

BALLOT REFORM IN RHODE ISLAND.

The Rhode Island Ballot Reform Association is circulating a petition to the general assembly of the State, asking for the passage of an electoral reform bill. The following circular accompanies the petition:

Sample of an Official Ballot under the "Australian system."

The voter places a cross (X) on the right hand side of the name of the person for whom he wishes to vote.

For Governor, ROYAL C. TAT, Republican of Providence.	For Senator, CHAS. SIDNEY SMITH, Republican.
JOHN W. DAVIS, Dem. of Pawtucket.	OSCAR LAPHAM, Democrat.
GEO. W. GOULD, Prohi. of N. Providence.	ANDREW J. CROSSMAN, Prohibition.

BALLOT REFORM.

To the people of Rhode Island:
The Australian system of voting—so-called because originating in the Australian colonies—has been enacted by the Legislature of Massachusetts, and takes effect in the November election of 1889. The New York Legislature at its last session passed a bill embodying the essential features of this system, and it failed to become a law only by the veto of Governor Hill. The bill will undoubtedly be again passed at the next session of the Legislature. In Connecticut and Minnesota public opinion has been strongly manifested in favor of the immediate adoption of the system.

- The essential features of the "Australian system" are,—
1. A compulsory secret ballot.
 2. The printing and distribution of ballots at public expense, one official ballot containing all nominations made and blank spaces which the voter can fill by writing his own choice, voting if he chooses for one of the nominees by indicating his choice by an X mark.
 3. The advantages of these reforms are easily seen. The objects to be secured are:
 1. A secret ballot, cast as proposed in this plan interposes the most effectual preventive of the bribery of the voter ever devised.
 2. A secret ballot secures the voter against the coercion of undue solicitation for others, and enables the most dependent elector to vote as his conscience dictates, in perfect freedom.
 3. Excuse for assessments of candidates is taken away. A poor man is placed on an equality with a rich man as a candidate. Money will be less of a factor in politics.
 4. The voter will be "alone with his country, his conscience and his God," and elections will be more than ever the intelligent and conscientious registering of the popular will.
 5. This method of ballot reform has been much discussed in the United States for several years, and has received general favor, being recognized after careful scrutiny as a practical and salutary measure.
- At the May session of the general assembly of Rhode Island, a bill substantially identical with the reform law enacted in Massachusetts, was introduced into the House of Representatives. Its early enactment by the general assembly will give to Rhode Island the honorable distinction of being the first State to actually conduct an election under the system destined to immediate general adoption.
- The Rhode Island ballot reform association asks every good citizen to give his influence and his aid in favor of this indispensable reform, circulating as widely as possible the petitions for signatures.

ALFRED DAWSON, Secretary, Providence.

An effort will be made to pass a similar law at the next session of the Oregon Legislature. Every lover of good government should lend his influence and help along this great reform. The EAST OREGONIAN would be pleased to hear from those who feel such a law will do good and bring about an honest ballot.

COPP'S LAND REVIEW.

The New Homestead Law—Glad Tidings for Homeless Thousands.

A new land bill of great importance to persons who have heretofore exhausted their rights under the homestead and preemption laws has passed the Senate and with important amendments has been adopted by the House of Representatives and returned to the Senate for concurrence in the amendments.

The bill as passed by the Senate permits all persons who have filed under pre-emption or homestead law, but who for any reason have failed to acquire title to lands, to again file under the homestead law and acquire title to not more than one quarter section of public land.

The first amendment added by the House of Representatives authorizes registers and receivers to grant leaves of absence to those who have made entries and who "by reason of drought, whole or partial destruction of crops, sickness, or other unavoidable casualty," are unable to "secure a support for himself, herself, or those dependent upon them," such substance not to exceed one year at any one time, though the period of such absence shall not be counted as residence upon the land in making proof and perfecting title.

The second amendment provides that persons who have made homestead entries for less than a quarter section may make additional entry for land contiguous to the original homestead not exceeding with the land in such original entry, 160 acres, or if the entryman elect they may relinquish the original entry and make new ones the same as though they had never made entries, except that no fees or commissions shall be exacted from the entryman for such additional or new entries. The residence which has been made upon the original entry will count as residence upon the additional or new entry in making final proof, and where satisfactory final proof has already been made on the original entry no proof on the additional or new entry will be required, but patent may issue.

This will be glorious news to thousands of persons anxious to acquire homes but debarred from doing so under existing laws. There is little doubt the bill will pass the Senate as amended.

Copies of the bill can be had by addressing members of Congress.

HENRY N. COPP.

Sized it up About Right.

Harper's Weekly closes its view of the present aspect of the Presidential canvass with this statement of the situation: "It is obvious that heaving on either side as to the general result in the country is ridiculous, while the betting, we believe, is favorable to Mr. Cleveland. This generation of voters has not heard before the arguments against an immoderate and unjust tax. Indeed, it has not clearly comprehended that the tariff is a tax; but it is evidently inclined to listen intelligently and sympathetically, and to see that those who are denounced as seeking the ruin of the country by promising to diminish the ruinously lightening taxation are doing only what the denouncers themselves advocated a few years ago. It sees that the Republican Senate is proposing to do what the Republican platform condemns, and it laughs at the effort to stigmatize as a 'rebel' policy, a course which Presidents Grant and Garfield and Arthur and the anti-slavery fathers of the Republican party approved, and which rests upon the fundamental American principle of equal rights. The longer and more searching and detailed the discussion, the surer will be the approval of the original American view of the tariff, which is substantially that of the President's message and letter."

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