

Societies for the prevention of cruelty to children and animals are encouraged in Louisiana by giving the society a portion of all fines imposed. Ohio is now one of the few States in which barbers are prohibited from carrying on their trade on Sunday. Non-resident aliens in Texas may not hold land for more than ten years, but in Colorado a law preventing such persons from acquiring real estate has been repealed. Rhode Island and Colorado are at one with this Province (55 Vict., c. 52) in prohibiting the sale or gift of cigarettes to minors, who are also forbidden to smoke or chew tobacco in public places. It is said that twenty-four other States have enacted similar laws.

Nine jurors may now bring in a verdict in civil causes in Utah Territory. Georgia follows in the wake of Louisiana, Tennessee, and Texas in providing separate cars and equal accommodation for black and white passengers. Stoves in passenger cars in Maryland must be discontinued after February 1st, 1893. Railroads in Massachusetts which have been hitherto operated by steam have legislative authority to use electricity as a motive power; and the same State, as does also North Carolina, forbids railroads to give free passes to any State officer, or to sell any ticket at less than the ordinary price. Ohio prescribes penalties for overcharging passengers or freight.

A novel Act is that passed in Michigan which attempts to divide the tax upon mortgaged real estate by levying a proportionate part upon the owner, and the balance upon the mortgagee. Both parts are made liens upon the property, the mortgagee being declared to have an interest in the land. Either the owner or mortgagee may pay both parts of the tax, and, if paid by the owner, the portion paid on account of the mortgagee is to be credited on account of interest. If the mortgagee pay the owner's portion, in addition to his own, the amount may be added to the mortgage debt. The evident result of the statute will be that lenders of money will require by express contract that the owner pays their share of the tax, or else they will stipulate for a higher rate of interest.

Massachusetts has been accused of not being so enterprising as some others of the Eastern States, but no longer does such a charge attach to it, for we find an Act providing for the counting of ballots while the voting is still in progress. Defeated candidates will thus quickly know the worst.