

THE EFFECTIVE BALLOT

The Second Instalment of Mr. Wakefield's Discussion

Editor Independent: The effective ballot was devised by Sir John Hare, a noted publicist of England, in 1846. It was later improved in details by Sir John Lubbock, the eminent scientist, and yet later perfected by Hon. Alfred Cridge of San Francisco, hence is often called the Hare-Cridge method of voting. The Misses Harriet and Helen Spence, of Adelaide, South Australia, have added a few finishing touches and have been mainly instrumental in securing its adoption and practical test as the legal system in Tasmania, New Zealand and South Australia, where it has fully justified the high claims of its advocates. It has also been used in some of the Swiss cantons and municipalities so successfully as to clearly demonstrate its great superiority over the older and cruder forms of proportional representation and is coming into use in Denmark, Belgium and some English and Scotch municipalities and in corporations.

The effective ballot is not only the most perfect form of proportional representation, but represents the will of the individual voter as no other system does. It is also the most secret of all ballots and renders bribery, intimidation, etc., of voters impossible. A false count is scarcely possible under it, as will be readily seen when it is carefully studied. Experience shows the counting to be very rapid and free from errors.

NO SINGLE DISTRICTS.

Being a form of proportional representation, the effective ballot is not adapted to single districts, but requires, as all forms of proportional representation must do, elections at large, or in districts from which five or more candidates are to be elected. Congressmen could be elected at large in the states having ten or less and in two or three districts from the more populous states. Representatives in the legislature and district judges should be chosen from districts of six to ten and state senators the same, while county commissioners, aldermen of cities, etc., should be at large. Where but one candidate can be elected, as for president, vice president, governor, etc., there is no proportional representation to require such districts, yet this method of voting works effectively in giving all parties a voice in securing a majority.

THE METHOD OF VOTING.

The effective ballot contains the names of all candidates to be voted for, like the present Australian ballot, confined of course to the district or state, etc., and these names may be either in party columns as now, or preferably, in alphabetical order regardless of party, as under the Maryland law. The latter method might at first puzzle a few illiterate voters, but would be a great incentive to independent and intelligent voting.

The voter in the booth marks his ticket, not with an X cross mark, but with the Arabic numeral figures, placing the figure one (1) opposite his first choice, or name of candidate he most desires elected, the figure 2 opposite his second choice, 3 to his third choice, and so on to as many candidates as are being voted for, or as he cares to mark. Of course he will make first choice, or No. 1, of the candidate most nearly representing his own political views, No. 2, or second choice, of the one who comes next nearest and so on, not marking for those squarely opposed to his ideas, or taking the best of the ones he considers inimical to the public welfare so as to defeat the most objectionable candidates of that party. A man's political prejudice may induce him to vote for an incompetent or corrupt candidate in his own party, but in his second, etc., choices from other parties he will always select the least objectionable candidates. Ten years experience in Tasmania shows that other than first choice ballots invariably defeat the most objectionable candidates and has compelled all parties to select only good and competent candidates to stand any show of election.

COUNTING THE BALLOTS.

When the polls have closed the whole number of ballots cast is divided by the number of candidates to be elected, rejecting any remainder, which gives the electoral quota, or number of ballots required to elect one candidate. A spindle or other file, as a needle and strong thread, an envelope or a box, is provided for each candidate and labeled with his name. As the ballots are drawn from the box for counting the judge calls out the name of the candidate marked No. 1 or first choice and the ballot is placed to that file by another judge. As soon as any candidate reaches an electoral quota of first choice ballots

he is declared elected and his quota of ballots sealed up and removed from the count. This is continued until all the ballots have been distributed to their first choice files, each ballot being numbered on its back by a judge as it is placed face downward on the spindle and by the clerks on the poll books opposite the name of its first choice candidate. It is found by experience that few candidates have an electoral quota of first choice ballots where there are more than two parties being voted for.

When all the ballots have been distributed the surplus ballots—first choice ones above an electoral quota of candidates declared elected—are distributed to the files of their second choice so long as needed to form a quota, but if second choice is already elected or cannot be elected, to their third choice if effective there, and so on until they become effective in helping to elect a candidate.

When all the surplus ballots of elected candidates have been distributed the files of the yet unelected candidates are examined and second choices transferred to ones having largest number of first choices until another receives an electoral quota, which is sealed and removed from the count. When no more can be given a quota by second choices, then third etc., choices are used so long as a quota can be secured, but when a quota cannot be given, the candidates having fewest first choice ballots are declared beaten and the others to the number to be elected are declared elected. W. H. T. WAKEFIELD. Mound City, Kas.

