

UPRISING.

Robbins Nominated.

Convention of the Independent Voters Held in the Village of Belmont.

WEST AGAINST TREACHERY.

Republican Supporters of the Assembly Candidate.

AT THE DELEGATES TO THE REGULAR CONVENTION TWO WEEKS AGO REFUSED TO DO THEMSELVES—SUCH AN OUTCASTING OF PEOPLE TO A STRICT CONVENTION NEVER BEFORE SEEN IN THE COUNTY—THREE BRASS BANDS AND OVER 1,000 PEOPLE.

Special to the Buffalo Express. Belmont, Aug. 21.—The treachery of the Platt machine in Allegany county, betraying the people in the turning of the Hon. Fred A. Robbins from the regular Assembly District two weeks ago, was checked today when the independent voters of this Assembly renominated Mr. Robbins to seat them in the lower house of the State Legislature.

There never before was seen such an uprising in this county. When the convention was called to order in the house the big hall was filled and the streets were crowded on the street. Delegates from every one of the 29 towns in the district were represented.

Before the convention there was a gathering of people in front of the Belmont. Three brass bands and a martial band were brought from all parts of the county to assist in the enthusiasm. There were more than 1,000 Republicans in town, who elected Mr. Robbins and pledged him their support.—*Buffalo Express (Rep.)*

Grand Old Allegany.

The convention of Independent Republicans at Belmont last Friday which elected Fred A. Robbins in nomination member of Assembly was a grand demonstration of popular sentiment for a better public service and for better methods in politics. It was a coming in numbers and character determined in spirit, reminding of the early days of the party and the heart of the people was set and men met together to register their opposition to giant wrongs and to pledge their loyal support to the principles and patriotic measures. The men of Allegany do not seem to be tricked or traded off. They have confidence in the ability, courage and integrity of their nominee, they intend that he shall represent them at Albany another year. They are right to their choice and have they insist upon it.

Their independence find admirers and imitators in all parties until it is understood that the voters of the county are not "dumb, driven cattle," ruled by rings and bosses, snap and midwinter conventions, men who know their rights and maintain them.—*Hornellsville (Rep.)*

They have yet to hear of the man who has that Grant Duke could have within a row of apple trees of a convention, if the question had been held to a fair and open contest in the Republican caucuses of the various towns of Allegany county.

Assemblyman Robbins seems to hold upon the people of Allegany county which the machine politicians find it difficult to loosen.—*World.*

Trying to Obscure the Issue.

The plan of warfare of the organization newspapers of Allegany county in seeking to overcome the sentiment for the re-election of Fred A. Robbins, the independent Republican candidate for the Assembly, is outlined in the simultaneous publication, this week, in all of the machine papers, of bitter and venomous personal attacks upon the men who have taken prominent part in the revolt against the theft of the nomination in the convention which made Grant Duke the receiver of the stolen favor. In taking this course, the machine newspapers hope to obscure the real issue. They hope

