



ENGLAND.

CHINA.

ELECTION speeches are the order of the day just now, and never before were they listened to with more fervour and enthusiasm than at the present moment. Recent stirring events have given the orators excellent matter out of which to furnish speeches which could not fail to stir to the utmost the heart of the true-born Britisher. A thorough re-organization of the War Office is one of the promised reforms which will do much to swell the number of Government supporters and disarm opposition. The appointment of Lord Clarendon as the successor to Lord Hopetoun as Lord Chamberlain appears to meet with general approbation, as he is a man whose well-known abilities should certainly eminently fit him for the position. Voting by machinery is a new idea which promises to relieve the pressure and annoyance at polling booths. Mr. W. H. Howe is experimenting with his "Eureka" vote recorder. A quarter turn of a turnstile and, hey presto, you are in a secret chamber. Nobs under candidates' names confront you. Pull out your pet candidate's. In doing so you look the undesirable ones and set the turnstile going. Out you go, the action of the stile recording your vote on a printing machine, and the thing's done in one act. All probable and improbable contingencies are provided for by this ingenious and complex machine. The obstinate elector who wants more time can't have it. He is simply chucked out.

THE muddle in China appears to be no nearer a satisfactory conclusion than it was a month ago. Utterly ridiculous and infeasible attempts at peace negotiations bearing throughout a strong sense of injured innocence peculiar to the heathen Chinese have been made. These have received the natural reply that they cannot be entertained until those responsible have been sufficiently punished for the enormities they have caused to be perpetrated. And herein lies the difficulty. From the actions of the Chinese Government—a title which one has to give that body out of courtesy—it would appear that it is not disposed to take the responsibility of either pleading guilty itself, or producing those on whom it casts the blame, and delivering them up to just punishment. Such dilly-dallying, however harmless it might be, if long-suffering Britain was the only nation with which it had to deal, must necessarily be suicidal to the interests of a country which has for its enemies the Powers of Europe, who, although they are operating under the name of Allies, each have their own projects to work out, and their own methods of operation. The gruesome detailed accounts of the massacre and mutilation of missionaries and converts which are constantly coming to hand make one very impatient of the delay in the final retribution, although one cannot but regard with horror the manner in which Russia is retaliating in Manchuria.