

UNDER A NEW CONSTITUTION

THE CHANGES ORDERED BY THE VOTES OF THE PEOPLE.

What the New Apportionment Means
-The Various Assembly Districts-
Separation of State and Municipal Elections-No Limit in Recovery Cases for Death by Accident-Control of Canals-Amendment Against Betting and Other Provisions.

The new Constitution which has been adopted by the voters of the State changes the organic laws in many important particulars. Proceeding, as the new Constitution did, from a convention controlled by Republicans, some of the chief amendments have aroused strong protest.

The reapportionment amendment has excited the most criticism. It was vigorously denounced by the Democrats of all factions as a scheme to hand the State over to the Republicans for a generation at least.

The State at present consists of 32 Senate districts and 128 Assembly districts. The new Constitution alters the arrangement so that there will be 50 Senate districts and 150 Assembly districts. New-York will have twelve Senators instead of nine, and thirty-five Assemblymen instead of thirty. Brooklyn and Kings will have seven Senators instead of five, and twenty-one Assemblymen instead of eighteen. The new districts, however, have been carved out with the purpose of giving all the advantage to the Republicans. The Assemblymen are to be apportioned among the counties as follows:

Albany, 4; Allegany, 1; Broome, 2; Cattaraugus, 2; Cayuga, 2; Chautauqua, 2; Chemung, 1; Chenango, 1; Clinton, 1; Columbia, 1; Cortland, 1; Delaware, 1; Dutchess, 2; Erie, 5; Essex, 1; Franklin, 1; Fulton and Hamilton, 1; Genesee, 1; Greene, 1; Herkimer, 1; Jefferson, 2; Kings, 21; Lewis, 1; Livingston, 1; Madison, 1; Monroe, 4; Montgomery, 1; New-York, 35; Niagara, 2; Oneida, 3; Onondaga, 4; Ontario, 1; Orange, 2; Orleans, 1; Oswego, 2; Otsego, 1; Putnam, 1; Queens, 3; Rensselaer, 3; Richmond, 1; Rockland, 1; St. Lawrence, 2; Saratoga, 1; Schoenectady, 1; Schoharie, 1; Schuyler, 1; Seneca, 1; Steuben, 2; Suffolk, 2; Sullivan, 1; Tioga, 1; Tompkins, 1; Ulster, 2; Warren, 1; Washington, 1; Wayne, 1; Westchester, 3; Wyoming, 1; Yates, 1.

The Assembly districts at this end of the State, in New-York, Brooklyn, and hereabout, are as follows:

