

our elections, all candid men now admit without hesitation, after an experience of ten years, that these hopes have not been realized.

The radical changes made by our law in the original features of the Australian system with a view the better to adapt it, as was claimed, to our situation, have proved in some respects most unfortunate.

Indeed, it is now clear that if this system is to be retained, we must repeal these ill-advised changes and restore the law to some degree of its original simplicity.

Without this restoration, the primary purposes of the system, viz.: the securing of the secrecy of the ballot, the exercise of intelligent discrimination in voting and the extinguishment of bribery and intimidation at the polls will continue in large measure to be defeated.

The bill which will likely be submitted to you and whose prompt enactment I earnestly recommend, proposes that hereafter the official ballot shall not contain upon it any party emblem or pictorial representation whatever, and that the names of the candidates shall not be printed as heretofore in parallel columns under their respective party emblems, but that it shall contain the names of all candidates who are duly nominated according to existing law, arranged in uniform order as prescribed by the several boards of Supervisors of Elections under appropriate designation of the offices for which they are candidates.

The further change is proposed that the voter shall be required to mark his ballot with the cross-mark in the square on the ballot opposite the name of each candidate for whom he desires to vote. One of the objects of this change is to put an end to the practice of blind voting of the "whole ticket" by one cross mark opposite the party emblem on the ballot and to compel each voter to indicate his choice as to each candidate by a cross mark opposite the name of each candidate whom he wishes to vote for.

The obvious result of this proposed amendment will be that hereafter there will, of necessity, be an intelligent exercise by every voter of the right of suffrage founded upon a knowledge of the name of every candi-