

ONE MAN'S OPINIONS

BY N. D. COCHRAN.

First Ward Suspects.—The primary election law provides that any elector may at certain times before a primary file an application with the election commissioners, signed and sworn to, requesting the name of a person registered shall be erased because such person was not a legal primary elector.

The form of the affidavit follows: "I (blank) do hereby solemnly swear (or affirm) that I am informed and believe that (blank) is not a qualified voter in the (blank) precinct of the (blank) ward of the city (village or town) of (blank), and that said (blank) will not be a qualified voter of such precinct and ward on the (blank) day of (blank) A. D. (blank) and hence ask that his name be erased from the registers of such precinct."

The right of any elector to take this step to prevent fraudulent voting is proper. The law presumes that such suspect notices will be made in good faith.

It was never intended, however, that interested politicians should take partisan advantage of this law and file thousands of suspect notices against legal voters who have lived and voted in a precinct for years.

Yet thousands of such notices were served on voters in the First Ward, and citizens who have legally voted for years were forced to take a half day off from their work to appear before the election board and swear their names back on the registry books.

Doubtless many legal voters and law-abiding citizens will lose their votes because they can't afford to take the time to appear before the board. But even if they can afford the time they should not be subjected to the outrage.

It looks to me like a rotten case of strong-arm politics, a gross abuse

of power by the election officials who are responsible for it.

There can be no objection to throwing every illegal voter off the registration lists and preventing illegal voting. In fact, every precaution should be taken to prevent election frauds. But when legal voters by the wholesale are "suspected" right after the judge in charge of the election machinery has publicly threatened to "get" Aldermen Kenna and Coughlin and break them politically in the First Ward—and especially when that judge is himself a candidate at the coming primary—it looks as if something much more personal than the dignity of the law were involved.

I think the suspected voters had a right to demand that they be confronted by their accusers. They had a right to know who accused them of registering illegally; and I suspect election officials who refuse to show the affidavits and submit the whole matter to the public.

I begin to suspect that the big newspaper campaign against so-called vice lords in the First Ward was merely preliminary to a wholesale disqualification of voters who were suspected of intending to vote the way somebody didn't want them to vote.

I don't care a cuss what Owens, Kenna and Coughlin do to each other politically, but I do care what is done to honest and legal voters in any ward in the name of politics or law—and it makes no difference how those legal voters intend to vote.

Keep Out, Turkey.—What business has Turkey got mixing up in our Christian war?

Those Turks are not Christians and never were.

All Pagans should keep out of it and mind their own business.

If they mix in how are historians going to write this war down as a civilized war?

Let's keep the record clear. It's a