

method, that body has the right to inaugurate a change thereto.

Thus far, the experience with voting machines has been most gratifying. At the last election, thorough practical tests were made in several localities in western New York, and the reports made declare that in every case the machines proved a splendid success. In Mount Vernon, for instance, the machines gave accurate results of the election seventeen minutes after the polls closed; while in five other cities having a voting strength of from 19,000 to 62,000 the returns were announced in from ten to thirty minutes after closing the polls.

The chief advantages of the election machines are claimed to be saving of time, protection against fraud, and a reduction in the cost of elections. Regarding the first, the time of arriving at the result shows the gain there; while in the voting, the machine can easily accommodate two voters a minute. As to the second item, when the voter registers his preference for a candidate, the record is taken by the machine, which automatically prevents a duplicate vote for the same or any other candidate for that office; and it is said that this gives most effective protection. So far as the third item, cost, is concerned, the saving from the Australian ballot is very great. The figures of expense show that the machine plan costs less than one-fifth of the Australian system.

The reports on these machines show them to be worthy of consideration where any change in election laws is contemplated. The absolute secrecy of the ballot is guarded as in no other way, there is a great improvement in the matter of time and expense, and fraud is declared to be made impossible. With the official verification already given to these claims, a perfect familiarity with the machine system would seem to be a valuable attainment to an up-to-date legislator. The indications are strong that the voting machine is destined to come into early use, and that to vote the elector will merely press the button while the machine does the rest; though prudence may suggest that by waiting a little time there may be produced more perfect devices than those yet made and tested.

IN LAMENTABLE CONDITION.

The winter troubles in northwestern Wisconsin, centering at Chippewa Falls, present a terrible case of suffering both through suspense and actual physical hardship. Chippewa Falls being actually in the grip of the frost king, with ice-packs in the river forcing the water into stores and dwellings and driving out the occupants at such an inclement season, is truly in a most pitiable condition; while the anxiety at imminent danger of more serious calamity through the bursting of ice-gorges above is no less than if the town were beleaguered by an army in time of war, and in peril of being looted by a merciless foe. The story as told in the dispatches is one to excite deep sympathy for the afflicted people. Here in Utah we may feel only to a limited degree the terrible reality experienced in Wisconsin, for here the

cold is not so intense as there, neither is it possible for ice-gorges to accomplish such disastrous results; but enough is comprehended to sincerely condole with the sufferers and to be thankful that the Chippewa Falls calamity is of a kind that comes not to this State.

WORKMEN EAST AND WEST.

In the Western nations generally the advance of civilization has been marked by an improvement in the conditions that surround the working classes, especially in the matter of hours of labor; until it can be readily noted that on one item alone, that of the time of daily labor of mechanics, can be fairly estimated the progressive character of a nation and the liberty its people enjoy. Eight and nine hours per day is the standard in the most enlightened nations; and in this regard the workmen of the Occident are in an incomparably better situation than those of the Orient, where long hours of labor and a mere pittance of wages keep them in virtual slavery. An incident that impresses this fact is noted with respect to conditions which still exist in that little city famed as the birthplace of the One who came to deliver men from all oppression, and whose work of deliverance to mortals will not be finished until all the human family are privileged to enjoy the highest possible freedom consistent with the rights of each other.

This incident is related by E. S. McClure in the December number of McClure's Magazine. Mr. McClure writes that he went to Bethlehem several times, returning usually towards dusk. He constantly met the "Bethlehem men," as they are called—mechanics, masons, carpenters, laborers—returning on foot from their long and hard day's work in Jerusalem. The hours of labor in the East are from sunrise to sunset; and these men would leave Bethlehem early in the morning, and, after walking the six miles to their daily task, work all day, and walk back at dusk to their late and scanty supper. The younger men looked worn out; the older men seemed to have lost all strength, and their eyes frequently looked dull and almost glazed.

Regarding the domestic life of the people there, the article continues that Mr. McClure was invited to visit a family in Bethlehem. Their home was on the second floor of a building. It consisted of a single room, about fifteen feet square, with a concrete floor, and not a single article of furniture save a tiny charcoal stove. It was clean; there were plenty of windows; and the window-sills were low and broad and were used instead of chairs. There were little cupboards built in the walls, which held the food and the few dishes. At one side of the room was a larger recess, perhaps two feet deep, three feet high, and six feet long. There were piled blankets, rugs and quilts, neatly folded. At night the rugs were spread on the floor and the family slept on them, using the blankets and quilts for covering. On great occasions a little circular table,

about three feet across and one foot high, was used as a dining-table.

If those mechanics who, in the Western nations, are industrious and sober, were to be as scantily supplied in their habitations, or were to be pressed to such hours of labor, the revolt against those efforts would be sudden and overwhelming. They have tasted of better conditions; and devotion to the cause that has brought about the improvement, as well as a common sympathy for their fellow-beings, ought to be an unfailing force to impel those who have experienced the higher liberty never to falter in giving aid to movements destined to extend like freedom to all the world. The time is nearing when the progress of the West shall cast its influence over the institutions and operations of the East.

THE UNIVERSITY LECTURES.

In accordance with an excellent custom now of several years' standing, the University of Utah has announced its public lecture course for the current season. This worthy institution, occupying an honorable position as the head of the public system of education within the State, has demonstrated its hearty sympathy with the modern thought that colleges and universities should not confine their efforts to the comparative few who enter the institutions as regular pupils, but should extend the facilities of the schools to the many who are denied the opportunity of pursuing the prescribed curriculum and are desirous of advancing in intellectual work. The public lectures delivered under University auspices during the last two years have been a valuable contribution to the good work of college extension. The subjects chosen and the treatment given by the able specialists of the University faculty have been such as to exclude the lectures from the category of mere public entertainments, while adapting the topics to the comprehension of earnest students and careful thinkers who are not specialists. Admission to the lectures is free, and the experience of the past demonstrates the need of a more commodious assembly room for the course; in some instances as many applicants have turned away through lack of room as have been able to secure seats. It is to be hoped that for their own advantage the public will display equal or greater interest this season, in which event the University management will not fail to do its utmost in affording comfortable accommodations for all who desire to attend.

THE NEW YORK HERALD has figured out that the island upon which that city is located, which has been sinking, according to reports, slowly but surely for years, will be almost entirely submerged at the end of 5,000 years from date. At that time only the hills in Central park will be visible. The march of the sea will be such, it is claimed, that in 2896 the waves will wash against the steps of Trinity church. But if the mushroom stalk which supports Manhattan island does not give way long before the date figured out, there will be a remarkable failure of hitherto unfailing signs.