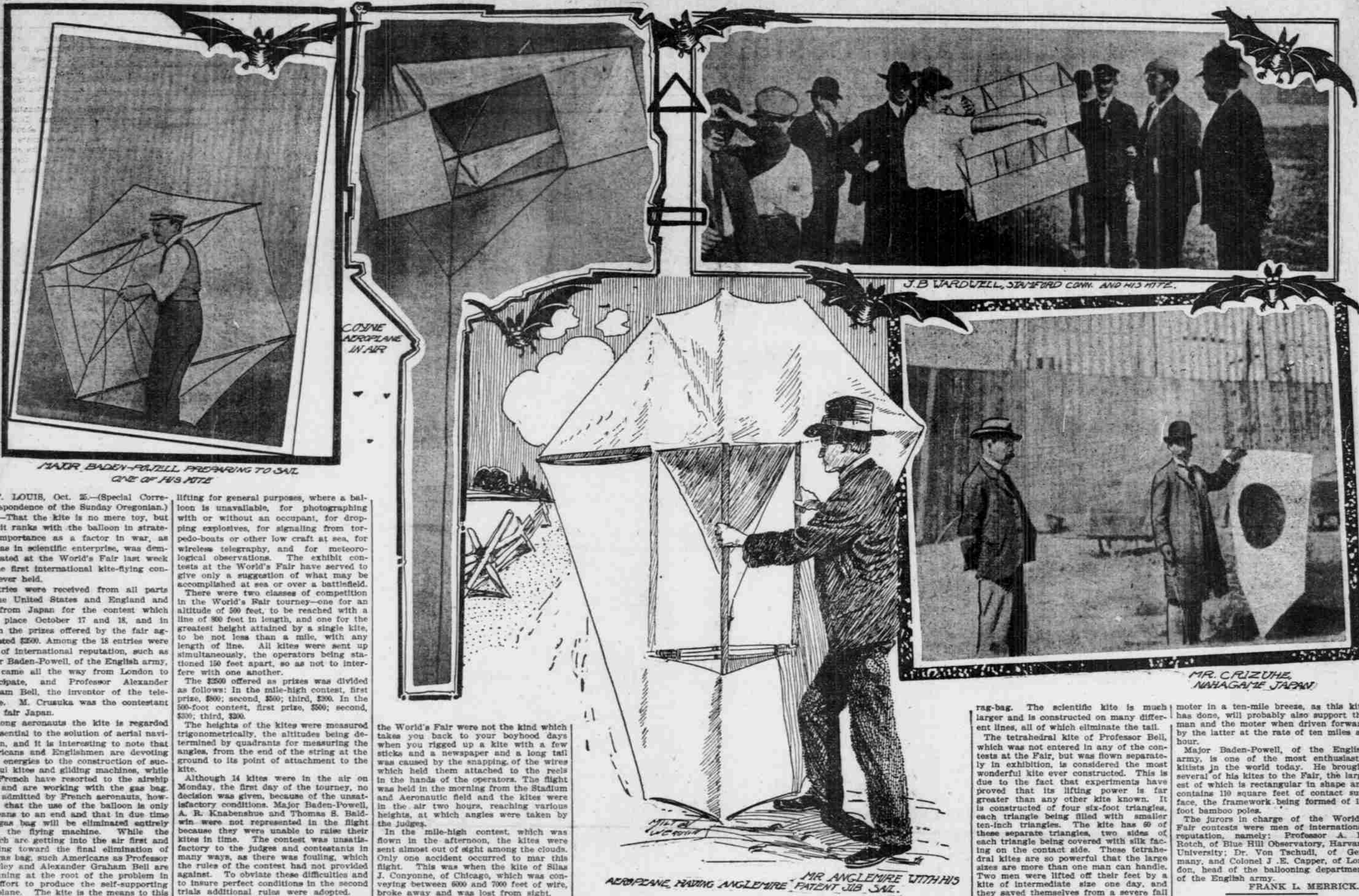


The First International Kite-Flying Contest

Dr. Bell, of Telephone Fame, and Major Baden-Powell Among the Contestants.



ST. LOUIS, Oct. 28.—(Special Correspondence of the Sunday Oregonian.)—That the kite is no mere toy, but that it ranks with the balloon in strategic importance as a factor in war, as well as in scientific enterprise, was demonstrated at the World's Fair last week in the first international kite-flying contest ever held.

Entries were received from all parts of the United States and England and one from Japan for the contest which took place October 17 and 18, and in which the prizes offered by the fair aggregated \$500. Among the 15 entries were men of international reputation, such as Major Baden-Powell of the English army, who came all the way from London to participate, and Professor Alexander Graham Bell, the inventor of the telephone. M. Cruska was the contestant from fair Japan.

