliamentary Elections which took place in December, 1919, when three members representing the Scottish Universities, two members each representing the Universities of Oxford, Cambridge, and Trinity College, Dublin, and two members representing a combined group of seven English Universities were elected by the Single Transferable Vote.

announced that the Government would introduce a Bill applying P.R. to all Irish local elections.*

THE SLIGO CORPORATION ACT.

How was it possible, it has often been asked, for Sligo to use proportional representation when it was not the general law of the land? The elections were held under the authority of the Sligo Corporation Act, 1918, a private measure, promoted by the Sligo Corporation, the origin of which is of an interesting character. Mr. Balfour's Local Government Act of 1898 broadened the franchise but made no provision for the representation of minorities. In Sligo as in many other towns in Ireland, many of the more heavily-rated citizens found themselves out-voted. After some time, they ceased to try to obtain representation. They were compelled to be content with criticising the work of the Council from outside, and much of their criticism was justified, for, as is very often the case when the constitution of a Council is one-sided, the administration was not of a high order. Eventually the crash came. The Corporation was bankrupt. The streets were, for a time, neither repaired nor swept and the lamps were not lit.

As a result there sprang into existence a vigorous Ratepayers' Association in which many members of the hitherto unrepresented minority took a prominent part. The ratepayers challenged the action of the Council in striking a rate in excess of its powers. Negotiations took place between the Association and the Corporation and, after much discussion, a new Municipal Bill was agreed to, giving the Corporation unlimited rating powers, on three conditions: (1) that there should be an early election, (2) that the election should be held under the proportional system, (3) that the Irish Local Government Board should have power to intervene in the event of any failure in the administration. The Bill was duly promoted and became law without opposition, and thus Sligo was the first town in the United Kingdom to elect its Council by P.R.

*NOTE.—On June 3, 1919, the Local Government (Ireland) Act was passed by a vote in the House of Commons of 244 to 42. This act applies the single transferable vote (P.R.) system to the election of all local representative bodies in Ireland, which amount to about four hundred. Some 129 municipalities will use the system in January, 1920.

THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN.

"No such interest," said *The Sligo Independent*, "was ever evinced in a Municipal election." The campaign was comparatively brief, but pursued with energy. The town was divided into three Wards, each of which was to elect eight representatives. The first two elected in each Ward became Aldermen. The Ratepayers' Association nominated six candidates in each Ward. Sinn Fein nominated five candidates in the West and four in each of the other Wards. Labour did the same. Two Independents stood in the East and two others in North Ward. There were thus sixteen candidates for each Ward.

On January 6th, some nine days before the poll, the Mayor convened a town's meeting at which Mr. John H. Humphreys, the Secretary of the P.R. Society, gave an address. A large number of the candidates and of others interested in the campaign, as well as a considerable body of citizens, were present. The system of voting, the single transferable vote, was explained. The elector was to vote by putting the figure 1 against his first choice. He might also place, if he so desired, the figures 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and so on, against as many other candidates as he wished, in the order of his choice. A question which in different forms was repeated several times was:—"Does it pay to plump?" In other words, would the elector gain by putting the figure 1 against his first choice and leaving the other candidates alone? The answer was:—"No, the elector would not gain, he might lose." His first choice had first claim upon the vote in any case. It would be transferred if his first choice had too many votes, or if his first choice was at the bottom of the poll and was declared defeated. If the elector did not express a second choice the vote could not be transferred and "might be wasted." Another question was, "How many preferences should one express?" The answer was:—"Go on until you become indifferent as to the fate of those candidates you do not mark. There are sixteen candidates and although there are only eight members to be elected, it would be wise to mark as many as twelve preferences."

The education of the public was taken up by the different party organisations, by the candidates, by the press and by Mr. Kilgannon, of the Sligo Picture House. The cinema was of great value.

VOTE

FOR THE RATEPAYERS' ASSOCIATION MEN WHOSE NAMES APPEAR IN HEAVY TYPE.

Put figure 1 opposite the name of your Favourite, and don't forget to put 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 before the names of the other five.

DON'T USE A X, and the paper will be spoiled if the figure 1 is placed before more than one candidate.