- 1-Suffolk and Richmond.
- 2-Queens.
- 3-First, Second, Third, Fourth, Fifth, and Sixth Wards of Brooklyn.
- 4-Seventh, Thirteenth, Nineteenth, and Twenty-first Wards of Brooklyn.
- 5-Eighth, Tenth, Twelfth, Thirteenth, and Thirty-first Wards of Brooklyn.
- 6-Ninth, Eleventh, Twentieth, and Twenty-second Wards of Brooklyn.
- 7-Fourteenth, Fifteenth, Sixteenth, and Seventeenth Wards of Brooklyn.
- 8-Twenty-third, Twenty-fourth, Twenty-fifth, and Twenty-ninth Wards of Brooklyn and Flatlands.
- 9-Eighteenth, Twenty-sixth, Twentieth-seventh, and Twenty-eighth Wards of Brooklyn.
- 10-That part of New-York beginning at Canal Street and the Hudson River, and going thence along Canal, Hudson, Dominick, Varick, Broome, Sullivan, Spring, Broadway, Canal, Bowers, Division, Grand, and Jackson Streets, to the East River, and thence around the southern end of the city, to the place of beginning, including also Governors, Bedlow's, and Ellis Islands.
- 11-Bounded by a line beginning at Broadway and Canal, and running thence along Broadway, Fourth Avenue, the Boverly and Third Avenue, St. Mark's Place, Avenue A, Seventh Street, Avenue B, Clinton Street, Rivington Street, Norfolk Street, Division Street, the Boverly, and Canal Street, to the place of beginning.
- 12-Bounded by a line beginning at Jackson Street and the East River, and running thence along Jackson, Grand, Division, Norfolk, Rivington, and Clinton Streets, Avenue B, Seventh Street, Avenue A, St. Mark's Place, Third Avenue, East Fourteenth Street, to the East River, and along the river to the place of beginning.
- 13-Lying on the north of District 10, beginning at Canal Street and the Hudson River, and bounded otherwise by Fourteenth Street, Sixth Avenue, Fifteenth Street, Seventh Avenue, Nineteenth Street, Eighth Avenue, Twentieth Street and the Hudson River.
- 14-Lying north of Districts 12 and 13, beginning at East Fourteenth Street and the East River, and bounded otherwise by East Fourteenth Street, Irving Place, East Nineteenth Street, Third Avenue, East Twenty-third Street, Lexington Avenue, East Fifty-third Street, Third Avenue, East Fifty-second Street, and the East River.
- 15-Lying north of District 13, beginning at Sixth Avenue and West Fourteenth Street, and bounded by Sixth Avenue, West Fifteenth Street, Seventh Avenue, West Fortieth Street, Eighth Avenue, the Transverse Park Road, at Ninety-seventh Street, Fifth Avenue, East Ninety-sixth Street, Lexington Avenue, East Twenty-third Street, Third Avenue, East Nineteenth Street, Irving Place, and East Fourteenth Street.
- 16-Lying north of District 13, beginning at Seventh Avenue and West Nineteenth Street, and bounded by West Nineteenth Street, Eighth Avenue, West Twentieth Street, the Hudson River, West Forty-sixth Street, Tenth Avenue, West Forty-third Street, Eighth Avenue, West Fortieth Street, and Seventh Avenue.
- 17-Lying north of District 16, beginning at Eighth Avenue and West Forty-third Street, and bounded by West Forty-third Street, Tenth Avenue, West Forty-sixth Street, the Hudson River, West Eighty-ninth Street, Tenth Avenue, West Eighty-sixth Street, Ninth Avenue, West Eighty-first Street, and Eighth Avenue.
- 18-Lying north of District 14, beginning at East Fifty-second Street and the East River, and bounded by East Fifty-second Street, Third Avenue, East Fifty-third Street, Lexington Avenue, East Eighty-fourth Street, Second Avenue, East Eighty-third Street, and the East River, also Blackwell's Island.
- 19-Lying north of District 17, beginning at West Eighty-ninth Street and the Hudson River, and bounded by the Hudson River, Spuyten Duyvil Creek, the Harlem River, Fifth Avenue, East One Hundred and Twenty-ninth Street, Fourth Avenue, East One Hundred and Tenth Street, Fifth Avenue, the Transverse Park Road at Ninety-seventh Street, Eighth Avenue, West Eighty-first Street, Ninth Avenue, West Eighty-sixth Street, Tenth Avenue, West Eighty-ninth Street.
- 20-Lying north of Districts 15 and 18, beginning at East Eighty-third Street and the East River, and bounded by East Eighty-third Street, Second Avenue, East Eighty-fourth Street, Lexington Avenue, East Ninety-sixth Street, Fifth Avenue, East One Hundred and Tenth Street, Fourth Avenue, East One Hundred and Nineteenth Street, Harlem River, and East River; also Randall's and Ward's Islands.
- 21-Lying north of Districts 19 and 20, beginning at East One Hundred and Nineteenth Street and the Harlem River, and bounded by East One Hundred and Nineteenth Street, Fourth Avenue, One Hundred and Twenty-ninth Street, Fifth Avenue, Harlem River, and all of the rest of the county not already described.

A feature of the new Constitution which is looked on by many reformers as furnishing the true solution for the purification of municipal politics is the provision which separates State from city elections. Gov. Morton and Lieut. Gov. Saxton will hold office only two years. This arrangement will result, hereafter, in the election of State officers and city officers in different years.

The Mayors and chief municipal officers of New-York and Brooklyn, for instance, will hereafter be elected in different years from the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and Assemblymen. In this way, it is hoped by the reformers, the municipal campaigns can be conducted on purely local issues.

One of the most important amendments to the Constitution is the abolishment of the five-thousand-dollar limit to damages for injuries resulting in death.

