

Proportional Representation

[Fourth Article.]

Hitherto I have in former articles pointed out the evils resulting from the defective plan of voting now employed which is based on the use of electoral districts from which only one member is elected. Before describing improved plans of Proportional Representation, let us consider for a short time the principles which must underlie any proper voting system.

These principles apply not only to the election of congressmen and members of state legislatures, but to members of city, town, village, county and township councils. Their scope is even wider than that, for clubs, labor unions, and the thousands of voluntary associations can use these principles in their elections, and derive much benefit therefrom.

You will notice, however, that these principles are not and cannot be applied to elections where necessarily only one official is elected: such as the governor of a state or the mayor of a city. Yet even in such elections there is room for a great improvement of method, which I shall describe in due course.

Foundation Principles

The only fair and honest method of representation is that method which will represent all important phases of public opinion in proportion to the number of voters holding these opinions. Let us illustrate this principle. Here are a thousand men who have important business to be transacted. They propose to elect a committee of ten persons to do their business. On what principles should these ten persons be elected. Evidently each one of the thousand has a right to be represented by the person of his choice, providing he does not interfere with the equal right of any other man to be similarly represented; but as there are only ten on the committee, and as there are a thousand men to be represented, it is evident that before you can be represented by the

person of your choice you must get ninety-nine of the other men to agree with you in the choice of a representative. Then if one hundred of you, that is, one-tenth of the voters, agree together on a representative, you are entitled to that representative, and the other nine hundred have a right to mar your choice. The same thing applies to every other one hundred voters who can agree together on a representative.

In brief, this is the plan: divide the number of voters by the number of representatives to be elected, and you thereby get the number of voters who are entitled to one representative; for instance, in a district containing 28,000 voters and returning seven members, four thousand votes are necessary to elect one representative, and these four thousand votes are called a "quota." We may, therefore, call Proportional Representation the quota system.

Then the practical question is: how to carry out this principle so that the voters may combine and give a quota of votes to each elected candidate and no more. How will they know when a candidate has got a quota, so they need not throw away any more votes on him after he has received enough to elect him? How will they know when a candidate has so few supporters that he can not get a quota, and therefore can not be elected? And what should be done when votes are scattered among a dozen candidates for the seven seats?

The solution of these questions is found in the various plans of Proportional Representation, such as the Swiss Free List, the Hare-Spence plan and the Gove System.

An essential feature of all these methods is the large district returning several members.

In subsequent articles I shall describe these specific methods of carrying out the proportional principle.

ROBERT TYSON.

10 Harbord St., Toronto, Canada.

Unjust to Subscribers

"Who knows how many votes Tom Watson got? He first claimed 500,000. This claim has been cut in half and even lower than that, yet Mr. Watson still insists that he is the man to lead the Nation to glory."—Dallas News, Nov. 26th.

Who knows how many votes winner Roosevelt got in Texas? Who can tell how many sprinter Parker got? Who has any information as to the vote of Mr. Watson in Texas? How does the News know how many votes Mr. Watson or any other man got in Texas? Has it means of knowing facts that it has failed to give to the public? The day after the election, when it was totally impossible for any mortal to know the result in Texas, the News stated that Texas had gone for Parker by 190,000? If so please give figures to give its attention to the vote on the amendments and since then has been silent as to the vote for electors. Why? Does the News hold to its assertion that Parker carried the state by 190,000? If so please give figures.

The News is a great paper, as papers go, in many ways and the Populists of the state have given it a generous support through its semi-weekly, heretofore, refusing to subscribe for any other paper and in return the News refuses to give any information at all to its readers concerning the results of their vote for the great man, who representing their prin-

For over sixty years Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup has been used by mothers for their children while teething. Are you disturbed at night and broken of your rest by a sick child suffering and crying with pain of cutting teeth? If so, send at once and get a bottle of Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup for Children Teething. Its value is incalculable. It will relieve the poor little sufferer immediately. Depend upon it, mothers, there is no mistake about it. It cures diarrhoea, regulates the stomach and bowels, cures wind colic, softens the gums, reduces inflammation, and gives tone and energy to the whole system. Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup for children teething is pleasant to the taste and is the prescription of one of the oldest and best female physicians and nurses in the United States, and is for sale by all druggists throughout the world. Price, 25 cents a bottle. Be sure and ask for "Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup."

ciples, received their support.

