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be called a system: it is really just a muddle—depends not on how the electors vote but on how their votes are combined or split. If we had Proportional Representation, the only just system, the question of compulsion would not arise; every vote would be given its value and every voter his proper degree of influence."

"But what if the electors don't want Proportional Representation?"

"Then of course they must take the consequences. But they have never had a chance to see what Proportional Representation would do for them. Most regrettably, I think, the Labour Party, which could have introduced the system, has now discarded it, and we saw the result the other day. Not a single Labour candidate gained a seat on the Wellington City Council, for example, though Proportional Representation would have

given Labour six seats on the votes recorded—an influential minority notwithstanding the big majority polled by Labour's opponents. As things are, Labour has no seats at all and the Council is clearly not a representative body. But you would not improve matters if you fined or imprisoned people for not voting. You would get exactly the same result on a bigger scale."

An Educational Angle

THE second opinion was from a man whose interest in education has always been sociological as well as cultural—F. L. Combs, who will perhaps allow us to call him a political as well as an educational reformer:

"Historically, New Zealand owes a debt to its underpaid, overburdened teachers which, such is casual human nature, is not ever likely to be honoured. But one thing the best teachers can only struggle painfully and inadequately to do in our under-manned (and womaned) and therefore mass-instruction classrooms: that is to cultivate that jewel of price, *Initiative*.

"As a result, pupilage is in the main tutelage, and tutelage involves too much passive acceptance of guidance to make good democrats or, what is much the same thing, keen voters. The ideal democrat is the person who wants both to think and act in matters of collective concern. The desire to do this has been deadened in the classroom where decisions have for 50 years been to a too great extent handed down from above. The schools have therefore failed to lay one cornerstone of good citizenship, though the past decade has seen marked improvement in this regard.

"The other thing which hamstring democracy and makes democrats indifferent to their civic rights is the premium put upon self-seeking individualism by modern intense competition. To too great a degree the struggle for existence is a rivalry the reverse of co-operative, and mutual aid, which should be its counterpoise, gets a poor hearing. Innately mutual aid based upon the group instinct is just as strong as the egotism of acquisitiveness, but it gets off to a bad start, and to that extent there is failure to lay a true foundation of democracy.

"These two causes of apathetic democracy directly imply their own remedies. Indirectly they imply opposition to compulsory voting as a means of making democracy stronger. External compulsion and democracy are as far asunder as true citizenship and Fascism."

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think I had
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Reply to a Monologue and a Soliloquy

CARPING may be all very well
Mr. Vogt.
Having fun with morons is
probably very gratifying to one's own
particular ego
Mr. Fairburn.

TO set up as an Evangelist takes
courage.
But how often does his crusade
degenerate into a mere tagging
along after a dim Grail?

IF we have blackberries
Mr. Vogt.
We also have babies.
And it isn't the eternal mother
in me but a cold matter
of statistics
Which says that we New Zealanders
have the lowest infant
mortality rate in the world.

SMUGNESS is a bad thing in a nation
Mr. Fairburn.
It can be equally bad in a critic.
We may be gutless;
Our hands may be clasped over
our stomachs in a perpetual
afternoon doze of complacency;
Our pack-cry on the football
field probably does come through
a yattering mesh of false teeth;
But we seem in spite of all this
to have acquired some smattering
of social conscience.
How many leaves out of our book
did Sir William copy when
he was making up his Report?

ONE could go on like this for a
long time putting up pros
to match your vast array of cons.
But that really isn't the argument.

WHAT is trying to be said
Goes something like this—

DON'T ask so many questions
Mr. Vogt.
Answer a few for us.
And in the meantime pack up
your gumboots,
Put on your shoes again.
The mud around here isn't nearly
as thick or as engulfing as you
appear to think.

DECRY us not from Olympian heights
Mr. Fairburn.
But come down and mingle among us.
Treat us occasionally to the pointing
hand
Rather than the admonishing finger.
If you were a better psychologist
you would know
That the fool of the family
is usually the one with
an inferiority complex grafted on
By a succession of naggers
who keep on telling him
To pull his socks up
And to blow his nose.

—Isobel Andrews

When is a Man not a Man?

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