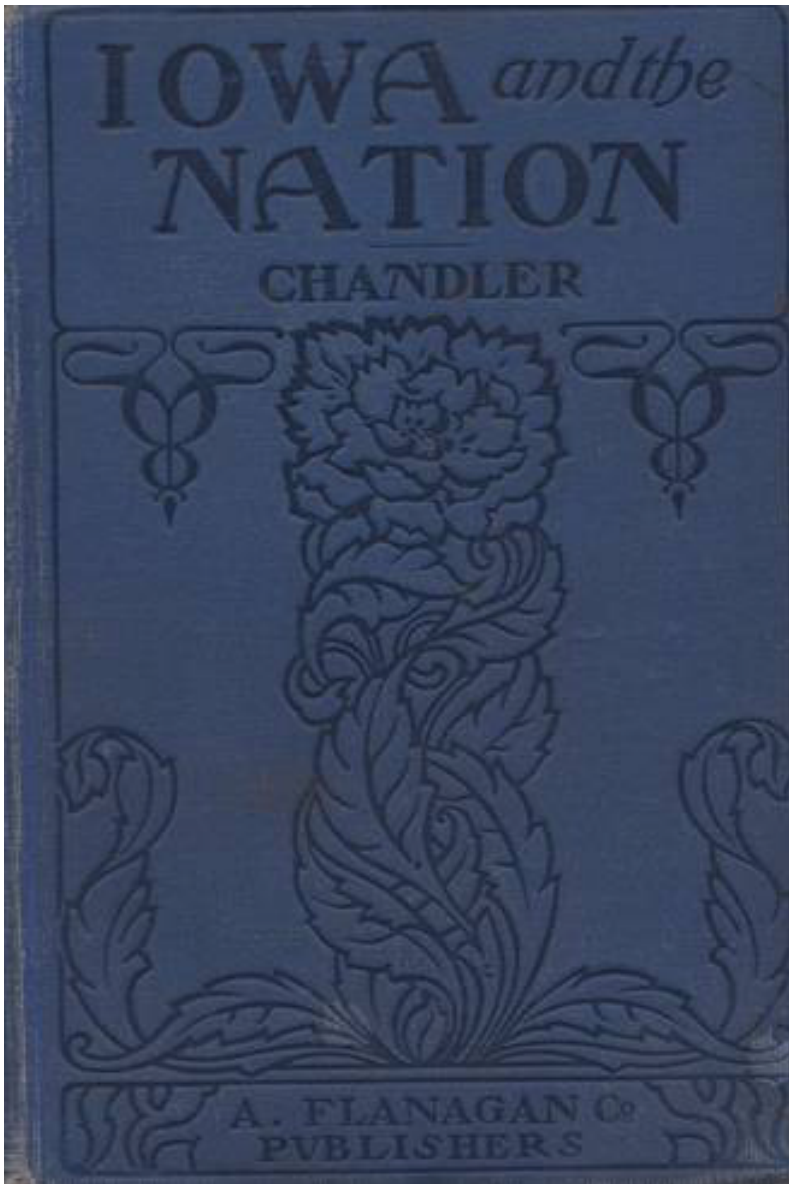
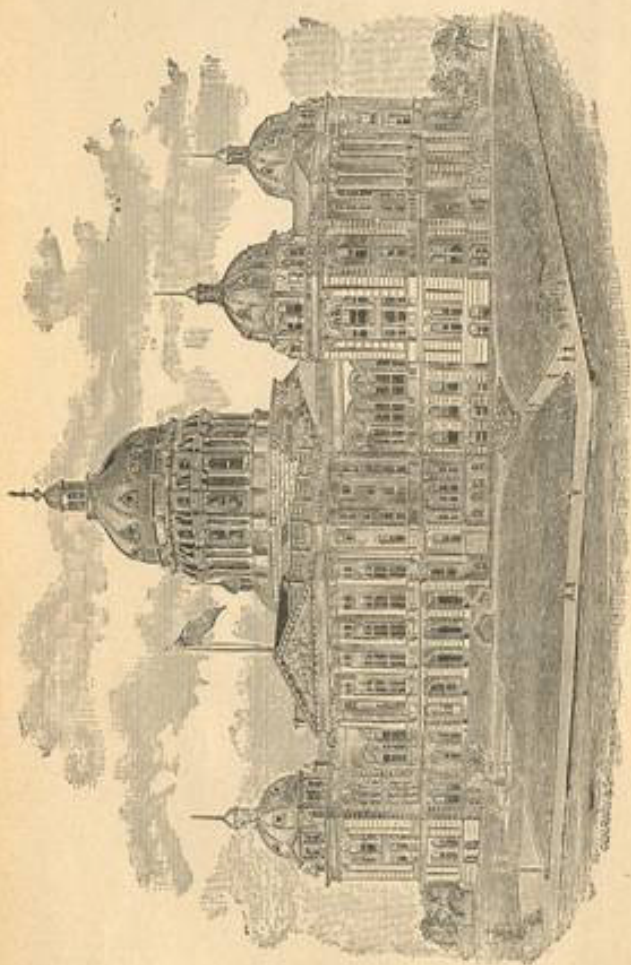




