

by the State... a hundred of readers ever had an opportunity to observe an election in which the grossest forms of corruption and fraud were practiced.

A voter approaches the polls through a throng of rowdy ballot-distributors and "ward-healers." He is beset by these men who offer him "tickets" and follow him up until his vote has been deposited.

This is only one of the several evils which have led to an agitation in favor of the "Australian system" of voting, which, with modifications, is that employed in England and in Canada.

The principle is, after all, a very simple one. All the ballots are printed, not by parties, but by the State, and they are all alike.

For example, in Massachusetts, the Legislature of which State has passed a law introducing this system, the ballot, or a part of it, will look something like this when it is ready to be voted:

Table with columns for candidates and their parties. Includes names like JOHN ADAMS (Federal), JOHN HANCOCK (National Union), CHARLES SCHMIDT (Free Soil), HENRY WILSON (American), HENRY BASCOM (Republican), JOHN E. BLISSARD (Prohibition), THOMAS T. CASBAGE (Prohibition), EDWARD E. ESTER (Democrat), FRANK GORE (Republican), THOMAS S. GORE (Democrat), HENRY L. Q. HOBBS (Democrat), ORED N. NATHAN (Republican), JOSHUA WILKINS (Prohibition).

This ballot is printed on the inside pages of a folded sheet, so that when the voter has marked the names as above indicated the ballot is folded up and is so passed in to be deposited in the ballot-box.

Now what will be gained by this change of system, in the interest of purity of elections and good politics? Many things. First, there can be no ballot-box stuffing, since each voter will receive only one ballot, and that one will be numbered.

Secondly, the ballot will be really secret, as it ought to be, and every voter will be free from intimidation.

Again, each voter will be secured against the fraud of forged and purposely incorrect ballots, and a heavy blow will be dealt to the practice of trading off one part of the ticket against another, which is one of the worst forms of electoral corruption by party "workers."

Once more, the corruption of ballot-distributors and workers at the polls will be destroyed completely, and men may hope to vote freely and in peace.

Evolution of the Dinner Pail.

The original dinner pail was a common little tin pail with a cover. Meat, bread, pie, pickles and all other solids were put in it together and no liquids could be taken unless in a bottle.

The "opsometer" is a new instrument for testing the eyesight. It consists of a mahogany case with two front eyeholes, behind which different lenses are fitted, and the person whose sight is to be tested looks through the holes and lenses at printed matter behind.

Papa (of Calvinistic faith, has just heard that Mollie was at the theater last evening). "Good morning, daughter of Satan." Mollie—"Good morning, father."—Life.

BICYCLE EXERCISE.

How to Derive the Greatest Amount of Good From the Use of the Wheel. How a bicycle should be ridden depends wholly upon the incentive for riding it.

There are two methods of using a bicycle for pleasure, the first for the mere exhilaration and excitement of self-propulsion, at a brisk pace, either for physical development or to reach a given point within a given time.

On the other hand, there is no greater joy than to take the road on a bright morning, with a congenial companion or two, lady or gentleman (though with lady companions I always use the tricycle) and go forth with no other object than to spend a happy day, wandering at sweet will in the pure air and sunshine.

ROUGH EMPLOYMENT.

A Young Man Declines to Serve as Messenger on a Texas Railroad. A verdant young man visited an Austin (Texas) express office the other day, and inquired if they wanted a man to run as messenger on the railroad.

Then they put him into a crockery crate with a lot of stone-coal, old stove plate, coupling irons, broken railroad lamps and water coolers, and rolled him down stairs into the cellar.

An explosion of dynamite immediately followed, which blew the box open and drove the would-be messenger through a two-inch partition. When they dug him out he appeared to have grown twenty years older during the civil-service examination.

LIFE IN MANILLA.

How the Day Passes in the Capital of the Philippine Islands. Probably the most novel feature of the early morning scenes on the streets are the groups, pairs and single natives coming to market with their loads of vegetables, fruits, nuts, herbs, etc.

A group of this sort is quite picturesque, the gayly-colored dresses of the women, their black, glossy hair streaming down their backs and being tossed upon the fragrant and cool early morning breeze.

