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TO-DAY'S TELEGRAMS.

EASTERN NEWS.

CHICAGO MARKETS.

CHICAGO, Jan. 18, 1:15 P. M.—Close—Wheat, stronger and higher; cash, 96½; February 97; May, $1.01 1-16.

Corn, firm; cash, 34 1-16; February, 41 1-16; May, 37.

Oats, steady; cash, 24½; February, 25⅛; May, 27⅜.

Barley, nothing doing.

Pork, steady; cash and February, $12.82½; May, $13.15 to $13.17½.

Lard, steady; cash $7; February, $7.05; May, $7.20.

A BRIDGE ACCIDENT.

A Number of Men Killed and a Large Number Seriously Wounded.

EVANSVILLE, Ind., Jan. 20.—Last Thursday the Louisville, St. Louis & Texas railroad was granted an injunction by the circuit court of Henderson county against the Keystone Bridge Company, restraining them from interferring with the plaintiff's trains when running over a bridge across the Greene river in Kentucky. The order was obeyed until this morning, when the Bridge Company sent a force of men to the bridge, driving the railroad employes off and commenced tearing up the track and a portion of the ties on the draw bridge. About half past three o'clock this afternoon, while the work of tearing up the ties was in progress, dismantling of one draw caused the opposite one to overbalance, and it broke in two, precipitating about twenty workmen into the river, five of whom are known to have been drowned, and seven seriously, if not fatally, injured, by falling timbers and iron. Later reports from the scene of the disaster say a dozen was killed.

STATE AND COAST NEWS.

FREIGHT TRAIN DEMOLISHED.

A Man Run Over Throws a Car From the Track Which Precipitates the Entire Train From a Trestle.

SPOKANE FALLS, Jan. 20.—A freight train on the Northern Pacific fell through a trestle this morning on this side of Hangman's creek, several miles from here. Ten cars fell a distance of seventy-two feet. The train ran over an unknown man who is supposed to be a tramp three-quarters of a mile from the scene of the accident, and the engineer did not notice that one car was off the track. When the train was on the trestle the middle of the train fell through. The engine had just crossed to one end of the trestle and the caboose was on the edge of the other end when the couplings broke and the rest of the train fell down into the gulf below with a terrific crash, smashing the cars into splinters. The body of the man killed was cut in half and mangled beyond recognition.

WORKMEN DEMAND PAY.

Looks as if the Seattle, Lake Shore & Eastern R Broad is in a Bad Way.

SPOKANE FALLS, Jan. 20.—Forty employes of the Seattle, Lake Shore & Eastern railroad quit work yesterday at noon and marched in a body to the office of Theodore Reed, superintendent of construction, and demanded pay. The men have not received a cent since the 25th of November. Reed told them he had no money, and that the men would have to wait till the company secured funds upon the bonds which they were negotiating. Upon Reed's promising to telegraph the demand to headquarters, the men promised to continue work until to-day.

Foul Play or Suicide.

PORTLAND, Jan. 20.—The body of a man, on whom letters addressed to Frank M. White, Pine Grove, Idaho, and signed Lucy Parsons, wife of the Chicago Anarchist, were found, was taken from Couch Lake yesterday. It is not known whether it is a case of foul play or suicide.

Goes to Samoa.

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 20.—At 4 o'clock this afternoon the United States man of war Vandalia left the Mare Island navy yard, bound for the Samoa Islands to be present at the seat of war of the late disturbances.

Going to San Francisco.

VANCOUVER, Jan. 20.—Light Battery E, of the first artillery, stationed at the Vancouver barracks, has been ordered to proceed without delay to San Francisco. Orders to that effect arrived here yesterday.

The O. R. & N. Receives Permission.

PORTLAND, Jan. 20.—Permission has been received from the Secretary of the Interior for the O. R. & N. Co. to begin work on the construction of their line across the Cœur d'Alene reservation.

Mrs. Mary Ann Martin, wife of W. P. Martin, an old and much respected pioneer of Lane county, committed suicide by taking strychnine Saturday at her home in Cottage Grove. Whisky is presumed to have been the cause. The deceased and her husband were keeping hotel and they quarreled, which led to the suicide.

