



"INDEPENDENT IN ALL THINGS. NEUTRAL IN NONE."

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## HE IS A LEADER OF LEADERS,

### So the Populace Crown the Offtime Speaker of Illinois House of Representatives.

### Faithful to Every Duty Confided to His Care the Voters Will Reward Him.

### Clayton E. Crafts Is Sure of Renomination and Re-election to the General Assembly,

### Where He Will Again Lead the Hosts of Democracy in Every Important Fight.

### Sketch of the Career of a Man Whose Whole Life Has Been Highly Honorable.



HON. CLAYTON E. CRAFTS,  
The Democratic Legislative Leader.

The friends of Hon. Clayton E. Crafts are urging his nomination for member of the House of Representatives by the Democratic convention for the Seventh Senatorial District.

Mr. Crafts has been notoriously and shamefully abused by some of the Chicago papers, and, as we believe, maliciously and falsely.

Our readers are interested in being properly represented at Springfield, and for that reason we have taken the trouble to investigate Mr. Crafts' career as shown by the public records and gathered from persons familiar with his life. We give below the result of our investigation, and our comments thereon:

Mr. Crafts was born on July 8, 1848, and will be 50 years old on the day of the primaries. In 1869 he married and removed from the State of Ohio and took up his residence at Austin, Ill. In 1871 he purchased a tract of thirty-six acres at Austin and located his homestead thereon, where he still resides. This purchase laid the foundation of his fortune, and was followed by others prior to 1873, considerable portions of which he still continues to hold.

Mr. Crafts was first elected to the Legislature in 1882, and served his first term at the session following, 1883. Although a new member, he was placed upon the committee that had in charge the revision of the road and bridge law in this State, which at that time was in a terrible muddle. Mr. Crafts was the only attorney on the committee, and upon him fell largely the work of making the revision. It has stood ever since that time without material alteration.

In 1884 Mr. Crafts was again elected to the Legislature and served at the session of 1885. This was the session which was involved in a turmoil from start to finish over the Morrison-Logan fight for United States Senator.

Mr. Crafts made many enemies for himself among the Morrison men by supporting Carter H. Harrison before the Democratic caucus for nomination for United States Senator. The elder Mr. Harrison never forgot Mr. Crafts' efforts in his behalf at that time and was a warm personal friend up to the time of his death.

In 1886 Mr. Crafts was again elected to the Legislature and served in the session of 1887.

He introduced and secured the passage of two bills prepared by Judge Tuley, one providing for an increase of six Judges in the Circuit Court of Cook County, and the other an act authorizing parties to submit their differences orally to a judge, waiving formal pleading right of appeal, and writ of error.

Mr. Crafts was elected leader of his party in the House at this session, and allowing its adjournment he commenced the work of reorganization of the Democratic party in Cook County, which had been thrown into confusion by the disorganization of its Central Committee. He successfully conducted that reorganization; was Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Presidential election of 1888 and conducted that campaign in Cook County.

In 1888 he was re-elected to the Legislature and served in the session of 1889. At the beginning of the session he was elected leader of his party in the House, and during that session he

redrafted and perfected the bill which was introduced providing for the annexation of adjacent territory to the city of Chicago, which has since successfully withstood all assaults upon it in the Supreme Court.

He also prepared and secured the passage of the pleasure driveway bill, by which municipal authorities were authorized to lay out and construct pleasure driveways. Under its terms Washington boulevard was extended through the Town of Cicero and Sheridan driveway was built.

He also prepared the short course calendar bill and secured its passage, by which suits that will not take more than one hour to try can be heard in advance of other causes.

Prior to the passage of this law, it was impossible to secure judgment upon an ordinary promissory note, or for wages earned, short of three years' time spent in the courts owing to inability to take up the cause out of its order. Now such judgments are obtained in from thirty to sixty days. It is a great boon to the profession, and to the people, especially to wage-earners.

