

THE NEW BALLOT LAW.

How to Vote by the Australian System.

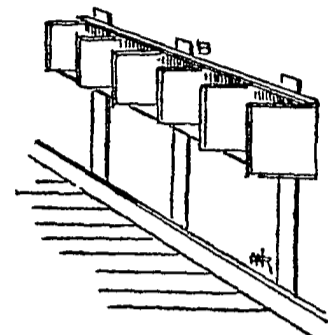
How to Construct and Arrange the Voting Booths.

A Sample Ticket Showing How to Mark the Candidates.

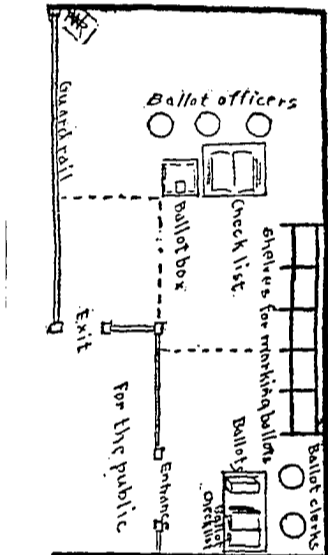
An Explanation Which Will Throw Some Light on the New Methods—What the Australian Law is for.

A reader of THE TIMES writes to ask for information regarding the Australian system of voting. As this new ballot law is now in force in California, and a great many voters are as yet unacquainted with its workings, a few points will here be given to assist in a proper understanding of the *modus operandi*.

To illustrate the plan of arranging the voting places two cuts are given, showing the booths. Cut No. 1 shows the boxes or compartments in which the voter prepares his ballot.



Cut No. 2 shows the position of the ballot clerks, voters in the stalls, and the officers of election checking the voters as they deposit the ballots in the box near the exit. Enter with the man to the right of the cut, and get a ballot from the gentleman standing at the end of the table, provided the young man at the desk finds your name properly registered in the Great Register open before him.



Then walk over to one of the open stalls and mark your ballot in accordance with your wishes, and pass in front of the group at the left, and announce your name to the judges of election. When the young man sitting at the desk finds your name properly registered you are permitted to deposit the ballot in the box and pass out. That is all there is to it.

It has been claimed by some that the new law can be beaten, and that vote-buying cannot be prevented by the experiment. The following editorial from the San Francisco Examiner seems to state the case about as fairly as it can be done:

"A correspondent of the Examiner warned the California electors of the method by which the Australian ballot system was beaten in Montana. It was a variation of the 'Tasmania dodge,' a voter being bribed to bring out a ballot by substituting a piece of blank paper for the official ballot that was given him on entering the booth. In the 'Tasmania dodge' the voter was supposed to vote the blank paper; in the Montana case to tear it up. The official ballot being brought outside, it was filled up by the vote buyer, given to the next voter, who cast the marked ballot and brought out a fresh official ballot. The system was thus made a check on the bribed voter.

"Whether this trick was actually worked or not in the case mentioned it is amply provided for in the California law. In the first place the voter is forbidden to leave the booth until he has delivered up the ballot he has received on entering. He must give it to the inspector if he wishes to vote it, or return it to the ballot clerks in case he does not.

"But a second check, still more valuable, prevents any illicit use of the ballot even if it is taken outside. When the voter enters the booth the ballot clerks mark the check number of his ballot against his name on the printed register. When he marks the ballot he folds it with the counterfoil or tag that bears the number of the ballot exposed, and delivers the ballot to the inspector. The inspector announces the name and number, the ballot clerks verify it from their record and the inspector tears off the tag and drops the ballot in the box. If the ballot does not bear the same number as the one he received from the ballot clerks he cannot vote.

"The California ballot system cannot be 'beaten' in this manner, except by the collusion of the election officers, challengers and watchers of both parties. It is hardly possible to secure so large a number of corrupt men together, or at all events men corrupted by the same side. Whatever vote-buying is done under the system will have to be carried out under the 'assistance to illiterates' provision. This will be a possible but dangerous game to play. It will require the collusion of election officers, and will be readily detected by the watchers. The November election will show whether an amendment on this point will be necessary."

to show how to mark votes. If a straight ticket is voted, an X in the space at the right of the party for which the voter desires to cast his ballot is sufficient. But a split ticket requires an X opposite each name voted for. Only one office is on this ticket. All are arranged in the same manner.

SAMPLE BALLOT.

REGULAR DEMOCRATIC TICKET (straight)	
REGULAR REPUBLICAN TICKET (straight)	
REGULAR PROHIBITION TICKET (straight)	
To vote for a person, stamp a cross [X] in the square at the right of his name.	
Governor.	Vote for One.
1	John Doe . . . Democrat
2	S. R. Coe . . . Republican
3	R. Roe . . . Prohibition