Tidbits From

The TOUR STAFF





IOWA STATE CAPITOL.

IOWA AND THE NATION

BY

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Exceptions.—Idiots and insane persons are prohibited from exercising the right of suffrage because they cannot do so understandingly. The only qualified electors who are denied this privilege, are those who have been convicted of some infamous crime. It would not be wise to allow criminals a voice in making the laws.

Ballot Reform.—The right of electors to vote as they choose is established by the last clause, which declares that all elections by the people shall be by ballot. To correct certain abuses in the method of voting by ballot, the general assembly, in 1892, passed a law providing for a secret ballot, known as the "Australian Ballot." Although not a part of the constitution, this law is a very valuable one, and a brief history of the plan, as well as the prominent features of the Iowa law relating to this manner of voting, will now be given.

Belgian Ballot.—This method of voting had its origin in New South Wales, Australia, in 1857. Fifteen years later, it was adopted in England, and afterwards by Canada. Within the past twelve years, nearly every state in the Union has adopted a secret ballot based upon the Australian plan. The Iowa law is based upon a plan used in Belgium, and should properly be called the "Belgian Ballot." By the former plan, the candidates are classified by offices, while by the latter, they are grouped according to political parties.

Old Plan.—Up to the time that this law went into effect, election ballots were printed by political parties or by the candidates for office. This plan was an expensive one, and there were many abuses connected with it. The secret ballot now in use makes it impossible for a corrupt politi-

cian who wishes to buy votes to be sure that the voter has cast the ballot as agreed upon.

Nomination of Candidates.—Candidates for the various offices to be filled are put in nomination by conventions of delegates. Candidates for state officers are nominated in a state convention composed of delegates from each of the counties. Candidates for district offices are named by delegates from the counties in the district, and for county officers by a county convention composed of delegates chosen from each of the townships of the county. Candidates for township offices are nominated by each political party in a township meeting called a caucus.

Ballots.—There are as many state, district, and county conventions held as there are political parties. The names of all the candidates for all the offices to be filled are printed together on sheets called "blanket" ballots. The names of the candidates are arranged in columns with the name of each political party at the head of the proper column.

Ballots Furnished.—The ballots are prepared and printed under the direction of the county auditor, and every ballot printed must be accounted for. The ballots are printed at the expense of the county, and as many as are likely to be needed are furnished the judges of election at each voting precinct.

Marking Ballots.—On the day of election, the voters assemble to cast their ballots. A voter approaches the table about which the judges of election are seated, announces his name and asks for a ballot. In cities of thirty-five hundred inhabitants and upwards, voters are required to

SAMPLE BALLOT.