In the fall of 1889 Mr. Crafts commenced agitating the question of nominating at the State Convention to be held in 1890 a candidate for United States Senator, by an interview, while attending the State Fair at Peoria, which was published in one of the Chicago papers. He then suggested the nomination of Governor Palmer, and from that time the agitation spread over the State, was taken up by the State committee at its session in the winter following, and was finally carried to a successful issue by the nomination of Senator Palmer at the State Convention.

This program was opposed bitterly by many. The result, however, verified the soundness of Mr. Crafts' judgment, for the Legislature was carried upon that issue in 1890, to which Mr. Crafts was elected a member. At the session which followed in 1891 he was elected Speaker, and the memorable contest which resulted in the election of Senator Palmer will be long remembered in this State. Mr. Crafts was generally given credit for holding the 101 together and electing Senator Palmer.

This session of the Legislature, besides being memorable for the election of Senator Palmer, also passed many acts in the interest of the people; among others the act to prevent child labor; the Australian ballot law; an act to prevent oppressive garnishment; the interest rate was reduced on contracts from 8 per cent. to 7 per cent., and on open accounts from 6 per cent. to 5 per cent.; mining laws were passed, which require, among other things, an examination of the mine managers and weighing coal at the mine and payment therefor at gross weight; trade-mark law was passed for the protection of labor organizations, such as Cigarmakers' Union, etc.; an anti-trust law was passed making it a criminal offense to form a combination of that character; an anti-truck store bill was passed to prevent swindling of miners by truck stores at the mines. A weekly pay bill was passed by which all corporations were required to pay their employees weekly; Labor Day was made a legal holiday. It is well understood that the Speak-

er largely controls legislation and from the foregoing, it will be easily seen whether Mr. Crafts, as Speaker, used his great power in the interest of the common people or in the interest of corporations.

In 1892 Mr. Crafts presided as permanent chairman of the State convention. He was a delegate to the national convention at Chicago, and was a member of the Committee on Resolutions. At that election he was again elected to the Legislature, and at the session which followed in 1893 he was elected Speaker. At this session the appropriation bills were passed for restricting the State, Congressionally and Senatorially. The Senatorial apportionment bill having been subject to attacks in the Supreme Court, has been sustained.

At this session also an anti-trust bill was passed, by which contracts made by unlawful combinations were rendered void; also an act guaranteeing the right of wage-earners to belong to labor organizations.

At the election of 1894 Mr. Crafts was again elected to the Legislature. At the session of 1895 the Republicans were in the majority; but still Mr. Crafts retained the leadership of his party in the House.

At this session of the Legislature Mr. Crafts devoted most of his time to the preparation of a bill simplifying the practice of the law in this State, and endeavoring to secure its passage. Owing to the opposition of old fogy country lawyers and judges, who were afraid they would have to learn to practice law in their old age, the bill was defeated.

At this session of the Legislature a determined effort was made by enemies of the Catholic Church to secure the passage of a bill repealing the act of the Legislature which makes the Catholic Bishop of Chicago a corporation sole. Mr. Crafts opposed the repeal of this law, believing that its repeal would place the business affairs of that church in a state of chaos. And the result was that the repealing bill was defeated. Mr. Crafts was not a member of the Legislature in 1897.

Jenious-minded persons, and persons with personal enmities or interests to serve, have made it their business to vilify Mr. Crafts in many ways, among other things charging him with being the representative of corporations while in the Legislature, and neglecting the interests of the people. The foregoing record gives the lie to all such charges.

Mr. Crafts is a thoroughly equipped lawyer, and a broad-minded and fair-minded man. He is capable of looking at every question without prejudice, and having made up his mind as to the right or wrong of proposed legislation, he is fearless in favoring or opposing it, according to his judgment. While this has compelled him frequently to oppose legislation that he deemed unjust as against corporations, it has at

the same time compelled him to vote for legislation, as the foregoing record shows, which circumscribed and narrowed the powers of corporations when he believed it was necessary in order to maintain the rights of the public as against them.

