

AN APPEAL

To the Voters of the Seventh Ward of the CITY OF DULUTH.

As a candidate for the position of alderman of the Seventh Ward, I desire to make the following statement:

There was circulated for me in the Seventh Ward, a petition calling upon me to become an independent candidate for alderman in the Seventh Ward. There were signed to this petition 234 names of voters. After about 225 had been signed to my petition, I, in company with Mr. M. M. Clark, saw L. A. Gunderson who was then preparing to circulate a petition as the league candidate for alderman and it was distinctly agreed between Mr. Gunderson and myself, that he would not obtain any signatures of parties to his petition that had signed mine for the reason that if any parties signed both petitions, they would have to be stricken off of both by the city clerk. Mr. Gunderson stated at the time that he knew what the law was on the subject and that he would not allow any parties who had signed my petition to sign his, but would refuse positively to let them sign. Knowing that I had far more than the required per cent of voters on my petition I relied fully upon Mr. Gunderson's word and made no effort to obtain any other signatures, but did obtain eight or ten more. Notwithstanding this positive agreement with Mr. Gunderson and his doubly emphasized declaration that he would not permit any one to sign his petition who had signed mine, he obtained forty-six names to his petition who had already signed mine. He violated his plighted word in the most dishonorable way by urging a large number of parties who had already signed my petition, to sign his, even after they had stated to him they had signed mine. And these parties have informed me and my friends, that Mr. Gunderson stated to them that it made no difference if they had signed my petition; it would be all right for them to sign his. By this method of misrepresentation to the parties who had signed my petition, he obtained the signatures of forty-six of my signers. It had appeared after an inspection of all the signers to my petition that out of the number that signed, twenty-eight of them had never procured their second papers, so that they were not legal voters at the time they signed my petition. Deducting these twenty-eight names from the 234, we have left 206 names. But by reason of Mr. Gunderson obtaining these 46 names that had signed my petition they under the law had to be stricken from my petition and I was then left with only 160 names that would count, whereas the law required ten per cent of the votes cast at the last election, which amounted to 173. I have now recited the first act in the campaign which is played by Mr. Gunderson as the leading star. We will now proceed to state the facts as they appear in the second act.

SECOND ACT.

In this we find Mr. T. C. Himebaugh, republican candidate, the leading star, playing the brilliant part by proxy, and his proxy is no less a person than Moses Perrault, Esq., father-in-law of said Himebaugh. Messrs. Gunderson and Himebaugh had come to the conclusion that if my name was printed upon the official ballot as one of the candidates for alderman, that I would defeat them both, so they determined to resort to a legal technicality, and Mr. Perrault applied to the court upon affidavit and obtained an order on the city clerk to show cause why my name should not be left off of the official ballot. When the matter came up in court it was found that the trick of Mr. Gunderson's worked like a charm, for after the forty-six names were stricken off of my petition, that he had obtained to his, I was left short 13 names, and the court ordered the clerk not to put my name upon the official ballot. Mr. Perrault stated at the court house on the 28th day of January, in the presence of several parties that Mr. Himebaugh was not backing him in this matter, and that Mr. Himebaugh had told him not to go ahead upon his advice, but upon the advice of his (Perrault's) attorney, Mr. J. H. Brigham.

I wonder if any voter is so foolish as to believe that Mr. Himebaugh is not behind a tree shouting to father-in-law Perrault to "go ahead, but tell all the boys that it is Brigham that is advising you to do this and not T. C. Himebaugh, republican candidate for alderman."

Now, fellow-voters of the Seventh Ward, I have made a straightforward, unvarnished statement of the facts, and I call upon you to rebuke such deep laid schemes.

This is a free country, and every voter has the right to vote for whom he pleases for an office. Although it is a fact that the city clerk cannot print my name upon the official ballot, every voter has a right to write my name under the names of Himebaugh and Gunderson, and the law says that if this is done the ballot shall be counted as for me. The law is as follows:

"Any elector, if he desire, may write the name of any person in the blank space under the names of candidates printed on any ticket, and this name so written shall be counted as balloted for whether a mark is put opposite it or not."

In other words, fellow-voters, you can all vote for me on next Tuesday by writing my name under the name of Himebaugh and Gunderson, and if more of you vote for me than vote for either of the other parties, I will be the next alderman from the Seventh Ward and they will have plotted all their nice schemes in vain.

I call upon you in the name of fair play and common decency to rebuke the dishonorable tactics of the other candidates, by writing my name on your ballot.

As a final word, let me say to you, when you take your little ballot and go into the Australian stall on next Tuesday, be sure that you write in a plain hand under the names of Himebaugh and Gunderson, Ira J. Richardson.

Yours truly,

IRA J. RICHARDSON.