

# THE PRINCETON UNION.

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## PRIMARY ELECTION.

A Brief Outline of the New Law for Nominating Candidates for the General Election.

Some of the Law's Provisions that Will be of Interest to All Who Are Legal Voters.

On Tuesday, the sixteenth day of September will be held the first general primary election of the State. The first primary election law was passed by the legislature of 1899 and applied only to Hennepin county. After the law was tried by Hennepin county in the municipal elections of Minneapolis, the law became quite a reform fad and the legislature of 1901 made the law general throughout the State, excepting that it does not apply to nominations for State officers, or in town, village or special elections. In putting the law to the test in some of the smaller cities throughout the State last year it was found to be a very impractical method of nominating municipal candidates and entailed much red tape and expense, many candidates preferring to run independent rather than pay a fee to file as a candidate under the provisions of the law for offices that pay no salary. The result was that at the special session of the legislature last winter the law was amended and cities of 10,000 inhabitants or less were excepted from its provisions in municipal elections. The primary election next month will apply to all judicial, congressional, legislative, county and city officers, whose names will appear on the primary election ballots in the order enumerated. The primary election will be in all its provisions practically the same as a regular election, with the exception of course that those receiving the highest number of votes will be the party nominees whose names will appear on the regular election ballots at the November election. Candidates who run at the primary election and are defeated cannot get their names on the November election ballots, but there is nothing in the provisions of the law to prevent a candidate from running independent at the regular election in November, and this is where some of the fall candidates intend to be found. One peculiar provision of the law is that while a man who two years ago "generally supported" the Democratic ticket and has since changed to a Republican and is a candidate for office, he can qualify as a candidate at the primary election, but cannot vote the ticket of the party he has become converted to. That is to say, he cannot vote for himself, and candidates are so modest they would not be guilty of such an act anyway. Under the technical construction of the law a man who has changed his political belief cannot vote for the candidates of the party of his latest choice at the primary election this fall, but must wait two years, and is put on political probation.

Under the law the primary election day becomes the first registration day for the general election in November, there being three general election registration days, the same as before. To have the right to vote a person must have the following requirements: He must have the right to register on that day as a voter in that election district at the ensuing general election. That is he must on the general election day ensuing Nov. 4, have been a resident of the State six months with the legal requirements of citizenship. A first voter does not have to be of age on the day of the primary, provided he will be of age Nov. 4, nor does he have to declare his past party affiliations or principles. A person can vote in the election district in which he resides on the primary election day if he has not resided there 30 days but intends to remain there until the general election day. The ballots for the primary election will be printed on white paper in black ink, the printed matter on the ballots to be about the width of two newspaper columns, and there shall be a separate ballot for each political party, the candidates of which party have properly qualified as candidates. The ballots will contain the names of the candidates grouped in the order as already stated. At the top of each ballot will appear the words "Primary Election Ballot," and to be followed underneath by the name of the party which the ballot represents. Then will follow the words "List of Candidates for Nominations to be Voted for" in district or ward as the case may be. In double columns under the head of the ballot will appear the names of all the candidates to be voted for in each particular election district.

For instance voters in a commissioner district will only vote for the candidate for county commissioner in that district and in the list of candidates for county commissioner only candidates for any particular district will appear on the ballots. In other words the ballots are substantially the same in arrangement as those for a general election, with the exception as noted that there will be a ballot for each political party instead of having candidates for all parties grouped on one ballot. Fourteen days before the primary election the county auditor makes up primary election ballots for the different political parties and shall post the same in his office and shall publish the same twice before the election. In printing the ballots the order of the candidates under each office is to be changed so that each candidate's name shall come first on as nearly as possible an equal number of ballots, and the ballots are to be arranged in packages or pads with reference to this rotation. In so rotating the names and arranging the ballots in packages, the office having the most candidates under it is to be used in making the changes of position.

With these provisions the voter ought to become pretty familiar with the ballots and the candidates. If he has not had the pleasure of the "glad hand" with any of them he can look them up or inquire into their record. The law intends that the voter shall be monarch of all he surveys to the extent of one vote only. He goes to the polling place where the polls shall remain open from 6 in the morning until 9 at night, and registers. He then calls for his ballot, designating the political party and he is handed a ballot by the judge and goes into the voting booth and marks a cross opposite the names of his candidates for the different offices. When he has fixed up his ballot he gives it to the judge who deposits it in the ballot box. In case a voter's right to vote is challenged then his right is determined by placing him on oath the same as at a general election. If his right to receive the party ballot he asks for is challenged then he must make oath that the ballot he calls for is the ballot of the party he "generally supported" at the last general election. The term "generally supported" is a very broad term, and does not mean that he voted for the head of the opposition ticket, or for any fixed number of candidates on that ticket, and just what support must be given to a ticket to make the voter "generally" support that ticket, each must determine for himself. A voter demanding the right to vote any ticket at the primary, cannot be asked or required to disclose the name of any candidate for whom he voted at any general election. Also the voter is himself the sole judge, under oath, of what party he "generally supported." Inasmuch as at the last preceding election the voter was doing business on the Q. T. in the booth and no one knew what ticket he supported, there is nothing to checkmate a very elastic conscience.

