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Communicated.

Supreme Court vs. City Council.

Ma. Error.

The unkind cut given the Supreme Court of Illinois by the Mayor and his colleagues in the city council Tuesday night reminds me of an old Justice of the Peace in Chicago who was quite an original character. The judgments he pronounced sometimes differed widely from the views expressed by the Supreme Court but they always were highly satisfactory to himself and to the party to the suit who enjoyed the great man's favor. When his honor was pressed to follow a Supreme Court precedent, it was his habit to remark that the Supreme Court paid no respect to his decisions and therefore he paid no attention to the decisions of the Supreme Court.

A like spirit seems to animate our city council. Let us inquire what the Supreme Court says. In case of Hodge vs. Linn 100 ILL. 397, the rule is announced that "Mere irregularities in conducting an election * * * not proceeding from any wrongful intent, which deprive no legal voter of his vote, and do not change the result, will not vitiate the election, so as to justify the rejection of the entire poll of the town or precinct in which the irregularities occurred."

In **People vs. Wait 70 ILL. 25**, it is said "where an election * * * was held, but not at the place designated in the notices thereof, and the relator who sought to avoid the election on that ground, participated in the same, by voting, and running as an opposing candidate, it was held, that a sound public policy would forbid him from having the election of his opponent declared void on this ground."

On the "trial" last Tuesday night the attorney for the contestants admitted the above cases to be "good law," and he made no attempt to prove, he did not even charge, that the supposed irregularity in the conduct of the April 17th, 1900, in the 3rd ward election "proceeded from any wrongful intent" or that it "deprived any legal voter of his vote" or that it "changed the result" of the election. Moreover the contestant Adams admitted voting at the polling place complained of, and the contestant Roberts admitted that he voted there himself and did his best to induce others to do likewise and that he never made any complaint regarding the premises selected and used as a polling place until the adverse result of the election was announced.

There are a number of voters in Highland Park including several lawyers, who have heretofore held the Illinois Supreme Court decisions in high regard and who await with impatience a statement from the Mayor and his co-adjutors of the grounds, legal or otherwise, upon which they have overruled the Supreme Court and have annulled the 3rd ward April 17th election. Will not a decent respect for the opinions of mankind induce them to declare their reasons for an action so radical?

GEO. S. COLE.

Sharp Political Practices.

To the Editor of News-Letter:

Why is it so many expressions of regret are being passed around among the men of the Third Ward as to the action of the council in declaring the election of Davidson over Roberts void and authorizing the expense of another election? Won't it be well worth the money it costs and the time it takes to vote to have the enjoyment of showing our righteous indignation to the man already

honestly defeated, what average citizens think of one who presents a technicality to overthrow true expressions at the polls by not accepting the results of a big vote at an honest election? It looks as though he hopes to win out in this second election now forced upon us through the possibility of some of us—the majority against him—being absent from town or incapacitated when the day comes around to vote again. Well, the men of the Third Ward take pretty good care of their health and I venture they will be in condition to speak on or about June 16th loud enough and perhaps clear enough for him to consider an apology due to those whom he now does not hesitate to inconvenience by making it necessary for them to go to the polls again to vote against him. Has not this contest ceased to be an election between individuals; should not this second be rather considered the voice of the right against wrong justice against injustice?

When political sharp practices—bad enough even in Bohemian districts—are worked into elections among friends and neighbors, it is time I hope, for lovers of the "fair and square" to talk right out.

Respectfully,
A man enraged beyond expression by the outrageous petition of the defeated candidate and that of his vindictive friend.

A Famous Trial.

There was a famous trial of a "blind pig" case last Friday, the city of Highland Park vs. John Hawks. It was brought before Judge Dooley, and when it came to trial the defendant demanded a change of venue, which was granted, but instead of sending it to the nearest justice, as the law says he must do, and said justice was at his well known court room not twenty rods away, Mr. Dooley sent it down to Judge Levi M. Comstock at Ravinia, a mile to a mile and a half away. The case was continued till the 19th, at five o'clock, we think.

