

OLSON PLEDGES EXTINCTION OF CITY 'EXPERTS' Gives More Facts About \$50 a Day Favorites.

Judge Harry Olson last night again discussed the work of real estate "experts" under the Thompson administration. He replied to the defense of M. J. Faherty, president of the board of local improvements, and also made the pledge that if he were elected the "a day experts" would go.

"Your mayor, I note by the press, is calling for help to explain the waste of hundreds of thousands of dollars in political expert fees during the four years of his administration. Apparently, Mayor Thompson is having a lot harder time finding good excuses for putting political patriots on the pay roll than he had getting the faithful to accept the fancy positions.

"None other than M. J. Faherty (they say those initials stand for 'manly jobs') is the lieutenant who has been called to the political front to handle this sector of the fighting line, and his explanation of the employment of the army of political experts in the board of local improvements is one of the best ones the Thompson great primary vaudeville.

"Praise for Faherty. Mr. Faherty is a man of action, and as such has my admiration. His weakness is his disregard of cost, and his willingness to 'go along' with Lundin and Thompson methods. While he has had some good experts, he has tolerated too many 'political' experts.

"Mr. Faherty says that he's been absolutely handicapped because of a lack of experts; that his administration has been put up against the toughest lot of work that has ever befallen any administration. In short, if it hadn't been for M. J.'s no tolling how high the experts' bills would have run.

"Mr. Faherty says that former administrations were accustomed to pay expert witnesses \$100 a day. He cut that price to \$50 a day—thought that \$50 was enough—a lot of experts thought it would pay them to accept experting contracts at that price, too. Then M. J. goes on to say that he saved a lot of money for the city by not paying his experts any retainer fees. All they got was \$50 a day.

"Modest Day's Wages. 'Surely no one could be penurious enough to object to a modest day's wages, such as \$50 is. One must remember that these are war times, and political campaign times, and during the off season one must be prepared for both.

"O, yes! There's that million dollars that M. J. saved the taxpayers, too, in the Michigan boulevard link project. It was saved by refusing to accept property owners' figures for the value of their holdings. The case was sent into court, and a lower valuation was fixed by the court action. Perfectly natural, you say. Who would have thought of going into court except Mr. Faherty and his boss, the mayor? Perfectly wonderful!

"And in connection with Mr. Michael Faherty's careful conservation of the public funds it may be of interest to cite the latest chapter in the mayor's political follies of 1918. This has to do with the list of experts employed by the board of local improvements during the last twelve months.

"They took, with Mr. J. O. K., not less than \$53,000 out of the city treasury for expert work, although M. J. says in his annual report that it was a slack year for public improvements. One can't help wondering what the experts' bill would have been had business really opened up for the Thompson-Lundin-Faherty company.

Same Names Used.

"On this latest list we find perfectly new names, but the same good names that have been decorating the political expert pay roll since Elj Bill started managing the city's business. There is George Hitzman and Charles J. Peters, whose fame is city-wide in political circles, but rather circumscribed among the men who know the realty game. We find Mr. Hitzman profiting to the extent of \$5,240 and Mr. Peters enriched to the extent of \$5,115 during the last year of grace.

"We find Nate De Lue again—yes, the same Nate De Lue who is connected in

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RESULTS OF "TRIBUNE" STRAW VOTE

| | Republicans | | Democrats | | Socialist Labor | |
|---|-------------|-------|-----------|----------|-----------------|---------|
| | Thompson | Olson | Merriam | Sweitzer | Carey | Collins |
| North Side "L" trains..... | 113 | 117 | 48 | 91 | 19 | 5 |
| Douglas Park "L" trains.... | 50 | 56 | 40 | 90 | 26 | 14 |
| The Fair..... | 103 | 85 | 38 | 100 | 56 | 14 |
| Security building..... | 42 | 25 | 32 | 34 | 13 | 4 |
| Reaper block..... | 23 | 23 | 13 | 19 | 7 | 3 |
| Cigar store at North Shore and Sheridan road..... | 9 | 10 | 7 | 30 | 16 | --- |
| Totals for day..... | 340 | 316 | 178 | 360 | 137 | 37 |
| Grand totals of poll..... | 1,274 | 1,280 | 610 | 1,485 | 500 | 167 |

Notes: Merriam, Democrat, received 11 votes; Carter H. Harrison, 15, and Mackley Hoyle, 5, although the names of the two latter are not on the ballot.

MAYOR DEMANDS OLSON AGREE TO HELP NOMINEE

Mayor Thompson yesterday made "Loyalty" his text in a statement he issued. He was referring to "party loyalty."

"I am a firm believer in the accepted principle that a majority should rule.

"When any person seeks a party nomination for public office at a party primary he is morally bound by the decision of the party voters to whom he submits his candidacy. Not only is this the honorable thing to do, but it should be done in order to unite the party.

"In violation of this principle, ex-Ald. Merriam has publicly declared that he will not abide by the verdict of the voters in the Republican primary if the decision shall be against him, and has thereby forfeited all claims to the support of Republicans, either in the primary or at the election.