WEST WARD.

	CONNOLLY, JAMES
	DEPEW, HENRY
	FEENEY, WILLIAM JOSEPH
	FINAN, JOHN
	FLANAGAN, PATRICK J.
	HAMILTON, JAMES
	HANDE, WILLIAM
	HOWLEY, THOMAS DANIEL
	HUGHES, JOHN
	KERR, PERCY CAMPBELL
	LAMBERT, JOHN
	PERRY, HARPER CAMPBELL
	ROCHE, JORDAN H.
	TARRANT, SAMUEL
	THOMPSON, ANDREW
	TIGHE, EDWARD JOHN

Mr. Kilgannon threw on the screen for several nights in succession some very simple directions to voters, as follows:—

**THERE WILL BE SIXTEEN CANDIDATES IN EACH WARD;
CHOOSE YOUR FAVOURITE.**

VOTE FOR HIM BY PUTTING THE FIGURE 1 AGAINST HIS NAME.

USE AS MANY PREFERENCES AS YOU WISH.

**DO NOT VOTE WITH A X; IF YOU DO, YOUR PAPER WILL BE
SPOILED.**

DO NOT PLUMP; PLUMPING BENEFITS NO ONE.

**DO NOT ASSUME THAT YOUR FAVOURITE IS SAFE, IF YOU DO
YOU WILL LET HIM DOWN; GIVE HIM THE FIGURE 1.**

Similar directions were printed in the press, whilst the action taken by organisations is best illustrated by the copy of the leaflet, distributed by the Ratepayers' Association in the West Ward given on page 6. The organisers of the campaign did not ask for a first preference for any one candidate, but threw the responsibility upon the elector of choosing the one he preferred. The advice given to the elector was:—select your favourite but do not fail to record a preference for every one of our six candidates.

THE POLL.

The number of persons on the register was 3,066, of whom 2,251, or 73 per cent. voted; and as a result of the amount of education expended on the election campaign only 43 papers were spoiled. Of these 24 were attributable to the new system, whilst 19 were declared invalid for other reasons such as "uncertainty," "no official mark," "writing," etc. The percentage of spoiled papers due to the P.R. system was, therefore, just over 1 per cent. The electors, generally speaking, acted on the advice that they should use their privilege of marking additional preferences. A few marked all the sixteen candidates in the order of their choice, many marked as many as twelve, whilst a very large number, probably the majority, marked as many as eight. There was only one example of apparently organised 'plumping.' In the North Ward twelve electors

had voted No. 1 for Derrig and had not marked any other choice. Derrig was unsuccessful and these votes could not be transferred: they had no influence on the result of the election. The futility of 'plumping' was obvious to all who took part in the count.

The Sligo elections also showed that illiterates experience very little difficulty in voting under the new system: Of the total of 2,251 votes no fewer than 227, or 10 per cent., were recorded by illiterates. When asked by the presiding officer in simple language to state who was their favourite they were able to do so. When the names of the candidates were read out to them, they were able to indicate their second and further choices. Many expressed as many as eight choices.

THE COUNTING OF THE VOTES.

Opening the Ballot- boxes.

Each ballot box was opened and the number of ballot papers therein counted. The counting was checked, and the figures compared with the deputy returning officer's statement. It is essential that this counting should be carefully done, for it furnishes the Returning Officer with the means of checking the accuracy of all subsequent operations.

1st Count.

The papers were then sorted according to the names marked 1.* For this purpose four sets of pigeon-holes were provided, each with sixteen compartments. These compartments were labelled with the names of candidates in alphabetical order. The sorters, of whom there were eight, were instructed to place on the top of the sorting frames all papers which were invalid, or of doubtful validity. A paper was valid if the figure 1 was clearly marked against the name of one candidate only.

The invalid and doubtful papers were taken to the Returning Officer by the supervisor of the counting staff. These papers were examined by the Returning Officer in the presence of the candidates or their representatives. The Ratepayers' Association, which nominated six candidates for each Ward, appointed two representatives to watch the proceedings on behalf of all their eighteen candidates. The papers adjudged valid were taken back by the supervisor and placed with the papers already sorted.

