

## RESIDENTS OF FIRST WARD KICK AGAINST RAW POLITICS OF ELECTION BOARD

Swearing, swearing, all day long they are swearing around the city hall. But nobody can find out who started the swearing.

Primary election law says if you suspect a registered voter is not qualified and ought to get off the poll books, you go before the election commissioners and swear out a statement. Election commissioners then serve notice on all the people you are swearing against. These people must come before the commissioners and swear they are citizens qualified to vote.

Some person swore that 11,200 people in the First Ward are believed not to be qualified voters. Everybody knows this wholesale swearing of suspects is a move of Judge John E. Owens to back up his promise that he will destroy Mike Kenna, First Ward alderman.

Who the persons are that made wholesale sworn statements nobody could find out at the election commissioners' office yesterday. At one time over 2,000 "suspected" voters stood in line. A Day Book reporter passed along and talked with some. They were in overalls. Many of them had calloused hands of workingmen. Thos. Morgan of 20 E. 21st st. was in line. His hands and face were black with furnace smudge and his hands gnarled from handling a shovel. He said:

"I've been waiting five hours to swear myself in as a voter in a district where I've been voting 22 years. My wife will lose her vote because she's sick and can't come down today. I have lived at 20 E. 21st st. and in that district all my life. I am one of hundreds of the old Irish colony born and bred there."

Besides dozens of workingmen of the type of Morgan, The Day Book reporter found many business men. One was S. L. Sullivan, assistant buyer in the underwear and hosiery

department of Siegel-Scooper's. He said:

"I have lived 14 years at 23d and State sts. I am one of 274 flat dwellers in the Lehman flats brought in as suspects. I have been an election judge in my precinct eight years."

J. C. Eaton of 25 E. 23d st. said: "I would like to know the name of the dirty, crooked, ignorant fool that swore he believes I am not entitled to vote. I have lived in the First Ward 20 years. I have worked in the Troy laundry six years. When I demanded of Commissioner Howard Taylor that he tell me the name of the person who swore against me he crawled away like a pup doing somebody's dirty work."

Every attempt of "suspects" to see the affidavits failed. Attorneys Joseph David and J. Coburn for candidates in the district stood before Commissioners Howard Taylor and Anthony Czarnecki and repeatedly declared the whole business was "dirty, crooked, outrageous."

"You know there is crooked work there," shouted Att'y David. "I dare you to bring out the affidavits."

Czarnecki each time explained that sometime later the affidavits would be shown. Commissioner Kellarman, whenever demand for the affidavits was made, explained that he wanted them produced, but the other members of the board would not back him in getting them. At 2 o'clock Kellarman with Att'ys Coburn and David went to Chief Clerk Wm. Stuart. Stuart said:

"I won't show you any affidavits. And I don't have to."

Among the 11,200 "suspects" were these: W. Edwin Straus and wife, 1841 Wabash av., salesman Ullman Co., 18 years a voter First Ward; J. A. Meyer, bailiff municipal court, 252 E. 23d st.; Otto Gneuwich, 2336 State st., 43 years a resident of his precinct, sanitary district clerk, former