

own voting; and they demonstrated that the people CAN RULE when they make up their minds to do it.

I talked to Thompson but once, and the conclusion I formed was that he had family pride—which is always helpful in keeping a man straight—and that if both sides of a proposition were clearly presented to him he would prefer the right side. He will make mistakes, of course. All men do. He may listen to bad advice, without going deep into the question; but I don't think he will throw the people of Chicago designedly on any question where the public interest is involved.

Republican politicians, quite humanly, will try to make his victory a party victory. That's part of the game. But it isn't a party victory in the sense that the Republican party in Chicago stands for anything different from what the Democratic party stands for. Thompson got the big vote because of the things people thought Thompson himself stood for, and also because of the things they thought Sullivan, Hopkins and Sweitzer stood for.

Normally, Chicago is Democratic—measured by the number of voters who have the party habit; but there were thousands of voters who think they are Democrats who worked just as hard for Thompson as their neighbors who think they are Republicans.

In fact, it came as near being a nonpartisan election as we could well have. The party issue was subordinate to the religious and other issues which are nonpartisan.

My own opinion is that the issue which influenced more voters than any other was the public school issue.

Unemployment, hard times, business depression and various effects of the European war worked against Sweitzer because he happened to be a candidate of the party in power nationally.

And there is no doubt at all about the big influence of Harrison Democrats in supporting Thompson in order to put the Sullivan-Hopkins Democratic alliance out of business.

The belief that the public utilities

were back of Sweitzer had its influence, too.

Aside from the hostility of the Harrison faction to Sullivan, there were other Democrats who believe in President Wilson who saw in a victory for the Hearst-Sullivan alliance a setback for President Wilson. And the two consecutive defeats for Roger Sullivan, in the senatorial election last year and the city election Tuesday, will put a decided crimp in Sullivan's political strength. No leader can keep on leading his party to defeat and retain his influence. The good soldiers get tired of being licked.

It was plain enough to a student of politics that the campaign mapped out to put Sweitzer over, after his election last year as county clerk, was to combine German and Catholic voters. But it was poor planning. It didn't take into account the important fact that no class of voters enjoys being herded, stampeded or delivered.

There is no man in Chicago who can solidify the Catholic vote, the German vote, the Irish vote, the Methodist vote or any other class vote, for the simple reason that there is no such thing as a class vote. There may be uniformity as to religion among Catholics, Methodists, Baptists and other sects, but when it comes to politics they split up just as other men and women do.

The landslide for Thompson is proof enough that he received thousands of Catholic and German votes, just as he received thousands of other kinds of votes. I should say that votes were driven away from Sweitzer by the circular and other appeals to class interests outside of politics; and I have no doubt at all that Sweitzer got thousands of Protestant votes because of the belief among many