He has time and again denied the villainous charges that have been made against him in the Chicago Times-Herald. In fact, the record that he has made carries with it its own denial, for it would have been impossible for him to have maintained himself for two sessions as Speaker of the House, and for the several sessions, including the last one he served in, as leader of his party if he was not a just and honorable man.

His record condemns his vilifiers as falsifiers, and to his friends and acquaintances it is unnecessary to make any denial.

His private life and character are pure and unspiced; his business and professional life has been honorable and successful; his political life has been marked by leadership which carried his party in the State to victory; and his legislative record stamps him as a man of industry, integrity and ability.

Hon. Zina B. Carter is looming up as the strongest Republican candidate for Mayor, and he is also put down for a winner.

Hon. Geo. P. Foster will defeat Belknap for Congress in the Third District.

Democrats of the Second Senatorial District have settled on Attorney W. F. Ryan, of the Tenth Ward for their minority candidate in the State Legislature. Mr. Ryan will succeed P. J. McGinnis.

Judges Hutchinson and Stein are slated for renomination. They have served the people well.

All factions in the Democratic party are demanding the nomination of Hon. W. P. Black for Superior Judge. He is very popular with the masses.

Young, Black, Maher and Mitchell will strengthen the Democratic Judicial ticket.

An old-time Republican Cook County leader recently remarked that it would not take a very strong Democratic candidate to defeat Tanner's man Whittemore for State Treasurer.

Hon. James C. Martin will be the Democratic nominee for County Judge.

M. E. Austin, the well-known coal merchant, will be one of the Democratic nominees for County Commissioner.

The solid North Side favors the nomination of W. D. Curtin for County Commissioner.

Democrats talk of nominating Mr. John T. Connelly for President of the County Board.

Blue Rewin faces high priced gas in Cicero.

The biggest mistake the dailies made during the late unpleasantness was in not hanging out bulletins to let the people know what was going on. It looked small.

The threabred Shenandoah is still running at McVicker's. This play and all others like it should be suppressed. It simply reminds Americans of a time when they were killing each other.

Wide-open gambling at Washington Park.

Close up Washington Park gamblers, Mr. Mayor.

The Civic Federation should investigate the rake-off in the County Clerk's office.

The Republicans are making a thorough canvass of the city.

The Eagle has received a number of inquiries as to what electric light company has been permitted to violate the city ordinance by stringing wires and erecting poles on the North Side.

West Side politicians and friends of Alderman M. C. Conlon of the Eighteenth Ward gave a reception to him at the Gault House. A gold star set with a handsome diamond was presented to the Alderman.

According to the statement of a member of the Board of Education Presi-

dent E. Benjamin Andrews of Brown University has decided to withdraw from the contest for Superintendent of Schools. President Andrews is said to have based his refusal on the opposition his candidacy has aroused. If the report is true the supporters of Superintendent A. G. Lane believe he can be elected.

The fight to control the Democratic convention Saturday must go to a finish in the primaries. Compromise is out of the question.

Tim Ryan's followers doggedly insist they will control, with at least 300 out of 328 votes from the West Side. The Gahan-Burke-City Hall claim, carefully tabulated by wards, foots up: Gahan, 900; Ryan, 102. The Ryanites are conceded only two wards—a solid delegation in the Nineteenth and a majority in the Thirteenth.

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## GAHAN AND KERSTEN SURE.

### These Two Men Will Head the Democratic Ticket to Be Nominated on Saturday.

### Gahan Has a Clear Lead for the Nomination for the Fat County Treasurership,

### While the Popular North Side Judge Will Be Unanimously Named for the Shrievalty.

### Justice James C. Martin Appears to Have the Lead for the County Judgeship,

### But the Rest of the Ticket, Except Quinn for Probate Clerk, Is Guesswork.

George Kersten will be the Democratic nominee for Sheriff, unless all signs fall, and a strong candidate he will be.

He is respected by every one who knows him.

