

TO THE HONORABLE, THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

When our report of a year ago was made to your Honorable Body, we were then well along with the enrollment, one of the longest and most tedious jobs which we have, yet none demands more accuracy. We have this to say of the last enrollment compiled and that is, that if there was an error, it was never called to our attention. There were nearly 25,000 persons who had the opportunity of enrolling and every one of these enrollment blanks had to be handled many times, before the names accurately compiled, finally appeared in the printed pamphlets, which we presume you had. By letting the contract for these books out of town, we saved the county \$ 26.24, local printers demanding more money.

Through your graciousness, we were permitted to attend the Election Commissioners Convention in Rochester, and there learned that by our system of competitive bidding for printing and supplies, we were paying less by considerable than most of the other counties and that no county was as low as Jefferson. At the same time, we found that in most instances, the salaries of commissioners and clerk in Jefferson County were much less than that paid in other counties. Being secretary of the State Association, one of our commissioners had turned over to him, the figures from many of the counties in so far as salary, prices paid for printing and all supplies incident to the office were concerned and a comparative table made.

Along came the village elections, and we assisted a number of the village clerks and attorneys for villages in the preparation for these elections.

With the approach of the Fall Primary, there came a raft of candidates and several hundred enrolled voters, who had moved since enrolling had to change or transfer their enrollment to some other district. With about a dozen Republican candidates on the start for the office of sheriff and several for each of the other offices to be filled, it was no small job to check up their petitions and ascertain if other than qualified voters in the respective parties had signed the petitions. Then the signing of more than one petition by the voter had to be scrutinized. Some of the petitions filed in our office contained in excess of 2000 names. The Republican Primary Ballot was the largest ever voted in Jefferson County and there were as many as 80 names to be canvassed. Was it a job to canvass this vote? The inspectors in your districts will tell you that it was, and their job was to canvass only one district. We canvassed one hundred and eleven.

Being ever on the alert to save money for the county, when we were advised that the stock of the D. S. Miller Company was to be sold at reduced rates, Miss Grant, the clerk, checked up on the supplies which were needed, and bought supplies of this company for two elections, thus saving nearly 50%.

During the year, a number of new and critical questions came before us, and in a number of instances had to be referred to the authorities in Albany.

Rather than have the Primary Ballot printed out of town, where we would not be able to read proof on every district, a change in the county committeemen making this necessary, the Hungerford-Holbrook Company, next to the lowest bidder was permitted to use cheaper grade paper for the ballots and this alone saved Jefferson County \$ 78.13. One new printing concern in the city bid unusually low on the enrollment blanks and netted a saving to the county of \$ 13.80.

We regret to report that the poorest returns ever filed in this office were turned in by the inspectors in the last Primary. In

some instances, the inspectors had 15 times too many votes, giving one delegate or alternate 15 votes instead of one, having in mind that because there were 15 candidates each should be given that number. We have kept a list of all mistakes made during the past year, and are gradually getting in touch with these inspectors that the errors may not occur again. Several inspectors have already called at our office and have corrected their returns.

Probably when we mention that it is one of our jobs to check up the hotel, rooming houses and boarding houses in this city, very little attention or thought is given by your board. You would be surprised to find the proprietors of boarding and rooming houses making hundreds of inquiries and then failing to have their returns in such shape as the law requires.

The one great fault that we find is that the chairmen of many boards of inspectors will not comply with the law and our demand to return a postal card which we send out with the registration supplies asking them to return each day of registration, a card stating the number of persons registered in their district. Without knowledge of the total registration, we have nothing definite to guide us in the number of ballots which we shall furnish on election day. We would respectfully ask that you see to it that the inspectors in your towns or wards have your word on returning these cards.

This year, there were by far more expense statements filed with this board, than ever before. Certified copies of these expense statements have to be filed in the Office of the Secretary of State.

Then followed the applications for absentee ballots and it would surprise you to learn what flimsy excuses are offered in an effort to obtain such a ballot. It was necessary this year, to reject twice as many as ever before. A ruling by the attorney-general telling us how to make our decisions in accepting and rejecting the applications was our guide in every instance.

The independent petition of Robert E. Cahill for city councilman caused no end of work, worry and wisdom. Even the Attorneys and judges of whom the question had been asked could not agree on the answer. Whether or not the name was to go on the ballot and on the voting machine was a question which confronted us, and consequently delayed the printing of the face of the machine and the absentee ballots which had to be mailed long distances.

It will be of interest to you to learn that in the printing of the general election ballots this year, we saved \$ 281.47. In order to do this, we awarded the contract to a small printer than than to a firm which had heretofore printed them. It was sort of taking a chance on the work being done on time and in a satisfactory manner. The work met with our approval and was ready for delivery a week before we needed it. By having the question submitted ballots printed our of town, we saved the county \$ 112.59. Forget not that our anxiety was great but our reward was greater when everything was done without a hitch.

For the benefit of the supervisors who observed the several persons working immediately following the primary and in the general election as well, we say with no hesitancy that the expense of this extra help was born by the commissioners.

While the enrollment is far from complete, the contract for the printing of the enrollment books has been let to the Gouverneur Free Press for \$ 1.20 per page, which is 17 cents per page lower than a year ago.

We take great pleasure in submitting this report and would be glad to lay before any of your board the figures which we have in our possession, showing the cost of running any other election commissioners' office in this state.

Respectfully submitted.

Dated, December 14th, 1926.

Eugene F. Livermore  
William K. Mott  
Election Commissioners.

Jefferson County

In the 22 towns of the county, there are 89 election districts

In the 12 wards of the City of Watertown, there are 22 election districts

Total Registration for the year 1926 was: 40,463

Towns 30869

Watertown 9594

Total vote in Fall Primary 10,914

Republican vote 9697

Democratoc vote 1208

Socialist vote 9

Total vote in General Election 27,427

Towns 18314

Watertown 9113

Total Enrollment for 1927 is: 32,850

	Rep	Dem	Soc	Blank	Void
Watertown	6755	2628	57	245	16
Towns	17670	4872	33	551	23
	24425	7500	90	796	39