When the sun is up there comes forth on the streets a myriad of peddlers of all sorts, from the Chinaman with a whole dry goods store dangling at either end of a bamboo pole to the scantily-dressed native woman with a broad bamboo tray on her head filled with "gobs" of rice paste, cocoanut and sugar.

By six o'clock the streets are filled with carriages of all sorts, the horses racing along at full speed, and as they are largely occupied by ladies dressed in bright colors and with nothing on their heads but a bit of ribbon or lace, the scene is quite attractive.

WHITE SUMMER GOWNS.

Dresses That Are Lovelier Than Regal Velvet or Stately Brocade. The linen laces remain popular for trimming underwear because of their durability and genuine quality.

ALL ABOUT BEAVERS.

The Wonderful Ingenuity and Industry of These Interesting Creatures. An idea prevails that the beaver builds his dam for the purpose of having a nice swimming-pond in the neighborhood of his residence, which is always made in the river's bank.

The animal has a wiser object in view, and it consists in providing against the pinching wants of hunger during winter, when nearly everything green has lost its sap and nutrition, and is as a body without blood and animation.

The finishing stroke is the transporting of the mud and laying it. In this labor they show themselves to be excellent masons. They now act in concert. A large gang marches in line to the bank, where they load each other's tails, and swim with their cargoes elevated above and free from the water.

It is said that the beaver goes so far as to bundle up small branches of trees and willows, which they stow away in the muddy bottom of the river. The trapper, in his wondrous yarns, insists that there are grades of society among beavers, the same as among men, and he will have it that they have their "head chiefs," that often individuals among them have slaves who stand ready to do their master's bidding at a moment's warning.

MARRIED TO A QUEEN.

An American Defaulter Strikes It Rich in the South Sea. In the divorce case decided by Judge Lawrence, of the Supreme Court, Mrs. Fanny A. Banks asks for her maidenly freedom on the ground that her husband, Charles W. Banks, had been unfaithful to her.

Not many years ago Mr. Banks, then a resident of Albany, wooed and won the plaintiff, going to San Francisco to live with his bride after the honeymoon had passed.

How to Prevent Forging.

There is no driver of a horse but that has felt the annoyance that results from forging, or the striking of the forward shoes by the hind ones in traveling, and yet this can be prevented.

—Mother (to Bobby, who has just completed his prayers)—"Why, Bobby, you forgot to pray for papa." Bobby—"Why, so I did, and he needs it so much, doesn't he, ma?"—Texas Siftings.

FARMING THE CORNERS.

Many Little Things That Need Prompt and Careful Attention. A prosperous farmer being asked the secret of his success replied, "I farm the corners." The owner of a farm carried on entirely by hired help, came home one night remarking: "I have been doing to-day what hired men will not do—cleaning the weeds from the fence corners."

Some may think this matter of too small importance to merit attention. To the majority of farmers the difference between a profit and a loss is in saving the littles—is farming the corners. The cheapest, easiest and simplest way to farm the corners is to have a strip of grass either one or two rods wide around every cultivated field.

Another corner that needs farming is that big stone in the meadow or corn field. If not too large, get it out this fall; if it can not be removed, sink it below plowing depth, if possible.

WEANING LAMBS.

How to Do It Properly and Without Injury to the Young Animals. Lambs are usually weaned about August 1, and it requires some thought to do it properly.

Clumps of straggling trees or underbrush should be taken out, root and branch, that the fields may be cultivated without hindrance. If you wish shade or a wind-break from the clump, clear and trim up, leaving only the best; then care for these, that they may thrive.

The cow stable often has both these wastages. Even though you are a renter, the investment of a few dollars for lumber and a few hours' time will pay big interest in the feed saved or milk gained.

There are many other corners about the farm that need attention. Look after the farming of each of them in its season, and you will find your work will be done more easily, satisfactorily and profitably.

—A Boston expedition in search of buried treasure found and raised an immense anchor of antiquated pattern, having a shank about fifteen feet long and a ring twenty-nine inches in diameter.

—Mother (to Bobby, who has just completed his prayers)—"Why, Bobby, you forgot to pray for papa." Bobby—"Why, so I did, and he needs it so much, doesn't he, ma?"—Texas Siftings.