

election day, nor does it end there. He should be found at the primaries where he should use every endeavor in his power to have men nominated who are best suited for the office; men whose object is to serve the will of the people and not personal gain. On election day he should be at the polls where he should see that honor and justice are maintained.

What is the condition of our country to-day? Are our elections free from fraud? Is the individual voter acquainted with his duties? Does he know that the right of franchise demands that he exercise that right with a knowledge that when he is so doing he knows for whom he is voting; that he believes that the principles which he is upholding by his ballot if adopted, will be for the safety and prosperity of the nation? Has he good reason to believe that the man for whom he is voting will serve the will of the people and will not use his position for the promotion of his own selfish ends? Is the voter allowed to go to the polls and cast his vote in accordance with the dictates of his own conscience? Where the Australian ballot system—either in the original or in some modified form—has been adopted this last question may be answered in the affirmative. But where the old form of ballot still exists the voter is compelled to run such a guantlet of political sharks and ward heelers that when he arrives at the polls he is in no better condition to exercise the right of citizenship than the lately arrived immigrant. New York city, Gravesend, Troy and the South afford such striking examples of gross imposition practiced on the poorly educated and ignorant classes by the political ringsters and bosses that the truth of this statement cannot be disputed.

That this state of affairs exists, and that it is repeated every year is a fact that cannot be denied. Says Prof. Bruce: "New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Chicago and San Francisco have done their best to poison the Legislatures of the States in which they respectively lie by

filling these bodies with members of a low type as well as being themselves the centers of enormous accumulation of capital. They have brought the strongest corrupting force into contact with the weakest and most corruptible material, and there has followed in Pennsylvania, New York and California such a witch's Sabbath of jobbery, bribery, thievery and prostitution of legislative power to private interest as the world has seldom seen."

This criticism, coming as it does from a foreign shore, may appear to be exaggerated yet our Congressional records show that of the total bills passed 70% are in the interest of private parties.

In the early times, days of our nation when the country was not so thickly populated, the mere facts of election and the short terms of office were considered sufficient safeguards against political knavery; but even before Washington left the presidential chair, political corruption had manifested itself to such an extent that Washington in his last message to Congress made the following statement.

"I have heretofore proposed to the consideration of Congress the expediency of establishing a national university and also a military academy. The desirableness of both these institutions has so constantly increased with every new view I have taken of the subject, that I cannot omit the opportunity of once for all recalling your attention to them." Speaking of the university he continues: "Amongst the motives to such an institution, the assimilation of the principles, opinions and manners of our countrymen by the common education of a portion of our youth from every quarter, well deserves attention. The more homogeneous our citizens can be made in these particulars, the greater will be our prospect of permanent union, and a primary object of such a national institution should be the education of our youth in the science of government. In a republic, what species of knowledge can be equally important, and what