Among aeronauts the kite is regarded as essential to the solution of aerial navigation, and it is interesting to note that Americans and Englishmen are devoting their energies to the construction of successful kites and gliding machines, while the French have resorted to the aldrup idea and are working with the gas bag. It is admitted by French aeronauts, however, that the use of the balloon is only a means to an end and that in due time the gas bag will be eliminated entirely from the flying machine. While the French are getting into the air first and striving toward the final elimination of the gas bag, such Americans as Professor Langley and Alexander Graham Bell are beginning at the root of the problem in their efforts to construct a flying machine. The kite is the means to this end from the American viewpoint.

Practical Uses of the Kite.
The practical uses of the kite in its present stage of development are many and may be enumerated as follows: Man-

lifting for general purposes, where a balloon is unavailable, for photographing with or without an occupant, for dropping explosives, for signaling from torpedo-boats or other low craft at sea, for wireless telegraph, and for meteorological observations. The exhibit contests at the World's Fair have served to give only a suggestion of what may be accomplished at sea or over a battlefield. There were two classes of competition in the World's Fair tourney—one for an altitude of 500 feet, to be reached with a line of 800 feet in length, and one for the greatest height attained by a single kite, to be not less than a mile, with any length of line. All kites were sent up simultaneously, the operators being stationed 100 feet apart, so as not to interfere with one another.

The \$250 offered as prizes was divided as follows: In the mile-high contest, first prize, \$80; second, \$50; third, \$20. In the 500-foot contest, first prize, \$50; second, \$25; third, \$10.

The heights of the kites were measured trigonometrically, the altitudes being determined by quadrants for measuring the angle from the end of the string at the ground to its point of attachment to the kite.

Although 14 kites were in the air on Monday, the first day of the tourney, no decision was given, because of the unsatisfactory conditions. Major Baden-Powell, A. R. Knabenshue and Thomas S. Baldwin were not represented in the flight because they were unable to raise their kites in time. The contest was unsatisfactory to the judges and contestants in many ways, as there was fouling, which the rules of the contest had not provided against. To obviate these difficulties and to insure perfect conditions in the second trial, additional rules were adopted.

The second day's contest with 800 feet of line was satisfactory in every way, except for a diversion created by the fact that the hexagon kites, those of Major Baden-Powell and Carl Meyers, breaking away and sailing off ahead of the wind. This, however, marks a recent step in progress even beyond the simple Australian system, of which it is the outgrowth, and all of whose virtues it retains, adding valuable innovations.

That we should vote by machinery is not surprising in an age when our meals are dispensed, our dishes washed, our shoes "shined," our confections sold, our newspaper bulletins written and posted, our ciphering done, our clothes laundered, and countless other little odd jobs or gigantic feats are done for us by purely mechanical agents—an age which has actually given birth to thought-saving machines.

The voting machine in one form or another, will be used at the coming election in ten states—Maine, Connecticut, New Jersey, Ohio, Indiana, Iowa, Wisconsin, Kansas, Nebraska and California. It has also been legalized by Congress for all federal elections.

The voter using this new system enters a curtained cabinet and finds before him vertical columns of candidates' names arranged themselves into horizontal rows of political parties. In other words, looking up and down, he sees in any one row the names of all candidates for the same office, or reading from left to right in any selected row, all candidates of any particular party. To the left of each party row is the word "Republican" under the figure of an eagle, or "Democratic" beneath a star, or "Prohibition" below a bubbling fountain. Other parties in the field are similarly indicated. At each emblem is a large knob, lever or button, and if the voter wishes to vote the Republican

the World's Fair were not the kind which takes you back to your boyhood days when you rigged up a kite with a few sticks and a newspaper and a long tail was caused by the snapping of the wires which held them attached to the reels in the hands of the operators. The flight was held in the morning from the Stadium and Aeronautic field and the kites were in the air two hours, reaching various heights, at which angles were taken by the judges.

In the mile-high contest, which was flown in the afternoon, the kites were sent almost out of sight among the clouds. Only one accident occurred to mar this flight. This was when the kite of Silas J. Conynne, of Chicago, which was conveying between 800 and 700 feet of wire, broke away and was lost from sight. The list of contestants is as follows: Major Baden-Powell, England; M. Cruska, Japan; W. A. Eddy, Bayonne, N. J.; J. B. and C. S. Wardell, Stamford, Conn.; Raymond Angleniere, E. N. Herbert, Silas J. Conynne, Chicago; H. B. Bristol, Webster Groves, Mo.; W. D. Marshall, J. T. Tatout, William King, J. Condon, Taylor Carroll and J. J. Lewis, St. Louis; Carl E. Meyer, Frankfurt, N. Y.; Thomas S. Baldwin, San Francisco, and A. R. Knabenshue, Toledo, O.

