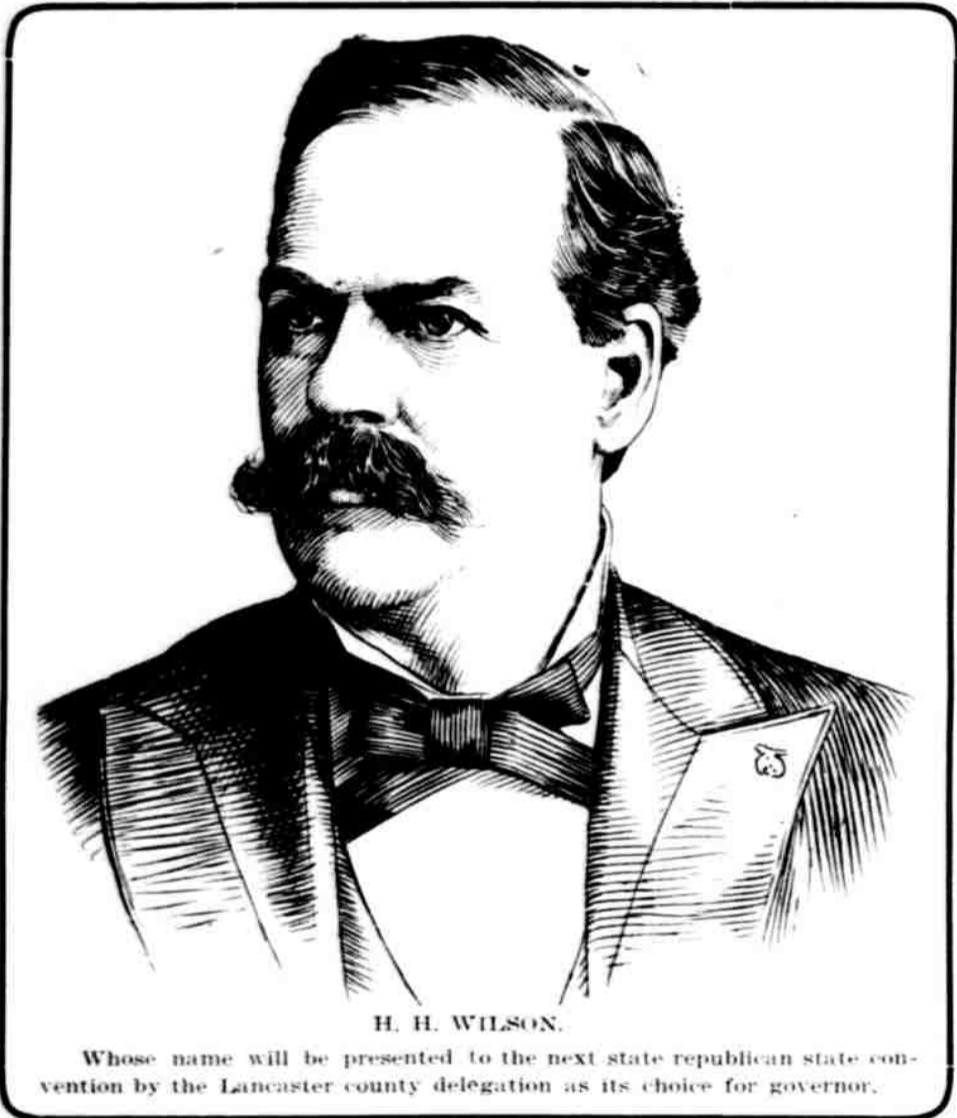


IN THE REALM OF  
POLITICS

Every now and then the moribund civic conscience is stirred and city politics excites lively interest. The machine-like evolutions of the majority in the city council have excited considerable indignation and an earnest effort will be put forth by those who believe in keeping pure the fountains of government to put in the council only those who can be fully trusted. Whether it will amount to anything or not remains to be seen. It all depends upon the depth and fervor of the citizens bent on reform. There are enough of them to overturn all the machinations of the gangsters and corporation strikers, but they don't take the absorbing

and declining to favor a public officer above the ordinary citizen the inevitable result would be that a higher and better class of citizens would accept office, men who would deal fairly with all corporations and not go around afterwards calling attention to their services. This however, would be antipating the millenium.

It costs several hundred dollars to make a fight for councilman in a primary contest in any of the big wards. The office itself pays but \$600 for two years' service. If the proper amount of time is devoted to city business it is a losing proposition for a man to



H. H. WILSON.

Whose name will be presented to the next state republican state convention by the Lancaster county delegation as its choice for governor.

interest in the game nor devote the time to it that the other fellows do. Their success is therefore problematical. It can be only temporary for the reason that the spasm of civic virtue is over in a short time, and the citizens go back to their sordid occupations leaving the other fellows plugging away at politics. Keeping steadily at it will win in any pursuit, and this lesson was long ago learned by the politicians. Just now the people appear to be after a few of the more flagrant violators of ward sentiment, and it is very likely that they will get a few scalps.