Thos. Gahan will be the Democratic nominee for County Treasurer.

James A. Quinn will be the Democratic nominee for Clerk of the Probate Court.

Thomas Edgar is the strongest man mentioned for County Clerk.

George Edmanson or Peter Klotzmann will be named for President of the County Board.

John C. Schubert will be nominated for Clerk of the Criminal Court.

James B. McDonald, James J. Gray and Henry Stuckart will be nominated for County Assessors.

Fred E. Eldred is almost certain of the nomination for the Board of Review.

James C. Martin will be named for County Judge.

W. D. Curtin, John T. Connelly, John McCormick, Joseph P. Junk and Frank H. Hebard are probable winners for County Commissionerships.

In a nutshell, the City Hall crowd will control the convention from present appearances.

Mayor Harrison announced that he would not name the twelve members of the Board of Education until the meeting of the Council July 11. He has a score of applications for appointment.

There are indications that he has already chosen a majority of the dozen, and that the presidency of the board will be given Graham H. Harris. The office of vice-president is said to have been offered to Thomas Gallagher.

No resignations other than those of Trustees Halle and Gresham have been received by Mayor Harrison. That of Trustee Gresham, it is said, will be accepted, but he will be reappointed. President Halle's resignation reached the Mayor last Saturday as a sequel to the attempt made at the last meeting of the board Friday night to elect a new superintendent of schools.

The board met and a ballot showed ten votes for Superintendent Lane to eight for Prof. E. Benjamin Andrews of Brown University. The absence of Mr. Trude led Mr. Cusack to announce that he would be present at the night meeting, and that Mr. Trude would vote for Mr. Lane. Mr. Trude failed, however, to make his appearance.

The trustees whose terms expired with the last meeting of the board were Trude, Cusack, Harper, Pettibone, Schneider, Hull and Frake. The friends of Trude and Schneider are confident of their reappointment.

Among those whose claims are being urged on the Mayor are Hon. Andrew J. Ryan, S. P. Shope, Francis S. Peabody, James P. McMahon, C. R. Wallock, Frank H. Hebard, C. R. Corwith, W. D. Kerfoot, A. O. Slaughter, Martin Ryerson, Rudolph Seifert, Austin O. Sexton and Mrs. P. J. O'Keefe. The appointment of Mr. McMahon is regarded as foregone.

The result of the school census has been made public by Superintendent Fitzgerald. The population of the city is given as 1,851,588. This is an increase of 251,175 over 1896, of 400,000 over 1894 and of 800,000 over 1890.

Secretary W. A. S. Graham of the School Board will lose his job if Mayor Harrison can find the means of annulling his recent re-election. Although Mr. Andrews has notified Mayor Harrison that he will accept the superintendency, if elected, pressure is being brought on the Mayor to prevent his selection. Some prominent Democrats are pointing to the home-rule doctrine to which the Democrats were pledged at Springfield.

Hon. John P. O'Malley will be the Democratic candidate for the Legislature in the Twenty-third district.

The best citizens of the whole West Side are unanimously of the opinion that Hon. Frank W. Young should be elected Judge of the Superior Court. Mr. Young, they say, is the right man for the place, and the services he has rendered the Democratic party in the past entitle him to a Democratic nomination this time. Mr. Young has received the positive assurance from certain North and South Side leaders that they will bring in their delegations for him. The Twelfth ward, like the First, is pledged to Mr. Young, and he will have the undivided support of the solid and unbroken West Side. Mr. Frank W. Young is a sound lawyer, and has been truthfully styled "one of Nature's noblemen." He is well poised, of affable disposition, and when elected judge can be relied upon to treat his brother lawyers as if they were human beings.

Hon. Harvey T. Weeks is to be appointed a member of the Library Board, and we are glad to learn that Mayor Harrison has decided to reappoint Hon. S. T. Gunderson, who has made a most efficient member of the board.

The Mayor cannot select a better man for the School Board than Hon. Andrew J. Ryan, the well-known lawyer.

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