

59. The constituencies of Ottawa, Hamilton, Halifax, Pictou, Victoria, B. C., Cape Breton, St. John, N.B. (city and county), and the three counties of Prince Edward Island each return two members, and every elector has the privilege of two votes. In order, therefore, to avoid, as far as possible, the counting of the same elector twice, the highest number of votes cast for a Ministerial candidate and the highest number for an Opposition candidate, in each of these places, have been added together and considered as the total vote. This plan is considered a better one than that of halving the total vote, as being more likely to represent the individual vote.

Constituencies returning two members.

60. The total increase in the number of voters on the lists was 159,632, and the increase in the number of votes polled was 53,555, being only 33 per cent of the total increase.

Increase in voters.

61. The following table gives the proportions of votes polled to voters on the lists, and of spoiled ballots to votes polled at each general election :—

Spoiled ballots.

PROVINCES.	Percentage of Votes polled to total Voters.		Percentage of spoiled Ballots to Votes polled.	
	1887.	1890.	1887.	1890.
Ontario.....	69·51	63·41	0·96	1·03
Quebec.....	68·13	66·22	1·77	2·00
Nova Scotia.....	81·61	75·67	1·44	1·45
New Brunswick.....	77·79	69·62	1·66	2·28
Manitoba.....	45·60	42·18	1·38	5·74
British Columbia.....	56·78	46·97	2·18	1·27
Prince Edward Island.....	87·41	78·93	1·23	2·00
The Territories . . . . .	69·99	64·39	...	.....
Canada. . . . .	70·27	64·98	1·28	1·57

There was a decrease in 1891 of over five per cent in the proportion of names on the list to votes polled, as compared with 1887. Though there was an increase of nearly 15 per cent in the number of votes on the lists, this falling off was no doubt in some measure due to the very heavy snowstorms that prevailed throughout the country just previous to polling day, rendering locomotion difficult in many places and thereby keeping voters at home. The decrease was largest in British Columbia and smallest in Quebec. The percentage of spoiled ballots to votes cast was higher than in 1887 owing to the very large proportion in Manitoba. It is, at present, specially provided by statute that voting in the Territories shall be open, which explains why there are no spoiled ballots.