

CHICAGO GOES DEMOCRATIC

JOHN P. HOPKINS ELECTED TO SUCCEED CARTER HARRISON.

The Hottest Fight Ever Known in the City by the Lake—National Issues Dragged Into the Campaign by the Republicans, Whose Candidate Was Acting Mayor Swift—The Latter Used His Office Without Scruple to Help His Cause, but He Lost.

CHICAGO, Ill., Dec. 19.—John P. Hopkins (Dem.) was elected Mayor of this city to-day over George B. Swift (Rep.) by a plurality of 1,220.

The election closed one of the shortest and hottest political campaigns ever fought. Out of a registration of 281,891 a total vote of 227,807 was cast.

Of this, 2,079 votes went to Michael Britzins (Socialist) and 536 to Ebenezer Wakely, (Silver and Labor candidate,) leaving 224,792 to be divided between Hopkins and Swift.

There are 798 precincts in the city. The result was so close that a change of a trifle over 1½ votes in each precinct would have elected Swift.

To-day's election was called to fill the vacancy caused by the murder of Carter H. Harrison by Eugene P. J. Prendergast. George B. Swift was chosen by the Re-



John P. Hopkins.

publican Common Council to fill the Mayor's chair pending the special election. He agreed before his election to refrain from using the city machinery to effect the result in to-day's election, it being a foregone conclusion that he would be the candidate of the Republicans.

Instead of keeping the promise, he has persistently made use of his power as Acting Mayor to strengthen himself in the campaign. He discharged those not friendly to him and engaged the services of others who were notorious for their Republican partisanship. He absolutely controlled the convention and was nominated by acclamation. After the convention his offensive partisanship was more pronounced than before.

On the other hand, John P. Hopkins secured the nomination at the Democratic Convention in an honorable contest, in which several of the most esteemed business men of this community were his opponents. He received a good majority of the votes in the convention, and entered upon the work of the campaign with vigor.

The Republicans immediately asserted that Hopkins was forced upon the convention by President Cleveland because the latter had appointed Washington Hesting Postmaster and William J. Mize Collector of Internal Revenue at Hopkins's suggestion, thus recognizing him as the leader of the Democratic Party in Chicago. This allegation was given a prominent place in the campaign, national issues being dragged into the fight.

It was alleged that President Cleveland had delayed in calling Congress together in extra session to repeal the silver law, and that by delaying to force action on the tariff he had kept the country in suspense and had brought on the financial depression which forced hundreds of thousands of men out of employment. Whether workingmen believed in monometallism or bimetalism, free trade or protection, the Republicans urged them to take revenge on President Cleveland by voting against the man whom he had chosen to represent him in dispensing the Federal patronage here. A vote for Swift, the Republicans said, meant a slap in the face for the President.

Germans were also asked to vote for Swift, to punish Washington Hesting for supporting Hopkins in his paper, The Illinois Staats-Zeitung, which the Germans were asked to believe had always been Republican. Religion was also forced into the campaign by the Republicans, who brought against Hopkins the charge that he was an Irish Catholic. Circulars were even distributed at the doors of churches last Sunday, as worshippers were leaving, bringing to their notice the fact that Hopkins was a communicant of another Church. The labor question was made a feature, it being asserted that Hopkins employed non-union labor on the contracts which he had taken for tunnel and other city work.

On the strength of these statements and the effect which it was supposed that they would have on the workingmen, the Republicans believed that they would carry the city by 10,000 to 20,000 plurality. Their hopes were based largely also on the November election, when Judge Gary, at the head of the Republican ticket, was elected by over 10,000 plurality.

The vote to-day was the largest ever cast in this city. This is particularly surprising, because business houses and manufacturing factories were not closed, as on regular election days. That Hopkins did not get a larger majority is due to the fact that many Republicans voted to-day who have not voted before in many years.

There was also considerable friction within the Democratic ranks. Frank Lawler was disaffected because he was not appointed Postmaster. While he himself was undoubtedly true to Hopkins, it is doubtful if he could prevent all of his retainers from knifing Hopkins.

The "Big Four," McCarthy, Donovan, Asay, and Burke, young City Hall politicians who secured almost unlimited power under Carter Harrison, felt that their influence would end with Hopkins's election, and they probably were lukewarm in his support. There are also several candidates for the United States Senatorship whose chances, it was thought, would be lessened by Hopkins's election. They too, therefore, could not have given him hearty support, so that local troubles inside the party probably cut Hopkins's majority down several thousand.

Hopkins's election points to the election of Benjamin T. Cable as United States Senator.

Mr. Hopkins is only thirty-five years old. He was born in Buffalo, N. Y., Oct. 29, 1858, and received his education in the schools of that city. As a boy he was known to President Cleveland.

He first worked in Buffalo in a foundry, and then in the Evans elevators, where he was repeatedly promoted. In 1879 he came to Chicago and first found work in storing lumber in the Pullman yards. Here, also, he was promoted. He became store time-keeper, then general timekeeper, and in 1883 he was made paymaster, which position he held until 1888, when he became Secretary-Treasurer of the Arcade Trading Company of Pullman. In 1889 the company was reorganized as the Secord-Hopkins Company, and moved from Pullman to Kensington, where it opened the largest general store south of Twenty-second Street.

Mr. Hopkins identified himself with the politics of Hyde Park in 1883, before its annexation, and in 1885 he was made Treasurer of the village. In 1888 he was a candidate for delegate to the Democratic National Convention, but was defeated by A. W. Green. His influence in the Demo-

cratic Party increased, and last year he was made Chairman of the Democratic Local Campaign Committee. He is also President of the Cook County Democracy and a member of the Iroquois Club. Three years ago he was a candidate for the Democratic nomination for Sheriff, but was defeated by Frank Lawler. Last July he was appointed by Controller Eckels receiver of the Chemical National Bank of Chicago.