*NOTE.—In Canada it might be considered desirable before the ballot papers are sent to the Returning Officer to first have them sorted and counted at the several polling places according to the first choices indicated on them. This preliminary counting, which of course would be checked by the Returning Officer, would furnish a record of the voting in different parts of the constituency.

After the sorting was finished, the papers of the sixteen candidates were divided among the eight sorters for counting. Each sorter was responsible for the papers of two candidates. The sorting was then checked and mis-sorts were handed to the supervisor who placed them with the candidate's papers to which they belonged. The votes were then counted and the counting was checked.

The supervisor informed the Returning Officer of the number of votes for each candidate, and as the total agreed with the total number of papers ascertained when the ballot boxes were opened, the supervisor brought the counted papers to the Returning Officer's table. The table had already been labelled with the names of the candidates in alphabetical order. If the numbers had not agreed the Returning Officer would have ordered a recount.

The result of the first count in the West Ward was as follows:—

First Count.	Votes.
Perry (Ratepayers)	169
Depew (Labour)	94
Connolly (Ratepayers)	91
Kerr "	82
Tighe "	79
Hande (Labour)	56
Hughes (Sinn Fein)	56
Feeney "	55
Hamilton (Ratepayers)	51
Flanagan (Sinn Fein)	44
Roche "	40
Tarrant "	38
Finan (Ratepayers)	34
Howley (Labour)	18
Lambert "	18
Thompson "	15
Total	<u>940</u>

The Quota. The next duty of the Returning Officer was to ascertain how many votes were sufficient to assure the election of a candidate. This number is called the "quota." There were eight candidates to be elected, and there was a total of 940 valid votes. At first it would seem that the Returning Officer should divide this total by eight and declare elected all those who obtained a number of votes equal to the quotient. But a slightly smaller number will secure election. For, in a single-

SLIGO BOROUGH.

ELECTION OF ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS, 1919. West Ward.

TRANSFER OF PERRY'S SURPLUS.

Total Surplus.....		64	
Number of transferable papers.....		166	
Proportion of papers to be transferred.....	=	Surplus	=
	Number of transferable papers	64	32
		166	83

	I	II	III
Names of Candidates marked as the next available preference.	Number of next prefer- ences for each candidate.	Number of papers transferred. (Largest frac- tions treated as whole numbers).	Number of papers retain- ed for Perry's quota.
Connolly.....	11	4 ($\frac{430}{83}$)	7
Depew.....	4	2 ($\frac{145}{83}$)	2
Feeney.....	3	1 ($\frac{113}{83}$)	2
Finan.....	7	3 ($\frac{258}{83}$)	4
Flanagan.....	1	— ($\frac{82}{83}$)	1
Hamilton.....	4	2 ($\frac{145}{83}$)	2
Hande.....	8	3 ($\frac{258}{83}$)	5
Howley.....	1	— ($\frac{82}{83}$)	1
Hughes.....	3	1 ($\frac{113}{83}$)	2
Kerr.....	77	30 ($\frac{2957}{83}$)	47
Lambert.....	3	1 ($\frac{113}{83}$)	2
Perry.....	—	—	—
Roche.....	9	4 ($\frac{339}{83}$)	5
Tarrant.....	3	1 ($\frac{113}{83}$)	2
Thompson.....	1	— ($\frac{82}{83}$)	1
Tighe.....	31	12 ($\frac{1113}{83}$)	19
Number of transferable papers	166	64	102
Number of non-transferable papers.....	3		3
Total.....	169	64	105

member constituency, it is not necessary for a candidate to poll all the votes; if he obtains one more than a half he must be elected. No one else can poll so many. Similarly, in a two-member constituency, a candidate who obtains one more than a third must be elected, for only two candidates can each poll more than a third. In a three-member constituency one more than a fourth is sufficient. In this election a candidate who obtained one more than a ninth was secure of election. The Returning Officer, therefore, divided the total of the valid votes, 940, by nine and added one to the quotient. The result, 105, was the "quota" in this election.

Election of Perry.

