

# VOTING MACHINE WAS PRONOUNCED A SUCCESS

## Told Result in a Brooklyn District Two Minutes After 5 o'Clock.

### Voters Had No Trouble in Operating It, and Michael J. Dady Voted in Three Seconds.

The voting machine, which was used for the first time in Brooklyn, in the Eighteenth Election District of the First Assembly District yesterday, proved a pronounced success in one respect at least—in the promptness with which it made known the total vote cast in the district. The entire result of the voting was known two minutes after the polls closed at 5 o'clock.

The test of the machine was made in the polling place at 349 Atlantic Avenue. The result shown by the machine in this district gave to those interested the first actual indication as to how the vote was being cast in the county. The result indicated by the machine was immediately telephoned to the leaders and candidates on both sides. As the figures were strongly Fusion in character, there was, of course, much jubilation at the local anti-Tammany campaign headquarters.

The total vote cast in the district, as shown by the machine, was 395. Low received 277, Shepard 115, and three were scattering votes. Low's majority over Shepard was 162. In the same district last year 394 votes were cast, only one less than yesterday. McKinley received 249, Bryan 145. McKinley's majority was 104. Low's majority in the district was 58 greater than that of McKinley a year ago. When these figures were announced the Republican leader calculated that if the same percentage was maintained throughout the borough, Low would carry Brooklyn by about 22,500.

The voting machine showed the following result for Controller: Grout, 280; Ladd, 112. These figures were taken as indicating that Grout was running ahead of Low in Brooklyn. Within fifteen minutes after the close of the polls the entire vote in the district had been canvassed and made ready to be sent to the police station.

A few minutes after the result was announced, Lieut. Gov. Woodruff, who had taken much interest in the voting machine experiment, called at the polling place. He was greatly pleased with the work of the machine.

"If New York City goes another year without placing voting machines in every election district," said Mr. Woodruff, "it

will be a shame and an outrage on the people. I have just come from another election district, and when I left there the inspectors hadn't even gotten the ballots unfolded. Here the entire work of counting the vote is already completed."

It was the opinion of Mr. Woodruff and other leaders that for speed and accuracy the machine had shown itself to be far in advance of the present system of voting. With the exception of a few, the voters in the district experienced no difficulty in operating the machine. Those who found trouble with the device were quickly made acquainted with its workings by means of a small dummy machine. The machine had been on exhibition in the district since Thursday last. Its mechanism and mode of operation were explained to the voters each evening.

By means of the machine the votes were cast with far more quickness than in the other districts, where the old system was in use. Of the 410 registered voters in the district, 200 had voted before 9 o'clock. The number of votes cast for each candidate was registered automatically. All that the inspectors had to do to ascertain the result, after the closing of the polls, was to unlock the back of the machine and take the figures recorded there. Each of the inspectors was provided with a key. To open the machine it was necessary for all the keys to be inserted in the locks and turned simultaneously. There was no other way of unlocking the machine, the scheme being intended to prevent any chance of fraud being committed.

The poll clerks figured out that the average time taken by each voter in voting with the machine was eighteen seconds. As a rule, those who voted split tickets occupied more time in the booth than the voters who voted the straight tickets. Each voter was allowed one minute's time in the booth, whereas under the prevailing system of voting a voter is allowed to remain in the booth five minutes.

The test of the voting machine yesterday was made in the election district in which Elections Commissioner Michael J. Dady lives. He was the first man to vote, registering his choice of candidates in just three seconds.