

TO THE HONORABLE, THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

Under Section 34 of the Election Law, it becomes mandatory for each and every Board of Elections in the State of New York to make an annual report to the Board of Supervisors and to the Secretary of State. In accordance with this provision, we herewith submit the annual report of the Jefferson County Board of Elections for the year 1925, which report is the fifteenth annual report of this board.

Probably nothing is of more interest to your Honorable Board than the expenses of our office. Provision is made by law for the holding of Primaries and Elections and as the per diem of inspectors and clerks is not fixed by us but by the officers of the towns and city wherein they serve; this leaves the Board of Elections in control of only the expenses of printing and the purchase of supplies. As has been done in the past the printing and supplies have all been submitted to bids and in every instance the lowest figure quoted, when quality has been taken into consideration, has been accepted. All work received by the Board of Elections has been satisfactory, regardless of who turned them out.

The enrollment for 1925, taken upon Registration and Election Days in 1924, was the largest in the history of the county. The enrollment was as follows: total enrollment 32,245 of which 8635 were Democrats; 21372 Republicans, 308 Socialists, 1869 did not enroll and 63 enrollments were void.

A Nonpartisan Primary was held in the City of Watertown September 15th, 1925. Through a bill prepared in the Office of the Jefferson County Board of Elections and introduced by the late Senator Pitcher, the time for holding the Nonpartisan Primary was made to correspond with that of the Official Fall Primary; thus saving a large expense to the city.

While there was a very small vote in the Official Fall Primary, the same care, attention, preparation, tabulation and canvass had to be made. From the Secretary of State's Office came the announcement that our returns were the first correct returns to be received in Albany. The vote in the Primary was: Republican 2652; Democrat 891 and Socialist 9.

This year, we made a determined effort to bring about a uniform ballot in all towns of the county, insisting on the nominees of offices to be filled being prepared in the same order and providing for the election of five constables in each town, the number provided by law. In this way the expense of printing the ballots was lessened, the form being substantially the same in every town. We also urged the town officers to see that nominations at town caucuses were properly submitted to us and even went to the extent of urging town clerks to have nominations typewritten. Our demands were complied with and with one exception, there was no difficulty. With many perplexing situations in the town elections, everything seemed to work satisfactorily.

The advent of a new organization in politics in many towns of the county resulted in opposition being made to the nominees and caused no end of trouble in our office. In other years where only one question was asked, dozens were asked this year. Several challenges were filed against candidates and voters and many more were threatened. Points of law which never before had been raised were put up to us for decision and in several instances, it was necessary for us to turn our attention

to Supreme Court Justice Edward N. Smith, whom we found always glad to render us the assistance needed. Trivial questions were asked by "sore heads" regarding this or that officer of their town, thinking that if the question were answered to their satisfaction, they had solved the problem of dispensing with the services of that official.

The best indication trouble was brewing in almost every town is shown by the large number of changes in the supervisors and other town officers. Naturally many times those who sought an answer from us were dissatisfied and sought the advice of attorneys.

Advice was given many times as to how to write in names of candidates not on the ballot and particularly as to whether or not the cross X mark should be used before such named; also as to the use of pasters. Two sets of written objections were filed with us against candidates for supervisors. These objections necessitated looking up much law. One set in the form of an independent certificate of nomination was filed in opposition to Edward N. Latant of Worth, who had to all appearances been nominated by both the Republican and Democratic Parties. This petition was not accepted by the Board of Elections and accordingly those who had championed the petition appealed to former Judge George W. Reeves, who on looking up the law, sustained our decision. In the other case objections were filed by Mrs. Addie S. Larney of the Sixth Ward to the independent petition and nomination of George C. Smith. After much study, it was agreed that these objections should be dismissed.

In the Town of Lorraine an error was made in the certificate of nomination for town officers which was filed in our office. This error we learned at a late date, when one of the candidates appeared at the office. On the ballot appeared the name of S. T. Randall as a candidate for Justice of the Peace and on the same ballot appeared the name of S. T. Randall for Assessor for Two Years. Whereas, in the second instance, the nominee was a different Randall and should have been

W. S. Randall. As a result the list of nominations and the ballots had to be reprinted by an order of Justice Smith, who decreed that the expense therefor should be born by the Town of Ferrisine.

Previous to election, predictions of much trouble on Election Day came to our office, but it did not materialize. Possibly state troopers which had been sent by the order of Captain Broadfield, who is in charge of this section of the state, prevented any interferences at the polls. At any rate, there was no complaint concerning persons occupying the booths any longer than the time specified in the Election Law.

Looking after the preparation and arrangement of the voting machines, used in every district in the City of Watertown, makes double the work, and in fact is the same as preparing for two elections at the same time. Nevertheless, when ready for voting the machines being carefully equipped by Custodian James F. O'Connor worked to perfection. In five minutes after the polls closed the vote could be announced from the machines. The Board of Elections appreciates the able services of Mr. O'Connor. John M Nolan, the printer who has had the job of printing the face of the machines and the supplies therefor is entitled not only to the thanks of the tax payers and voters but our thanks as well.

In addition to the duties naturally devolving upon us, we were called upon by the Secretary of State to furnish her office with a description and map of every election district in the county. With the aid of the town clerks and city clerk, we were able to comply with her demands. Furnishing maps and descriptions took hours of labor in our office.

The Commissioners of Elections attended the State Convention in Albany last February, and through such attendance received much valuable information by comparing notes. They also ascertained that Jefferson County is obtaining election supplies and printing at as low if not

if not lower cost than any printing in the state; that our forms are generally regarded as the best and many of the commissioners have asked and have been furnished with copies. All the supervisors in this county were furnished with a copy of the proceedings of such convention, which proceedings were gotten out at the expense of the commissioners themselves, who were members of the association.

We earnestly trust that your Honorable Board will approve of the commissioners attending the next convention which will probably be called in Rochester, allowing them their actual expenses.

Respectfully submitted,

Jefferson County Board of Elections.

Dated: December 15th, 1925.