to vote. If you don't vote then, to a certain extent, you put the whole thing in jeopardy."

But Power Through the Ballot Box is more than just another argument about politics, for in the effort to explain just why the vote should be valued it goes back to the Athenians, who not only organised the first working democracy we know very much about, but were probably the first people ever to think much about politics. And having gone back to Athens it comes forward again, noting as it goes some of the steps the people have taken as they have won by slow stages the power they now have over their rulers. And it wasn't, of course, a steady forward march. For a start, though the Greeks

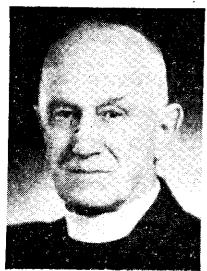
thought out the basic ideas of politics—the relationships between man and man—the democracy didn't endure; and their work, the inquiring spirit that was embodied in it, lay dormant until the Renaissance. Then it had the greatest effect on European



Anthony Bartlett

thought and the development of our modern ideas.

This dialogue on democracy traces the development of English political institutions down to the Reform Bills of the 19th Century and Lord Durham's report on the troubles in Canada. And since the responsible representative institutions he recommended for Canada were made more or less the prototype for similar institutions elsewhere that is where the dialogue takes up the story of our own institutions in New Zealand —from the provincial governments and restricted franchise of the early days to the last attempt by the Crown (in 1892) to reject a decision made by the Lower House, and the granting of votes to women a year later. And in passing it explains why the ramifications of Government are so wide here, which makes it all the more important for everyone to take an interest-an intelligent interest-in the election of the people who will represent them in "the House on



THE Rt. Rev. D. N. McDiarmid, M.B.E., B.A., Moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of New Zealand. Part of his inaugural address will be broadcast from 2YA at 4.30 p.m. on Sunday, November 14

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