COMING CONVENTIONS

- Republican, Lincoln, Aug. 18.
Populist, Grand Island, Aug. 25.
Democratic, Columbus, Aug. 25.

Populist State Convention

Pursuant to action taken at a meeting of the state committee held in Lincoln, Nebraska, June 23, 1903, the electors of the people's independent party of Nebraska are hereby notified that on Tuesday, the 25th day of August, A. D. 1903, at 7:30 o'clock p. m., of said day, a state nominating convention of said party will be held in the city of Grand Island, Nebraska, for the purpose of nominating candidates for the following offices to be voted for at the general election of 1903:

- One candidate for judge of the supreme court.
Two candidates for regents of the state university.
Said convention is also called for the purpose of selecting a state central committee of said party and for

the transaction of such other business as may properly come before it. The basis of representation is fixed at one delegate for each county and one delegate for each 100 votes or major fraction cast for Hon. John H. Powers for secretary of state at the general election of 1902. The representation of the various counties is as follows:

Table listing Nebraska counties and their representation: Adams 17, Antelope 11, Banner 2, Blaine 2, Boone 12, Box Butte 4, Boyd 7, Brown 4, Buffalo 15, Burt 9, Butler 17, Cass 19, Cedar 13, Chase 3, Cherry 3, Cheyenne 5, Clay 14, Colfax 11, Cuming 15, Custer 17, Dakota 6, Dawes 5, Dawson 12, Deuel 3, Dixon 9, Dodge 20, Douglas 100, Dundy 3, Fillmore 16, Franklin 10, Frontier 7, Furnas 11, Gage 20, Garfield 3, Gosper 6, Grant 2, Greeley 8, Hall 15, Hamilton 14, Harlan 9, Hayes 5, Hitchcock 5, Holt 16, Hooker 1, Howard 11, Jefferson 12, Johnson 10, Kearney 9, Keith 3, Kewa Paha 4, Kimball 2, Knox 14, Lancaster 34, Lincoln 9, Logan 2, Loup 2, McPherson 1, Madison 14, Merrick 9, Nance 7, Nemaha 14, Nuckolls 12, Otoe 18, Pawnee 9, Perkins 3, Phelps 9.

Table listing Nebraska counties and their representation: Pierce 3, Platte 17, Polk 14, Red Willow 8, Richardson 20, Rock 3, Saline 16, Sarpy 9, Saunders 21, Scotts Bluff 3, Seward 16, Sheridan 6, Sherman 6, Sioux 2, Stanton 7, Thayer 14, Thomas 2, Thurston 6, Valley 3, Washington 12, Wayne 8, Webster 11, Wheeler 2, York 17.

Total 951. It is recommended that the various county conventions elect an equal number of alternates to the state convention and that steps be taken to secure, if possible, a full delegation to the state convention. The state committee will have headquarters at the Koehler hotel. By order of the state central committee of the people's independent party of Nebraska. B. R. B. WEBBER, J. R. FARRIS, Chairman, Secretary.

Missouri Pacific Excursions

San Francisco, Los Angeles and return, \$50, on July 1-10. Detroit, Mich., and return, \$22.40, on July 14-15. Atlanta, Ga., and return, \$31.50, on July 5-7. Baltimore, Md., and return, \$33.05, on July 17-18. San Francisco, Cal., and return, \$45, on August 1-14. These are a few of the very cheap excursions via the Missouri Pacific during the summer, and if you are contemplating a vacation and are not suited by any of the above points, send us your name with the point you wish to reach and we will be glad to quote lowest round trip rates for you. The Missouri Pacific takes you via St. Louis the World's Fair City where you will have an opportunity to visit the World's Fair grounds and other points of interest. City Ticket Office, S. W. Cor. 12th and O sts. F. D. CORNELL, P. & T A.

Do you need groceries? Write for one of Branch & Miller Co.'s combination orders advertised in this issue. It's a money saver. The Independent guarantees satisfaction. Hundreds of our readers have found them so.

Eager Shoppers Crowded

our large store every day this week to take advantage of the great 25 per cent discount sale. Were you one of them? If not you'll be glad to know that there will be

Many Bargains Next Week

Odds and Ends and Remnants

left from the rapid selling this week will be placed on special sale at prices even lower than at present. It is safe to predict there will be no other such values in Lincoln.

A. Herpoldsheimer Co