Under the present Constitution it has become a by-word among the people that it is cheaper for an employer to kill a man by accident than to maim him. If the man or child is killed outright, no damages in excess of \$5,000 can be legally recovered, whereas, if the victim is mangled but managed to live, the damages may amount to twenty times that sum. Several years ago the New-York Central and Hudson River Railroad paid \$100,000 to a family that had been injured in a wreck.

Under the new Constitution the amount recoverable for damages for injuries resulting in death is unlimited. The general tendency of this change in the Constitution will be to make employers more careful of the lives of those in their service. In Brooklyn the immediate result will be to make the trolley corporations more strict, more watchful, and more solicitous for the safety of the people along their routes. They will be compelled to provide fenders that will pick people up in practice as well as in theory. The same considerations will apply in a different degree to all railroads, steam and surface, and to all owners of mills and factories.

The trolley companies of Brooklyn have been, up to this time, seemingly careless in protecting human life. They have been frequently censured. Nine-tenths of the number of persons struck by Brooklyn trolley cars have been killed; most of the poor little children have been instantly killed.

The principal canals of New-York are now to remain forever in the possession of the State. They are the Erie Canal, Oswego Canal, Champlain Canal, Cayuga and Seneca Canal, and Black River Canal. None of the canals mentioned can ever be sold, leased, or disposed of in any way. All funds from the sale or lease of the other canals in the State are to be applied to the maintenance of the five named. The Ham-

burg Canal, in Buffalo, is to be sold. There are to be no tolls on the canals. They are to be supported out of the annual State tax levy. The Legislature is authorized to go ahead and make extensive improvements in the system, the cost to come out of the tax levy or from the State Treasury. A very large sum of money will be involved in these improvements, but how much cannot be approximated just yet. All work on the canals is to be let by public contract to the lowest bidder.

The old soldiers and sailors have been looked after in a provision which gives them the preference over all others for public employment, no matter what the standing of these veterans may be on the civil service lists.

A number of very important changes are made in the judicial system. There are to be twelve additional Supreme Court Justices chosen by the people, three of them to be in New-York City, three in the Second District, which includes Brooklyn, and one each in the other judicial districts. There are to be four judicial districts instead of eight. An appellate division of the Supreme Court is to be created, to take the place of the General Term. The Supreme Court and the Court of Common Pleas of New-York, the Superior Court of Buffalo, and the City Court of Brooklyn are to be abolished on Jan. 1, 1896, and the Judges in those courts become Supreme Court Justices for the rest of their terms. Circuit Courts and Courts of Oyer and Terminer are to be abolished Dec. 31, 1895.

Election officers are to be chosen equally from the two leading political parties. All legislative bills must be printed and put on the desks of members of the Legislature at least three days before their final passage.

There will be no contract labor in the State prisons after Jan. 1, 1897, but convicts may be required to work for the State, and the product of their labor may be disposed of to the State or to any public institution owned by the State.

No officer will be allowed to ask for or receive a pass or frank of any kind.

The forest lands of the State are to be preserved inviolate forever, and cannot be sold or leased.

The new Constitution fixes definitely the way in which the debt limit of cities is to be estimated. Heretofore, as in the case of Brooklyn, the way for finding whether the constitutional 10 per cent. limit of debt has been reached has not been clear, and city officials and Judges have differed on the subject. The future basis of estimate of the 10 per cent. limit will be simply the assessed valuation of the real estate subject to taxation. Revenue bonds and water bonds are to be included in the estimate of debt.

The Legislature is permitted to make general laws under which one farmer may drain his own land by constructing drains on the land of another, provided he stands the expense.

The new Constitution will practically wipe out, if its provisions are enforced, all kinds of gambling. It will forbid pool-selling and bookmaking, absolutely, without reserve. "Improving the breed of horses" will come to an end. Under this provision there can be no kind of public betting in poolrooms or on the race tracks.

A man convicted of bribery will be deprived of his vote.

No man gains or loses a vote by reason of his sojourn in a public or charitable institution.

Under the new Constitution, the registration of voters must close at least ten days before election day.

The new Constitution will prohibit "riders" on all bills, and will put an end to the practice of cloaking one act under the cover of another, and thereby either securing certain legislation without arousing public attention or forcing some obnoxious scheme by incorporating it in an otherwise popular measure.