REPUBLICAN.	DEMOCRAT.	PEOPLES.	PROHIBITION.
<input type="checkbox"/> R. W. McFALLARD, <small>For Governor of Iowa.</small>	<input type="checkbox"/> EDWARD T. DALL, <small>For Governor of Iowa.</small>	<input type="checkbox"/> STEPHEN E. CRANE, <small>For Governor of Iowa.</small>	<input type="checkbox"/> EDWARD R. MITCHELL, <small>For Governor of Iowa.</small>
<input type="checkbox"/> C. C. BICANTON, <small>For Auditor of State.</small>	<input type="checkbox"/> HENRY C. BERRICK, <small>For Auditor of State.</small>	<input type="checkbox"/> J. HELLAMER, <small>For Auditor of State.</small>	<input type="checkbox"/> G. W. GARDNER, <small>For Auditor of State.</small>
<input type="checkbox"/> JOHN BERTHOUD, <small>For Treasurer of State.</small>	<input type="checkbox"/> W. WHITE, <small>For Treasurer of State.</small>	<input type="checkbox"/> ALBION BROWN, <small>For Treasurer of State.</small>	<input type="checkbox"/> ISAAC A. E. MCKENNEY, <small>For Treasurer of State.</small>
<input type="checkbox"/> J. F. HAYES, <small>For Judge of Supreme Court.</small>	<input type="checkbox"/> JOHN C. LINDLEY, <small>For Judge of Supreme Court.</small>	<input type="checkbox"/> JOHN C. LINDLEY, <small>For Judge of Supreme Court.</small>	<input type="checkbox"/> JACOB W. BOARDS, <small>For Judge of Supreme Court.</small>
<input type="checkbox"/> H. E. BIRNEY, <small>For Judge of Supreme Court.</small>	<input type="checkbox"/> W. E. MITCHELL, <small>For Judge of Supreme Court.</small>	<input type="checkbox"/> J. E. ANDERSON, <small>For Judge of Supreme Court.</small>	<input type="checkbox"/> _____, <small>For Judge of Supreme Court.</small>
<input type="checkbox"/> BRAYTON T. BERRY, <small>For Chief of District Court.</small>	<input type="checkbox"/> D. F. SMITH, <small>For Chief of District Court.</small>	<input type="checkbox"/> A. W. C. WELCH, <small>For Chief of District Court.</small>	<input type="checkbox"/> A. WALKER, <small>For Chief of District Court.</small>
<input type="checkbox"/> C. T. JOES, <small>For District Court.</small>	<input type="checkbox"/> F. WARD, <small>For District Court.</small>	<input type="checkbox"/> DEAN F. FISHER, <small>For District Court.</small>	<input type="checkbox"/> W. ATWOOD, <small>For District Court.</small>
<input type="checkbox"/> J. T. SALINGER, <small>For District Court.</small>	<input type="checkbox"/> J. SOBEL, <small>For District Court.</small>	<input type="checkbox"/> J. SMITH, <small>For District Court.</small>	<input type="checkbox"/> BRYAN W. DODMAN, <small>For District Court.</small>
<input type="checkbox"/> L. DAVIDSON, <small>For District Court.</small>	<input type="checkbox"/> JOHN E. GALE, <small>For District Court.</small>	<input type="checkbox"/> W. W. FAYTEK, <small>For District Court.</small>	<input type="checkbox"/> BRADDOCK BRITH, <small>For District Court.</small>

register their names and residences a certain number of days preceding the election, or forfeit the right to vote. In case registration is required, the voter's name must be checked on the registration book before he will be given a ballot. One of the judges takes a folded ballot and writes his initials upon the back. The voter then takes the ballot, passes into a booth, and prepares his ballot secretly.

Ballots.—At the head of each column is a circle, and there is a square place in front of the name of each candidate. If the voter wishes to vote a straight ticket, he makes a cross (X) in the circle at the head of the column which contains the names of the candidates of his political party. If he wishes to scratch the ticket—that is, vote for candidates belonging to different parties—he puts the cross in the squares in front of the names of the candidates for whom he wishes to vote. The marking must be done so as to show his preference for one candidate for each office.

Voting.—Having marked his ballot, he folds it so as to show the initials of the judge of election who marked it, passes out of the booth, and hands the ballot to one of the judges of election, at the same time announcing his name, so that it may be recorded by the clerks of election. If a ballot is soiled or found to be defective, the voter must return it to the judges of election and get another. He will not be permitted to take a ballot away with him. Blind voters and those who cannot read, may have assistance in marking their ballots.

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