

P. W. COSTELLO ELECTED CITY CONTROLLER

LIGHT VOTE POLLED THROUGHOUT CITY

Absence of Local Fights in the Strong Republican Wards Brought About the Defeat of Evan R. Morris for the City Controllership.

A light vote was polled in the city yesterday. P. W. Costello, Democratic candidate for city controller, was elected over Evan R. Morris, Republican. A summary of the vote follows: Costello 6,982 Morris 6,164 Costello's majority 818

The new select council and board of school control will have a majority of Democrats. The common council continues to be Republican. The Democrats gain one select councilman and two school controllers. The Republicans gain two more members of common council.

Both Chairman Chittenden and Chairman Schmidt were agreed on the causes that led to the Democratic victory. In the Democratic strongholds the voters were induced to face the unromantic elements by interest in hot local fights in the Republican strongholds there were, for the most part, no local contests.

For instance, in the Third, Twelfth and Eighteenth wards, where there are, all told, less than a score of Republicans, the Democrats were fairly at one another's throats. In the Fourth, Fifth, Ninth, Thirteenth, Fifteenth and Seventeenth wards there was absolutely no opposition whatever to the Republican ward and district candidates.

That this was not wholly accidental, is indicated by the fact that D. J. Campbell, who was the Democrat nominee for the speculative office of poor director, publicly withdrew his name, for no purpose other than forestalling a contest that would have a tendency to bring out the big Republican vote in the wards comprising the district in which he was to run.

The weather had not a little to do with Mr. Morris' defeat. On a fair day the voters would likely come out without the incentive of a local fight, for Mr. Morris is personally popular and not wanting in as much as a single political weakness. It was simply a case of luck being with the enemy.

Yesterday's election was the first in which the absolute secrecy of the ballot, and the voter, himself, was permitted, or rather required, to place his ballot in the box, instead of having the election officers do it for him. This innovation unquestionably accomplishes its purpose, the absolute secrecy of the ballot, but, according to the views of some of the politicians, it opens up a wide door for fraud, by reason of the fact that the numbering of the ballots being done away with, contests are practically done away with. In the case of instance, which has an election board composed of all Republicans or all Democrats, which is not uncommon, even in Scranton, the party workers are permitted to vote any and everybody, without much fear of being detected. Once the ballot goes into the box it is there to stay, for there is no way of ever afterward identifying it. The returns from several Democratic districts in which there were no contests, and in which the boards were all of the one faith, would tend to indicate that this "open door" had been discovered and, at least, opened through.

In the wards comprising the old North and North wards of Scranton borough, the returns in some instances show votes for two Republicans. This is accounted for by the fact that by a mistake Mr. Brooks and Mr. Fuller, of the Middle and North wards, respectively, were counted as the candidates of the North and Middle wards, respectively. Republicans who contented themselves with a cross in the circle voted for the wrong man. The votes regularly received by either were cast by means of stickers or written insertions.

CONFUSION OVER BALLOTS. There was confusion galore all through the county and city of defective ballots. Either The Tribune or Republican or both has printed the ballots, heretofore, and never was there heard as much as a single complaint. The Tribune has a record of never having made an error, clerical, typographical or otherwise in any ballot that it has printed. This year, County Controller Jones decided to award the contract to competition. The lowest bidder was The Times, its bid was \$7.75 per thousand, while that of The Tribune and Republican was \$14 per thousand. The cheap bid was accepted and as a consequence the election in at least one municipality is invalid, or at least can be invalidated if any one cares to contest it.

This municipality is Lackawanna township where a new form of government is being installed. The ballots for the South and Southeast districts were so faulty that they could not be used and at an early morning hour the county commissioners had to set about the task of providing new ballots. It was 2:30 o'clock p. m. before the new ballots could be printed and delivered. In the meantime, the voters of these districts had to stand around and wait.

In Mayfield, the Democratic school controller and councilman, for one of the wards were printed in the same group. The commissioners gave instructions that the councilman's name should be scratched out, and that anyone who wanted to vote for him, should write the name in the extra column.

The ballots for the Fifteenth ward, First and Second districts were all askew, but the judge of election discovered the errors in time to have them rectified before the polls opened. Other lesser errors were reported from other places.

AT HEADQUARTERS. The onlookers at headquarters last night were commensurate with the voting. At the Central Republican club rooms, where Mr. Morris and his

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Main table showing vote counts for County Controller 1901 (Jones R., Costello, D.) and City Controller (Morris, R., Costello, D.) across various districts.

much disappointed in the showing of the Ninth and Seventeenth wards and declared that the Republicans of that locality would regret their lethargy before many years had passed.

Among the prominent Republicans gathered about the tables were ex-Mayor John H. Fellows, ex-Recorder James J. Moir, ex-Select Councilman Charles Westphal, ex-Borough Solicitor John G. McArdle, of Dunmore; Representative John Scheuer, Common Councilman Albert Lewis, James Moir, Jr., City Assessor J. G. Seaman, Frank R. Tyson and George Marshall.

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Up to 11 o'clock the Democrats were fearful of a repetition of Mr. Costello's experience of last fall, when the open returns showed him a winner by a small majority and the official count proved him a loser by eleven. At 11 o'clock, however, their fears were convinced that Mr. Costello had a lead of at least 600 and they proceeded to jubilate.

Poor Directors.

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DEMOCRATS CARRY DUNMORE BOROUGH.

Election day in Dunmore borough passed off very quietly without any very exciting features. Both sides were active in endeavoring to get out their full quota of votes and as the appended table shows the Democrats were the most successful.

The result shows large Republican gains in the strong Democratic wards with a corresponding falling off in the former Republican strongholds. The usual apathy among the Republican coupled with the Democratic weather tells the story.

Nearly 600 Republican voters were unable to exercise the rights of franchise owing to their failure to pay taxes within the prescribed time. A large part of this number have not been assessed during the past two years and were disqualified through no fault of theirs.

In the Third ward, Third district, which is Mr. Wahler's ward, his majority over Seavage was only three votes, while last year he beat Engle by thirty-five votes. In the Tammany district Seavage received 90 votes, the highest previous Republican vote there being 53 votes for Wilson for Burgess two years ago.

The Republican Waterloo was met in the Second district of the Fifth ward which should have given a Republican majority of about 200, but instead only gave about 90 for the highest man on the ticket. The Republicans received returns in Odd Fellows' hall and as the returns from the Democratic stronghold were received showing large gains everybody was confident of a Republican victory and enthusiasm ran high. At Democratic headquarters at this time every thing was gloomy. Conditions were soon reversed and the Republicans closed up early and began laying plans to do better work next year.

Table showing results for various districts in Dunmore Borough, listing candidates and their vote counts.