

**THE AUSTRALIAN BALLOT SYSTEM AS
EMBODIED IN THE LEGISLATION OF VARIOUS
COUNTRIES. WITH AN HISTORICAL
INTRODUCTION, AND AN APPENDIX OF
DECISIONS SINCE 1856 IN GREAT BRITAIN,
IRELAND, CANADA, AND AUSTRALIA**

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The Australian ballot system as embodied in the legislation of various countries. With an historical introduction, and an appendix of decisions since 1856 in Great Britain, Ireland, Canada, and Australia by John H. Wigmore

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JOHN H. WIGMORE

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*AN APPENDIX OF DECISIONS SINCE 1852 IN GREAT BRITAIN,
IRELAND, CANADA, AND AUSTRALIA.*

By JOHN H. WIGMORE,
OF THE BOSTON BAR.

Second Edition,
REVISED AND ENLARGED.



BOSTON:
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Oct., 1889.

PREFACE TO THE SECOND EDITION.

THE success of the first edition of this volume, and the progress of the ballot reform movement during the past six months, have made it desirable to issue another edition, which shall so far as possible represent the present stage of the movement. The new features of this edition are:—

1. A detailed account of the movement in almost every State and Territory since January, 1889.
2. A summary of the legislation of 1889.
3. An appendix containing a collection of decisions since 1856, interpreting the ballot acts of Great Britain, Ireland, Canada, and Australia.
4. Other appendices, containing estimates of speed of voting and expense under the Australian system, suggestions as to Ballot Leagues, an account of the Rhines Voting Machine, etc.

The reform will no doubt be adopted in other States during the winter of 1889-1890; and those who have information as to the movement, whether successful or not, are again requested to send to the address below a copy of the bill or statute, and some account of the history of the agitation.

The editor's thanks are due to the numerous persons, in all parts of the country, who have been kind enough to furnish him with information from time to time. As obvious reasons make it proper in many instances not to make public the sources of information, and as a partial acknowledgment of favors received would be invidious, he has refrained from making acknowledgment in type of those to whom he is indebted.

J. H. W.

COURT HOUSE, BOSTON,
Sept. 2, 1889.

PREFACE TO THE FIRST EDITION.

WORKERS in the field of foreign statutory law must in this country frequently be at a loss for complete materials of recent date; and in preparing the following pages the editor has not been able to consult the statutes of New Zealand since 1883, or of Tasmania and Western Australia since 1884, or to obtain complete information as to legislation in Victoria and New South Wales since 1885, or in several European countries since 1886.¹ These deficiencies are to some extent unavoidable in an American work. No complete set of Australian reports and statutes exists in this country. *Pasivomie* is not to be procured in Boston, probably not in the United States. The *Annuaire de législation étrangère*, published by the *Société de législation comparée*, does not appear until twelve months or more after the year with which it deals (the volume for 1886 has only recently reached this country); and the *Bulletin* published by the same society, though its reports are as recent as can reasonably be expected, has by no means the exhaustive character of the *Annaires*. To prepare a complete notice of foreign legislation to date is perhaps not possible, in the nature of the case, in any country.

It is believed, however, that the only changes, if any, that are likely to have occurred, are the possible adoption of the Australian system in other European States, and a revision of the Tasmanian statutes, which have served since 1858.

¹ The British American statutes have been consulted as follows: British Columbia to 1887, Manitoba to 1888, Northwest Territories to 1886, Ontario to 1886, Quebec to 1888, the Dominion of Canada to 1887, Nova Scotia to 1887, New Brunswick to 1888.

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