

the marquises to the number of thirty, are by right hereditary members when they reach the age of twenty-five.

(2) The three other orders of nobility, counts, viscounts, and barons, elect a certain number of their peers for a term of seven years. They are eligible at the age of twenty-five.

(3) Each of the three inferior orders of the nobility can be represented at the maximum by the fifth part of all the members of the upper chamber. Actually there are 17 counts, 70 viscounts, 56 barons, who are members.

(4) The emperor selects and names a certain number of members among his subjects, who are distinguished for their erudition, or who have rendered some notable service to the State. All of the above are members for life.

(5) In each of the Prefectures of the Empire the fifteen greatest direct taxpayers choose one of their number to represent them in the upper chamber. These forty-three members hold office for seven years. The members belonging to the two classes just mentioned have to be at least thirty years old, and their total number can never exceed that of the three other classes. Thus every precaution is taken to have

The Influences of the Upper Chamber

properly balanced, so that none can have preponderance over the others. Moreover, all the influences of this part of the government are conservative, as was plainly seen in the discussion of the Universal Suffrage Bill. Finally, there is another distinction in this part of the legislature, viz., the absence of political parties. Its members are divided into little groups, formed for the most part by members of the same order of nobility or of the same class. The Chamber of Representatives is entirely renewed every four years. It consists of 379 members, 75 of whom are for the city constituencies, and 304 for the country districts. One cannot be a member before the age of thirty. No other condition is required than that the member be in the enjoyment of all civil rights, but he is not allowed to be engaged in certain functions, which are determined by law.

The representatives, like the non-hereditary peers, receive an annual indemnity of one thousand dollars in gold. Moreover, they have free transportation on the railways.

According to the law of 1889, only those who paid at least 7 dollars 50 cents. in direct taxes in the Prefecture to which they belonged could be candidates for office. But in 1900 this clause was suppressed. It happened that just then the number of representatives, which was originally 300, was advanced to 379, and, moreover, the revision of the electoral law enlarged the number of possible candidates by lowering the amount of 7 dollars 50 cents. to 5 dollars. Hence, since 1900, it has been sufficient for a Japanese to be twenty-five years of age and to pay a tax of 5 dollars in direct

taxes to be an elector. Army men and ministers of religion are disfranchised. But this second condition restricts considerably the right of suffrage, so that Japan is very far from having

Anything Like Universal Suffrage.

In fact, at the elections of 1908 there were only a million and a half who had the right to vote, viz.: a proportion of thirty-two electors for every thousand inhabitants, while if universal suffrage is accorded, even if it is restricted to the age of twenty-five, the number of voters will be no less than twelve million. For a long time there has been a demand and desire for universal suffrage. For this a Bill has been presented eight times. In the last session it obtained a majority of votes in the lower house, but the peers rejected it in such a fashion that there is no hope whatever of seeing it become a law in the near future. Not a single peer voted for it. Indeed, every one knows that as long as power remains in the hands of the statesmen who rule Japan at the present time a Bill of this description will not have the slightest chance of success. Nevertheless, the way it was received in the lower chamber is somewhat significant, because it really indicates that a party which had made up its mind to sustain the government on all important questions was won over. A study of the reasons advanced for and against the passage of the Bill would give an excellent idea of the condition of the Japanese mind in the matter of democracy, and of the progress that has been made in a country which such a short time ago emerged from feudalism.

The proportion of the police to population in New Zealand is 1 to 1333, and the cost per inhabitant is 3s 4½d. The figures for the Australian States are:—Victoria, 1 to 809; cost per inhabitant, 4s 8½d; New South Wales, 1 to 685, cost 5s 11½d per head; South Australia, 1 to 983, cost 4s 4½d; Queensland, 1 to 607, cost 7s 6½d; Western Australia, 1 to 594, cost 8s 2½d; Tasmania, 1 to 803, cost 4s 4½d.

An interesting comment on the development of the fishing industry is made by the Chief Inspector of Fisheries, Mr. H. F. Ayson in his annual report, which is embodied in the Marine Department's report. 'I am convinced,' he remarks, 'that better marketing and transport facilities by rail to the different markets and to inland towns would result in a very large increase in the quantity of fish sent from the various fishing grounds. Reports from the inspectors of fisheries show that there is a great deal of dissatisfaction in connection with forwarding fish by rail, and I would ask that the matter be brought before the Railway Department with a view to trying to meet the requirements of the fish trade. The establishment of public fish markets in the principal towns would no doubt help the industry.' Mr. Ayson adds: 'And would also be the means of enabling the public to get a better and cheaper supply of fish. Improved means of transporting fish by railway are also much required.'

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