

nucleus a select body was formed. It was then created a branch of the League. Officers were elected and the policy of the ward organization was left in their hands. When candidates appeared, the most worthy was offered the League's independent support, but only upon receipt of satisfactory written assurance that his election would be conducted strictly according to law. A public ratification meeting was then called. Personal notification was sent to the best men of the ward, irrespective of nationality, politics or religious belief. The young men especially were appealed to. Here the independent press joined in, like an auxiliary naval force following a land army. When this meeting was held, stirring speeches were delivered, and everything was done to arouse the electorate and enlist recruits for the work of election day. This policy, pursued in each ward, gathered a force of three hundred and fifty-four volunteers, ready for whatever work they might be called upon to do. This force was then divided and subdivided. Each man was trained for his particular duties and given printed instructions by which to refresh his memory. By election day many of the League's recent recruits understood the election law better than some of the deputy returning officers in charge of the polls. The same course of instruction having been given to all, a force was easily transferable at short notice from one ward to another, so that in case any objectionable contestant retired, reinforcements were immediately released for other fields.

As the first of February drew near, public sentiment became awakened. It was admitted that now or never a successful stand could be made against the "ward boss" and his corrupt "machine." Better candidates than usual were induced to take the field, and as the lines became clearly defined, the League made its selection. Not all the former aldermen deserved eviction, but they usually clung to their

positions in inverse ratio to their desirability. In all, the League supported eight men; of these three were sitting members deserving re-election, and five were new men. Opposed to these were aspirants considered wholly objectionable. The result of the contest can be summed up in a word. Three of the aldermen objected to retired before election, four were beaten at the polls and one retained his seat by a narrow majority of seventy-three. Out of eleven thousand one hundred votes cast, less than one-fifth of one per cent. was fraudulent, though determined and repeated attempts were made to bribe, bully and bulldoze the League watchers. Throughout the entire campaign none but lawful methods had been employed, and it was conclusively proven that illegal practices are not necessary to elect honorable men.

The method employed for bringing to the polls the indifferent voter has been borrowed largely from the "machine." How it operates can best be illustrated by the detailed account of a particular contest. For several years a certain ward had been notoriously misrepresented. It had come to be considered a pocket borough by a certain clique. Not that it did not contain a well-intentioned electoral majority, but this majority was unorganized and discouraged, while the clique had a thorough organization and no stint of contractors' money. The ward's representative it was believed had been directly interested in nearly every scandalous measure that a very objectionable council had adopted. Against him, as David before Goliath, was pitted a young and comparatively unknown man, for whom little could as yet be claimed beyond an honorable name, a clean character and moderate ability. The latter candidate the League accepted, and with him undertook to dislodge so formidable and well-entrenched a rival. An identification canvass of the ward had already been made, and the guarantee of