The table given above shows that Perry had obtained more than a quota of votes. He was declared elected as Senior Alderman, for under the Act, the first two elected in each Ward became Aldermen. No other candidate obtained a quota at the first count.

Second Count—the transfer of Perry's Surplus.

The Returning Officer then transferred Perry's surplus votes. For this purpose the whole of Perry's 169 papers were resorted according to the next choices; in this case the second choices. Column 1 of the table given on page 10 shows the result of the resorting; Connolly was the second choice on 11 papers; Depew on 4; and so on. It will be seen that the largest number of second choices were for other candidates on the Ratepayers' ticket. Kerr was second choice on 77 papers; Tighe on 31.

The total number of papers on which a second choice was shown was 166, there being three plumpers. The three plumpers were valid votes for Perry, and were set aside by the returning officer as part of Perry's quota. The surplus votes, 64, were selected from the 166 papers showing a second choice. These had already been sorted according to the names marked 2, and the Returning Officer's assistants then calculated by a series of rule-of-three sums, how many votes should be transferred to each of the candidates entitled to benefit. The calculation was made by multiplying each of the numbers in Column 1 by the fraction $\frac{64}{166}$, or $\frac{32}{83}$, that being the fraction which represented the proportion of votes to be transferred. The resulting numbers are given in Column II, the largest fractions being treated as whole numbers. The calculations were checked.

The papers to be transferred were selected in the following way. The 166 papers had been sorted into bundles according to

the next choice thereon. These bundles were brought by the supervisor to the Returning Officer's table. The table had been prepared for their reception, the spaces for each bundle having been labelled with the candidate's name. Connolly's bundle contained 11 papers (*see* Column I of Table). He was entitled to receive four (*see* Column II of Table). The four papers last filed, those on the top of the bundle, were transferred to Connolly and placed on the top of Connolly's bundle of original votes, which was already on the Returning Officer's table. The papers transferred were stamped with the impression 'Count 2,' to indicate that they were transferred at that count. The remaining seven papers, those not transferred, were retained to form a portion of Perry's quota (*see* Column III of Table). Each bundle of second choices was dealt with in a similar way; and, as the table shows, 64 papers in all were transferred, and 105 papers, including the three plumpers, were retained for Perry's quota.

**Election of
Kerr.**

Kerr received 30 votes as his share of Perry's surplus, and as he already had 82 votes, his total was now 112. This was more than the quota and he was elected Alderman.

**Third and
Subsequent
counts.**

In dealing with any secondary surplus, that is a surplus which arises from a transfer, only the papers which give rise to the surplus are examined for subsequent preferences. So in dealing with Kerr's surplus of 7 votes the 30 papers received from Perry were sorted according to the next choices thereon, in this case, the third choices; and the surplus was apportioned among the candidates entitled to benefit in accordance with the procedure already described. The details of this and of all subsequent transfers are shown in the Result Sheet opposite page 18. At the conclusion of the third count two candidates had been elected, and there were fourteen candidates in the running for the other six places, none of whom had obtained a quota. The Returning Officer accordingly declared defeated the candidate lowest on the poll, Thompson, with 15 votes. His papers were sorted according to the next available preferences. The term "next available preference" needs definition. In nearly every case the second choice marked on Thompson's papers was the next available preference; but, where the elector had marked either of the elected candidates, Perry or Kerr, as second choice, the third choice became the next available pre-

ference; and when an elector had marked Perry or Kerr as his second choice and Kerr or Perry as his third choice, the fourth choice became the next available preference.

Thompson's 15 votes were transferred as follows:

Depew (Labour).....	4
Lambert ".....	4
Howley ".....	2
Hamilton (Ratepayers).....	2
Hande (Labour).....	1
Tarrant (Sinn Fein).....	1
Tighe (Ratepayers).....	1
Total.....	15

Thompson was a Labour candidate and the majority of his votes fell to other Labour candidates; but it will be seen that as in the transfer of Perry's surplus, some cross-voting* took place.

The proceedings continued with the successive elimination of candidates at the bottom of the poll. The votes were transferred to the next available preferences, preferences for elected or excluded candidates being ignored. At the seventh count Tighe was elected with five surplus votes. These were transferred in accordance with the procedure already described. Connolly was elected at the same count with 106 votes. His surplus of one vote was not transferred because it was too small to affect the relative position of the candidates at the bottom of the poll.