Willie Kaul, a newsboy, died in St. Louis the other day, and he left property worth more than $10,000, of which $17,000 was in government bonds, and the balance in cash.

THE AUSTRALIAN SYSTEM.

The System Embodied in a Bill to be Introduced at this Session of the Oregon Legislature.

The Australian system of voting, so-called because first used in Australia, has been for several years in successful operation there, and, with non-essential variations, in England, Scotland Ireland and Canada. It has also been adopted in Massachusetts, where it goes into effect in 1889. Its principal objects are to prevent bribery and intimidation, to place all candidates upon an equality before the law, and to undermine the dangerous powers of political machines.

The system will be readily understood by reference to the accompanying drawing:

The voter, upon entering the polling place, turns to his right at a point marked "Entrance," where he receives from two election officers, selected from opposing political parties, a single ballot or a single set of ballots according to the local custom of voting. On the back is indorsed a stamp of signature, sufficient and only sufficient to identify the ballot as official; and on the face are plainly printed the names of the candidates for each office, with a designation of their respective political parties, after this manner.

	For Mayor.	Vote for One.
Democratic.	John Doe.	
Republican	Richard Roe.	
Prohibition.	David Smith.	
Independent.	Samuel Jones	

	For Coroners	Vote for two.
Democratic.	John Jones.	
	Henry Ewing.	
Republican.	David Rawson	
	Wm. Peters.	
Prohibition.	John Myers.	
	David White.	
Independent.	Henry King	
	George Gray.	

Having received his ballot the voter enters one of the booths back of the railing, where, secluded from observation, he prepares the ballot by placing in the blank column a cross opposite the name of each candidate for whom he decires to vote; or if he prefers, by writing the names of candidates of his own nomination in place of those already there. If there are several candidates for the same kind of office, as coroners in the sample ballot above, or presidential electors, and he wishes to vote the "straight" ticket of his party, he places the cross under the name of the party, or draws it through the space in the blank column allotted to the party's candidates, which signifies that he votes for each candidate named in that space. Thus, in the sample ballot, a cross under the word "Democratic," or through the first two spaces of the blank column to the right, is one vote each for John Jones and Henry Ewing.

After preparing his ballot by indicating every candidate for whom he votes, the voter folds it in such a manner as to conceal the face and expose the indorsement, and, withdrawing from the booth, gives the ballot to the spectators, who identify it by the indorsement as official. It is then deposited in the box and the voter passes out at the gate marked "EXIT."

From the time he receives his ballot until he casts it, the voter is permitted to have no communication with any one but the election officers, and with them only for official purposes, and only election officers and persons actually engaged in voting are ever admitted within the railing.

Upon proof of inability from physical infirmity or illiteracy, a voter may call into the booth officers appointed and sworn for the purpose, to aid him in preparing his ballot; and when a ballot is accidentally destroyed or defaced, it may be exchanged for a clean one. The importance of the latter requirement may not at once be apparent; but to secure secrecy every ballot delivered to a voter must either be cast or returned. This explains the necessity for indorsing ballots. But for the indorsement a blank paper outwardly resembling a ballot might be cast by a voter, who would then be able surreptitiously to carry away an official ballot. This could be prepared for a bribed voter, the proof of its use being his production of a second official ballot. That could be similarly prepared and used, and so on. Such a fraud, known as the "Tasmanian dodge," was successfully perpetrated in Australia in the early days of the system; but its repitition was prevented by requiring ballots to be officially indorsed.

As it is essential that ballots be printed at public expense and distributed by public officers, the system must include some mode of certifying nominations to the proper authorities a reasonable time before elections. That proposed by the Yates-Saxton bill of New York was perhaps as convenient as could be desired. Under it State nominations were to be certified fifteen days, and local nominations ten days before election; nominations of a political party which at the next preceding election polled three per cent of the whole vote were to be certified by party officers; and independent nominations, if for a State office, were to be certified by a thousand voters and if for a local office by one hundred.

A brief explanation of the way in which this system effects its object cannot anticipate or answer captious objections, but will be useful to candid inquiriers.

