

"illness" it would only be necessary for the briber to change the conditions of the bribe which would then be on some such condition as that the voter should mark his ballot in a particular way so as to spoil it, and yet make it obvious that he carried out his promise. In short a great amount of labor and trouble would be involved under the proposed system in this effort to deal with a very small percentage of the bribable or corruptible element of voters who would merely shift their methods if such a law were passed.

It is worthy of consideration, however, whether some forms of personal canvassing at present legal, should not be declared corrupt practices. The object of the Ballot Act was to secure to the elector freedom from intimidation and to enable him to give an independent vote, but the effect of personal canvassing is in many instances to interfere with the freedom of the elector and to produce undue influence and deception. If A. B. an employer of labor goes to his workmen and says privately to each of them "I want you to vote for my friend C. D.—will you oblige me by doing so?" What answer will the workman give who had previously decided to vote for another candidate whom he conscientiously believed to be the better man? If a workman refuses to accede to the "request" of his employer he may lose his employment, although of course no threat is made; and, if on the other hand he promises to do as his employer wishes while privately still intending to carry out his original decision, he is guilty of hypocrisy. If, finally, he is induced by means of this objectionable personal canvassing to abandon his honest choice, he is surrendering his freedom as an elector. There is often an insidious and impalpable intimidation about such practice which of course does not find expression in words but is nevertheless a wrongful interference with the independence of the workman and a violation of the spirit of the Ballot Act and in many cases is really coercive, in fact, though not in law. Some workmen in such cases feel themselves under "duress" and the desired promise is extorted from them. Personal canvassing of employees by employers when thus attempted should be considered as a corrupt practice, as it is the seed of continual injustice. If an employer desires the votes