

Lowden's Commission Favors the Abolition of Primaries and a Revision of State Election Laws

Election laws of Illinois should be thoroughly revised and primaries abolished, according to the following report of the commission appointed by Governor Lowden two years ago to investigate election laws of the state under the authorization of the fiftieth general assembly.

"We find that the election laws of Illinois are cumbersome, inadequate and inconsistent. The primary election law seems to have failed to accomplish the purpose for which it was created. Cumbersome and unreliable election machinery, especially in the larger cities of the state, fail to protect the purity of the ballot. Every election brings charges of gross fraud of the will of the voters, causing dismay and consternation and agitated discontent detrimental to the stability of our government. To remedy these defects it will be necessary to inaugurate a revision of the statutes throughout.

"The frequency of our elections and the accompanying exorbitant cost have contributed to breaking down their efficiency and creating a demand for relief. The general election and primary election laws together provide for as many as eleven elections and registrations within a period of one year. These elections of one year have cost the stupendous sum of \$5,000,000 and placed a real burden upon the taxpayers of the state, the citizens of Chicago alone standing \$1,991,014.77.

"The present primary election law, after much discussion of differences of opinion, was inaugurated by the legislature in response to an insistent public sentiment which had been aroused by the abuses indulged in under our former methods of nominating candidates for office. The theory on which the primary law is based seems correct, but experience indicates that these abuses could have been corrected in a much more practical way and it would appear that this same public sentiment is about ready to demand this more practical and less expensive solution. We believe this demand will be complete within a period of two years. Experience has shown the primary law not only to be expensive, but that it attracts the general public to its support and co-operation only spasmodically, and in addition puts the ambition to aspire for nomination for an office of any considerable importance beyond the range of possibility of any citizen of moderate wealth.

"The primary also tends, strongly, to exaggerate and magnify religious, class and race differences. It increases personalities between candidates and arouses animosities between communities which tend strongly to disintegrate the parties, creating an unhealthy and undesirable condition. The primary carried to a logical conclusion would promote democracy, while the history of this republic has proven the representative idea in government to be the greatest political discovery in the history of the race. The chief problem of civilization from a political point of view has always been to secure concerted action among men on a large scale without sacrificing local independence. The ancient and recently the modern history of Europe shows that it is not possible to solve this problem without the aid of the American established principle of representation. We should, therefore, not depart too far from it. The town meeting and the convention draw people together to discuss their problems and to fight out their differences. Hedged about by restrictions to prevent fraud of unequal advantages, these cannot fail to produce results both helpful and satisfactory.

"Your commission has reached these conclusions and would present

a remedy along the lines suggested at this time, were it not for the coming constitutional convention which may be expected to change many of the fundamentals in the election laws; we therefore believe that this question of simplified primaries and elections can best be treated finally by the fifty-second general assembly. We have, however, prepared two bills deemed essential which are submitted for reconsideration and recommended for adoption.

"One bill represents a large amount of work and presents a complete, comprehensive codification of the general election laws. If adopted, this will prove to be a great convenience, bringing together the hundreds of provisions scattered throughout the statutes in reference to our elections. This bill proposes a considerable addition to the present general election laws by providing for a state election commission which shall have supervision over all election matters in the state. We believe that the selection of this commission would form the basis upon which all needed election reforms and improvements may be built. It would, in our opinion, very largely eradicate frauds and abuses, would eliminate the dissatisfactions and suspicions now existing to the great detriment of our elections and our government and this commission could before the session of the next general assembly have worked out for submission to that body a complete plan of party nominations and simplified elections.

"We earnestly recommend its adoption. We are submitting also a bill which contemplates some changes which seem advisable at this time in the primary election law. This bill would take from the primary nominations for city officers in cities of under 25,000 population and would change to some extent the duties and formations of the party organizations and conventions. It provides that the county convention shall be composed as at present of the county central committees elected at the presidential primary but requires that the names of candidates for ward and precinct committeemen who constitute the county central committee shall be placed on the primary ballot by petition. The county convention shall have power to select delegates to the state, judicial and district convention, to nominate candidates for circuit judges in judicial districts composed of one county and candidates for judges on the superior court of Cook county.

"The delegates to the state convention from each congressional district shall constitute the delegates to the congressional convention. All congressional conventions shall be held at the call of the state convention and shall have power to nominate candidates for the state board of equalization, delegates and alternate delegates to the national convention, and to select a state central committeeman.

"The state convention shall have power to nominate candidates for university trustees, congressmen-at-large, presidential electors and delegates and alternates at large to the triets composed of more than one national election.

"The judicial convention in dis-county shall be composed of delegates selected by the county convention and shall have power to nominate candidates for circuit and supreme court judges.

"The section of the law providing bribe to influence his vote has been changed to include the giver of the bribe.

"The county and state committees are given power to select their chairmen from among their own members or otherwise."

