

EVEN INFLUENZA AVAILS NOT TO DAMPEN ARDOR OF VOTERS

Masked Balloting Proves No Hindrance, and Several Decide to Bring Their "Flu" With Them!

San Francisco yesterday staged the first masked ballot ever known in the history of America.

Everybody who voted had to wear a mask and to that extent was handicapped in the discharge of his electoral responsibilities. Despite that fact, however, or mayhap because of it, the election was described by the officers of the scores of booths visited as the quietest within memory.

The "flu" did not seem to have such a dampening effect as might have been expected. In at least one district the complaint was that it was not sufficiently deterrent.

VOTE AT ANY COST

Two voters came in at different periods of the day and painstakingly filled out the immense yellow, chart-like document that comprised the ballot. Then they sighed wearily:

"I must get back to bed at once. I really should not have come out to vote with this flu!"

Probably the oldest and most light-hearted voter of the day was Mrs. Nancy Elworthy of 1480 Larkin street, who came down unaided from her home to the booth in the middle of the block between California and Pine streets.

VOTER PAST 92

Mrs. Elworthy is 92, she belongs to one of the "F. F. V's" and her husband was a field officer of the Confederate army.

"I thought I would be blind before this election," she cheerily explained to the officials in the booth. "but I can still see a little, and I think it is the duty of every citizen to vote at every election as long as he or she can take an intelligent interest in public affairs."

She smiled and thanked the ladies who helped her into a seat.

"And now, my dears," she asked them, still merrily, "will one of you hold my hand for me while I sign my name so that it won't sprawl all over the paper? It is shaky, you see, but that is because I am not so young as I used to be."

So they held her hand, and the sig-

nature stands within its proper lines, though some of the letters are shaky: "Nancy Elworthy."

Complaints were made at that booth that it was awash with rain water when the officials arrived yesterday morning, and they had to wear rubbers and bring in an oil stove to make the place tenable.

They also pointed out that many of their voting guests were confessedly suffering from influenza, but that the Health Department made no provision for spraying or otherwise disinfecting the booths.

WATER FRONT BOOTHLESS

Down near the water front there are no polling booths, and it was pointed out the fourteenth precinct of the Thirty-third district, at Broadway and Sansome streets, that there would be a small vote there anyhow, because all the sailormen who customarily cast their votes there had gone away taking ships to the East or elsewhere.

In the booth at Battery and Vallejo streets, one of the voters pointed out that residents in his district had grave cause for complaint because of lack of voting facilities.

CLIMBS MOUNTAIN

"I live near Kearny and Union streets," he explained. "It means climbing down five blocks and climbing down five more blocks—all as steep as a mountain—to get here and vote. My mother, who is a voter, is physically unable to undertake such an expedition."

"At Post and Taylor streets I saw three voting stations within half a block. Why should voters be made to travel the equivalent of a dozen blocks of mountain because they happen to live in the less high-toned neighborhood of Telegraph Hill?"

FEW MISTAKES

One of the outstanding features of the voting, and a point that officials in most of the precincts particularly noted, was the very few slips made. In many precincts there had not been a single bad ballot up to 4 o'clock.