The Dallas News is a great paper, but great papers as well as great men sometimes make mistakes and the News has done so this time by standing in with the Democratic machine and refusing to give the vote for electors as cast. The Populists should and will resent this action of the News and refuse to pay any more money for a paper that is so unfair, to say the least. Subscribe for papers of your own faith—Populists, such as the Independent, for while they may not have so much "Associated Falseness" in their columns, you can rely on it that what there is, is sound doctrine and in line with truth and principle.

Hon. Thomas Watson may never live to be president, but the time will come when the platform of principles, that he has never traded off for campaign funds, will be the law of the land and will be endorsed by all the people who love justice and right. Tom Watson may not have had as many votes this time as we hoped, but there are others—for instance "Esopus Parker."

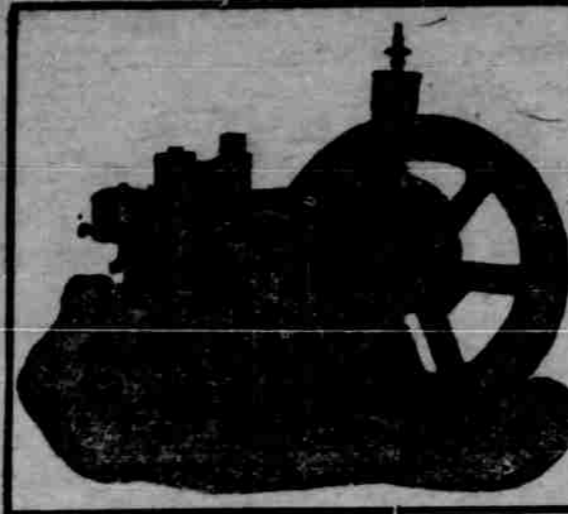
We have been unable to get any returns so far so we do not know what vote was cast in Texas. The new election law gotten up by our masters, the Democrats, gives the machine forty days to do its work in and until that time arrives no one will know what they will allow any one—but you can rely on it that the plurality of Parker will be near the mark set in the beginning, not more than half the vote of the state was cast, the ordinary Democrats refusing to go to the polls. No one need expect that the Populists of Texas will ever go into any kind of fusion with the ruling party in the state, it makes no difference what man leads it or on what platform it stands. It is not to be trusted and we know it to our sorrow.

TAYLOR McRAE.

Fort Worth, Texas, Nov. 30th, 1904.

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Mr. A. Canfield of Tecumseh, Neb., suffered with severe cancer of the nose. He has been entirely cured by Dr. T. O'Connor and will answer any inquiries from other sufferers. Write him and at the same time send a full description of the cancer to Dr. T. O'Connor, Lincoln, Neb. He can cure you. His charges are reasonable and terms of payment easy.



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E. B. SLOSSON, Gen'l Agt.
Lincoln, Neb.

Legal Notice

LeBarre & Muenster a partnership, and Conrad Bodden will take notice that on the 29th day of November 1904, W. T. Stevens a justice of the peace of the City of Lincoln, Lancaster County, Nebraska, issued an order of attachment for the sum of \$90, in an action pending before him wherein Lincoln Storage Company is Plaintiff and LeBarre & Muenster a partnership and Conrad Bodden are defendants, that property of the defendants consisting of one lot of stage scenery and appurtenances has been attached under said order. Said cause was continued to the 12th day of January 1905, at 9 o'clock A. M.

LINCOLN STORAGE COMPANY, Plaintiff,
by H. A. Lindly.

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