At least two weeks prior to the primary, the city and village councils, and town supervisors shall fix the boundaries of the election districts. The primary shall be held in these districts at the places where the last election was held or at such other place as shall be lawfully designated. The place and time of holding the primary and the hours the polls will be open and the offices to be filled shall be announced just as for a general election by posting notices in three public places one being the polling place. The judges of election for the primary must be appointed at least ten days before the primary election day and are appointed as provided by the general election law. The clerks of election are also chosen by the judges as provided by the general election law. On the day of the primary election the saloons are forbidden to sell any liquor during the hours when the polls are required to be open, that is from 6 A. M. to 9 P. M., and the mayor shall make proclamation to that effect. The provisions of the general election law as to false registration, defacing posted lists, giving out of ballots, arrangement of polling room and boxes, regulations at polling places, crowds within 100 feet of the polling place, challenging, manner of voting, spoiled ballots, assistance in marking ballots, physical disability, secrecy of ballot, electioneering within 25 feet of entrance to polling room, right of employees to be absent from work to vote without forfeiting wages, violation of the law and penalties, are made a part of the primary law.

The clerk of the district court, the county auditor, the chairman of the board of county commissioners, and two justices of the peace, shall constitute the county canvassing board, and shall meet at the court house at 10 o'clock the morning of the second day after said primary election, and canvass the returns, which shall be completed by the evening of the third day and the result certified to the secretary of state immediately. All primary election candidates must file his affidavits of candidacy twenty days before primary election day which will make August 27th the last day of grace for candidates to file.

## WHAT WILL THE INDIAN DO?

Removal of the Mille Lacs Indians a Live Topic at the Lake.

The liveliest place in the whole State of Minnesota will be at the little town of Lawrence on Mille Lacs lake next Monday, Aug. 18th at which time will be held the Mille Lacs Indian council and grand pow wow with Indian Inspector McLaughlin and Simon Michalet, Indian agent at White Earth, to which reservation most of the Indians will probably be removed to adopt the more strenuous modes of life. The Indians have been getting ready for this big event for some time, as they have known that they were to meet the agents and representatives of the "Great Father" at some point on the lake for some time. The chief first received notice from Inspector McLaughlin that the council would be held at Cove, and some thought that it would be held at Vineland, but Lawrence finally drew the winning card, and will get in history as the last great meeting place of the Mille Lacs Chippewas. That is providing the officials of the government succeed in making satisfactory arrangements with Indians which many think is doubtful.

The Mille Lacs Indians have been coming into Lawrence for some time and are arriving in large numbers every day. The council will probably last for several days, as much tact and patience will have to be used in getting the early settlers around the lake to come to some kind of an agreement with the government, as to the amount of money that must be allowed them for improvements, and the allotments, etc. The red man is slow and deliberative and as a rule does not hurry matters. In this council the Indians are making a final deal which means a relinquishment of the lands at Mille Lacs lake and the right of occupancy of the same forever. There will be nearly a thousand Indians assembled at Lawrence and vicinity during the council should all the Indians that are on the Mille Lacs lake roll call be present. There are 996 Indians credited to the Mille Lacs band, but of this number only 364 regularly reside at the lake. Gus Beaulieu, who has always espoused the cause of the Mille Lacs Indians, and has been mutually interested in their welfare, is at the lake conferring with the Indians, and giving them advice on the question "to move or not to move."

A correspondent from Lawrence sends the following to the UNION which would indicate that there has been some misunderstanding between the Indians and the government officials and that matters are not in the best shape to be wished for. The correspondent says: "There is much dissatisfaction among the Indians because of their summons to Lawrence this last week. It appears that the chief sent out runners through the country to round up the braves in anticipation of a payment. The dusky denizens of the forest came in bands and were disgusted to discover that there was no payment, as they had been led to believe but simply a renewal of the proposition to remove to White Earth. They took their packs and began their homeward journey with supreme contempt for the government and its agents. It is doubtful now whether the grand council at Lawrence the 18th will be well attended. Conversation with the Indians impels one to believe that they will not leave their 'happy home' here, and move to White Earth as has been so loudly heralded. There is much unity of feeling however among the Indians on a new proposition submitted by the chiefs. This plan provides for the purchase by the government of scattered tracts of land along Mille Lacs lake, which tracts shall be held open for actual settlement by the Indians if they should find life at the reservation unpleasant. This plan however will be considered a peace-pipe dream by the agent and will probably be disregarded. The Indians are here and a good many say they are here to stay. The smooth gliding birch bark canoe and the merry bands of Indian children playing on the lake shore may be a familiar sight for years to come. If the government would give that \$50,000 to a railroad company as a bonus for constructing a railroad along the lake, the Indian problem would adjust itself."