Final result. The final result and the order of election was as follows:—

1. Perry (Ratepayers)	Alderman.....	105
2. Kerr	" Alderman.....	105
3. Tighe	" Councillor.....	105
4. Depew (Labour)	Councillor.....	106
5. Connolly (Ratepayers)	Councillor.....	106
6. Flanagan (Sinn Fein)	Councillor.....	105
7. Hande (Labour)	Councillor.....	95
8. Feeney (Sinn Fein)	Councillor.....	91
Not elected, Hamilton, (Ratepayers)	89
Non-transferable papers	33
Total	940

*NOTE.—The term "cross-voting" is applied to cases where a voter marks his first choice for a candidate of one party and his second (or any subsequent) choice for a candidate of another party; that is, when a voter 'crosses over' on his ballot paper from one party to another.

It will be seen that Connolly (Ratepayers), and Depew (Labour), each had a surplus of one vote. These were not transferred, because, even if they had both fallen to Hamilton, with 89 votes, this candidate would merely have tied with Feeney; and, as Hamilton had received fewer votes on the first count than Feeney, the tie, according to the rules, would have been decided against him.

ANALYSIS OF THE RESULTS.

West Ward. As already pointed out, there was considerable cross-voting. Nevertheless it is of interest to compare the votes (first preferences) given to groups of candidates with the representation secured by each group. Take first the West Ward results:—

SLIGO MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS (WEST WARD).

Table of First Preferences.

RATEPAYERS	SINN FEIN	LABOUR
Connolly 91 (elected)	Feeney 55 (elected)	Depew 94 (elected)
Finan 34	Flanagan 44 (elected)	Hande 56 (elected)
Hamilton 51	Hughes 56	Howley 18
Kerr 82 (elected)	Roche 40	Lambert 18
Perry 169 (elected)	Tarrant 38	Thompson 15
Tighe 79 (elected)		
Totals 506	233	201

The Ratepayers polled four quotas and 86 votes over; they obtained four seats. Sinn Fein polled two quotas and 23 votes over; they obtained two seats. Labour polled one quota and 96 votes over (nearly two quotas), and obtained two seats.

The four Ratepayers' candidates and the two Labour candidates elected were those with the highest first preferences in these two groups, but in the case of Sinn Fein, Flanagan, who had 44 first preferences, was elected, whereas Hughes, with 56, was defeated. Further, Flanagan (Sinn Fein), who was elected, had fewer first preferences than Hamilton (Ratepayers), who was defeated.

The freedom of the Transferable Vote.

In view of the comparatively small change in the relative positions of candidates at the first and final counts, the provisions for transferring votes may be regarded as of little value. But if the single vote were not transferable the whole character of an election would be changed. In the Sligo elections every citizen felt that he was free to express his preferences, many or few, just as he desired. Every party, too, was free to nominate as many candidates as it wished. If the single vote had not been transferable, all this freedom and elasticity would have disappeared. In order to secure representation minorities would have been compelled, as under the system of the cumulative vote, to calculate carefully their probable strength, to reduce the number of their candidates accordingly, and to issue precise instructions as to the candidate for whom different sections of their supporters should record their single vote. The election would have been rigid in all its aspects; it would have presented a complete contrast to the freedom and elasticity associated with the transferable vote.

Total results for all wards.

The population of the three Wards of Sligo varied very considerably, but each returned eight members. There was much cross-voting, especially in favour of the Independent candidates in the East and North Wards; indeed, all four Independents were returned. The following table, which gives a summary of the figures for all three Wards should be read in the light of these facts.

SLIGO MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS (ALL WARDS.)

Analysis of Party Results.

Parties	First Preferences	Seats in proportion to first preferences	Seats actually obtained
Ratepayers' Association	823	8.94	8
Sinn Fein	674	7.33	7
Labour	432	4.70	5
Independents	279	3.03	4
Totals	2208	24.00	24

The table shows that all groups of citizens secured representation and that if allowance is made for the cross-voting they obtained representation in proportion to their numbers. Further, in all cases the electors had the final word in deciding which of the nominees of the various parties should be returned. The objects of P.R. are to secure freedom of choice in voting and justice in representation; these two objects were secured by the single transferable vote.

