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Many styles to choose from in our large Counter:— stock, all well made, and boned for slight, Elastic, "wide, 6 yard package . . . . . 15c

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### ANNUAL CALL TO **CLEAN-UP**

That a municipal council should give leadership to the householders in keeping the village or town clan, over which they direct affairs, is firmly believed in by the town fathers in Whitby, is evident from what is taking place in the Ontario County centre. Stouffville council abandoned the annual "clean day" on the ground of economy, and it would have been, in our opinion, a backward step had not a private trucker stepped in and thus will save the accumulation of tins, etc., from littering our back yards, which many take a real pride. fairness to our councillors, however, we feel they anticipated the .outcome of financing "can day" would be to turn it into private hands. Here is what they are doing Whitby, as reported editorially in the Whitby Gazette last week:-

The Council has set May 16, and 18 as the annual "clean up" days in Whitby. On these days citizens are requested to gather up in bags or boxes all the refuse which has accumulated in the back yard or cellar during the winter and pile up same neatly at the side of the street so that they can be easily picked up by the town teams. "clean" up" is the duty of every citizen, as it removes fire dangers, and things that breed disease while it helps to maintain the town's reputation as a clean, beautiful and healthy town. This year as last the Council is enlarging the scope of the clean up campaign by asking the citizens to undertake painting and necessary repairs' in order that the town's appearance might be improved and that idle men may be given jobs.

Citizens during the past two years, have withheld works of clean up or paint up nature in the hope that good times will soon return, but meanwhile property depreciating in value by being left to the mercies of the elements. It is the property that is being carefully cared for during the hard times that is going to bring the price when good times return and whatever money is being saved now by neglecting your property will be lost on its value when marketable property is in demand again.

Look around your premises today and see what you can do to put across this clean up campaign. There is something every citizen can do to make it a suscess.

Send The Tribune to absent friends

NOTIONS

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Dress Shields, per pair ........... 25c

Mending Wool, per skein ..... 5c

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attactive, and must be seen to be appreciated.

In white, rose, green, blue and yellow, ea 75c

These dainty little blouses are exceedingly

## Redistribution and Electoral Reform

By Alex. D. Bruce, Unionville, Ont., R. R.

bution of constituencies we read in the press that a "safe seat" is to be created-for one member of Parliament, and that Liberals will "hived" in a certain area. Doubtless the basis of the vote cast throughthe reporter is responsible for the phraseology, descriptive of the sitution, as he sees it, yet it is undeniable that the words accurately describe what has been done under past redistributions. In addition plans for safe seats and for hiving electors' (if such is the case) know that compulsory voting is re ceiving serious consideration. Of the three suggestions, not one is consistent with representative govern ment, since each involves arbitrary interference with the exercise of the franchise; that this is true of the first two suggestions, requires argument: compulsory voting

more plausible. While representative governm presupposes that all citizens ha the right of voting-and show exercise their right-yet, it possible that a citizen may find himself unable to vote confidence either of two candidates; must then, be compelled to express confidence that is not real? If the state expects the citizen to vote; the citizen has the right to demand an opportunity of voting honestly, or, failing that, of refraining. - Unfortunately, with that, of refraining, with single member constituencies as the basis of our representative government, . it sometimes happens that the only honest course open to the elector is to not vote. In addition to those electors who have a purpose in not voting, there are many electors who are alive to public questions, but who because of local conditions are indifferent about voting. In a large proportion of our constituencies, the result can be certainly foretold, even before the candidates are in the field in those constituencies many electors who would vote (were they residents of a close constituency) excuse themselves, "upon the ground that it is useless. The assumption that nonuse of the franchise, can only mean indifference on the part of the elector, can not be justified by facts.

phases of the problems which are exercising the thought of our public men are the result of our single member constituency basis of represen-

Let us now consider our electoral problems from another angle.