The kites entered in the contests at made from the contents of the family

rag-bag. The scientific kite is much larger and is constructed on many different lines, all of which eliminate the tail.

The tetrahedral kite of Professor Bell, which was not entered in any of the contests at the Fair, but was flown separately in exhibition, is considered the most wonderful kite ever constructed. This is due to the fact that experiments have proved that its lifting power is far greater than any other kite known. It is constructed of four six-foot triangles, each triangle being filled with smaller ten-inch triangles. The kite has 50 of these separate triangles, two sides of each triangle being covered with silk fabric on the contact side. These tetrahedral kites are so powerful that the large sizes are more than one man can handle. Two men were lifted off their feet by a kite of intermediate size one day, and they saved themselves from a severe fall only by promptly letting go the rope. It is the purpose of Professor Bell to carry his experiments forward to the point of determining just what may be done with the tetrahedral kite as a flying machine. For a kite that will support a man and a

motor in a ten-mile breeze, as this kite has done, will probably also support the man and the motor when driven forward by the latter at the rate of ten miles an hour.

Major Baden-Powell, of the English army, is one of the most enthusiastic kiteists in the world today. He brought several of his kites to the Fair, the largest of which is rectangular in shape and contains 120 square feet of contact surface, the framework being formed of 12-foot bamboo poles.

The jurors in charge of the World's Fair contests were men of international reputation, namely: Professor A. L. Rotch, of Blue Hill Observatory, Harvard University; Dr. Von Tschudi, of Germany; and Colonel J. E. Capper, of London, head of the ballooning department of the English army.

Ambiguous.
Louisville Courier-Journal. "J. Pierpont Morgan says a contemporary, 'announces that he is going to take a rest.' A rest, or the rest?"

The Depositing of the Ballot for President

Voting Machine the Latest Evolution—How the Greeks and Romans Exercised the Franchise.

THE 15,000,000 voters who will cast their ballots on November 8 will vote in all sorts of ways and under a great variety of regulations.

The Constitution requires that "all elections shall be by ballot," but if this were interpreted literally all who have the right to vote would go to the polls and drop into specified receptacles little balls, such as used in our club elections. The earliest users of the ballot for voting purposes were the Greeks, who at their elections dropped into an urn or box, balls bearing appropriate marks. Sometimes they utilized stones and shells for the same purpose, but even these crude methods were more progressive than those still obtaining in some of our own states. They assured a secret vote, which ballot reformers in this country have been fighting for these many years past. And speaking of these voting shells ("ostrakon") of the Greeks, doubtless you do not know that they gave us our word "ostracism." When a citizen became obnoxious to the Greeks they took a secret vote as to whether he should be driven into exile or not, by casting their shell ballots.

First Ticket Ballots Roman.
Voting by ticket was an invention of the Romans. If the vote concerned a change in the law the tickets were marked, "V. T." The initial letters of the Latin words expressing consent to the new proposition, or "A," expressing adherence to the old law. In elections to public office these ancient Roman tickets bore the candidates' names. The Romans passed a law regulating secret voting as early as 179 B. C., but long before this, even, the popular assemblies voted by ballot.

Throughout the middle ages these forms of voting obtained, especially the colored balls. Sometimes the division of these was by boxes, with mouths together, and so hooded that no bystander could see in which the ball was dropped. Another method was to drop into the same box a white or black ball, according to the vote.

Blanket ballots were used in America before they were adopted even by England. They were the "papers" which figured in New England elections during the early Colonial days, and which the Pilgrim Fathers are supposed to have seen first in Holland.

Our First Elections.
Printed ballots gradually came into vogue as our civilization progressed, and are now general in almost all constitutional countries. But in most of the states of our Union, during more than a quarter century following the establishment of the government, the state Legislatures "appointed" the Presidential electors, and the people voted only directly for them, their choice being expressed by their votes for the members of the Legislatures. South Carolina adhered to this practice even until the beginning of the Civil War, previous to 1844 each elector voted for two candidates for President. The one who received the largest number of votes was declared President; the next largest vote, President. But in that year, the Constitution having been amended, each elector voted for a President and Vice-President. Not until 1848 did it become general for voters to cast their ballots directly for Presidential electors; hence no reference

books show the popular vote prior to that year, when "Old Hickory" was the successful candidate.