Kindergarten Institute Dance
The senior class of the Chicago Kindergarten Institute will give an informal dance Saturday evening,

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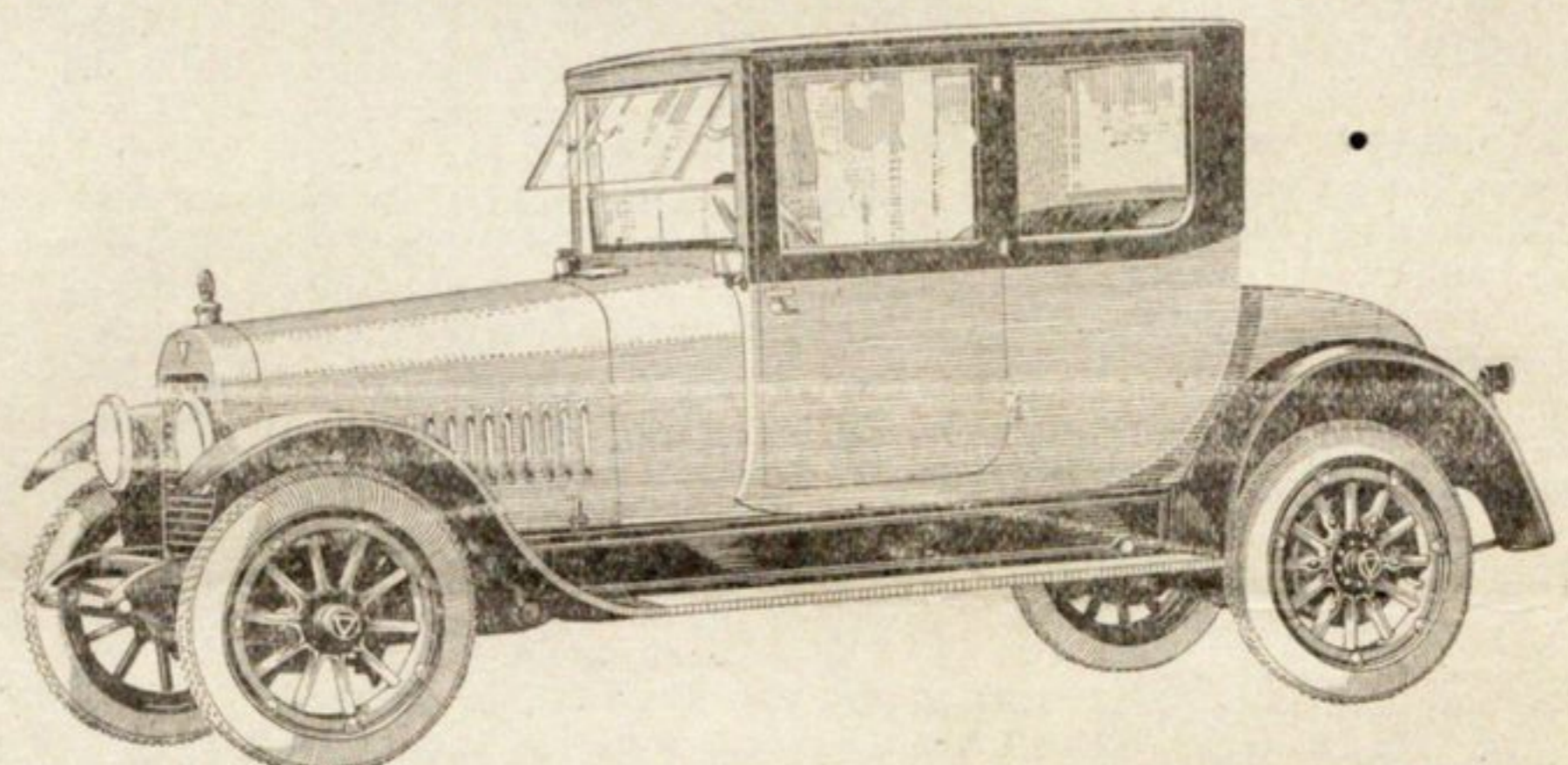
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LAKE FOREST TRIMS WILMETTE NINE IN FAST TEN INNINGS

Wilmette's amateur baseball nine opened the season at Lake Forest Sunday afternoon coming away with the short end of a 5 to 4 score in a ten inning battle.

Wilmette generally outplayed the aggregation from the millionaire town but perpetrated some costly errors which decorated the Lake Forest score.

Rapp, who was on the slab for the locals, offered an exceptional exhibition of hurling, holding the boys from the north hitless for six innings. He was nicked for five hits in the last half of the argument. Even then he might have been credited with a shut-out but for some wild heaving on the part of catcher pro-tem, Schwall who consistently heaved the ball all over the lot trying to nip base runners.

Lake Forest scored in the initial round when Schwall fumbled the ball on the third strike and contributed free passes all around the circuit by pegging into the outfield. Lake Forest dribbled 4 markers over the home

station for eight innings holding the local boys scoreless.

In the eighth Wilmette plucked up courage. Schwall singled and Rapp duplicated the feat. Schwall stopping at the keystone sack. Both advanced on a double steal and came when Barry, star New Trier athlete, sent a smashing drive to left center stopping at third long enough to count on an infield rap to the third baseman.

In the ninth Wilmette tied up the event when Schwall was safe and scored on a hit and an error.

Wilmette went out in one-two-three order in the tenth.

Baldwin opened Lake Forest's half with a double to deep left center. He went to third when Eber tumbled Rapp's peg towards second and counted an instant later on Eddy's safety.

A return game is promised for the near future. Wilmette's line-up was as follows:

Estes, center; Barry, short; Schaefer, right; Lies, third; Eber, second; Braun, first; De Long, left; Schwall, catcher; Rapp, pitcher.

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