

## COLONEL TODHUNTER OF MISSOURI

trill read bulletin after bulletin in unbroken succession. Colonel Strickland, with lips compressed, tabulated the vote by wards. Once or twice he nodded significantly to Colonel Todhunter. At last there came a break in the steady stream of returns. Lycurgus Quivey grasped a bulletin from the hands of the *Blade's* "devil" as the latter rushed in breathless. He handed it to Cantrill.

The *Blade's* editor gave one swift comprehensive glance at the bulletin and excitedly hurled his hat high in the air with an unrestrained yell of exultation.

"'It is now conceded by Yancey's managers,'" he read, "'that Strickland has carried St. Louis by at least 11,000 plurality. With the returns now in from the state, this gives Strickland a total plurality of at least 3,000, with several Strickland counties still to hear from. A conservative estimate indicates that Strickland will be nominated by over 5,000 plurality.'"

Colonel Strickland laid down his pencil and leaned back in his chair.

"That's reliable," he said. "We've got 'em beat, boys. Anybody that feels like hooraying for Strick-