

# CURRENT TOPICS

THE ELECTIONS OF 1905 were full of surprising results. For the first time in sixteen years the democrats carried Ohio. James E. Campbell, elected in 1889 was Ohio's latest democratic governor. The Ohio republican convention of 1905 was dominated by George B. Cox, the republican boss of Cincinnati. Myron T. Herrick, the present governor, was renominated by that convention, and the convention refused to endorse railway regulation. The democratic convention nominated John M. Pattison, and in its platform explicitly declared in favor of railway rate regulation. In addition to the revolt against bossism and the desertions from the republican party on account of its refusal to endorse railway rate regulation, the temperance element very largely supported the democratic ticket, while the anti-saloon league was openly arrayed against the republican nominee. The democrats of Ohio elected the governor, winning also a majority in the legislature.

THE VOTE IN CITY AND TOWN elections throughout Ohio show enormous democratic gains. Edward J. Dempsey, democratic nominee for mayor of Cincinnati, was elected by 15,000 majority. Tom L. Johnson was elected by 15,000 of Cleveland by a majority of 12,000. In Toledo the republicans were defeated, Brand Whitlock, candidate for mayor on the city independent ticket, being elected by two thousand. Many Ohio towns that have not for years elected democrats to office, gave democratic majorities this year.

GEORGE B. COX, the republican boss at Cincinnati, was very prompt with his acknowledgment of defeat, and issued a signed statement in which he declared that while he would continue to vote the republican ticket, he would retire from active politics. Senator Foraker in a statement given to the Associated Press says that the results in Ohio were "due solely to local causes." He attributes the defeat largely to the revolt against bossism, and is evidently anxious to make it appear that his position on railway rate regulation did not contribute to the democratic victory.

REFERRING TO THE OHIO election, the Associated Press says: "The state officers and legislatures chosen yesterday will serve three years instead of two as heretofore, the constitutional amendment for biennial elections providing that the terms of officials elected at this time shall expire on January 1, 1909, at which time the state officers and legislators chosen in November 1908, will assume office. The legislature chosen in 1908 will choose a United States senator in succession to Senator Foraker. For some time there was confusion on this point and it was widely but incorrectly asserted that the legislature just chosen would name Foraker's successor."

CONCERNING THE RESULTS in New York, the Associated Press says: "Bird S. Coler, municipal ownership, and Joseph Bermel, republican and municipal ownership, elected respectively president of Brooklyn and Queens boroughs, have membership on the city's board of estimate and apportionment which controls all expenditures of money. This is of great importance, giving the municipal ownership league a voice in the city's financial affairs and also in the granting of franchises, which power also is lodged in the board. In addition to losing the board of aldermen, Tammany lost twelve members of the state assembly from New York county and the assembly when it meets in Albany on January 1 next, will be republican by more than three to one. The democrats elected their candidates for comptroller, president of the board of alderman, president of Manhattan borough, president of Bronx borough, sheriff, clerk and register of New York county and all the coroners in Manhattan and the Bronx. The following supreme court justices were elected in New York county: Henry A. Gildersleeve, democrat; George L. Ingraham, democrat and republican, and Joseph

E. Newburger, democrat and republican. In Brooklyn Joseph A. Burr, republican and municipal ownership league, was elected supreme court justice. In Kings county the municipal ownership league elected its candidates for sheriff, county clerk, register and coroners. By fusion with the republicans it elected a district attorney in Queens county. In Brooklyn it elected one justice of the municipal court, and, by fusion with the republicans, elected two municipal court justices in New York county."

THE RESULTS IN PENNSYLVANIA, like those in Ohio, are revolutionary. William H. Berry, now mayor of Chester, Pa., democratic candidate for state treasurer, was elected by 50,000. Mayor Berry's opponent was J. Lee Plummer, republican. Some idea of the tremendous victory won by Mayor Berry may be obtained from an extract from a dispatch sent, prior to election, to the Pittsburg Dispatch by its Harrisburg correspondent, as follows: "Mr. Plummer's personality cuts very little figure. The revolt is aimed at the 'organization' that nominated him. If he is defeated it will be perhaps the most notable case on record in Pennsylvania of the overthrow of a republican candidate against whom virtually nothing has been proved, so far as he is personally concerned."

THE SITUATION IN Pennsylvania, aside from the election of Mayor Berry, is explained by a correspondent for the Chicago Record-Herald in this way: "Popular uprising as a result of the recent bank-graft exposures placed the powerful republican state machine, headed by Senator Penrose, on the defensive. The republican leaders relied on the vote of Philadelphia to pull their ticket through, but this failed them in the case of Plummer. The republicans elected a justice of the supreme court and three justices of the superior court, the democrats electing their lone candidate for superior court judge, nominated under the minority representation regulation. Both state tickets were endorsed miscellaneously by minor parties."

