

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

Section 192 of the Election Law provides that the Board of Elections of each county shall in the month of January make an annual report to the Board of Supervisors. Owing to the fact that your board is not in session in that month, we are making the annual report of the Jefferson County Board at this time.

The year 1919, was marked by the largest registration, enrollment and vote ever known in the county. During the year, there was the official primary in September, which passed without a hitch, and the same is true of the annual election with the choosing of many town officers in every town in the county and also the officers in the City of Watertown under the new form of government. The increased registration made it necessary to prepare many more ballots and enrollment blanks than heretofore, and in every district in the city, where the number of enrollment blanks had to be estimated, a sufficient number was furnished, although the increase in some of these districts made it necessary to resort to the supply held in readiness for any district where more might be required.

The increase in enrollment blanks, ballots and so forth, has added to the expense of the primary and election in one way, but on the other hand there has been a very material reduction due to the change in form of the election registers, which has eliminated the use of the old poll books and the enrollment books, and which has

also done away with the services of two clerks on election day. The use of the combination registers, poll books and enrollment books has probably saved Jefferson County \$3000. With the additional primary the coming year, the saving will be even greater. This elimination has lessened the work of the inspectors and while some of the inspectors are making complaint because of the absence of two clerks, the Commissioners of Elections honestly believe that with their elimination the six remaining election officials can count and canvass the vote, as persons of ordinary intelligence, with as much dispatch as they could if the other two were around and in their way.

The board finds that many inspectors do not give the care and attention to the work which they should, and the subcommittee from your board in examining the statements of canvass and tally sheets this year must have been convinced of that fact when they observed that in a number of instances the two returns did not agree and that one of them with the figures for the various candidates and the blank and void ballots did not total the number which the returns showed were cast. The same was true of the vote on the amendments. The board believes that more care should be exercised in the selection of inspectors in some of the districts and that the job should be dealt out with some regard for the ability of the appointee to do the work. The number of voters having greatly increased by reason of the enfranchisement of the women, the commissioners would suggest that the old practice of the inspectors checking up the canvass for the parties be done away with and that these officials take all their time in attending to the business for which they are paid.

At primary and election time the board has found it necessary to encroach on the room of the Agent for Dependent and Delinquent Children and place the packages for the various election

districts in her room after they have been assembled and before delivery to the town clerks. The use of this room makes it practically impossible for the agent to occupy her quarters for two or three days three times a year.

This year all of the supplies have been purchased by competitive bidding and nearly all contracts for printing have been awarded in the same manner. We are advised by commissioners in other counties that our bills for supplies are lower than elsewhere.

It is also a source of gratification to us to be told by Deputy Secretary of State A. B. Parker that our office, in so far as we deal with the secretary of state's office, is regarded as one of the best in the state, being one to which it has never been necessary to return primary or election statements and being one of the very first to report the result of the canvass of the vote. Mr. Parker also advises us that inquiries sent out from his office are more promptly answered than elsewhere in the state, and that the information desired is always correct. Similar compliments have also been expressed by Henry G. Adams, head of the Election Bureau in Albany.

We might also report that the total enrollment for 1920 in the City of Watertown is 8756 and in the county districts is 17426, an increase of about 3000. The total vote in the county at the last General Election was 25154, with four soldier votes yet to be canvassed.

In conclusion, the Commissioners of Elections desire to personally thank the members of the Board of Supervisors and particularly the Committee on Elections for the many favors extended.

Respectfully submitted,

Eugene F. Livermore,
William K. Mott,

Commissioners of Elections.

Dated, December 8th, 1919.