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 ❀ ❀ **Highland Park Department** ❀ ❀

The Town Caucus.

There was a gathering in Goldberg's Opera House Friday night styled a "Citizens' Caucus." Its session was brief and rather uneventful. Concerning it a few remarks seem pertinent.

First the attendance. It was run practically by the same set who got up and managed the somewhat notorious city caucus last spring, when some of our present city officials were nominated. But the striking thing this year was the absence of men who were so prominent a year ago. Then they seemed to be proud of their work and proud of their presence at that caucus. Why were they absent this year? Was it because the conduct of so many of those nominated a year ago had been so repugnant to the public sentiment that they deemed it the wiser thing to keep clear of what they style on the street as the "Tom" Dooley and "Bill" Obee set, for it seems that they got up and run this caucus. Several gentlemen of social position, wealth and culture lent the aid of their presence, and perhaps their votes, to last year's caucus; why were they not there this

year? Had they discovered that consorting with such fellows and such schemes was not the best way to retain the esteem and respect of good men?

Second, they were beaten before they began. Messrs. Obee and Dooley were bound to prevent the nomination of W. F. Hogan for assistant supervisor. They tried to get good citizens to stand against him, not because Mr. Hogan was not a good supervisor, for he is a good one, but he saw fit a year ago to work for James McDonald instead of W. J. Obee—therefore Obee was bound he should be defeated. But when their own caucus got together on Friday night it nominated Mr. Hogan without opposition. Why? Because they were beaten before they began. For town clerk they put up Frank Warren, who knows nothing about the office or the work, and without one word of complaint of Mr. Prior, who has done so well. That was a bid for the "Warren family." It is said some fish will bite a bare hook, but we hardly think the Warrens are that kind. Of course it is expected Frank will be the tool of the men who nominated him.

Third, they stole the livery of heaven to serve the devil in, to adapt the words of Pollock. After confessing their defeat in Mr. Hogan's case, their energies were bent on beating E. W. Brand for assessor, simply and solely because he is honest and won't be the tool or servant of their ring. Mr. Brand has been assessor, has proved his ability and honesty, and therefore he must be beaten. It was the best compliment those fellows could pay him. It was practically saying, "You are capable, you are honest, therefore we don't want you."

Fourth, it surprises us to see a man like Mr. Small, of his intelligence, ability and culture ally himself with that element in our city politics. The only explanation we can find is, he has been deceived. Who did it? Evidently it was Obee or Dooley, for Mr. Small does not consort with such folks. So far as we ever heard, or supposed or knew, Mr. Small is a gentleman of high culture and standing; why is he with the lowest strata of political life in this city and town? He must have been totally misguided and misled. But in all kindness and in all fidelity we must assure him that he cannot maintain that alliance without loss of public confidence and esteem.

Later—Since the above was in type we learn Mr. Small did not accept and does not want the position. Good for Mr. Small.