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THE WORTH OF VOTING MACHINES

From Public Officials Magazine.
 When considering the purchase of voting machines the Commissioners of Wayne County, Indiana, took the precaution to have the Richmond Commercial Club look into the whole question and the findings of the club led to the recommendation to the County Council for an appropriation for the purchase of voting machines. They should give some light on the subject to other boards of commissioners who have the same subject before them. J. M. Davis, representing the Empire Voting Machine Co. for several weeks had a machine on exhibition in rooms of the Commercial Club, where demonstrations and explanations were given to show the superiority of the machine method of voting over the old system of balloting. The directors arrived at a unanimous opinion on the subject and reported the findings to the county commissioners, as follows:
 First—they are economical. Under the old way the law requires that precincts must be divided on a basis of 200 voters to the precinct, with 250 as the maximum number, while with voting machines the basis is fixed as 600 to the precinct with no maximum. Wayne county could, therefore, reduce the number of its precincts from 64 to 27, which would reduce the cost of holding the elections about 60 per cent and save the county more than two thousand dollars at each election.
 Second—they are durable. The machines are very substantially constructed and seem to be practically indestructible, costing nominally nothing for repairs and maintenance. The companies are required by law to give bond and guarantee to keep the machines in good working order for five years. Using them on an average of one day per year, they will last beyond a lifetime.
 Third—they are practical. They have been in use from ten to twelve years in many cities of the country and are giving satisfaction. They are coming into general use every year. Many cities and counties of

Indiana have installed them, and they have met every requirement of the statute.
 Fourth—They are simple. The ignorant and unpractised voter can quickly learn to operate it. It requires less intelligence than is necessary properly to prepare a ballot the old way.
 Fifth—They are accurate. Their mechanism is on the same principle, though much less complicated, as the adding machine, whose results daily pass unquestioned in the largest business transactions. This mechanical accuracy insures that every man's vote will be counted as cast.
 Sixth—They give prompt results. Complete results of each precinct are registered at the close of the polls, and are available for the public in from ten to twenty minutes. This leaves very little opportunity for the manipulations of a crooked election board.
 Seventh—They guard against fraud. There seems to be ample safe-guard against fraudulent manipulation of the machine. When properly adjusted at the opening of the polls there seems to be no way of interfering with its operations.
 Eighth—They prevent mistakes. No voter can leave the booth without voting and having it counted as voted. Under the old way there are hundreds of votes in the county not counted at each election on account of some slight mistake or accident in marking the ballot properly; or perhaps is counted for but one man on the ticket, because of the common error in marking the ballot opposite the first name only when the voter intended to vote a straight ticket. To vote for one man only requires that the voter exercise special mental effort to do so, and it can not be the result of a mistake or ignorance.
 Ninth—They guarantee secrecy. There is no possibility of determining how a man has voted, as no visible evidence remains. This operates against the corrupt and dishonest voter.
 Tenth—They avoid contests. When polls are closed, there remain no disputed ballots, which have always been a source of much contention; neither are there errors in footings which require verification, and as there is much less opportunity for the practice of fraud in all its various forms under the old method, the causes for contests are removed, saving the contestants and the county much money.
 With these facts determined, it was clear that the voting machine had great advantages over the old method of voting. The whole question, therefore, resolved itself into whether or not it was a good business proposition to buy them at this time. The cost of the machines and the terms of payment would determine that.
 Mr. Davis stated that his company (and he had no doubt that other companies would do the same) were making this proposition, that they would sell the machines on payments, and that these payments could be so arranged that they would be no larger than the saving made at each election over the old method. This arrangement would not require a raise in the tax levied, the same appropriation taking care of the election and the payment on the machines. The cost of the machines is seven hundred dollars each with 5 per cent interest on the deferred payments.
 After due deliberation, the board of directors unanimously agreed that the following resolution be recommended to the club for its consideration and adoption:
 Whereas, the Board of County Commissioners of Wayne county has requested the opinion of the Commercial Club as to the advisability of the county buying voting machines, and whether it could buy them now, your board unanimously agreed, after due deliberation, that it was desirable to have voting machines and that the county should buy them now; therefore be it
 Resolved, that the Richmond Commercial Club recommend to the county commissioners that they make requisition on the county council for the necessary appropriation to supply the county with voting machines in time for use at the next general election in 1910.