It seems inevitable that so long as there are public service corporations amenable to regulation by the city council, those corporations will take an active interest in the election of members of that body. Good common business sense, however, ought to suggest itself to the management of these corporations that it would be money in their pockets if they would be willing to accept the assurance of the public that they will be treated fairly if they will only keep their noses out of city politics and stop trying to put in office men whom they can depend upon. It is quite likely that they will retort that they cannot expect fair treatment at the hands of the public officers unless they go into politics and bulwark themselves against reprisals. This, however, is begging the question. With corporations refusing to act as bankers for councilmanic candidates

run for the office. This condition of affairs is, in itself, a source of temptation that weak men cannot always resist. And yet I anticipate that if a business man who is a candidate for council should propose to the gas company, for instance, that if it will support him or at least keep its hands off the fight he will agree to deal justly with it in all matters of legislation affecting its interests, his proposal would be turned down and the company's assistance given to some other man who would promise to stand by it in any entanglement it might get into during his term. Some skeptical people who are not familiar with the inside workings of politics incline to the belief that there is, in the frequent reference in this campaign to the gas company and the railroad companies, considerable of the cry of "wolf," without any wolf in sight. They argue that the gas company employs so few men comparatively that those whose votes they control would not be much of a factor in any ward fight. This is true, but it is not in direct votes controlled that corporations like these find their power. Where their assistance is valuable is in furnishing the money with which a friendly Indian may make the race at no expense to himself. Money enables the employment of men to go around and work up sentiment for a candidate and against all others, to whisper things about the other candidates, to work up plots and counterplots, to line up workers in

various parts of the ward. In politics this is effective, although it doesn't always win.

The First ward is a railroad ward, and everybody knows what this means. Many of the employees of the roads live here, and while there is no corporate terrorism over them they are not inclined to use their votes in opposition to any candidate who is considered all right by the political end of the road. Here the present councilman is a democrat, and the republican primary may be a friendly contest between Harry G. Abbott and M. D. Clary. In the Second ward the majority of republican voters are foreign-born. They have not lived in America long enough to become thoroughly imbued with individual independence, and their material interests are more to them than their political ones. This is the one ward where the gas company really possesses voting strength and political power. The other men who control its politics kindly permit the gas company to have a free hand in municipal elections, in return for aid in county campaigns. Here it does not seem to be settled who are the real candidates. The Third was once known as a silk stocking ward. It is so no longer. The attractiveness of the south side as a residential center has drawn away a number of those who once were potent in politics there. The better-paid employees of the railroads and the students boarding and lodging houses have occupied the houses left vacant in this exodus. The railroad engineers form a compact force here, and it is therefore only natural that one of their number, George H. Moore, is being pushed forward for the council. Mr. Moore is a giant physically, very popular among the railroad men and his activity in the past and his proven loyalty to his friends makes his candidacy formidable. He has an opponent in Chris Locke, landlord of the Grand hotel.

The real contests of the councilmanic campaign are to be found in the Fourth, Fifth, Sixth and Seventh wards. Councilman Bacon was elected two years ago. He was then regarded as a conservative citizen, whose personal affiliations and private life were thought to be sufficient bulwark against the temptations of a councilmanic career. It is freely charged now that he aligned himself with men whose interests are not those of the ward and that he was too much inclined to the corporation side of questions when the interests of the people dictated a contrary course. His opponents have been insisting all along that he would not last as a candidate until primary day, but he is showing an unwonted energy and tenacity, although some of his strength has been



A. HAYDN MYER.

A candidate for the republican nomination for water commissioner.

cut into by the C. Y. Smith boom. The opposition seems just now to be centering on John S. Bishop, but there may be some changes in the line-up of candidates before voting begins. In the Fifth, Councilman Frampton, who is accused of being friendly to the Traction company because he voted

against the six for a quarter ordinance, is having opposition from two sources, H. C. M. Burgess and O. W. Vanderveer. The latter seems to be running an independent campaign, while Burgess is credited with being backed in part by the gas company. Frampton has made a good record, however, and clearly has the inside track.

Councilman Fryer is having his troubles in the Sixth. He had a hard time of it to become a councilman, and his enemies in the Sixth say they will have his scalp on primary day. Mr. Fryer was defeated for councilman several years ago by E. R. Guthrie.



T. F. A. WILLIAMS.

Appointed deputy by Postmaster E. R. Sizer.

but two years since won out by four votes over L. J. Dunn, his present opponent. The complaint against Mr. Fryer seems to be of the same general character as that against Mr. Bacon—his constituents didn't think he would do it. In other words, that he has lined up with the wrong crowd and sought favor in quarters that are obnoxious. Over in the Seventh H. H. Meyers is making his fifth or sixth run for council. This seems to be a perfect mania with Meyers, although when he was in the council his course was not such as to recommend him to the people generally. He is an employe of the Standard Oil company, and is chiefly remembered for his exploit in breaking a quorum by rushing out of the council and sliding down the firemen's pole to the rear room below. It is not unlikely that he will defeat Lyman, who deserves a better fate, because he is shrewdly taking advantage of the unpopularity of Mr. Lyman's stand against a flat water rate.

The fancied security in which the friends of Water Commissioner Tyler rested was rudely broken the other day by the announcement of Haydn Myer's candidacy. Mr. Myer is a very popular young republican, as is evidenced by the large number of signatures attached to his petition. Dealing with water questions has been his lifework so far, and in the matter of capability he will find no critics. His supporters are making no fight upon Mr. Tyler's administration of affairs. They simply say that Mr. Tyler has had two terms and that the theory of rotation in office is a good one and especially applicable to city departments. It is quite likely that the water rate question will cut some figure in this contest. Mr. Tyler stood pat on the proposition that the rates should not be changed, notwithstanding the fact that every small consumer in the city feels that he has been and is being discriminated against in favor of the larger consumer. A spirited contest over the police judgeship is on between Walter L. Anderson and P. James Cosgrave. Mr. Cosgrave had the advantage of a longer start, but both are such popular young men with a wide range of acquaintance that it would be difficult to pick the winner. City Attorney Strode and City Engineer Campen will have no opposition, as both are first termers and among the most efficient city officers Lincoln has ever had.