This article commenced with some expressions of opinion from the Sligo and Dublin press. It may fittingly conclude with the testimony of the newly-elected Mayor, Alderman Hanley, who says, "The elections recently conducted here under P.R., have given entire satisfaction to the people of Sligo, and under no circumstances would they be agreeable to go back to the old system."



(SEE RESULT SHEET OF WEST WARD OPPOSITE PAGE 18.)

FAIR REPRESENTATION AND NO DIFFICULTIES

A Statement by the Returning Officer at Sligo.

Mr. J. McCarthy, who acted as Returning Officer at the election of the Sligo Municipal Council by the single transferable vote, in January, 1919, states:—

The experiment of applying the single transferable vote to the municipal elections in Sligo has shown:—

1. That voters had no difficulty in grasping what they had to do.
2. In the past, owing to lack of interest on the part of a large number of the electors, the polls were small. In the present instance nearly 80 per cent. of the total register polled.
3. The count is not perceptibly longer than the old method in point of time where 16 candidates are contesting 8 seats.
4. At the count neither the candidates nor their agents had any trouble in following the various steps although it was their first experience of the system. The difficulty of the count appears much more formidable on paper than in actual practice. A systematic method eliminates the alleged difficulties.
5. So far as these elections are concerned the results have succeeded in making good the claims of the advocates of the system. The rights of majorities were preserved and at the same time representation given to minorities. The various parties got representation in a proportion wonderfully near to their voting strength.
6. The system is a practical one and the results of the elections have been received with general satisfaction.

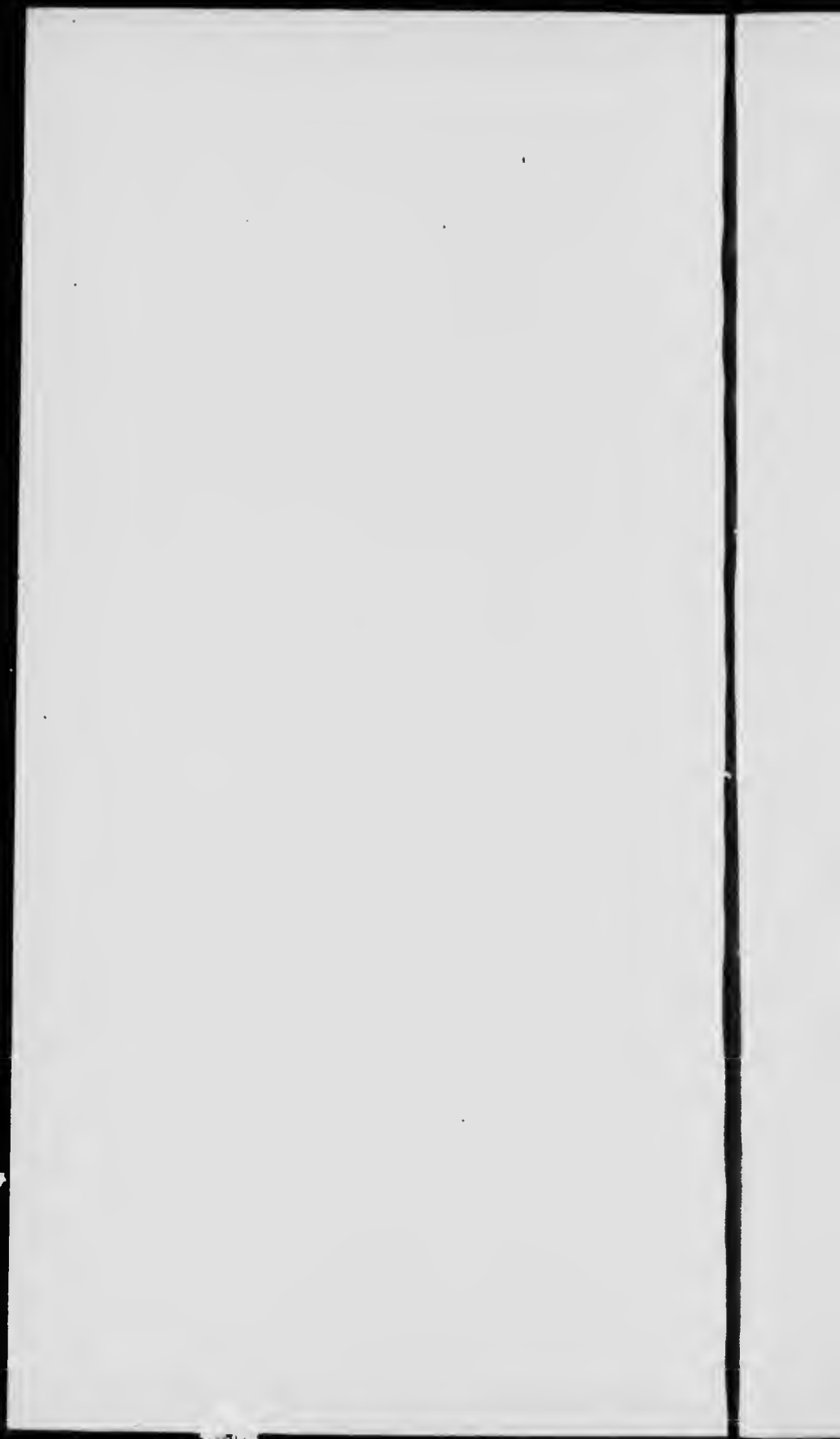
The Sligo Champion, whose editor took part in the counting of the ballots, says:

