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AMENDING THE BALLOT LAW. Assembly Bill No. 349, amending the ballot law, has passed the lower house, and goes to the Senate to meet whatever is to be its fate.

It amends Section 1142 so that election officers shall be selected from all instead of two of the political parties represented on the ballots of the preceding year that cast 3 per cent. of the vote, one to each party.

The entire provision relative to members of the board relieving each other, the exclusion of those who have held or do hold office, from the board, the ability to read and write in English, and the punishment by fine or imprisonment for refusal to act on Election Boards, is omitted.

There is no objection to the amendment, except to that part which omits the educational qualifications of election officers, and the penalty for refusal to serve. It ought to affirmatively appear that an election officer can read and write in English, and the State has the right to ought to compel men to serve, just as is done for jury duty and as witnesses.

Section 1183 is proposed to be amended, to change the percentage to secure a petition nomination from five to three, and it adds a penalty, as for felony, for false affidavits certifying to the genuineness of the petition signatures, and for signing another's name to a petition.

Section 1194 is amended so as to require County Clerks to certify to the political committees the names of all nominees certified to him by the Secretary of State. It strikes out the entire provision relative to advertising the ballots, and substitutes personal delivery of a sample ballot to every registered voter through the Post-office.

Section 1197 is amended so as to abandon the title groups or headings, in conformity with the decision of the Supreme Court.

Section 1203 is amended so as to require polling-booths or compartments to be sufficient in number for one to represent each forty voters in the precinct. The present law fixes the number at fifty. There is no objection to this change.

Section 1205 is amended so as to make the ballots conform to the omission of headings giving the title of parties for straight-ticket voting. This is necessary under the ruling of the courts.

Section 1208 amends the law in a most important particular. It requires that the illiterate voter who asks for aid in the marking of his ballot must select two, instead of one, of the election officers, and they must be of different political parties. Likewise the form of an explicit oath is set out, to which the voter must subscribe his name, in which he is required to set forth the physical disability that affects him. The officers chosen by him to assist him must also subscribe to an oath of good faith in the matter. This is all wise. It would be better still if the entire provision relative to educational disability were stricken out, and physical disability alone left as a ground for asking for assistance in the voting booth.

Section 1257 is amended by omitting the provisions relating to straight ballots, and all that follows the first reference thereto in that section. There is substituted this method: That the ballots shall be taken from the box, one by one, and opened. One of the board must read off each name on the ballot opposite to which the stamp appears, and the officer under which the name is printed or written. The ballots are to be threaded as fast as read off and tallied, and the illegal ballots are to be indorsed and signed by a majority of the board and then strung upon a string.

Section 1264 substitutes eighteen hours for three hours within which the election boards in San Francisco must deliver the returns to the County Clerk after the adjournment of the board.

Section 1265 is amended by adding to the requirement that the Clerk shall keep the Election Board packages unopened for twelve months, the provision that a Judge of a Superior Court, after the time limited for contesting an election, may

open the packages for inspection when he deems it necessary or desirable to do so, in the trial of any material issue, in order to establish the proof of a fact. But in no case is any package of ballots or returns to be taken from the custody of the County Clerk. This is a proper and necessary amendment also.

It will be seen, therefore, that except as to one or two points, the amendments are all good, and are needed changes. It is to be regretted that the bill does not go further and establish a new and rapid system of counting, one that will make more remote the possibility of frauds upon the ballot-box. It would seem that this might be done in such a bill, so as to supersede and work the repeal of the present threadbare and wholly unsatisfactory method.

THE MAYORALLY AGAIN. The late city Republican Convention was well composed. It was a good representative body from the party. It contained as good citizenship as any party convention ever gathered in Sacramento.

The Republican party, in nominating B. U. Steinman, reflected not only the business sentiment of Sacramento, but the desire of the great mass of wage-earners and artisans. They were for him then, they are for him now, and will be on election day.

Merchants, with their natural and traditional reticence, say little aloud about the election, but overwhelmingly they are for and will vote for B. U. Steinman. Workers are more free in expression, and, with frank independence, declare for Steinman almost unanimously.

All the shameful mud throwing indulged in by a disgruntled few can do Mr. Steinman no harm. Neither he nor his supporters retaliate in kind. Neither Mr. Harrison nor Mr. Weil have been assailed as has the Republican nominee. It is proof positive that his strength is known and feared by the hybrid elements opposing him.

The charge that Mr. Steinman is tied up with bosses and pledges and contracts and capitalist enterprises, he has laid out cold and dead with so many, emphatic and clear-cut denial and full expression of his opinions and aims, that even his opponents have not been able to place a finger's tip upon a weak spot in his declaration.

The RECORD-UNION is for Mr. Steinman, not that he is a Republican; not that he is a partisan; not that he is interested in industrial works; not that he has money and invests it at home; not alone that he is the product of self-helpfulness and courage; but because he is now what he is, a competent, clear-headed, far-seeing business man, who has perfectly defined perceptions of the duties of a Mayor, of the needs of the city and how to meet them.

We are for him because he is not pledged, mortgaged, tied up, bound to, or under the cow of bosses, would-be bosses, schemers or tax-eaters.

We are for him because he made a first-class and fearless Supervisor; because he has refused utterly to promise, pledge, or even indicate what he would do in filling places or dispensing city patronage except that city economy, good service, the best for the money, square and above board dealing, improvement along the whole line to the limit of capacity without oppressive taxation, will be the rules of his administration.