to deflect the attention of the voters from the larceny which the organization committed, to the alleged shortcomings of some of the leaders in the movement which placed Robbins before the people as an independent candidate. The politics of the county for a quarter of a century is being reviewed to convince the voters that the rotten politics of today is not without precedent. If it can be shown that sometime in the past some of the men who are supporting Robbins now were guilty of political misdeeds, it is to be held up as palliative of this more modern crime which is characterized by every fair-minded Republican of Allegany as a theft, deliberately planned, and executed to the accompaniment of the lowest, dirtiest methods which the necessity of extraordinary invention to overcome the unusually emphatic will of the people, could devise. And it is by condemning Mr. Robbins' supporters, by assailing their character and political records, that the organization hopes to make the voters forget the real issue in the Allegany assembly campaign. It is not an ingenious policy, for the reason there is no other. Nothing can be said in defense of a crime of which charges of bribery stand unrefuted. And if they were denied, the evidence that instructed delegates were influenced to disregard their instructions; that delegates pledged to Robbins were made drunk, and afterwards persuaded to vote against him, would require explanations that could not explain. And, back of all this, the fact remains that the organization men knew that Robbins was clearly the choice of the Republican masses. The machine-controlled press had admitted it week and week out. The ring leaders had not dared to contest his nomination in the open at the primaries; they had declared with the people for him, and yet they meant to cheat if they could. It was their purpose to deceive, it was in their minds to steal the nomination from him in the end, and they did. It is not strange that now the attempt is made to divert attention from the history of a black crime which has sullied the fair name of the Republican party to the extent that it was committed in its guise. It remains, however, for the earnest, conscientious party men of Allegany to remove the stain. It remains for them to declare that this offense, directed at the very vitals of good and wholesome government, is not to be suffered and condoned. The cry that there is some other thief in ambush should not permit the one in the open to escape. This dodge is virtually an admission on the part of the organization that the charges of fraud cannot be combatted, and if there was a fraud, the convention which nominated Duke has no binding force upon the Republicans as party men. That there was fraud—that trickery, treachery and ultimate larceny is its history, is not to be gainsaid, and it is

to approve or disapprove the methods which characterized its proceedings that the voters of Allegany county must be held to account.—*Olean Times (Rep.)*

"Petitions don't count" is the boast of certain organs in this county. The class of men and voters who signed the petitions asking Mr. Robbins to consent to run for member of assembly, are the best class of citizens in the county, and will vote according to the prayer of their petitions.—*Belmont Courier (Rep.)*

to approve or disapprove the methods which characterized its proceedings that the voters of Allegany county must be held to account.—*Olean Times (Rep.)*

THE REASON WHY.

Many have asked the question why Mr. Robbins was offensive to Platt, and why the Allegany county Boss was ordered to kill him off. The question is easily answered. He was chairman of the Judiciary committee in the last Assembly. As such he was given charge of the bills prepared in the Attorney General's office to increase the power of the Attorney General to curb trusts. Naturally, the trusts were somewhat excited. But it soon became apparent that the Boss of Legislature intended the anti-trust bills only for buncombe. They were to deceive the people into thinking the

powers at Albany were really working in their interests against the trusts. But they were to be killed and the blame was to be thrown on individual members. If there had been a pliable man at the head of the Judiciary committee this plan would have worked, as it frequently had in telephone legislation. But Fred A. Robbins was too honest to be a party of that sort of politics. Against all manner of secret pressure, he pulled the bill through, forcing them forward with every man who opposed them must go on record openly. After one of these bills—the most offensive one to the trusts—had reached the Governor, Robbins received a direction from the Executive office to recall it. He refused. He was determined that the Governor himself must go on record as vetoing the bill, if he was unwilling it should become a law. This bill was not vetoed. But Robbins, from the hour of that resistance to machine orders, has been a marked man.

This was not his only offense, however. When the Greater New York bill came up, Robbins, realizing, as did all the more independent country members, that it was very distasteful to the people of Brooklyn, and that its enactment would be likely to turn that city over to the Democratic party, assumed the leadership in opposing it. So well did he gather together the few grains of independence which existed in that boss ridden Legislature that he forced Platt to disclose the influences back of the bill by calling on Tammany members to make up the majority necessary to pass it. This exposure before the people of the whole State of the deal between Platt and Tammany was an unforgivable crime.—*Cuba Post (Rep.)*

The Organization and the Tax-Payers.

The Belmont *Courier* has discovered that it will be much cheaper for the tax-payers of the county if the people will retire the "organization" which has been running the business of the county for the past five years, and take a hand in looking after their interests. It says:

The amount reported by the committee on ways and means of the Board of Supervisors, necessary to raise by tax in 1891 was \$74,453.30. From that time on to 1895 the "organization" was in power, and in that year the amount raised by tax was \$103,163.28, a difference of \$28,710.