"It was absolutely successful; it was really a model election. Throughout the whole process of counting and transferring, not one single mistake occurred. This is, of course, a tribute to the efficiency of the staff as well as to the manner in which every stage of the count automatically checks itself."

IONS.

$$\frac{10}{5} + 1 = 105.$$

10th Count.		11th Count.		12th Count.		Candidates Elected with order of Election.
<i>Trans- fer of Roche's votes</i>	Re- sult	<i>Trans- fer of Hughes' votes</i>	Re- sult	<i>Trans- fer of Flana- gan's surplus</i>	Re- sult	
—	106	—	106	—	106	(5) Connolly, Councillor
—	106	—	106	—	106	(4) Depew, Councillor
+ 15	86	+ 4	90	+ 1	91	(8) Feeney, Councillor
—	—	—	—	—	—	
+ 17	78	+ 29	107	— 2	105	(6) Flanagan, Councillor
+ 3	80	+ 9	89	—	89	
+ 6	75	+ 19	94	+ 1	95	(7) Hande, Councillor
—	—	—	—	—	—	
+ 8	73	— 73	—	—	—	
—	105	—	105	—	105	(2) Kerr, Alderman
—	—	—	—	—	—	
—	105	—	105	—	105	(1) Perry, Alderman
59	—	—	—	—	—	
—	—	—	—	—	—	
—	—	—	—	—	—	
—	105	—	105	—	105	(3) Tighe, Councillor
10	21	+ 12	33	—	33	
—	940	—	940	—	940	





The Proportional Representation Society of Canada

The Object of the Society

The Society advocates the election of members of parliament, municipal councils, and other elective bodies by the method of multi-member constituencies and the Single Transferable vote, whereby the electors may vote for the candidates in the order of their preference, and majorities and minorities will be represented in proportion to the respective numbers of electors supporting them.

The Society holds that by this form of election:—

- (1) The **majority** of electors will rule and all considerable **minorities** will be heard in the elected bodies.
- (2) The **electors** will have a wider freedom in the choice of representatives.
- (3) The **representatives** will have greater independence from the financial and other pressure of small sections of constituents.
- (4) **Parties** will secure representation by their ablest and most trusted members.

Membership

Membership of the Society is open to all who are in sympathy with its aims. The minimum subscription, \$1.00 per annum, entitles to all publications free.

The Executive earnestly appeals to all friends for subscriptions of greater amount, in order that the educational work of the Society may be carried on.