THE TOWN OF HIBBARD

Hibbard, situated at the crossing of the Vandalia and Nickel Plate railways, is the center of a thriving agricultural district which is inhabited by a class of farmers who have made good at their calling. The well known stock farm of Martin Lowry is situated just a half mile from the station, while surrounding him are numerous small farms ranging from 50 to 100 acres in size. These farms are occupied by a thrifty and industrious class of men who have, without possible exception, saved enough money to provide against the proverbial "rainy day."
 While Andreas Bros. moved their saw mill to Pokagon, Mich., last July, they will retain their office and retail lumber yard at Hibbard. This branch is managed by Mr. F. L. Yeoman, the live wire of the place. He has installed a 30-horse power engine in the lumber yard for planing and resawing work. He has abiding faith in Hibbard, and is optimistic over the future he sees for the town.
 Mr. M. R. Cline of Culver will move his cement works to Hibbard in the spring, while the Evangelical denomination has secured a site on which they will erect a fine church, the only one in Hibbard.
 There is an excellent school house in the town, to which about 200 children go every day. The blacksmith shop of J. A. Clemens, and the hardware establishment of S. E. Wise are both pretentious buildings and would do justice to larger places. Wm. Kepler of Culver has just purchased the livery business of Wm. Klapp and has added an automobile to his service which will meet all trains passing through Hibbard.
 For coughing, dryness and tickling in the throat, hoarseness and all coughs and colds, take Foley's Honey and Tar Compound. Contains no opiates.—Fred Wenzler.

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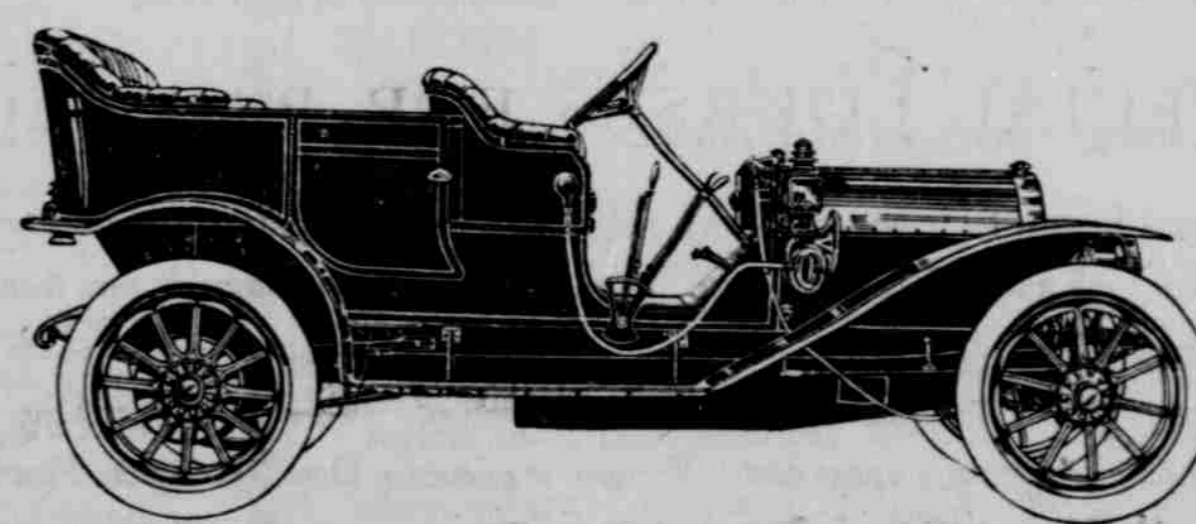
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