Penal laws are ineffectual to prevent bribery or intimidation. The primary remedy is a secret ballot. And this is best secured when the only proof of an elector's vote is his own uncorroborated assertion. Under the Australian system no other proof can be made. That fact gives to the most timid among dependent voters a sense of security which makes him free. And to bribery it is fatal. Bribers are not likely to invest money on the faith of a bribed man's naked assertion; if there be such a virtue as "honesty among thieves," it is not acceptable security to the thieves themselves.

But secrecy, though the primary remedy for bribery and intimidation, is not all that is required to purify elections, nor the only remedy the Australian system offers.

The printing and distribution of ballots is a most important part of election machinery, and, left to private enterprise, inevitably tends, as does the farming out of any other public function, to breed corruption and build up monopoly. It makes a necessity for irresponsible organizations which come to wield autocratic power over the political party they claim to serve, and in turn, through the discipline almost military in severity, are dominated by an inner circle of "leaders." As ballots can neither be printed nor distributed without money, and may not be faithfully handled unless trusty workers are rewarded with more than an election day stipend, an organization undertaking the work has a plausable if not reasonable claim for money from its beneficiaries and official patronage from its retainers. It is the necessity of raising these funds and employing these "workers" that justifies assessments, gives color of voluntary contributations, to what in truth are sales of nominations, excuses the submission of official patronage to the distribution of the machine, provides ample cover for collecting a corruption fund, and through "workers" at the polls a convenient channel for disbursing the fund in bribes. And as corruption funds increase, masked in increasing demands for legitimate expenses, assessments grow, the price of nominations rises, independence is shackled, and the organization becomes more indifierent to party principle as its monopoly of political power strengthens. Born of the necessity of volunteer machinery for preparing and distributing ballots, it developes into a powerful instrument, which, in the hands of political jobbers, enables them to buy and sell office "as the Pretorians sold the Roman purple." Already, poor men rarely obtain political advancement without assuming obligations to be redeemed by official perfidy, and obstacles to unallied candidacy have become so great as often to prevent and always to discourage independent nominations.

This political monster would be destroyed by the Australian system. If the State assumed its function of providing ballots, there would be no necessity for "workers" at the polls, and the excuse for raising, as well as the best mode of using, corruption funds, would disappear. Assessments could not then be levied upon candidates, for when "workers" at the polls are not required, machines can neither serve nor injure. Nor would nominations be sold; for when candidates stand upon an equality in regard to election machinery, and there is no opportunity for bribing voters, organizations merely as organizations, have nothing worth buying, while organizations as representatives of principles cannot be approached through commercial channels. Trafficking in office would be replaced by political discussion, the power of the machine by the voice of the party.

The evils of machine organization and the remedy of the Australian system, are summarized as follows by William M. Ivins, than whom no one has done more intelligent, energetic and effective work for electoral reform:

The Evil.	The Remedy.
1. The necessity for voluntarily printing and distributing the ballot justifies organization for this purpose.	1. The printing and distribution of all ballots at public expense does away with the necessity of organization for this purpose.
2. It practically vests the machine with the monopoly of the election machinery.	2. And will deprive the political machines of the monopoly of an essential part of the election machinery.
3. And, as a consequence, with the monopoly of nomination.	3. It will enable any body of citizens of the number prescribed by law to have the name of their candidate printed on the same ballot with the names of all other candidates for the same office, so that before the law and before the voters all candidates and all party organizations will stand on a perfectly even footing.
4. It involves the necessity of defraying the expenses of both printing and distribution by means of assessments on or contributions by candidates, office holders or party leaders.	4. This will dispense altogether with the necessity of and excuse for levying political assessments.
5. Which facilitates bribery and corruption by affording them convenient covers.	5. And leave no legal cover for bribery.

To this system it is objected that by requiring nominations to be made in advance of elections it denies a constitutional right of voters to select candidates from the whole body of voters. From such eminent authority as Judges Cooley, McCrary and Folger, and the highest courts of Pennsylvania, Massachusetts and New York, it may be safely inferred that a restriction of the franchise to candidates nominated a short time before election is a reasonable regulation and not an unconstitutional interference; but the inference is not necessary, since the system allows each voter to reject all candidates and write new names upon his ballot.