IN PHILADELPHIA the "city party's" plurality over the republican ticket was 43,000. Mayor Berry, the democratic nominee for state treasurer carried Philadelphia by 36,000. Concerning the Philadelphia contest, a correspondent for the Chicago Record-Herald says: "The local fight in Philadelphia was over county officers—sheriff, coroner and two county commissioners. The candidates of the new city party also appeared on the tickets of the democratic, independent, Lincoln and prohibition parties. The victory over the regular Republican ticket was complete, the majorities being about 60,000 for each of the candidates. Many arrests were made for attempted fraud at the polls, and in several instances bloodshed resulted from clashes between the reform and gang forces."

NEW YORK'S MUNICIPAL election is generally described as "the hottest in history." George B. McClellan was the regular democratic nominee for mayor, being supported by Tammany. William R. Hearst was the nominee of the municipal ownership party, while William M. Ivins was the republican candidate. The municipal ownership party developed unexpected strength. But in New York, as in Ohio, the popular revolt against bossism was manifest. The fight against District Attorney Jerome, who entered the contest as a petition candidate, and was subsequently placed on the republican ticket, was exceedingly bitter, and men of all parties rushed to Mr. Jerome's support.

ON THE FACE OF THE RETURNS, Mayor McClellan was elected by 3,400 votes, and the Associated Press calls it "the smallest plurality ever recorded for a successful mayoralty candidate, and a result which might be readily reversed by a recount of the ballots." Mr. Jerome was elected, having about ten thousand plurality. Bird S. Coler, the nominee for

president of the Borough of Brooklyn on the municipal ownership league ticket, was also elected. In the new board of alderman Tammany will have but twenty-five members against thirty-eight republicans and nine municipal ownership members.

MR. HEARST ANNOUNCES that he will contest Mr. McClellan's election. It is claimed that thirty thousand Hearst men were defrauded of their right to vote, that one thousand election inspectors were guilty of illegal acts, and that fraud and ballot-box stuffing generally was the order of the day, and all carried on for the purpose of defeating the municipal ownership ticket. The ballot boxes in Greater New York have been taken charge of under an order from the supreme court. Mr. Ivins, the defeated republican candidate, has gone to Mr. Hearst's support, and insists that he was fairly elected. The New York Evening Post and other newspapers that were opposed to Mr. Hearst's election, plainly charge that he was defeated by fraud. All wagers on the election have been held up, and a post-election contest which promises to be as heated as was the campaign itself, is in progress.

IN RHODE ISLAND George H. Utter, republican, was elected governor, over former Governor Garvin and the entire republican state ticket was elected. The republicans captured both houses of the legislature. In Nebraska republicans elected a judge of the supreme court and two university regents. Douglas county the chief county in the state, was carried by the republicans, but the democrats made gains in the local contest in some counties. In Maryland the proposed suffrage restriction amendment was defeated by a large majority. The state senate is democratic, the lower house of the legislature is in doubt, and the result will, it is said, depend upon the official count. The democrats in Maryland elected Chief Judge Harlan.

IN MASSACHUSETTS Curtis Guild, Jr., republican nominee for governor, was elected by a plurality of 23,000 over Bartlett, his democratic opponent. Eben S. Draper, republican nominee for lieutenant governor, defeated Henry M. Whitney, democrat, by only 3,042. Draper's small plurality was due to the fact that he took a decided stand against tariff reform and lost the votes of many tariff reform republicans. In the legislature the democrats gained three senators and one representative. In San Francisco Eugene E. Schmitz, present mayor, and union labor candidate was re-elected by a majority of 15,000. Paul C. Barth, democratic nominee for mayor, was elected in Louisville. Ezra Thompson, candidate of the anti-Mormon party, was elected mayor of Salt Lake City. Charles Bookwalter, republican, was elected mayor of Indianapolis by a plurality, defeating Mayor Holtzman, democrat.

REFERRING TO THE results in Indiana, the Indianapolis correspondent for the Chicago Record-Herald says: "The result of the election throughout Indiana showed an unusual number of surprises, the most striking of which were the complete overthrow of the republican ticket in Evansville and the success of the democratic ticket in Richmond, in both of which cities the democrats won on the issue of a moral reform. In Richmond the democrats will be in power for the first time in twenty years. State Senator Edgar Durre was defeated for mayor of Evansville by John W. Boehne. Practically the entire ticket in Evansville was elected. Boehne's plurality being about 1,700. Durre was made to carry the odium of the administration of Mayor Covert, who had permitted the city to run wide open. The result in Richmond was no more unexpected than in Evansville, as the machine, which backed Zimmerman, was in disfavor. In Fort Wayne, Hosey, democrat, was elected over White, republican. Another striking result was the defeat of Mayor Bidaman in Terre Haute by James M. Lyons. The latter is a municipal owner."