

FREELAND TRIBUNE.

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This is a season of education. The money pinch has in a measure cut down the quality, if not the quantity, of holiday purchases.

The Pennsylvania Ballot Reform Association gives notice that as soon as the Legislature convenes a bill prepared by the association—a synopsis of which is given in another column—will be introduced to provide for a secret ballot by the Australian System.

Correspondence From the Capitol. WASHINGTON, Dec. 22, 1890.

When the Democrats offer a free coinage amendment to the elections bill it is hardly possible to conceive how the silver Senators, as everyone calls them now, can vote against it.

On the Great Sierras. About one-half mile further on we came to our grand view point and here all power of description must fail utterly.

It is very amusing and instructive to note the difference which pervades the atmosphere of the House as compared with that of the Senate.

Representative Tillman, of South Carolina, has some original ideas on the question of reapportionment. He is understood to have been the only member of the Census Committee that opposed the Frank bill, which the committee reported favorably to the House.

That old reliable political franchise, "widespread dissatisfaction," has given place to the more modern "widespread misrepresentation of the Tariff bill did it."

It has been discovered that the McKinley law as it appears on the books contains a misplaced parenthesis. Those members who depend on the measure for re-election accuse it of containing misplaced confidence.

The Pennsylvania Ballot Reform Association has issued an address saying that as soon as the Legislature convenes, a bill prepared by the association will be introduced to provide for a secret ballot by the Australian system, and for an open count.

"The term ballot reform," says the circular, "includes all such changes in our present system of registration and voting, and in the laws regulating elections, as will keep illegal votes from being cast or counted, limit election expenses, prevent the improper use of money, and put an end to bribery and coercion, by making them useless, if not impossible. It means whatever will make an election the free and pure expression of the will of the people."

The circular goes on to explain what the Australian system is, and the advantages, and continues:—"The chief features of the system as adapted to American elections are these:—"

"The nominations can be legally made (as provided by simple regulations) either by party conventions or by the indorsement of a reasonable number of citizens without regard to party. The name of every legally nominated candidate must be printed on the ballots, free of cost to him, or his supporters.

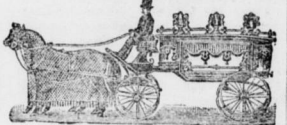
"The publication of candidates' names, and the printing and distribution of ballots, are paid for by the counties, like other election expenses. Only official ballots are used.

"All candidates' names and addresses are on the same ballot, grouped by the respective offices, but marked in each case with the party or policy represented. Thus: Place reserved for the mark.

"The voting is done inside a room, a part of which is raised off. After voter has established his right to vote he passes the rail. An election officer then gives him a ballot, and goes to a standing desk which is so closed in as to screen him from observation, and makes a cross (X) against the name of each candidate on the ballot for whom he wishes to vote.

"Blind, crippled, or illiterate voters can be helped to mark their ballots by the election officers. Before the boxes are opened, the official list of voters, or other means of identifying the parties who cast the respective ballots, must be sealed up, so that the process of counting will not violate the secrecy of the ballot, even while the present cumbersome method of numbering, required by the State Constitution, remains in force."

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