

VOTERS AND ELECTION JUDGES.

If the judges and clerks of election are made to fully comprehend their duties on November 3, there will be little occasion for spoiled or ineffective ballots being cast on that day. There have been references made to the large percentage of loss in ballots cast under the Australian law at the first election in conformity therewith in other states, and this loss has been charged hereto to the lack of comprehension on the part of the voter. As a matter of fact, the greatest trouble met with is from lack of comprehension of the law by the judges and clerks of election rather than by the voter, whose duty is not intricate and requires only ordinary care to get along with ease.

The work of the voter is to prepare his or her ballot according to the simple directions given in the NEWS under the head of "Rules for Voters;" it is a straight party ballot, the party emblem is marked, or all the names on the party ticket, but not both emblem and name; if not a straight party ticket, then the names of persons voted for are to be marked with a cross, and party emblems are not to be marked. On going to the polling place the voter receives a folded official ballot from an election judge; it has the duplicate stub attached, the stub being reserved by the judges for its number, which appears on stub, duplicate stub and ballot; the duplicate stub must be endorsed by the election judge. The ballot thus handed to the voter is taken by him or her to a compartment where are provided pen, ink and a shelf, and is marked as the voter desires to record his or her choice. A voter is limited to ten minutes' time in preparing a ballot if no one else is waiting; but if others are waiting the time limit is five minutes, which is ample to avoid hurrying. If a voter spoils a ballot by making a wrong mark, another can be secured, or a third, from the election judges, but no more, and he must return the spoiled ballot. When the voter has marked the ballot he folds it as it was before and hands it to a judge of election; after that person performs certain duties the ballot is given back to the voter, who deposits it in the ballot box. Heretofore it has been the custom for a judge of election to deposit the ballot in the box; now the voter must do it. Ordinarily, it takes from five to ten minutes for each person to vote, half of the time being taken up in preparing the ballot.

The sum of the voter's duty is to get an official ballot from the judges, mark it as he wants it counted, deposit it in the box, and retire. His chief work is marking the names of candidates or the party ticket he wishes to vote for. A voter who cannot read or write or is physically unable, by blindness or otherwise, to prepare his ballot, is entitled to the assistance of two election judges, one from each of two political parties, to do the work for him.

The county clerk must have sample ballots, printed on paper of a different color from the official ballots but in the same form, in his office seven days before the election, for public inspection. The clerk must also furnish instructions to voters how to proceed.

The elector is not compelled to vote only for candidates whose names are

printed on the ticket. He may write in the names of other candidates in the space provided, and mark them as his choice.

When applied to by a voter on election day, the judges must ascertain if the voter's name is on the registry list; and if it is the name is repeated and the elector is allowed to enter within the guard rail, where a judge or clerk of election is to give him an official ballot—only one. The judge must tear this ballot from the package so as to retain the stub and let the duplicate stub go with the ballot; the judge in charge of the ballots writes his initials on the duplicate stub. The voter then takes the folded official ballot and retires to the voting booth. The judges also hear all challenges upon the seven grounds specified in the law. If the person challenged makes oath that the grounds of challenge are untrue, then he may be allowed to vote. Challenges may be heard either at the time of applying for a ballot or at the time of offering it for deposit in the box. The judges may also be required to assist a disabled or illiterate voter to prepare his ballot. When the voter returns with the folded prepared ballot, the judges call his name and the number on the duplicate stub, make comparison with the stub number, previously checked in front of the name, and identify the ballot by the judge's initials. If all is found to be correct, the judge takes off the duplicate stub, writes the name of the voter on the poll list, numbers the ballot in ink in a top corner—the numbers to be consecutive—and turns down the corner and pastes it with mucilage to cover the number; it is not discoverable except when opened by order of court in a contested election; the same number is recorded on the list of voters heard, the name of the person voting, and the ballot is handed back to the voter, who deposits it.

This is merely the duty of judges in the procedure of voting. It is an intricate piece of work, and incompetent or untrained judges are liable to make blunders. Added to this is the work of counting the votes, disposing of excess ballots, keeping tally lists, posting instructions to voters, etc., in all of which great care must be exercised in order to prevent serious blunders.

Thus it may be seen that the intricacies of the Australian ballot fall upon the officers of election much more than on the voters, whose work is plain sailing to one who keeps his wits about him in an ordinary way. But it requires special care and training on the part of the judges, who must serve without pay—a fault that cannot be remedied too soon. For the present election especially, each set of county commissioners ought to give election judges some practical training in their duties. The most competent persons who have been selected as judges ought to be willing to accept such training for the sake of their own reputation in doing thoroughly satisfactory work on election day.

This whole subject is one deserving the special attention of voters and election officers, that there may be a full vote on November 3, and that that

vote shall be counted and certified as the electors desire to express their will.

A LONE ROBBER'S BOLD WORK.

Uintah, a small station on the Union Pacific railroad in Weber canyon, eight miles east of Ogden, was the scene at an early hour this morning, of one of the most daring robberies ever perpetrated in the West.

It appears that the holdup was the work of one man, single banded and alone, who by a clever coup cajoled the passengers and trainmen into the belief that he had ample assistance in the raid that he was making. His method of operation was as follows: He first made his appearance by climbing over the tender into the cab of the engine and peremptorily demanding the fireman and engineer to throw up their hands, saying that he was about to rob the train. The robber was disguised in such a way as to prevent any possibility of identification, having his head enclosed in a sack with eye holes cut. The men immediately complied with the request of the robber and were forced to disguise themselves as he directed, furnishing them with flour sacks to pull over their heads. Over this mask they were required to pull down their hats in a manner that would indicate to the passengers and others that they, too, were robbers.

At this point he compelled the now captive engineer and fireman to uncouple the train leaving the express and mail car attached to the engine. After this was done he personally mounted the engine, leaving the engineer and fireman upon the ground, pulled open the throttle and ran part of the train half a mile down the canyon where he stopped and began his efforts to blow open the safe.

The express messenger and mail clerk in the meantime, remained in their respective cars.

The robber commanded the express messenger to maintain absolute silence, an injunction which he unwillingly but implicitly obeyed. After this he spent a industrious but fruitless thirty minutes to bore into and blow open the safe, with dynamite. During the operations of the robber the express messenger sat quietly on a box near by. After failing to reach the inside of the safe, and seeing that success in that direction was impossible, he abandoned his work and turned his attention to the mail car, where he commanded the clerk to throw out the registered packages and four mail bags were accordingly thrown out. Taking out his knife, he immediately proceeded to cut open the bags and rifle them of such matter as suited his fancy. He secured a number of registered packages, but as to the exact number and how much money they contained, there is no means of knowing at this time. At this point the robber finished his business and turned his attention towards making his escape. The direction which he took from this point is not known.

Turning attention to the rear portion of the train, it was found that the engineer, during the time of the operations of the robber in the express and mail cars, had made his way to Uintah