

VIEWS OF CANDIDATES

On Matters Affecting the Interests of the City.

The "Record-Union" Gives Them the Chance to Explain.

Interviews With the Candidates for Mayor and City Trustees—Some Point With Pride, and Others Make Promises.

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and talked freely. Being told that the RECORD-UNION was desirous of placing before the people his views on municipal government, he said:

"I am in favor of improvements of every kind. I think my experience in the Board of Trustees when all these streets on the high grade were paved and the number of improvements which I made by crowding that work, is sufficient evidence of my progressive spirit. There are men in town to-day who hardly speak to me on account of the feeling engendered at that time. You know that at the time the high grade came the streets were in a shameful condition. When the Legislature made a success in getting the intersection-fund bill passed, which provided that the city should pay for the work on the intersections, which constituted about one fourth of the whole expense. The year the first year under the bill was about \$400,000. That enabled us to get about \$200,000 worth of work done. I do not think there has ever been as much work done in any one year since, and it was continued until all the high-grade streets were improved, under my management. Of course I know that the business pavement was not known, and the cobble street was supposed to be the best and most permanent, consequently the large number of streets gravled.

"I went into the board in 1874 and was a member six years. During that time all the high-grade streets were improved. I am in favor of continuing all these improvements. The K-street improvement was started by J. W. Wilson and I was the second one to sign the petition, although the block on which our property is located was paved with granite blocks—between Sixth and Seventh streets. These improvements will probably be continued, and I am in favor of doing it. "But above all street improvements, or anything else, the most important thing is to get taxes reduced. There has been too much money spent in work done. When people come here with a view to investing, the first question they ask is, 'What is your tax rate?' When told that the city, county and State tax amounts to three and a half cents, that is enough for them. This old charter was a good charter if it was carried out. It was intended that under it there should not be any debt carried over from one year to another. It absolutely prohibited that. The Supreme Court has decided that no town or city could incur an indebtedness beyond the fund provided for that year. "As to licenses, I do not think the present liquor licenses are too high. I do not think we are in a condition to have a prohibitory license. I do not think it would be satisfactory to a great majority of the people, but I do not consider the present licenses too high.

"My present year's taxation? Well, I was born and raised in Western Virginia, and up to the time of the war I had been classed here as a Democrat, but since the war I have been known and acted with the Republicans, but I am not much of a politician. "I did not seek this nomination. One or two members of the Citizens spoke to me to know if I would accept the nomination. I told them that if I accepted the nomination from them I would also appear before the Republican convention. That was all that occurred in the matter. They asked no promises whatever, and it is only three days ago that I received notice from Mr. Weinstein that I was nominated by the Non-partisans at all. The 'Regular' Democratic nomination was a complete surprise. I went before the Republican convention the same as any other candidate. The Non-partisans spoke to me very anxiously that I should get the Republican nomination. "This labor matter is a matter of a great deal of importance. I have been a laboring man all my life. I went to work as soon as I was big enough to turn a grindstone and steady the end of a cross-cut saw. My sympathies have always been with the working man, but since the labor organizations have been established I have never been so that I could become a member, being a contractor. There is a story around that I reduced the wages when I was in the board before. The circumstances were these: There was a time of depression like this. There were a great many men here and very little to do. The board had in the street fund \$2,000, and they agreed to expend it at that time. The question came up in the board whether we would give a thousand days at \$2 a day or eight hundred days at \$2 50 a day. Chris Green was Mayor at that time. The board thought it would do more good to give a thousand days at \$2 a day at that time. It was done with no intention of reducing wages, but simply to benefit the unemployed. Of course, soon after that wages were reduced by the city to \$2 a day. "I am in favor of carrying out all the laws. If the law says eight hours shall be a day's work, as it does, I am in favor of enforcing it. "The work we are doing over here on the levee we are doing for the railroad company and are doing at a price that we had to take in competition. We work the same hours and pay the same wages as the railroad company."

"I am in favor of going ahead with every improvement that we can possibly make. What we want is a good city government for the benefit of the people and one that we can be proud of. "I have always been a Republican; never anything else. "I do not like the liquor licenses are any too high now. I believe that if we have a law we ought to enforce it. If a law is not good the thing to do is to repeal it. "I did not want the nomination, but some of my friends wanted me to 'stand in,' as the saying goes, and I finally concluded to do so. "I am willing to give my time and work hard for a good government of the city."

"I have always been a Republican. I was a member of the Citizens, Non-Partisans, and 'Reformed' Democrats for Trustees from the Ninth Ward, stated that he had not yet given much thought to the subject of running for city office, but he was in favor of progress and improvement. If elected, he proposed to do his best for the city's interest.

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I was unwilling to state my views upon any question of public policy. So far as municipal matters are concerned I want to see a good, clean, city government. I am in favor of improvements of every kind. The city has taken a wonderful start lately and I want to see it kept up. I want to see new streets, sidewalks, sewers and all kinds of improvements. The city more attractive. At the same time I want to see the city government run as economically as possible. I do not believe in any kind of extravagance. "I am thoroughly in favor of the new charter. The city had outgrown the old charter and needed a new one badly. In a Democratic convention eight years ago I had a plank introduced in favor of a new charter. As to the licenses I think they are low enough now.

"I have always been a Democrat in politics and am yet in national affairs, but I have affiliated with the Citizens' Association for the past three years in municipal matters. "I did not seek the nomination from any of the bodies that have nominated me. If elected I propose to render the city the very best service I am capable of. "I think I know something of the city's needs, as I have been a taxpayer and a business man here for a quarter of a century. I belong to no man or set of men, but I am interested in the city's interest if I am elected."

"I have not yet made up my mind that I will accept the nomination. I went to the convention and was in favor of putting the Democratic plank in the ticket. When that was not done I came away, and I was nominated after I left. "I was a member of the Board of Trustees from 1884 to 1888, and what my record is well known. If I should be elected again I would do my duty as well as I did then. While I made mistakes, as every man does, I have nothing to take back. I would do the same again under similar circumstances. No man can say that he owns me, nor a hair of my head. "I have always been in favor of improvement of our city. I believe in cutting straps of other people's hides. I improve on my own hook in every way and shape I can. I believe it was Artemus Ward who said, 'I was willing to sacrifice all his wife's relations and all his neighbor's property for his country, but I believe in the golden rule of doing to others as you would be done by.'"

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LOT V.—Special value in Silver Gray Blankets, with fancy borders, will make a very warm covering \$2 48 per pair.

LOT VI.—Wide Dress Prints in gray, red, tan, brown and blue, with neat, small figures. Also, a small lot of dark Indigo Blue Prints, with white figures. Sixteen yards for \$1.

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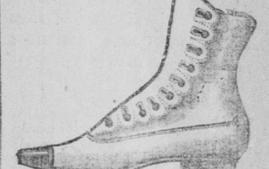
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