



In Spain the elections are nothing more than a sham. The same if the suffrage is universal or restricted, there is never more than one single elector: the Minister of the Interior. He, with his provincial governors and the innumerable army of employees of all kinds, prepares, executes and consumes the elections from his office, located in the center of Madrid. To make the lists of voters, some real names are put on them, lost among a multitude of imaginary names, and especially the names of some deceased. The representation of the latter is always given to agents disguised as civilians to go to vote. The author of these lines has repeatedly seen how his father, who had already died some years, was going to deposit his vote in the ballot box under the figure of a street sweeper or a policeman. This system of elections by means of the resurrection of the dead and plainclothes police officers is not the worst of the means used to falsify the suffrage on the part of our so-called defenders of parliamentarism and the representative system. What they do is simply increase the number of votes until the election of the selected candidate is assured.

Valentí Almirall, *España tal como es* (1889)

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