

BATTLE OF THE BUDGETS

The Congressional Campaign and the Important Issues Involved.

AN EDUCATIONAL CAMPAIGN.

Had Many Speakers and a Generous Distribution of Literature.

THE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT.

Its Adoption Will Greatly Better the State's Financial Condition.

AUSTRALIAN BALLOT SYSTEM

History of the Walton Bill Before the Legislature—Description of Booths—Manner of Voting.

Tuesday is election-day, and Monday night will close one of the most important, and in some respects, one of the most remarkable political campaigns in the history of the State.

The campaign has not been a hurrah one, and it has been singularly devoid of excitement. This is due in part to the fact that "it is an off-year in politics," but in greater measure to the practical issues involved.

What has been lacking in the whooping up feature has, however, as far as the Democrats are concerned, been made up for in earnestness. It has been a campaign of education, and the party has covered the State with speakers more thoroughly, perhaps, than ever before. The voters have been given food for thought. On the great tariff issue their reason has been appealed to, and that too, in a manner which it is believed will bring forth gratifying fruit at the polls.

At State Democratic headquarters a vast deal of work has been done, and an immense amount of campaign literature has been sent out. Thus thousands of voters have been posted in their homes upon the politico-economic questions which are being discussed in Congress, the canvass, and how to vote at the necessary time the party leaders have not lost sight of the necessity of keeping before the voters the fact that a return of the Republicans to power in Congress would mean the renewal of force bill and other hostile legislation against the South.

WHAT WE VOTE FOR.

The voting will be for congressmen from all ten districts; upon the question of ratifying an amendment to the Constitution, and to fill vacancies that have occurred in the State Senate, and the House of Delegates.

There are Democratic, Republican and Populist candidates for Congress in all the districts, Prohibition candidates in all except the Ninth, and independent candidates also in the Tenth. The result will be that the vote will be very much split up.

The vacancies in the Legislature that will be filled are as follows: Senate—Twelfth District, composed of the counties of Clarke, Frederick, Warren, and the city of Winchester; Thirtieth District, composed of the counties of Norfolk and the county of Princess Anne.

House of Delegates—The district composed of the counties of King and Queen, Dinwiddie counties, Orange county, Hanover county, the city of Petersburg, and the district composed of Smyth and Highland counties. There is also a House vacancy from Prince William county, which will be filled by the next election.

TO REDUCE CRIMINAL EXPENSES.

The constitutional amendment to be voted upon involves not a political, but a financial question—a question which will affect the State. Its object is to rehabilitate police justices and justices of the peace with the powers and jurisdiction of which they were deprived by the amendment of 1870. That decision eliminated from the jurisdiction of the justices numerous petty cases, and made their trial by jury compulsory. The result has been that while the ends of justice have been no better served the criminal expenses of the State have increased enormously.

The Mary Miller case decided in January, 1892, and though there is no means of separating the petty cases that before the decision would have been disposed of by justices of the peace, which would have been tried by juries the following comparative statement of criminal expenses will serve to convey some idea of what the decision has cost the Commonwealth:

Expense in 1891.....	\$239,768 26
Expense in 1892.....	312,757 51
Expense in 1893.....	317,622 32
Expense in 1894.....	348,838 34

Examination of these figures ought to be sufficient to prove to every taxpayer that it is to his interest to vote for the amendment. If the increase in criminal expenses is not stopped when the time comes for paying the additional 1 per cent. per annum upon the State debt, the question will arise: "How can the obligation be met without increasing taxation?"

OUR NEW VOTING SYSTEM.

Another important feature of the election will be that in it the Australian ballot system will be tested in a general election in Virginia for the first time. The question of grafting this system upon the Anderson-McCormick law has been agitated for several years, and the Legislature at its last session made the grant an accomplished fact by passing what is known as the Walton law. The bill was introduced by Senator M. L. Walton, of Shenandoah. The measure was thoroughly discussed in the Democratic legislative caucus, which met several times to consider it, and finally, near the close of the session, was adopted; not, however, until it had been almost entirely recast. The work of recasting was done largely by the members of the Senate Flood and Watson, and these gentlemen had the advice of the party leaders.

The system is in vogue in several other States, and has already been tried in two local elections in Virginia.

Elsewhere in to-day's issue of the Dispatch the Walton law is published, and it should be read by every voter who can read, and those who cannot read should have it read to them. There is nothing mysterious or complicated about it. Its modus operandi is simple and business-like, as experience elsewhere has shown.

HOW THE PLAN WORKS.

A description of the Richmond booth and annex will convey a correct idea of the booth that will be used generally throughout the State, and enable the voter to understand how thoroughly he will be protected from espionage while preparing his ballot. The Richmond booth is made of wood, and is simply a three-sided recess, open at top and bottom, and measuring 6 feet 4 inches high, 23 inches deep, and 20 inches wide. Attached to the rear wall is a shelf, furnished with pen and ink. The annex is formed by what answers the rear wall and one side of the booth joined at right-angles, and as each one sits upon his stool with his back to the rear wall of the complete recess, a new booth is made. In front of the booth and each annex is a curtain, which swings from buttons at the top of the booth walls. The voter will go direct to the polling place, and after receiving his ballot—there will be two in this instance, one for congressmen and one for voting on the Constitutional amendment—will enter a booth and, drawing the curtain behind him, proceed to prepare them. In the case of congressmen he will scratch out all the names appearing in the candidates for whom he desires to vote. In the case of the constitutional amendment, he will scratch out the line "For the Amendment to the Constitution" or "Against the Amendment," as he may desire.