Months elapsed before the public knew the result of these old-time elections, whereas on the 8th of next month an election thread will probably enlighten the whole land on this point before midnight.

Candidates Supplied Tickets.

Our first ballots were furnished by the candidates themselves, who had to pay for the printing and distribution. Practically every man at the polls could see how every other man had voted. Henchmen of candidates hung about the polling places and pressed their little tickets upon arriving voters.

The "party ballot" was the next step. The cost of printing and distributing the tickets was footed up by the political organizations, and their agents now prospected the voters with their bundles of tickets. This form of ballot did much to build up the great political parties, but was a prolific source of corruption.

But it so happened that in 1856 experiments in voting had been made in Southern Australia, although wind of the innovation did not reach our shores for some years afterward. Out of this experiment grew the famous "Australian ballot system." It embodied a "straight ticket" printed at the expense of the government and given to the voters by a special official. Privacy to those who cast these ballots was secured by voting booths or inclosed stalls.

Agitation for "ballot reform" was not commenced with vigor in this country until 1887. It was a reaction against the corruption, bribery and intimidation which had long obtained at the polls. It resulted in the gradual adoption by many states of the Australian ballot system. Good effects were immediate wherever the method was adopted. There was better order and decency at the polling places, diminution of fraud and intimidation.

Blanket Ballot.
The "blanket ballot" came into vogue with the Australian system. All candidates' names are, under this method, printed on the same ticket, sometimes in alphabetical order, irrespective of party. In some states there are "party columns" headed each by the emblem of the party—usually the eagle of the Republicans, the star of the Democrats, etc. The illiterate voter places his mark at the head of his party column, as indicated by the emblem, and it is thus necessary for him to vote a "straight ticket." The blanket ballot is favored by the party organizations because it encourages this "straight" party voting—i. e., for the entire ticket—and discourages "scratching," or independent voting. But in New Jersey each voter has found in the booth stacks of tickets, each representing a different party. He selects his ticket, seals it in a blank envelope and places it in the ballot box after leaving the booth.

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New Wonders of Electricity

If Nation Owned Wires Short Letters Could Be Sent as Cheaply as Post.

In electricity there is nothing more interesting than its application to steam railways. Engineers of high standing believe that the day is near at hand when most of the larger railways will dispense with steam locomotives and employ electrical motive power, either by motors fed from third rails or overhead conductors, or by electric locomotives. However, it may be, electricity is already coming into use on steam railways. The New York Central is spending \$40,000,000 for electrification of its metropolitan terminal, partly for the purpose of dispensing with smoke and coal gas in the tunnels and partly to obtain higher speed of trains.

It is easy even for a layman to understand the superiority of electricity as a motive power in urban and suburban transportation. With a locomotive, traction is secured from the weight of the driving wheels. With the multiple-unit system the weight of every car in the train may be, if desired, put upon the drivers. In service with frequent stops, speed is secured by a high rate of acceleration, and a rapid deceleration requires power and weight. In New York's new subway a train of eight cars will carry motors which may, at any desired moment, exert a tractive force equal to that of a half-dozen large steam locomotives.

Of great promise is the motor which uses an alternating current without substation transformers. If it proves entirely successful it will introduce a large economy in all electric railway operation. The application of electrical railway devices to all sorts of industrial affairs is being made in many instances, as it does, from the great electrical loco-

whereas all other citizens must have had such residence for one year in the first two and two years in the last-named. The same special privilege is extended to public school teachers in South Carolina.

All voters must read and write in Alabama, Arkansas, Kansas and Massachusetts. In Hawaii they must read and write either English or the native language. In Connecticut they must at least read English, while in Mississippi they must be able to read and understand the Constitution. In South Carolina they must be able to read and write any section of the Constitution; in California, read the Constitution and write their names; in Wyoming, read the state constitution in English. In Louisiana a man may vote if he can read or write, if he pays taxes on \$300 worth of property or if his father or grandfather was qualified to vote on January 1, 1847—a clause intended to exclude ex-slaves and their children. In Alabama, Arkansas and Kansas each voter must pay taxes on 40 acres or \$200 worth of property. In Massachusetts, Oregon, South Dakota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Ohio, Washington, Montana, Oklahoma, New Hampshire and North Dakota.—(Copyright, 1904.)

How She Managed It.
Chicago News. They were seated in the parlor and there was a hitch in the conversation. He seemed a trifle nervous and she made a trifle bored. Finally he said: "What a lovely evening for a walk!" "Indeed, it is," she rejoined. "Would you like to take a walk?" "Above all things," he assumed, eagerly. "Then why don't you?" she queried. And he did.