In the years immediately following the war, the outstanding feature of our political life was the multiplication of political groups. In the general elections of 1919 (Ontario Provincial) and of 1921 (Federal) in many constituencies three-and in some instances, five, and even sixcandidates contested the elections; with the result that in these multicandidated constituencies, the one declared elected frequently represented only an insignificant proportion of the electorate. Certainly in one instance the "representative" rethe registered electors: This was little easy to win the sympathetic interest lot. He noticed rats running out better than were the rotten boroughs of ordinary citizens, when presenting in Britain, in the pre-Reform Bill the case for P.R., but if there happens days. In the post war years, so to be in the audience a member of seriously was the prestige of Parli- Parliament, from him hostile critiament weakened, because of the cism may be expected. With all due development of political groups, that respect, let it be said: that some of serious consideration was given to our members of Parliament believe Proportional Representation as a they have a "yested interest" in their system well adapted to the new constituency, and that the system conditions; in 1823 it appeared prob- which has placed them in Parliament able that this reform would be adop- should not be touched. On one occated in Ontario, but owing to the wav- sion one of these gentlemen was very ering of some supporters of the Gov- frank in stating his position-he said: ernment, the measure was with- "I suppose Proportional Represendrawn, and the tide ebbed. We are tation would be all right, but I can to-day expeciencing a recurrence of easily see how, it might be the death conditions similar to those of 1919- of me politically." 21 in the next general election we | We cannot have P.R. until our will, in many constituencies, have a members of Parliament are ready to hotch potch of candidates; and in legislate for its adoption, and unthe next-Parliament, we will prob. doubtedly the vested interest attitude ably have the spectacle of members on the part of members of Parlia- Plants. Sold retail or wholesale at representing only, shreds and ment is the greatest obstacle to be low prices. Robt. Stewart, ph. 1208. patches of the electorate, yet, ful- overcome, before the reform can be filling the duties of a "representa- won. The task is not a hopeless one, tive." Under Proportional Represen- yet until the friends of P.R. become tation no candidate could be de- active in pressing their cause, the clared elected who had not re-chance of P. R. becoming the law of Graduate Nurse in attendance. ceived such a proportion of the total this land is slight indeed. vote polled that his right to speak In the past, parliamentary and elecwith authority as a representative toral reforms have been the result of Private and Semi-Private Rooms. from his constituency could not be pressure from without Parliament, Weekly rates \$20 and \$25. challenged; moreover, practically rather than of leadership from with- Inspection Invited. Phone 191. every voter would be able to point in, and so it will be in the future-, to some member of Parliament as the member for whom he had voted, and who would therefore be his re-

remedy should be adopted. John H. Humphreys, J.P., Secrétary of The Proportional Representation Society, of London, England, has published a comparative analysis of results of the last British gen eral election, held in 1931; and of the Irish Free State elections, recently held, under Proportional Representation; the comparison is

presentative, whereas-under the system now in force—the electors

constituting the minority in each

constituency, are not only repre-

sented in Parliament-they are mis-

represented. Can there be any

doubt as to which system is most

conductive to that confidence and

contentment which are the strength

of the nation? Surely if there is any

remedy for the manifest imperfec-

tions of our electoral, practices that

enlightening. According to Humphreys' analysis:-in the Brit-In connection with the redistri- ish election, for every 29,000 votes cast throughout the country, for National Government candidates; Government supporter took his seat in Parliament, while it required, on

out the country, an average of 144,-000 Laborite votes for every Labor Party member, elected. In other words the vote of 1 National Government supporter was worth 4.91 votes cast by a Labor supporter. Such a result makes mockery of representative government.

Compare this result with the result in the Irish election, where according to Mr. Humphreys;-De Valera's supporters, in the Dail, represent on the average, 9,378 voters while Cosgrave's supporters, represent, on the average 9,588 voters: an inequality of only 210 votes, as compared with an inequality of 115,000 votes in the British election. The merits of the issues at stake in the Irish election, do not concern us. at the moment, what does concern us is the accuracy of Proportional Representation, as a method by which the wishes of the electors will be reflected in the personnel of Parliament; certainly theIrish obtained a Parliament truly representative of the wishes of the voters, and is not this supposed to be the supreme objective in every election?

In the light of the foregoing comparison, it is evident that Proportional Representation, surpasses our present system of election, as completely, as does the modern rifle, in efficiency, surpass the ancient blunderbuss. -

Under Proportional Representation, there can be no "safe seat" made for any man by legislation; on the other hand men who are of leadership calibre, would be assured of their places in Parliament; the country would be saved the loss that has frequently occurred from local conditions forcing a great man out of public life; it would also be impossible to "hive" the supporters of any political party; finally with the removal of the handicaps, which we have been discussing, electors would discover that no matter what the im-Let it be noted that the foregoing mediately local conditions might be, their votes would be worth their actual face in determining the result of an election, sham battles would become matters of history; interest in elections would be uniform throughout the country, and the desirability of compulsion of voters would be forgotten.

Three quarters of a century has passed since Hare published his theories concerning Proportional Renre sentation; from the day of publication, to the present, many of the keenest minded publicists have been warm advocates of the reform; more than a score of countries have adopted it, in part, or wholly; again and again it has proved its efficiency, yet it must be admitted, its adoption has made slow progress.

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but under our representative system (imperfect though it is) our parliamentarians are responsible to public cultivators, late model manure sentiment, when strongly and persistently expressed: let the friends of Proportional Representation accordingly.

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a farmer went down into the barn in a terror-stricken sort of manner. He found the cause of this to be a black mink, and he was not only scaring the rats, he was killing them. . The farmer's dog "Curly" nelped get some of the rats, but for fear Curly might attack the mink he a rat to be found on the place. All that the mink and Curly did not kill finally shut him up in his kennel. In three or four days there was not ieft for a safer habitation. This little incident, trifling in itself, holds a lesson for the farmer. Mink is not a poultry-devouring creature. His prey consists of vermin and his value is not in his pelt, but in his

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