No other candidate has said as much. Mr. Weil, who is whooped up against Mr. Steinman, has not had a word to say in expression of his ideas of municipal conduct, municipal advancement, city needs and how to meet them. The truth is that the whole city recognizes B. U. Steinman, as of all, the strongest candidate, and hence it is that the contingent of a bolted Democracy, unable to find anyone to train under its colors, has named a candidate who is not a Democrat, and who cannot accept the support of the scaly leaders of the so-called "regular" Democratic party, as he has done, and deny the obligation.

It is no wonder that the whole pack of opposition, the hedge-podge of malcontents, are yelping in concert against the Republican nominee, who fights in the open and refuses to blister his reputation by consorting with the gang that has hoisted Mr. Weil's name in default of a decent Democrat to accept its nomination.

Some silly chatter is indulged in about supposed railroad interference in the coming city election. Such a lie was nailed by us March 1, 1892, by reference to the declarations of President Huntington. We reaffirm all we then said. We do not believe such influences have been, or will be, permitted to be used; no one has the right to assume any such authority. We reaffirm it on the same authority as then publicly announced that the Southern Pacific Company will not, and does not, interfere, and will not tolerate any attempt to control or coerce employees in the matter.

A BLOW AT SACRAMENTO COUNTY. The omnibus county government bill, if it should happen to become a law, will make the citizens of Sacramento rise up in anger bordering on revolution. In another column the outrages the bill will visit upon this county are set forth in detail. We invite the people to read the article and assure them that it is unexaggerated and not overcolored in the least.

tune of over \$20,500 a year; add this sum to the raise (over \$13,000) made by the bill treated of yesterday in these columns, and which is a model of shamelessness, and the taxpayers of Sacramento County will have ten cents on every hundred dollars of value added to their taxes.

Who has asked for these measures? When have the people petitioned for them? Who in their behalf has authoritatively demanded this increase of officials and raise of salaries?

These are questions some one should be able to answer. We are prepared to reply to our own inquiries, but the answers ought to come from the people under the heat of indignation, and it will when they learn just how the tax-eaters are manipulating other people's purses.

There is danger that this omnibus bill will pass with the damaging section retained. There ought to be a rally this morning to give our delegation support in the effort it is making to defeat the schemers. The section must have been put in by those having axes to grind. If there was any honest need for amendment of our present system, it should have been proclaimed long ago in the light, and have been presented before the legislative body of the county, the Board of Supervisors.

There may, possibly, be some help needed in some county offices, but the means employed under these two bills to secure it are disreputable. The officers now in place took their stations with perfect knowledge of their duties and the demands of the offices. Let them come out and declare that they are not behind these bills, one of which creates one new office with a salary of \$6,000 a year—a plum for somebody who is lying low.

WAR WITH THE DOCTORS. The bill to reconstruct the State Board of Health is the direct result of the unwise and unjust attempt of the regular or allopathic school of medicine to have a bill passed that would put all licensing of all physicians under one board of examination. It was a bad bill, and it was properly defeated.

But that does not justify the return attack by the eclectics and homeopaths to divide up the State Board of Health and render it useless. The victors in the first fight came here with a powerful lobby, and it won; flushed by triumph they now assume to rule. That is precisely as vicious as was the attempt of the allopaths to dominate.

We have nothing to do with schools; care nothing about it which school dominates in the State Board of Health. However, that is not now cutting any figure in the matter, for, under the law as it is, the Governor can divide the membership between the schools if he wishes. The objections to the bill are, first, that it names only three classes of doctors, thus excluding all others, and there are others and successful ones; second, that it deprives the Governor of freedom of action which he ought to have in selecting a sanitary board; third, that in such a board as contemplated by the bill, there could not be harmony or agreement as to treatment in quarantine camps or hospitals under its control—and we are very likely to have such hospitals very soon; fourth, the bill is opposed to peaceful administration of the offices of the board in several other matters, and introduces into the statute a law the genesis of which was in the "get even" policy."

Let it be distinctly understood the RECORD-UNION has not said that the State Board should be composed of one school. No expression of that kind can be found in the RECORD-UNION. What we contend, and all we insist upon is, that the whole matter be left with the appointing power.

We have not made any comment upon prejudices and jealousies of the schools. There is probably as much in one school as in another. No doubt human nature is among merchants, lawyers, editors, artisans and legislators. The "get even," "cinch," "scop," "combine" and "corner" is found among them all.

Leave this whole matter with the Governor. If it is to be left to legislative prejudice the board will depend for its vigor at all times upon the majority of advocates of a particular school in the Legislature. Let the appointment field take in all schools of medicine, not three arbitrarily named. To do that best is to leave the Governor's appointing power unhampered, as it now is.

The Assembly is entitled to full credit for having done a right thing without hesitation. As soon as it understood the uniform liquor license bill it killed it. It required considerable courage to face and defy the liquor interest, and that the Assembly had it was most fortunate for its reputation. We had no doubt, however, that had the bill reached the Governor it would have been vetoed or pocketed. We cannot believe that the Executive would have consented to such a monstrous measure, calculated to break down local self-government.

Does any citizen of Sacramento believe that if John Weil, who was indorsed by the Sullivan-Singleton "regular" Democratic Convention, is elected Mayor, Singleton will fail to hold on to his position as Superintendent of the City Cemetery, or that Sullivan will not be rewarded for his services? Did these worthies ever spend any time working for any candidate without being well paid for it?

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