
BOOKS

A LEGISLATIVE MIRROR OF PUBLIC OPINION.

Proportional Representation. A Study in Methods of Election. By John H. Humphreys, Hon. Secretary, Proportional Representation Society. With an Introduction by the Rt. Hon. Lord Courtney of Penwith. Published by Methuen & Co., Ltd. Sold in the United States by Wm. Hoag, 19 Milk St., Boston. Price \$1.50 postpaid.

Appropriately and feelingly Mr. Humphreys dedicates his book to the memory of the late Catherine H. Spence* of Australia, whose service is not overstated in his description of her as an "unwearyed worker in the cause of real representation."

Proportional representation is such representation in law-making bodies as to make the representative body a microcosm of the people it represents. It would secure, that is, in its effective forms, approximately the same proportionate number of votes in the legislature for measures of general interest that those measures would receive on popular referendum. If, for illustration, a community were so divided as to be two-fifths Republicans, one-fifth Democrats, one-fifth Socialists and one-fifth Prohibitionists, a legislature of five representatives would consist of two Republicans, one Democrat, one Socialist and one Prohibitionist.

Mr. Humphrey explains the different methods by which this result has been sought, and how they have worked where applied. But his book is not a jargon of explanations; it is a treatise on representative government, with the proportional idea and its explanations as the central theme.

Of the value to democracy of the proportional method of representation there should be no question. To make the representative body "a mirror of the nation" is an ideal that ought to appeal to all sincere opponents of the Initiative and the Referendum, and of course it appeals to their advocates. The system advocated by the author is the "single transferable vote." Under this system each elector has but one vote, and in order to enable those of like mind to group themselves with secret ballots, as might be done with obvious ease in open-voting, the vote of each elector is made transferable by himself through his expression of two or more "choices" on his secret ballot. These "choices" tell in the count; for if a candidate has more "first choice" votes than he needs as his quota for election, the excessive votes for him are transferred as "second choices" indicate. Similarly, "first choice" votes for an absolutely defeated candidate would be transferred to the "second

choice" candidates. And so on with "third choice," "fourth choice," etc. Explanations of how this would work out to secure representation proportionate to diversities of choice in a constituency, would take too much space for a review; but it is lucidly made and clearly exemplified by the author, who offers his readers withal a very interesting book.

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KARL MARX AND THE SOCIALISM OF TO-DAY.

Sidelights on Contemporary Socialism. By John Spargo. Published by B. W. Huebsch, New York, 1911. Price, 1.00 net.

In these three lectures—"Marx, Leader and Guide," "Anti-Intellectualism in the Socialist Movement," and "The Influence of Marx on Contemporary Socialism"—John Spargo addresses his fellow Socialists on certain controversies within their ranks. His aim is first, to give to the disciples of Marx a truthful interpretation of the character of their teacher; second, to attack one or two long-enduring fallacies in the Socialist movement; and third, to free modern Socialism from the narrow dogma which tradition has ascribed to Marx and relate it once more to the man's own liberal doctrine.

But others besides Socialists will be interested to read the little book. One pleasant and privileged way to become acquainted with a new group of people is to sit just outside the circle, a close and quiet listener while they talk among themselves.

ANGELINE LOESCH GRAVES.

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THE HISTORIC LINCOLN-DOUGLAS DEBATES.

The Lincoln-Douglas Debates of 1858. Edited with Introduction and Notes by Edwin Erle Sparks, Ph. D., President of the Pennsylvania State College, and Published in the Collections of the Illinois State Historical Library. Vol. III of the Collections; Vol. I of the Lincoln series. Published by the Trustees of the Illinois State Historical Library, Springfield, 1908. Received of James A. Rose, Secretary of State.

This edition of the debates between Lincoln and Douglas, in their campaign for the Senatorship from Illinois, was prepared and published in commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary. It contains not only the historic speeches, but a large number of contemporaneous newspaper clippings, an explanation of the Senatorial campaign in which the speeches were made, and an account of Horace White, Robert R. Hitt, Henry Binmore, and James B. Sheridan, who reported the speeches. Besides other supplementary reading matter of historic value, the volume is abundantly and interestingly pictorialized.

*See *The Public*, vol. XIII, pp. 322, 341.