It is objected also, that by requiring the blind and illiterate to expose their vote to election officers' secrecy of the ballot is as to them violated. Under our present system voting is not secret; it was for that reason rejected by the British Parliament and the Australian system adopted. The object now is to secure secrecy, but in aiming at that we are confronted with a class of voters to whom exposure of their ballot to somebody is necessary, and an exception must be made in their favor to prevent their disfranchisement. What form which shall be consistent with the highest degree of secrecy can that exception take? If allowed to carry their ballots away these voters fall into the hands of irresponsible and perhaps dishonest persons, and may be made, innocently or otherwise, instruments for perpetrating some form of the "Tasmanian dodge." If, for their benefit, official ballots are generally circulated, all efforts for secrecy are frustrated. And if they are permitted to take a "friend" into the booth, a door is opened for the bribery of every venal voter who is, or can successfully pretend to be, unable to read English. Exposure of ballots must be prevented by every means that ingenuity can suggest; but in exceptional cases in which it cannot be avoided, it may most safely be confided to election officers, who represent opposing parties, are under oath of secrecy and fidelity, can be readily detected in malfeasance, and when detected are liable to severe penalties. As to blind voters this seems to be the only course, but respecting the illiterate any exception to the general rule may be avoided by identifying the names on the ballots with numbers, or by printing them with inks of different colors.

There is reason to believe that the Australian system of voting is about to receive favorable consideration in all the States where election abuses have been seriously felt; but its adoption would so surely dispense with machine organizations that there is reason to fear attempts at essential modifications. These are likely to be in the direction of allowing the delivery of ballots to parties and candidates before election, and distribution as well by "workers" at any time or place as by sworn officers at the polls. A little consideration will show that this would continue the power of political machine and endanger secrecy. Any such modification no intelligent and sincere advocate of electoral reform can accept, for in this matter it is not true at this time that "half a loaf is better than no bread." It were better that the reform be delayed with the force of public opinion pressing it forward, than that inefficient measures should allay public opinion by seeming to meet its demands. Details may be compromised, but essentials must be required at every step in the agitation. These are, that ballots containing the names of all candidates be printed at public expense; that one official ballot or set of ballots be delivered by sworn officers to each voter as he appears to vote, that the voter be immediately secluded for the purpose of preparing to vote; that he deliver his ballot to the inspectors so folded as to conceal its face and expose the official indorsement; that immediately after voting he withdraw from the secluded part of the polling place; that there be no intercourse with him except by election officers for official purposes from the time he receives his ballot until he votes, and that no voter be allowed to cast any ballot but the one he receives from the officers.

Our growth and development have introduced into our politics expensive and elaborate methods of reaching voters, which are to the simpler methods of our early political history what railroads are to the stage coach. Since the railroads have been introduced stage coaches have ceased to run. Each of the two great parties have built a railroad of its own. Therefore whatever gang gets possession of the party railroad, those who do not like it have no alternative but to take the railroad of the other party. And when the same gang gets possession of both railroads, then those who don't like it have no alternative but to try to build a railroad of their own—which some gang is sure to get possession of before it is half built—or walk, and get left. Now what the Australian system proposes is that the government shall build a railroad on which all political trains must run, and allow any body of men to run a train on it who can muster enough to fill a single car.

This would not destroy the legitimate influence of party organizations and the legitimate weight of party nominations. But it would permit a bolt to be made effectively when the moral or political sense of a party was outraged by unfit nominations. When the same gang had secured both party conventions it would make the organization of a third party easy and effective. And it would strongly tend to break down unreasoning party fealty, by getting people used to changing trains.

Lieut.-Governor McDonald, of Michigan, was among the killed in an accident on the Northwestern railroad Saturday. The train broke as it was nearing Elmwood station, and the day coach left the track. The derailed car struck a stump, and was smashed to pieces, killing Mr. McDonald, his business partner, Cochrane, and a man named Suttle. Conductor Armstrong had his leg broken, and E. P. Foster, of Iron mountain, was seriously injured. A number of other passengers were slightly injured.

The late Henry P. Marshall for twenty-five years cashier of the ... Savings bank, of New York City, has been discovered short in his accounts. ... Marshall died suddenly in November last.