

PRECINCT LINES GIVE HOWE MEN HARD PROBLEM

Machine Would Try Gerry
mander if Sure of Hold on
City Council.

OTHERS OPPOSE CHANGE

To change or not to change the precinct boundaries in Indianapolis before the coming municipal primary election is a problem that is causing furrowed brows and many consultations in the ranks of the News-Journal organization, which is backing Mr. Thomas C. Howe, former president of Indianapolis and for the Republican nomination for mayor.

Irving W. Lemaux, Republican city chairman, announced Monday that a conference would be held within a day or so with Thomas Meeker, Democratic city chairman; Samuel Ashby, corporation counsel, and Harry Hendrickson, county attorney, participating, at which it would be decided what would be done about redistricting the precincts. Meanwhile, it is understood the forces of Edward J. Robison and Samuel Lewis Shank, also mayoral candidates, are in favor of letting the boundaries stand as they are.

The administration group has not quite made up its mind what it wishes to do, supporters of Robison and Shank assert, or the conference would have been called and a meeting done.

If anything is done, it is agreed, the administration will have to bring it about. The city council has the power to change precinct boundaries. The Democrats do not have a single member in the council. The administration has control of five and the anti-administration forces of three. Dr. B. E. B. Anderson, one of the administration members, is seriously ill in a hospital and therefore for the present the council stands equally divided.

FIGHT GRIP WOULD BRING GERRYMANDER.

The fact that they do not have perfect control of the council was understood to be causing the Howe backers much trouble. If there were plain sailing ahead, it is said, they probably would have forced a gerrymander through the council a week or two ago. A little more than two weeks ago Charles O. Roemer, Republican chairman of the Seventh district and member of the Jewish-Lemcke delegation, which has ruled Marion County politically for the last four years, is quoted as having said that there would be no need to change the boundaries. A few days later he had a different song to sing, it is said, stating that what the Shank and Robison backers had done in the way of knocking the "organization" all out of the city was a mistake. Dr. B. E. B. Anderson, one of the administration members, is seriously ill in a hospital and therefore for the present the council stands equally divided.

Howe backers are to the bidding of the

Jewett-Lemcke-Roemer combine.

The present city precinct boundaries are those in force in the last city council period. There are 134 precincts in the city. It is not known just if the "organization" could see its way around the obstacle presented by the four anti-administration members of the city council it would seek to have the city cut up further so as to add forty precincts. With this many to be added the "organization" could so manipulate the boundaries as to keep the anti-administration men who are refusing to feed the crack of the Jewett-Lemcke-Roemer whip outside the precincts which they were chosen to represent and so make them ineligible. Then the city chairman could appoint whom he pleases to take their places.

\$3,000 TO BE ADDED TO ELECTION COST.

If the Howe backers are able to put through a program like this it will add greatly to the election expense to be borne by the taxpayers. The administration, no doubt, would attempt to cloak its movement for more precincts under the pretext that the additional voting places were necessary to take care of the electorate increased through woman suffrage. Persons familiar with primary elections, however, point out that polls never been congested on primary day. Marion County. They set forth that the highest total primary turnout cast in the county was last spring, when 37 per cent of the registered strength of the Republican party and a slightly smaller per cent of the Democratic votes were cast for presidential candidates. The voter turnout in fall elections is always much heavier, with the exception being in the presidential election last fall there was no congestion at any voting place, and so economically minded persons can see no reason, from the standpoint of the public welfare, why such a great number of voting places should be added. At present new polling places would cost \$3,000 extra on election day, they estimate.

Some Republican politicians were of the mind that a few precincts ought to be added and a few miscellaneous boundary changes made to bring territory under the control of another. The last four years with redistricted boundaries. Others thought the three Republican factions and the Democrats might compromise on the change of the city precincts to conform with the boundaries of the present county precincts, as established by county commissioners last year. There are 134 of the county precincts inside the city limits.

TOO MANY CITY PRECINCTS.

If this were done, it would straighten out the tangle in which many precincts now find themselves when they try to figure out their status in the light of the territory in the city precincts. While the committee men represent their precincts in both the county and city elections they are elected at county elections. The county commissioners are residing within the boundaries as established by the county commissioners. With the city precinct boundaries differing some hardly know what their standing is. There being 134 county precincts inside the city, there are thirteen more committee men than there are city precincts.

