

VOTING BY MACHINERY.

AN INGENUOUS REFORM DEVICE INVENTED BY A ROCHESTER MAN.

ROCHESTER, Nov. 23.—Australian ballot reform has been eclipsed in this city within the last few days by the invention of a "voting machine" that, so far as reform and novelty are concerned, is remarkably interesting. The inventor is Jacob H. Myers, a respected and well-to-do resident of this city, who has for years been familiar with and interested in various patents on safes, and whose knowledge of the checks and levers that go to make up the modern bank vault doubtless led to the idea he has just exemplified.

Under Mr. Myers's system each voter would pass before a board of inspectors, as at present, but these gentlemen would not handle his ballots as now. They would merely decide that he was entitled to vote. The voter would then enter a door guarded by one of the inspectors, whose duty it would be merely to see that only one man entered at a time, except in the case of a blind man, when any friend the latter might choose could accompany him. Once inside the door the voter would find before him a curious-looking wall, having the appearance of a telephone switchboard, but with knobs instead of drops.

Mr. Myers proposes to give each party a distinctive color, which it would be expected to retain during its party life. The Republican Party, for instance, might be designated by red, the Democratic by yellow, the Prohibitionist by blue, the Socialist by brown, and so on to the end of the list. The man who could neither read nor write could then vote a straight party ticket without difficulty, provided he was not color blind. The voter would then find before him rows of tickets, each row proceeding down from a large piece of pasteboard of the same color as the tickets under it and bearing the name of the party, thus:

Republican. (Red.)	Democratic. (Yellow.)	Prohibition. (Blue.)
Presidential Electors. *	Presidential Electors. *	Presidential Electors. *
Governor. Warner Miller. *	Governor. David B. Hill. *	Governor. W. Jennings Demorest. *
Congress. John Smith. *	Congress. Edw'd Jones. *	Congress. Frank Freer. *
Assembly. G. Haynes *	Assembly. F. Peters. *	Assembly. J. Smith. *
Sheriff. Richard Doe. *	Sheriff. John Hart. *	Sheriff. Alex. Roe. *

If the voter is an old-fashioned Republican or Democrat who never splits his ticket, he selects the red or yellow, as the case may be, and presses all the knobs (denoted by asterisks) under that color. A knob once pressed inward cannot be drawn out again while the man is in the voting booth, and by an ingenious but simple contrivance Mr. Myers has made it impossible for two knobs for Governor or Congressman or any other office to be depressed at the same time.

Having pressed the knobs of all the candidates for whom he desires and is permitted to vote, the voter passes out at a second door and finds before him a third door, which he cannot open until he has closed the second. He then finds himself entirely out off from the little compartment where the voting was done. The act of closing the second door raises a lever that in turn operates other levers, which release the depressed buttons or knobs that the voter has pressed. The voter then finds himself shut in in a tenantless compartment just big enough to contain him if he is a large man, locked out of the voting stall, which is empty and in which the only possible evidence of the candidates he may have favored, the depressed knobs, has been obliterated by his act in entering this second chamber. He cannot reopen the door to the voting apartment, for it is locked behind him, and all there is left for him to do is to walk out at a third door. When he opens that third door, and not until then, the lock that fastens the door by which he gained entrance to the voting stall springs back, and the door can be opened for the admission of a second voter.

No ballot has been cast, but right back of every knob is a little indicator exactly the same in principal as the counter of a printing press that records one every time the knob is pressed. If these recording machines were all visible to outsiders the secrecy sought to be obtained would, of course, be lost, but only one of them is visible. That one is worked by the door by which the voter enters, and simply indicates the number of voters who have passed in. The other indicators, forming as they do an outside wall of the voting room, are covered by a large iron door, which is locked by the election officers, and when it is unlocked, after the closing of the polls, instead of the tedious process of counting now necessary, it is possible to see the vote cast for each and every candidate at a glance.

Mr. Myers has prepared a bill to be presented to the next Legislature, proposing that at the next Spring election in this city the State legalize the use of his machine in his own ward, the Second of this city, that its practicability may be tested. A petition to the Legislature favoring the passage of the measure has already received thousands of signatures. Senator McNaughton has inspected the machine and pronounced it a marvel, and promises to give the bill above referred to his support. Ex-Senator George Raines, William F. Cogswell, Congressman Charles S. Baker, and other gentlemen of note in this city have signed Mr. Myers's petition and speak most enthusiastically of his project.