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PRICES FOR VOTES

**Freak Election District Pays
Fifty Apiece.**

PASSING POLITICAL HOTELS

New York Has "Pistol Party" Like Famous Boston Tea Party—If Price of Newspapers go up Russell Sage's Practice May Become General.

NEW YORK, Oct. 12.—An official price of \$50 each has been established by the city as the highest figure which it will pay for votes at the coming municipal election. Father Knickerbocker has not established a corruption fund, however for the purchase of votes, and even if he had in these days of yellow dog funds running into millions, \$50 would not go far in the vote buying line. The \$50 apiece for votes which the city will pay represents the cost to the municipality of furnishing facilities for the casting of ballots in the freak election district in the city. Located in a most populous section, this whole district has just four voters, for with Harlem on one side and the great uptown hotel center on the others, it is made up of a part of Central Park in which the only residents are the proprietor and three employees of a famous old tavern. To allow their ballots to be cast, however, the city will have to furnish a full set of election officials who must serve on the three registration days as well as election day itself and voting booths, while each party, for the patronage which there is in it, will have watchers and spotters on hand to go through the pretense of seeing that there is no ballot box stuffing. For all this the city will have to pay at least \$200 and as just four votes can be cast the cost of each, even if the whole voting population turns out, will be \$50 apiece. In past years the ballot has been known to be much larger in this eighth election district, known as the queerest in the city, if not the country, for it is remembered that in one busy season the tavern had seven employees, thus doubling the present vote. There is never any question as to the politics of this district as shown by its ballots, for as the proprietor of the tavern votes so do his employees.

Five thousand revolvers and firearms, filling 32 big packing cases, and valued at more than \$25,000, were ceremoniously dumped into the waters of the outer harbor this week, forming the chief act of a "New York Pistol Party" which may take its place in history with the celebrated party in Boston harbor a century and a third ago in which tea instead of pistols took the prominent part. The pistols in question make up the arsenal seized by the police in the last year and a quarter from citizens and emigrants who were addicted to the concealed weapon habit. Formerly these firearms were sold at auction just before the Fourth of July, but as this placed most of the min the hands of the same classes from which these

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trouble makers had been confiscated, a new law was passed last winter enabling police Commissioner Bingham to destroy them. It was decided that the safest thing to do would be to throw them into the sea, since while they would not endanger the fish they would be safe from recovery. This was accordingly done, the firearms being carried to the police boat on patrol wagons and then taken down the bay to their watery end by Commissioner Bingham himself. A more varied collection of weapons it would be difficult to find even in the largest museums. All varieties from automatics and gold mounted pearl handled American revolvers to curious old-fashioned pistols from Oriental countries appeared in the lot. Many taken in the Syrian quarter show strange Arabic workmanship and are strangely wrought. Many would have wrought high prices as curios, but the police believed that it was better to retire them permanently from circulation.

Russell Sage, it is said, used never to buy a newspaper, but to pick up in the cars one which someone else had dropped. Just how soon the public here may have to adopt this practice on a simple basis of economy is an open question for someone has started the discussion as to how much longer New Yorkers will be able to get their newspapers at present prices of one, two or three cents, a point which seems to be doubtful. Like all other purveyors of public service, the publishers of the daily papers have discovered that these are bad days for anyone selling a commodity whose retail price is absolutely fixed. Street car companies have found that on account of present high prices of labor and supplies, the nickel which today transports a passenger as far as it did ten years ago, or even farther, does not go nearly so far in the matter of paying operating costs and reasonable dividends upon the capital investor. Telephone people get no more from the individual subscriber by the year or by the message now than formerly; indeed, in New York, as in many other places, there have been, within the last two or three years, conspicuous reductions in the price of telephone service. Meantime, it is a matter of general knowledge that many of the independent telephone companies, east and west, have been forced into bankruptcy by the increased cost of operation—sometimes in spite of having raised their rates contrary to franchise promises—and that still others are facing the same fate unless conditions change. The daily papers are experiencing similar difficulties. White paper is costing very much more than ever before and with all the other necessities of news paper publishing advancing in cost, publishers are beginning to realize that they belong in the same class with other sellers of public service.