A jury was called and when City Attorney Knox rejected three, whom Constable Edwards had summoned, Mr. Freberg, Mr. Bilbarz and Dan Sheehan, and was looking for other men, Mayor Cobb proposed to serve, but the judge ruled him out as ineligible. There was lots of evidence and legal sparring between our city attorney and the bright, well equipped lawyer from Chicago. Finally about nine o'clock p. m. the case went to the jury, who finally returned a verdict of a fine of \$200—the full extent of the law,—and the costs. Of course Mr. Hawks, being a stranger here, could not get a bond—guess not much effort was made, and now he reposes in the city jail, is fed, watered and generally cared for at city expense and by our urbane city marshal, who goes into the jail every morning with Mr. Hawk's breakfast, furnishes him with water for his morning ablutions, empties his slops, while Mr. Hawk eats, reads, writes to his friends in the far east, smokes and takes life easily. The city can keep him only six months, pay all his board bills, costs of trial and get—nil.

A. Blomdahl, the shoe repairer, finds that his business has so increased that he has had to hire a shoemaker. Although Mr. Blomdahl has been here but a few months, he has by his obliging courtesy and his fine work worked up a fine trade. Another secret of Mr. Blomdahl's success lies in the fact that he has advertised continuously in the News-Letter since his arrival.

Cut Down Cost of Water.

At the recent special election on the filter question, the public expressed their sentiments in pretty strong terms, the vote standing about 54 to 1 against the filter, which does not include the fact that some three hundred voters did not vote. It is fair to assume that those certainly were favorable to the filter. Would it not be a good time, therefore, to cut down the cost of water? There is something evidently very unfair in supplying Highland Park with water at a rate that they can furnish their citizens cheaper than the citizens of Highland Park get it. We understand that about \$3,000 has accumulated within the last year or and above the expense of running. It seems to us eminently proper that there should be a change of policy in that matter. We know one of the ex-aldermen was fond of arguing that Highland Park got its water cheaper than many other cities, but it never seemed to us that there was a sound sense in it. So does Pennsylvania get its coal cheaper than the county can get it, but it does not follow that the people of Reading, Pa., should pay as high for coal as the people of Highland Park have to or if Highland Park is favorably situated for a water supply compared with some other cities, it does not follow that she should pay the same price as other cities. Let the people have it at cost or nearly so.

An Outing.

Pastor A. A. Pfandtiel of the Presbyterian church attended the Sunday School Association week in Peoria, Ill., and saw how beautifully the triangular law machine and mutual admiration society worked. He put in a vigorous address one evening on "Boys and How to Utilize Them," that stirred up the people in old Edgar county, near where "rolls the mighty Wabash." Then he went over into Hannibal, Mo., for the Sunday with an college class mate and delivered the baccalaureate sermon to the graduating class of his friend's school. He reached home Tuesday noon, having put in a week of varied and profitable experiences. Such little outings to a busy, hard-working pastor, are like a wing afternoon for a worried mother in the Park, with the fresh air, the flowers, and the clear blue sky.

Prohibition Convention.

The Lake County prohibitionists met in a convention last Saturday, the 19th inst., at Gurnee. There was a full attendance and not a little business manifested. Twenty-four delegates and twenty-four alternates were elected to attend the state and national convention to be held in Chicago, June 26th, 27th, and 28th. E. N. Hale Johnson, the state chairman, and others, made rousing speeches.

It is not the intention of the News-Letter to be strictly the exponent of any political party in this year of elections, but we shall endeavor to be thoroughly educational and that end shall be glad to open its arms to the use of any article calculated to make the voters of Lake County more intelligent and more efficient in advancing by their lot, the welfare of this nation.

John C. Duffy has received his papers from the governor making him a

The Law of It.

Col. Davidson was ousted from the city council on the ostensible ground that the place where the election was held was not according to law, as stated in section 30 of the general election law, which says, among other things, "in no case shall an election be held in any room used or occupied as a saloon, dram shop, billiard hall, bowling alley or as a place of resort for idlers and disreputable persons, or in any room connected therewith by open doors or hallways."

Our late city election was held in Mr. Hartrnoff's cigar and newspaper store, which opens into the billiard room in the rear, which is connected with the front cigar store by two doors; the "north" one for the public to enter the billiard room, the other, the "south" door, behind the counters, so Mr. Hartrnoff can step from his counter or desk into the billiard room, but is never used by the public. George B. Cummings, one of the election officers, and others, testified that the "north" or public door was practically closed by an election booth backed up to it, and the little "south" private door was open to let the heat come in from the stove in the billiard room into the front room, or cigar store, where the election was being held, as the day was very chilly, but not used that day by the public. Earl Purdy testified that he and one or two other young election officers went in there and played for fun "between times." Such were the essential facts brought out at the trial or investigation. Now as to the laws.

