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NOTICE. The board of school directors of district No. 20 will hold their regular meetings in the director's room of the Independence National Bank at 4 o'clock p. m., Friday, October 2, 1891, and on Friday at the same hour of every four weeks thereafter. Signed, Board of Directors.

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JUST HOW TO CAST VOTES.

In an Interview Mr. Bingham Explains the Workings of the Australian Ballot Law.

The purpose of this interview is to describe the manner in which the Australian ballot system is carried into practical effect, and the method employed by the individual voter in exercising the rights of suffrage.

Great interest is felt in the system, which for the first time will be carried into effect at the coming general election on the first Monday in June.

To-day a *Monmouth* reporter called on Mr. E. W. Bingham, who assisted in framing the new ballot law, and who was so largely instrumental in securing its passage, and asked his opinion of the practical workings of the system.

"An erroneous impression prevails," said Mr. Bingham, "that the act of February 18, 1891, called the Australian ballot law, is completed and will prove troublesome to voters. Our constitution made it the duty of the legislative assembly to enact laws to support the privilege of free suffrage and prescribe the manner of regulating and conducting elections, prohibiting undue influence therefrom from power, bribery, or other improper conduct. This the legislature in large part neglected to do. It enacted some provisions regulating elections, but left many very important things to be done by volunteers - in other words, by the professional politicians and their agents. The new law will not hinder politicians or party organizations in exercising any of their legitimate political rights, but does take away from them the monopoly they have had of making the nominations and printing and distributing the ballots, which they abused, and it also removes the voting to be conducted in a room, so that voters may cast their ballots with secrecy. The old system made it perfectly easy to see the ticket put into the voter's hand as he went to the box, and thus facilitated bribery and coercion."

"Perhaps the principal objects aimed at in the recent law were to place all nominees on a fair and even footing, and to compel every elector to vote secretly, therefore the substitution of the official ballot printed and distributed by the county clerk in each county for the old-style or party ticket. In order that a candidate's name shall appear on this official ballot he must be nominated in one of three ways: By some of the party conventions or at a mass meeting composed of not less than 100 electors or by a paper signed by not less than 250 electors, if the nomination is for a state officer, or for members of congress; but if it is only a county office, then fifty electors signing the paper will suffice. In the case of nominations by conventions or mass meetings, the chairman and secretary will certify to the nominations under oath. They must be filed either with the secretary of state or county clerk, but these details it is hardly worth while repeating here, as they do not particularly interest the voters."

"The county clerk in each county will print and distribute these official ballots containing the names of all the candidates for each office. They will be printed on two kinds of paper. Those designed to be voted will be printed on a good quality of white paper and will only be obtainable by voters after they have passed within the guard-rail in the polling place on the day of election. The other kind, styled sample ballots, will be printed on colored paper, and will be distributed as soon as printed, may be a week before the election, for the information and convenience of voters. They will be duplicate impressions of the white ballot, only differing in the color and quality of the paper on which they are printed. The names of the candidates for each office will be arranged alphabetically under the head of each office so as to present to the eye and mind of each voter all the candidates, and to signify his choice by scratching out the name of the candidate he does not wish to vote for."

"It is a radical change from the old system, and it is hoped it will have the effect of electing candidates upon their merits - their fitness for the offices, and with less regard as to how they were nominated. It is thought that fully 90 per cent of the ballots cast in Oregon at the last election were scratched; if so, it indicates that electors were dissatisfied with the nominations made by the regular party conventions. The new form of ballot will be a convenience rather than otherwise to this 90 per cent. The law permits electors to take this official colored ballot into the polling place and booth, and to use it as a guide in scratching the official white ballot, but it requires them to scratch and vote the white ballot with absolute secrecy."

"WHAT THE VOTER MUST DO. On election day, assuming that each voter has already seen one of the colored or sample ballots and has made up his mind how he wants to vote, all he will have to do will be to go to the polling place - that election precinct where he is entitled to vote - and enter the room. It is made unlawful to any electioneer or other person to be present in the room, and he will not be disturbed or insulted as has often been the case in approaching the polls under the old system. He will find in the polling place a guard-rail, and the judges and clerks, and the booths or compartments in which the ballots to be voted must be scratched. Only the challengers and a few spectators are present on the outside of the guard-rail. He will pass in the guard-rail, and on application to one of the clerks will receive one of the white ballots. The clerk having first taken the precaution

to tear off a portion of the stub at the top of the ballot. Without leaving the enclosure the voter will then be obliged TO SCRATCH OUT THE NAMES. "Of those candidates on the ballot, for each office, for whom he does not wish to vote, and fold the ballot in such a way that the remaining portion of the stub can be readily detached without any one seeing how he has scratched the ballot. He will then present his ballot to the chairman of the judges as under the old system, and if the judges are satisfied that it is the identical ballot which he just before received from the clerk, and that he is entitled to vote at that polling place, his ballot will immediately go into the box, the chairman having previously detached the remaining portion of the stub. This stub is simply a margin about two inches wide at the top of the ballot, perforated as to facilitate its removal after the clerk in issuing the ballot tears off one-half of the stub and passes it to the chairman and second clerk, who makes up the portion torn off to identify the ballot when it is presented. It is the old principle of indelible applied in election to make sure that the voter is voting the identical ballot given him and has scratched it secretly."

"AS SOON AS THE VOTER HAS SEEN HIS BALLOT GO INTO THE BOX HE IS REQUIRED TO DEPART. At least ten voters may be engaged in scratching their ballots at the same time, and as fast as they are ready to vote they may present them to the chairman. Thus it is thought voters will not be occupied more than about five minutes in voting. Every candidate on the official ballot has a right to be present personally or by his agent, outside of the guard-rail, from the time of the opening of the polls until the count is completed and the returns certified. The new law provides for the appointment of three judges and two clerks for each polling place precisely as the old law directed, and they are to receive the same pay."

