

TO THE HONORABLE, THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF JEFFERSON COUNTY:

Pursuant to section 192 of the Election Law, we, as commissioners of elections for the County of Jefferson, hereby submit for your consideration our annual report, covering very briefly the work done in this office during the past year.

As has been the case in former years, the Election Law was not without numerous and important changes and amendments and these had to be carefully studied and interpreted before the election work was commenced. The special act of the legislature authorizing the enrollment of women during the summer, was one of the most important amendments to the Election Law, and under this amendment has come a decided increase in the work in our office. The enrollment of male voters having been made the fall before, an enrollment specially for women had to be prepared. A sufficient number of blanks for each district had to be printed and distributed in such a manner that all women might have an opportunity to enroll. The enrollment of women in the City of Watertown, where the enrollment was personal was 1450 and in the towns where the enrollment was non-personal, was 6328. This made the grand total, which includes men and women in the county, 24855.

It was necessary for our office to separate the blanks and the condition in which many of these blanks were received from the country districts,-- in some instances blanks from several districts being mixed together,-- made the work of separation very difficult. In addition to the work incident to the placing of the politics of those enrolled on the regular enrollment days in the

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enrollment books, it was necessary for our board to write in the enrollment books, the names of all of the specially enrolled women in the country districts, their residence and their politics. Because of the limitation of time when the enrollment should be transcribed and ready for delivery to the chairmen of the county committees, the commissioners found it necessary to employ a small amount of extra help, and this was the only assistance outside of the regular office force for which the county was asked to pay, even though the work had so materially increased, and this amounted to but \$30.00.

The office found it possible after the enrollment books for this special enrollment had been printed to use the books outside of the city in which the names of the male voters already appeared by inserting in such used books, a few additional pages, and thus save the new books for the fall enrollment.

During the year nearly all of the printing, an item which constitutes a great expense in connection with the Primaries, Registrations and Elections, was let under bid, but there were certain jobs, which could be done only by one printing establishment in this city and consequently the printing of ballots and tally sheets went to this firm, which in turn made its own price and on its figures your Honorable Board had to pass.

Early in the year, anticipating advances in supplies necessary to be used in this office, the board purchased a sufficient quantity of pens, inks, pencils, blotters &c., to meet the requirements during the year, which also, resulted in considerable saving. It is estimated that through this purchase one-third of the expense was saved. It is also estimated that several hundred dollars were likewise saved in the re-use of supplies, such as enrollment books, envelopes for the same and tubes for the tally sheets, and also in the manner in

which the instructions to election boards, election notices and Election Laws were distributed. The old form of tally sheets was re-arranged with the result that several offices were placed on the sheet where only one had previously appeared, the result being that only one-third of the number heretofore used for a district was necessary.

The number of election districts in the county was increased from 91 to 120. The board spent considerable time in an effort to have many of the towns create additional districts that all voters might be sure of accommodation on Election Day. Time was also spent in obtaining an estimate of the probable registration in every district in the county, prior to the addition of the names of women to the registers, so that a sufficient number of enrollment blanks could be in the hands of the inspectors on Registration Days.

This year the board took greater pains than ever to see to it that the inspectors improved in their work and while the commissioners are pleased to note that there was a very marked improvement, those who constituted the sub-committee of the Board of County Canvassers will bear us out in the statement that there is yet much room for improvement. One thing we have at least been successful in impressing on most election district boards is that the total number of votes cast in every district for every office must be the same and that the number of void ballots for all offices on the same ticket must be the same in a district.

The work of canvassing the vote was by no means an easy task and in order to complete the canvass within the time prescribed, it was necessary for all in the office, with some additional help procured at the expense of the commissioners, to work day and night,  
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but the commissioners feel that they have been fully repaid by the compliment which the sub-committee of the Board of County Canvassers paid our office, and particularly paid to the clerk who placed the 50,000 figures on the canvass sheet.

The work of tabulating the enrollment and making the typewritten copy for the printer is now in progress and with extra help, the expense being borne by the commissioners. This work is well under way.

It is probably unnecessary to remind your Honorable Board that there is considerable of the work in this office that must be done within a prescribed time and that, although the enrollment has been doubled and the number of election districts materially increased, no extension of time was granted by the legislature for the completion of this work.

The increasing of the number of election districts and the enfranchising of the women, particularly in so far as the enrollment is concerned, has overtaxed our filing system and space, but with the possibility that the session of the coming legislature will see some legislation adopted, combining the registers, enrollment books and poll books, it is possible that we will have sufficient room for filing for another year. Many times during the year, particularly along Registration, Primaries and Election times, our office accommodations are so inadequate that we have had to encroach on adjoining offices and also on the lawn outside. Until we acquaint ourselves with conditions, which may prevail the coming year, we have no recommendations to make.

In conclusion, the commissioners desire to thank each member of the Board for the many courtesies shown, the assistance rendered and for the appreciation expressed on our work, especially that of our clerk and stenographer.

Respectfully submitted,

Eugene F. Luernore

William F. Mott

Commissioners of Elections in  
and for Jefferson County.

Dated this 11th day of December, 1918.