

The Sioux County Journal.

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Australian Voting System.

The Australian system of voting, wherein the state furnishes the tickets, which are secretly prepared by the voters for the ballot boxes, will be extensively tested in the United States within the next two years. Six states have already enacted election laws based upon this system and quite a number of others will follow suit within the next year or two. If the practical test at the polls carries out the expectations of its friends, it will speedily become national in its operations. In view of the widespread belief in the system, the workings of the plan in Australia are of interest. Mr. E. Lamb of Sydney, New South Wales, is now in the United States on a visit, and gives the following interesting details:

"We find the system to be most satisfactory in its results. Bribery and political corruption are practically unknown with us. The opportunity is lacking. In the first place, the system which prevails in Queensland for placing candidates in nomination is not conducive to the purchasing plan. The man who aspires to be a candidate for an elective office must first put up a forfeit, or surety, of £40-\$200—as an evidence of his faith in his hold upon the suffrages of the people and his fitness for public preferment.

There are no caucuses. The candidate is allowed to harangue the people at stated times and places in a decent and orderly manner, but there is no maligning or mud flinging. When the votes are counted, in case the candidate failed to receive a reasonable proportion of the same—say 100 out of 500—his \$200 is forfeited and his candidacy classed as a political mistake. If he makes a reasonable showing or is elected his money is returned to him. The virtue of this plan is to keep out men who are wholly unfitted for office and who would not care to risk the loss of that amount of money.

Tampering with the ticket is an utter impossibility. The ticket—all of them being numbered—is obtained from a sworn officer after entering the room. Everything in connection with the matter is conducted in a straight-forward, business-like manner. The system has been thoroughly satisfactory in Australia."

The matter of requiring a deposit of a forfeit is a mere detail, not necessary to the successful working of the system, and has been discarded in the new legislation in this country, save one state, we believe. Against the essential features of the plan there can be no valid objection brought. Every honest, free-minded citizen desires an absolute free and honest ballot, without the possibility of charge of bribery, intimidation or fraud. This the Australian system secures. The only persons who are hostile to the plan are either those who do not understand it clearly, or else those who are interested in buying or intimidating voters.—Toledo blade.

The Newspaper in school.

It is a trite assertion that the Americans are essentially a newspaper reading people. From the shop girl to the millionaire the daily paper is almost as much of a necessity as food and drink, and as a lever for wielding the minds of the people it is unsurpassed in force and power. It is an element for good or evil, whichever way it may be directed, and those who guide the policy of a great paper, assume a responsibility almost as potent as that which is accorded to the lawmakers—more potent, perhaps, for it wields the will of the people, their hopes, their passions and their ambitions. It aids the pulpit in the suppression of vice, and thoughtful minds lead men to better endeavors.

But it has been left for once despised Kansas to introduce the newspaper as a practical factor in school education. At a school at Heston, in that state, a copy of the Kansas City News, so the editor of that paper informs its readers, is kept constantly on file for the use of teachers and scholars. It is quite evident that the young idea of Heston will be taught to shoot in the right direction. The boy who is abreast with the news of the day has won half the battle toward fame and fortune. To be up with the times you must be one of them. There is a good deal of rude buffeting in this world, and to be out of the swim is to receive more buffets than justly belong to you. The successful merchant is not the one who understands the routine of business only, but he who is conversant with the affairs of the world and regulates his interests according to them. In the new towns of the west houses are built first, then a church, then a newspaper office,—home, religion and intelligence going hand in hand to build up a sturdy and enterprising manhood. There is a level-headed common sense in these Kansas teachers who have introduced the newspaper into the school room. It is a whole curriculum of study in itself, and this western custom might be transplanted here with advantage to future cabinet ministers and, mayhap, presidents.—New York Graphic.

Justice has lead on her feet down in Tennessee but she gets there at last. They have impeached a judge in Memphis for acting as second in a duel just over the Arkansas line, in June, 1870. It was while he was an editor and long before he became a judge, but it was a month after the Tennessee legislature passed a bill debarring forever from public office any citizen of the state who should participate in a duel or aid or abet the same. The proof of the judge's guilt is established by the account of the duel published in his own paper. It might never have been remembered against him that he committed this offense in his youth, had he not quarreled with his prosecuting attorney and fined him for contempt a few days since. Now he must go. The irate lawyer is after him.—State Journal.

Eight states of the union have adopted the Australian ballot system, and there is some hope that Illinois will be the next to fall in line. The lower house of the Illinois legislature has made the bill a special order for Thursday and there is a strong feeling in its favor. Massachusetts, Indiana, Montana, Rhode Island, Wisconsin, Tennessee, Minnesota and Missouri have concluded to try the scheme. Nebraska didn't join the procession when she had the chance and by the time another opportunity occurs she will probably be near the foot of the line.—State Journal.

It is generally believed that Governor Hill destroyed his future political prospects by vetoing the reform election bill. It is safe to predict that he will not lead the Democratic hosts in the next national election.

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When this work was first published, the price was put at \$50 for the three volumes, a low price when the cost of production and importance of the work are considered. The edition was soon exhausted, but the work found its way only into the law offices of the more prosperous attorneys, the price debarring hundreds of struggling young practitioners from purchasing, though they fully realized the importance and value of the work in their practice. To meet these demands the STATE JOURNAL Co. has just published another edition of the work, and to give all a chance to obtain it, the cash price from now until the first day of July has been reduced to FIFTEEN DOLLARS, and after that date the full price of \$30 will be demanded.

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