"A FRIEND SENDS us a clipping from the Portland (O.) *Oregonian*, which is an editorial of that paper, under the above heading. We must say the editor, by the heading, gives a sage hint in advance of what his article is. It opens as follows: "A gentleman in Polk county asks the *Oregonian* to answer a number of questions relating to silver coinage and certain historical incidents and economic principles connected therewith. These questions betray that our friend is equally ignorant of common facts of financial economy and of what is worse, that the vacuum of his elementary ignorance has been filled with a bewildering chaos of miscellaneous misinformation, the spaw of shallow minds of cheap demagogues and impudent pretenders to new knowledge. An attempt will be made to answer briefly these questions from which it is possible to extract any resulting, for the sake of repeating, for the thousandth time, certain elementary facts and principles that must be at the bottom of all intelligent discussion of these subjects. Here they are: "First - Was not the demonetization of silver in 1873 clandestine, or at least without the knowledge, consent or request of the people? By no means. In the first place, silver was not demonetized in 1873. It was demonetized, if ever, in 1834, when it was undervalued in the coinage and went out of circulation in consequence of the law of 1834. There was no silver currency in the United States, except fractional coins, only a legal tender to the amount of 50 cents. But our friend probably refers to the coinage law amendment of 1873 repealing the authority to coin silver dollars, which had been a dead letter for half a century. So far from being clandestine the bill for that act was before two successive congresses, was repeatedly debated, referred, amended, reported and voted upon. Few laws have received more deliberate consideration or larger publicity among thoughtful and capable public men. It did not then attract the attention of cheap and frothy demagogues, because they saw no political capital to be made by howling about it at that time. "It is most strange to read anything like the foregoing in any newspaper, especially in a newspaper that lectures other people for their ignorance. The truth is the silver dollar remained the unit of values and a perfect legal tender for debts, up to the demonetization of 1873. Again, in 1834 to prevent the buying up of the subsidiary silver by foreigners, these coins, the half and quarter pieces, were reduced in weight

in order to retain them in the country. The value of silver in the dollar piece was never changed. It is true that there were not many silver dollars coined and circulated, but the reason was the silver was sold and shipped away over at 16 to 1 it was worth a premium over gold.

The statement of the passage of the law of 1873 is correct, with the exception that one section which provided for a dollar piece of the weight and fineness of a French five-franc piece, which was in the bill when it passed, was stricken out when the bill was engrossed; which act, it is believed, was performed by John J. Knox with the concurrence of John Sherman. The *Oregonian* proceeds to the second question, as follows: "Second - Is there a senator or member, living or dead, with the possible exception of John Sherman, that ever has admitted that he voted with such intent, if so, who is he? Every honest and intelligent member of the Forty-first or Forty-second congress must admit that he voted for this bill with full knowledge of its meaning and purpose, or that he gave no manner of attention to the business of legislation going on around him. The senators and representatives of that time who join the absurd cry that silver was demonetized clandestinely, either lie flatly or confess themselves hopelessly stupid and indolent. "It is true, nevertheless, that John Sherman is the only member of either house of congress who has ever admitted that he knew the bill demonetized the silver dollar. On the other hand every one protests that he did not dream of any such thing, and General Grant, then president, avowed that he signed the bill under a misapprehension of that sinister fact. Again: "Third - If it would now be called legislation for intention to pass a free-silver bill, should not the legislation which demonetized silver be called legislation for intention? There was no silver currency to contract in 1873. Free coinage would not inflate the total volume of once of currency, because it would instantly drive out all the gold. It might do so eventually; but the main objection to it is, now as in 1873, that since the great fall in value of silver, it would set up a new standard of value, different from that of the civilized world, from which it would cut us off completely. "There was as much silver as gold currency in the world in 1873. The combine of England, Germany, and the United States to destroy that silver as money has reduced the volume of silver two per cent per annum ever since, and with it every other product of labor, for products are rated by the amount of money in circulation. We mean money of ultimate redemption. The *Oregonian* can test the truth of the above by comparing its price list of today with that of the same day in 1873. It will find that all the staples of Oregon - lumber, wheat, hops, fish, fruit, or anything else are at a discount of quite thirty-six per cent below the prices in 1873. If it will study the matter a little further, it will find that the loss which the producers of the United States suffer annually because of this depreciation of values, amounts to more than all the gold in the country amounts to. Then the assertion that the demonetization would drive out gold has no evidence behind it to establish its truth. It was a cry raised when the Bland law was passed, and has been worn threadbare since. Again: "Fourth - Did not the assumption act and the demonetization act work a hardship upon the debtor class and producer? There is no such thing as a separate debtor and producer class. Every debtor is also a creditor, if only for a dollar-a-day wages earned by him. Every producer was also a consumer, if only of what he eats and wears. If he must pay more value in a dollar, he receives more value in the dollar that comes to him. If he receives fewer dollars for a given value of products, he pays fewer for a given value of articles of consumption. "That is merely an evasion. The bondholders of the world in 1873 held more than \$2,000,000,000 of interest-bearing indebtedness against the country; as much more against the railroads, while the debts of states, cities, and individuals amounted to as much more, while the producers were holder for. When five bushels of wheat are worth \$1 per bushel they will pay a debt of \$5. With that wheat reduced thirty-three and one-third per cent in value, it would require seven and a half bushels to pay the debt, and the difference between the five and the seven-and-a-half bushels represents all the profits of

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