Section 30, cited above, is in the general election law as all agreed, and Attorney Smoot showed that this law applies to the election of county, state and national officials, but not to the election of city aldermen, and cited the special provisions of the statute as to city elections, as follows, under Article IV., Section 56, of the statute relating to "Cities, Villages and Towns," to-wit: "The city council shall designate the place or places in which the election shall be held, and appoint the judges and clerks thereof," etc. This special law is for the election of city aldermen, and the city officials.

Concerning these two laws or sections of laws, note the following points: First, the general election law specifies saloons, billiard and pool rooms, as illegal places; the special city election law says not a word of these places as being illegal, nor does it make any reference to such places, direct or indirect; it leaves all that to the city council. Second, in the general election law the board of supervisors selected the polling or election places. This is the way the statute reads: "The county board in every case shall fix and establish the places for holding elections in its respective county," and then goes on to prohibit saloons, bowling alleys, etc. This the county board does through and by the county clerk. But in the special city election law, the statute says: "The city council shall designate the place," and not a word or hint of saloon or bowling alley.

In respect of ballots, election clerks and judges, making up the returns of the elections—that is, all features, of the election of city officials shall be under and according to the general election law except place, and that shall be left to the city council. This was the gist or point of ex-city Attorney Smoot's statement of the law before the council that night. He and Mr. Geo. E. Cole then went on to make numerous citations from decisions of

the State Supreme court, showing how it interpreted and applied these laws, just as Messrs. Smoot and Cole interpreted and applied it. And those decisions we shall discuss next week in their application to this case. Hence Messrs. Cole and Smoot held that this much-quoted section 30 of general election law about billiard rooms, etc., while it does apply in the case of the election of a supervisor, county clerk and judge, or member of congress and president, does not apply to the place of the election of a city alderman or mayor, and therefore the petition for the ousting of Col. Davidson should be dismissed.

We may add that Mr. Williston, Mr. Roberts' attorney, quoted no Supreme court decision bearing on this case, used section as his law, omitting the special city election law and dwelt with emphasis on the Congressman Robert's case.

Highland Park Briefs.

Ford P. Hall is having his Port Clinton avenue home thoroughly renovated.

Charles H. Warren delighted a Chicago gathering last Friday night with his inimitable tricks and magic.

C. E. Walters of Chicago, visited with H. F. Evans Sunday afternoon. Mr. Walters is a Colgate University graduate.

Rev. Mr. French, of Lake Forest, filled the pulpit last Sunday of the Presbyterian church, while the pastor was with his old friends in "Mizzoura."

Herman Denzel was married Tuesday, May 15th to Miss Margaret Colia Gnaedinger of Chicago. Mr. and Mrs. Denzel will live on West Central avenue where they will be at home July 1st. Mr. Denzel's many friends wish him every joy.

Glencoe.

Mr. Lawrence Howard is at home for a short visit.

Mr. Austin of Kansas City, was the guest of Mrs. Becker the past week.

Dr. H. Kimbal and family were guests at Mr. H. P. Williams, over Sabbath.

Mrs. Emma Sherwood returned home Thursday of last week from Colorado.

Mrs. J. C. Cook and daughter returned home last week from a visit at Ames, Iowa.

Miss Jennie Krah of Streator Ill., was the guest of Mrs. S. R. Harford the past week.

The G. A. A.'s of Glencoe played the Highland Park's at Glencoe last Saturday. The G. A. A.'s winning, the score being 21 to 8.

Do not fail to attend the Bazar and entertainment given by Mrs. Laughray and her pupils at the school house this afternoon at 3 o'clock.

At the meeting of the Woman's Guild Tuesday afternoon, it was decided that the ladies of Glencoe would take the responsibility of supplying the needs for one week of 100 of the Gad Hill Settlement children.

The youngest son of Mr. Southworth met with a painful accident Tuesday morning. The front door blew shut and catching the end of his finger and so nearly cutting it off that Dr. Cook had to finish the work of amputation. At last reports he was doing well.