Will Abolish Fees.

"If I am elected mayor I pledge you that one of my first acts will be to abolish this political job department at the city hall. There will be no ward heelers working for \$50 a day at a public job that requires technical training. There will be no milking of the citizens under the guise of experting.

"It will be one of my first public duties to see to it that a new expert system, which will save these wasted hundreds of thousands of dollars to Chicago, be inaugurated. I shall see that realty expert work is done by land experts, where experts are required under the law. I shall call in the big men—men with public spirit—in the real estate business. I shall consult with the official committee of the real estate boards. It is possible to have a permanent force of experts, chosen according to ability by the merit system, and not for political reward, to perform a large portion of these expert services. They can be placed on fair salaries—not \$50 a day—and the work will be done efficiently, not politically.

"You will hear them say that such a plan won't work. I answer that it will work—that it does work in other cities. In Cleveland the valuation committee of the real estate board performs such services at a moderate price. In Milwaukee they have built boulevards and the realty expert costs have amounted to hundreds of dollars, as compared to costs of hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Experts Are Joke.

"Your mayor's realty experts are the municipal joke of his administration. He knows it. His satellite, Faherty, knows it. Can they get away with their exploitation with the people of this city? I don't believe it."

"The identity of the woman who rode with F. Jaeger, 6762 Sheridan road, when his automobile crashed into a fence at Sheridan road and Birchwood avenue early Thursday, probably will remain a mystery. Jaeger was interrogated by the police of the Rogers Park station, but refused to divulge his companion's name. He declared she escaped injury. He suffered a black eye and wrenched knee. The automobile, bearing Iowa license No. 147901, was removed to the Greenwood garage, Evanston. Jaeger explained that he has just returned to Chicago after residing in Iowa for some time, and that the accident occurred after a homecoming celebration.

Auto Crash Explained, but Name of Woman Hidden

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School Teachers Debate Two Financial Problems

Public school teachers made financial difficulties the subject of discussion at two organization meetings yesterday.

Directors of the Principals' club, meeting in the Millers building, agreed that Chicago schools are not receiving sufficient public funds to maintain them properly and that the school tax rate should be increased.

Members of the Chicago Teachers' federation resolved to ask the pension commission for a complete report before any definite pension plan is put into effect.

Auto in Ditch, One Dead.

Monroe, Mich., Feb. 15.—Fred C. Lauer of Toledo was killed and Ernest G. Miller, Toledo, was seriously injured this morning when their automobile went into the ditch and turned turtle along the "whisky runners' highway."

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OLSON LEADING PARTY FIELD ON 'TRIBUNE' BALLOT

Sweitzer Adds to His Advantage Over All Others.

With THE TRIBUNE's majority straw ballots marked by almost 6,000 voters, Judge Harry Olson still topped the Republican column at the end of last night's count.

Results in some quarters were highly significant. On the north side elevated trains, where a heavy vote was polled, the jurist captured the lead of the entire field by three votes.

Runs Near Sweitzer.
In the Douglas Park elevated trains, where a Democratic, Labor, and Socialist vote of three to one might have been expected, Judge Olson again found himself faring well. Here he again beat the mayor and was given almost two-thirds as many votes as Sweitzer.

In the Fair, where a heavy vote also was polled, the mayor humbled Judge Olson by eighteen votes, but he received only three more votes than Sweitzer, who still continues to lead the field by approximately 200 votes.

Merriam Still Third.
In the Security building the judge was defeated both by Thompson and Merriam, who has in almost every quarter run a sad third in the Republican lineup.

A few votes were polled in a cigar store in the Twenty-fifth ward in a precinct that has heretofore been conceded to Thompson. Here, however, Judge Olson received ten votes to the mayor's nine.

CAREY CHARGES THOMPSON MEN HELP SWEITZER

Thomas Carey, a candidate for the Democratic nomination for mayor, at Schultz hall, 3404 Laverne avenue, last night, declared that city hall influence was being used to aid County Clerk Sweitzer in several south side wards.

"Through an understanding with followers of 'Big Bill' Thompson, my opponent has arranged to go so far as to drive widows and orphans out of business," Mr. Carey said. "Several of my friends have been displaying my picture in their store windows. I charge that the lives of nearly 2,500

children are endangered in one instance where gates of a schoolhouse are being kept locked so that the children cannot patronize a storekeeper.

"I refer to Mrs. Nellie Lamb of 4744 Union avenue, a widow with two children, who owns a store opposite the Tilden school at Union avenue and Forty-eighth street. Mrs. Lamb depends upon the little sales she makes to the school children and by hard work has been able to support her children. Until a few days ago she was doing fairly well. An one interested in my candidacy for mayor Mrs. Lamb displayed one of my placards in her store window.

"The next day 'orders' were issued from the city hall to keep all gates locked and not allow the children to leave the school yard. This is a criminal offense. The men responsible for this action ought to be punished."

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