Whatever is done will have to be accomplished on or before April 2, the law providing that the boundaries must be published not later than thirty days before the primary, which is May 3.

Woodrow Wilson, attorney and Democratic election commissioner for the presidential election last year, has been watching the moves in the redistricting tangle for City Chairman Meeker, who has not yet named his party's member of the board of election commissioners for the city primary and election.

SAY NOW ASSURED OF FAIR TREATMENT.

Shank leaders are jubilant over the perfection of plans to obviate unfair election day tactics against their candidate. Just what the plans were was not re-

vealed.

"We have absolute insurance against dishonest treatment this time," said Dr. E. E. Hodgin, chairman of the Shank committee. "Lew Shank is the strongest candidate in the last twelve years in politics. We are confident we will get more votes than the other two candidates for the Republican nomination and we are also confident now that he will get fair treatment election day."

Dr. Hodgin condemned the administration plan to alter precinct boundaries to increase the number of precincts in the city.

"No need for such a change exists," said he. "The increased number of voters can very well be handled under the present system. In fact, the last four or five or more precincts would place an unnecessary burden of election cost on taxpayers. In the second place the

Home Brew Pops; Ruins Cops' Quiet L'il Checker Game

A terrific noise in the telephone operators' room at police headquarters yesterday afternoon caused quite a bit of excitement. It was first believed to be a gun being discharged at a police officer having a "blow-out," but when glass was heard to shatter that belief was given up. An investigation followed.

The "noise" was found to be caused by four bottles of home brew either "over excited" or "restless" over the effects of being called as evidence in a blind tiger case.

MEAT WORKERS VOTING TODAY ON WALKOUT

Wage Controversy Nears Climax—Independent Plants Shut Down.

2,000 ARE DISCHARGED

CHICAGO, March 16.—The controversy between packers and their employees rapidly drew toward a climax today.

Developments were:

1. Taking a strike vote among butchers and meat cutters.

2. Meeting of representatives of an union and the packing companies to consider a walkout of all trades employed by packers in sympathy with the butchers and meat cutters if they strike.

3. Closing down of independent packing companies in stockyard districts in the "unsettled conditions."

4. Arrangements continued for mediation by government officials.

Taking of the strike vote proceeded without any disturbance. Booths were erected at the main gates leading to the packing plants in the yard district and the meat cast their ballots as they went to work. The two vote union leaders said, overwhelmingly favored a strike.

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Decker, killed Lovett so that his relatives might collect the insurance after identifying the body as that of Virgil.

FINID DEATH DUE TO GUNSHOT WOUNDS.

A coroner's investigation was called and it was decided that death had been caused by gunshot wounds instead of a bullet.

Decker's relatives identified the body positively as that of Leroy.

The body was found in a cloth bag.

Decker, appeared at the home of Lovett on Saturday Friday and asked the youth to accompany him to his home over Sunday.

Decker told Lovett that his folks were away. Lovett left and was that the last time he was seen alive.

The actual murder, authorities claim, was committed by a man belonging to Fred Decker's brother, the deceased youth of the banks of the Tippecanoe river. Blood-stained clothing was found in the shack. Lovett's coat was found.

Outside the cable buggy tracks were found leading to the railroad crossing.

BAD FEELING BETWEEN DECKERS AND LOVETTS

Special to The Times.

BOURBON, Ind., March 16.—Sensational developments were expected today in the murder mystery which has baffled authorities since the killing of Mrs. Lydia Decker of Warsaw of her identification of the body found near the Pennsylvania tracks at Atwood as that of her son, and the arrest of the missing youth.

Wasserman, and Jordan were arrested March 7 by Patrolman Jones in a poolroom at 2805 Cornell avenue in a drunken stupor. Wasserman, it was learned that he had offered him a drink out of a bottle which contained a quarter of a pint of bonded whiskey.

Wasserman admitted in court that he has been convicted three times of operating a blind tiger.

City clerk's records show that his first conviction here was on May 16, 1919, when he was fined \$50 and costs and sentenced to serve fifty days at the Indiana State Farm. On Sept. 3, 1920, he was fined \$50 and costs and sentenced to serve 100 days at the Indiana State Farm. On Sept. 3, 1920, he was fined \$50 and costs and sentenced to serve 100 days at the Indiana State Farm.

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