

The records clearly show that no one political party is alone guilty of this crime against the people. The following extracts from a letter, said to have been written by Col. W. W. Dudley, Treasurer of the National Republican Committee, to the county leaders of that party in the hotly contested State of Indiana—whether true or not—is an illustration of the systematic manner with which this crime of corrupting the suffrage is carried on by the leaders of our politics:

"HEADQUARTERS REPUBLICAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE, 91 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK, Oct. 24, 1888.
"DEAR SIR: I hope you have kept copies of the lists sent me. Such information is very valuable and can be used to great advantage. It has enabled me to demonstrate to friends here that with proper financial assistance Indiana is surely Republican for Governor and President, and has resulted, as I hoped it would, in securing for Indiana the aid necessary. Your Committee will certainly receive from Chairman Huston the financial assistance necessary to hold our floaters and doubtful voters and gain enough of the other kind to give Harrison and Morton 10,000 plurality. . . . Write each of our precinct correspondents, first, to find out who has Democratic boodle and steer the Democratic workers to them and make them pay big prices for their own men; second, scan the election officers closely, and make sure to have no men on the Board whose loyalty to us is even questionable, and insist on Republicans watching every movement of the Democratic election officers; third, see that our workers know every Republican voter entitled to vote, and see that they do vote; fourth, divide the floaters into blocks of five and put a trusted man with necessary funds in charge of those five and make him responsible that none gets away and that all vote our ticket. . . ."

Here is a similar charge made by the Republicans of Indiana against the Democrats. It is from the *Indianapolis Journal*:

"In Morgan County the Chairman of the Democratic Committee issued the following:

"Strictly Confidential.
"DEAR SIR: I desire exact information in regard to your district. Morgan County is remarkably close, but by proper organization and vigorous work it can be redeemed from the clutches of ring rule and the blight of excessive taxation. Much depends on your efforts. You should select men to assist you, but only such as you can trust should be chosen.
"Therefore, I request you to make an exact list of all the voters in your precinct for your own use and report to me the exact number of each on the inclosed slip. Please report to me not later than Monday, September 10, and every two weeks thereafter. Make the doubtful list as small as possible, and mark every one who has to have money as a "float." Those who have to be bought are not "doubtful," but are "floats." Look closely after every one. Let no one escape. Your prompt action in this matter will aid materially in the efficiency of our efforts. Respectfully,

"N. A. WHITTAKER, Chairman.
"MARTINSVILLE, IND., Sept. 7, 1888."

The *New York Tribune*, of Nov. 4, printed the following, showing an alleged detailed plan to purchase voters on the part of the Democrats in this city without being detected:

"One of Higgins' chief endeavors since coming here has been to invent some method of buying votes without directly using money. He is unable to find men to take the risk of being detected for bribery and sent to the penitentiary. He has prepared a coupon book about three inches long by two and a half in breadth, which he is proposing to use on Election Day. The leaves of this book are perforated in the middle. He has adopted letters to stand for money, as follows:

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
\$1	\$2	\$3	\$4	\$5	\$6	\$7	\$8	\$9	\$10

"Thus A stands for \$1 and E for \$5. Any letter doubled, as E E, would mean double the amount, E E standing for \$10. Higgins' idea is to arm each one of his buyers of votes with one of these books. Each voter is to be numbered. Say that a voter is numbered 35. The number 35 is put on each end of the leaf of the book that is perforated through the middle. This book has marked upon it either E or E E, or whatever the amount paid for the vote will be. Then the leaf is torn in two, half of it is given to the voter and the stub retained. The man receiving half of the torn leaf is to present this at some place according to agreement, where it is to be matched with the other half and he given his pay for his vote."

Similar instances of specific charges made by both parties applying to particular persons and localities, can be found by the score in the files of any of the daily papers immediately preceding election. But enough has been quoted to show that the purchase of votes and the marshalling of the "floaters" has become as important a part of the machinery for carrying an election as the marshalling of the intellectual paraphernalia of the parties into platforms for public discussion.

Laying aside the danger of such base methods, the most ignoble conclusion arrived at by the intelligent and conscientious citizen is, that the army of "floaters," marshalled by the "financial assistance" of the "boddlers," holds the balance of power in every election. No matter how tremendous or far-reaching the significance of the moral or financial issue involved, no matter how great the strain of honest men to convince the people of the righteousness of their chosen position, the "boddler," with his money-bag standing in the center of the scales, can tip the beam at his own sweet will.

O for a law, backed by public conscience and the resistless will of the people, disfranchising forever the corrupt buyer of a vote as well as the corrupted seller!