The passing of the Fifth Avenue Hotel within the next few months will mark the disappearance of the last of the city's hotel possessing a distinctively political atmosphere. The Fifth Avenue has been the center of Republican activity in New York practically ever since the party came into existence, and its Amen Corner is famous the country over. Until the last state campaign the party headquarters for the state was in the hotel and during the years when Thomas C. Platt was the party boss he resided there. Now Platt, has no longer had moved away to an obscure side street, and only a few old time politicians are to be met wandering through the corridors of the famous building on Madison Square. The Hoffman House once occupied a position in Democratic politics similar to that of the Fifth Avenue in Republican affairs, but now the old building has been replaced by a new one very much as the old leaders of Democracy have been. About the only prominent political figure at present closely identified with any metropolitan hotel is Government Hughes, who has just announced that his legal residence is the big Hotel Astor fronting on Broadway at Longacre Square. If the Hughes political star rises as far in the ascendant as the Governor's admirers expect, it may be that the new Astor will fall heir to the political glories of the old Fifth Avenue. It is more probable, however, that the side of the great new establishments like the Astor and the varied interests centered in them will prevent them from becoming famed especially for their political importance.

J. Pierpont Morgan is to appear behind a bar in New York, and not a particularly fine one either, all day long six

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FROM ELY TO GOLDFIELD.
Tex Rickard Said to Have Interested Eastern Capital in New Project.
SALT LAKE, Oct. 12.—Tex Rickard has recently been in New York, where he consulted with a number of financiers and railroad magnates with a view to interesting them in building a new road between Ely and Goldfield. It is said he met with such success that representatives of the railroad and of the Guggenheim interests will go to Ely to consider the proposition thoroughly. It is said, moreover, that the financing of the project is already well under way. The new railroad will put Ely in direct touch with Goldfield and will be 180 miles long. It is estimated that the road can be built at a cost of \$1,500,000, or about \$10,000 a mile. It is understood that the line will run almost parallel to the survey for the proposed Nevada & Utah. The grade along this survey is light and but one range of mountains is encountered. This is the Hot Creek range and since it is cut by numerous passes, it will interpose no serious obstacles. If complete, the road would play an important part in the development of the Goldfield and Ely and tributary mining districts. It would make marketable some of the low grade ores that are not now being worked and would give employment to thousands of miners and workmen of all classes. Traffic arrangements might be made with the Moffat road, the Western Pacific and the Nevada Northern, which would give a direct line from Denver to Goldfield.

KNOW NOTHING OF SIMPKINS.

LEWISTON, Idaho, Oct. 12.—So far as can be learned at the present time there is no truth in the report that Jack Simpkins' body has been found near Pierce City, Idaho. Telephone reports today brought out the fact that nothing is known there of the reported discovery of Simpkins' body. It is believed possible that it may have been found in the extreme northern end of the Shoshone valley, in which event news would reach Coeur d'Alene first. The story is believed to be untrue in Pierce City.

PRISON LABOR TO BUILD ROADS.

Illinois May Embark Extensively Upon That Plan.
CHICAGO, Ill., Oct. 12.—Prison labor will construct good roads in Illinois if plans of the supervisors, county commissioners and county clerks, who are here

attending their 21st annual convention, are carried out. A new plan, which is receiving serious consideration from highway commissioners, and upon which they expect help from the legislature, is the construction of "good roads" without an increased burden upon the taxpayers, by getting stone and gravel from state prisons solely. To accomplish this the highway commission advocates the building of small sub-prisons in various parts of the state to supply the demand. The plan would accomplish wonderful results, according to the chief engineer of the commission, and

create a new state industry. Union labor will probably object to the plan, as it might be construed as interfering with one of their branches.

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