THE CONSTABLE.

No one but the special constable will be allowed to enter a booth occupied by a voter, and he will be held responsible in the event that the voter by reason of blindness or other physical disability, or illness is unable to prepare his ballot. When the voter shall have completed his ballots he will take them to the polling place and hand them to one of the justices of the peace, who will see that they are properly sealed and returned to the voter.

THE ENEMY'S ALERT.

Richard Dawson Warns Voters of the Danger of the Situation.

The Hope to Win.

CHAIRMAN DAWSON'S APPEAL.

He Discusses the Situation Frankly, Assigns the Responsibility, and Urges the People to Vote.

In the following address, issued last night, Chairman Dawson warns the Richmond Democrats, and incidentally those of the entire district, of the danger that confronts them, urges them to both vote and work to insure the election of Colonel Elliot, and briefly reviews the record of the Republican party to show that it is the enemy of our people and not worthy of support:

To the Democratic Voters of Richmond: The day of election draws near. The lines of a triangular fight are being closely drawn for the eventful day which is to decide the fate of two of the parties represented in the contest.

A powerful influence has within the last few days made itself felt in the camp of the Republicans. A general, whose campaign methods are well and bitterly known to the Democrats of Virginia, has apparently assumed command of the Republican forces. Mahone, the arch enemy of the Democratic party, has taken to the field, and is now engaged in a campaign of the most unscrupulous and unprincipled character. He is now engaged every southern home, and which waits but an opportunity to again assert itself. MARION L. DAWSON, Chairman City Democratic Committee.

THE NEW ELECTION LAW.

Explanations as to the Duties of Constables and How Electors Shall Vote.

As the approaching election is to be held under the new law, and the method of voting under that law is somewhat novel and not familiar to our people, we give below some extracts from the law, which are intended to explain the duties of the constable, and the rights of the elector. The law is as follows: "The duties of the constable are clearly defined in the new law. The constable is to read the names of the candidates for the several offices to be voted for at the election being held, as are printed on the ballot, and to see that the ballot is carried into or out of the booth to be deposited in the ballot-box.

"The constable, under fines and penalties, is to see that he suggests other names. If the voter desires to vote for any other person than those whose names appear upon the official ballot, he has the right to do so, but the constable has no right to suggest any other name than that on the ballot. Nor can or should he be required to do more than what the statute requires him to do, and he should be removed at the pleasure of the judges, who should immediately appoint another who will discharge his duties as the law directs.

"Who and what class of voters is the constable to assist? Those who are educationally or physically unable to vote. How? By reading the names and offices of the candidates, and pointing out to him the name or names he (the voter) may wish to strike off the ballot.

"If the voter is physically unable by reason of dimness of eyesight, or a palsied hand, to strike out the name or names of the candidates, the constable is to read the names of the candidates to him in preparing his ballot, and to strike out the name or names of the candidates as he directs.

"If the voter is totally blind the constable shall prepare said ballot for said elector in accordance with the instructions of the law.

"This is the only kind of voter for whom the constable can or shall prepare a ballot for in accordance to instructions of the law.

"If the voter can see and has the physical ability to strike out the name pointed out by the constable, he (the voter) strikes out, and not the constable. (See Sec. 2.)

"If the constable prepares the ballot for any voter and assists him who can read and strike out the name, and the use of the ballot is not to enable the voter to prepare his own vote, he violates the law.

"If he does more than read the name or names of the several candidates, and reads the names of the candidates to be voted for, or reads to a man that is educationally unable to read and point out to him the name or names of such as he desires to strike off the ballot, he violates the law, and the penalty for violating the provisions of certain sections should be thoroughly understood by every voter.

Except in cases of challenges, etc., no person other than the elector offering to vote, save the judges of election and clerks allowed by the law, shall be within the booth.

Every elector qualified to vote at a precinct shall, when he so demands, be furnished with an official ballot by the judges of election, and the majority of the judges present. (The said elector shall then take the said official ballot and retire to said voting-booth.)

Every elector shall then draw name or names of the candidates he does not wish to vote for, and the names of the candidates he does wish to vote for (scratched). No name shall be scratched unless the pen or pencil mark shall extend at least three-fourths of an inch over the name; and he shall save an official ballot, above provided for, shall be counted for any person.

It shall be unlawful for any elector to carry the official ballot furnished him by the judge of election further than the voting-booth, and should he, after inspecting the said ballot, conclude not to vote, he shall return the said ballot to the judges of election. Except in cases of challenges, etc., no person shall be within the booth, save the judges of election, and no person shall be within the booth, save the judges of election, and no person shall be within the booth, save the judges of election.

It shall be unlawful for any elector to carry the official ballot furnished him by the judge of election further than the voting-booth, and should he, after inspecting the said ballot, conclude not to vote, he shall return the said ballot to the judges of election. Except in cases of challenges, etc., no person shall be within the booth, save the judges of election, and no person shall be within the booth, save the judges of election.

THE WALTON ELECTION LAW.

Judge A. M. Aiken Points Out Where the Word "May" Means "Shall."

There having been so many constructions as to some portions of the Walton election-law, coming from different sections

ROSE'S.

105 East Broad Street.

ROSE'S.

ROSE'S.

105 East Broad Street.

ROSE'S.

ROSE'S.

105 East Broad Street.

ROSE'S.

ROSE'S.

105 East Broad Street.

ROSE'S.

ROSE'S.