An inspection of the names of those who signed the call for the new Convention, and who participated in its purifying, redeeming work, will show so many Supervisors elect, that the people may rely upon it that the new Board of Supervisors will not be obedient to the "organization," and will give the tax-payers relief from the burdens which a corrupt ring has laid upon them.

If you would like to look upon as conscientious and as able a member as ever sat in the Assembly, have Fred A. Robbins of Allegany pointed out to you. It will be no burden to remember him. He is as good a lawyer as the Legislature boasts of, and has the soundest kind of judicial timber in him. When he speaks the members listen, for they are bound to hear a dispassionate address, usually not more than five or six minutes long. But the address is as crowded with argument as Broadway is with business.—*Albany Cor., New York Commercial-Advertiser.*

Meeting of the Robbins Campaign Committee

The committee met at Belmont last Friday with a full representation from every town, as well as many interested citizens not committee men. Dr. H. A. Barney of Belmont was elected Chairman, Frank S. Clark of Andover was made Secretary; Assistant Secretary, Phil S. Place of Alfred; Treasurer, A. Miner Wellman of Friendship.

The officers are exceedingly well chosen; every name rings true and steady; not a bolter or office-seeker is among them; every man is a level-headed, straight out Republican, with no leaning tendencies: all are representative men, honored and upright; every man is a worker, and men hard to beat. Of their future work we shall speak later.—*Angelica Every Week.*

It looks now as though the plan of the Platt-Glenn politicians of Allegany county to retire Assemblyman Robbins from public life would come to naught. The *Olean Times* says: "The machine in Allegany compassed the defeat of Fred Robbins by trickery and treachery, at the command of the corporations via Mr. Platt. Mr. Robbins is not to be retired, however, at the dictum of the party boss, as a punishment for being honest, independent and upright. The party masses of Allegany have taken up his cause, and another Republican convention is to be held at Belmont on the 21st of this month. Robbins will be re-nominated at this convention and will be re-elected." The prediction of the *Times* that he will be re-elected seems based on good grounds. The petition that has been circulated asking him to accept an independent nomination is said to have been signed already by more than a majority of the Republicans of the county. This demonstrates the esteem in which Mr. Robbins is held. Under the circumstances, it would not be surprising if he should receive a good many Democratic votes as well as the votes of independent Republicans.—*Buffalo Enquirer (Rep.)*

No organization man could have survived that convention. Enthusiasm and sobriety obtained a big majority over wine, beer and other spirituous liquors.

Republicanism, honesty and integrity shone like a beacon light over Bossism, dishonesty and treachery.

It is sobriety and honest legislation against whisky and corrupt politics. Which side do you stand up on to be counted?

Not a man blundered. They were all sober.—*Cuba Post (Rep.)*

The great speech in opposition to the bill was made by Mr. Robbins, of Allegany. He spoke half an hour, and was listened to with the closest attention. Robbins showed in his speech how deeply he felt in the matter, and at times he was dramatic as, with painful earnestness, he besought his hearers not to push down the throats of the citizens of Brooklyn a measure they so bitterly opposed. When Mr. Robbins closed in a brilliant peroration, he was loudly cheered. It is a noticeable fact that no matter what position Mr. Robbins takes on any question, his motives are never impugned, so high is his reputation for integrity.—*Rochester Post-Express.*

Republicans of Allegany county are to return Hon. Fred A. Robbins to the assembly, and it is understood that he will be a candidate for the speakership. How well qualified Mr. Robbins may be in parliamentary usages and tactics is not in evidence, but certainly no man in the past two sessions of the lower branch of the legislature has enjoyed a greater reputation for rugged honesty than he, and no man in that body has taken a more pronounced stand in fighting questionable legislation. These facts ought to give Robbins a strong lead in a contest for the responsible position of presiding officer of the assembly.—*Olean Times.*

The *Times* desires to state with all possible emphasis that Fred A. Robbins, who represented the county of Allegany in the Assembly, as he has since 1893, is a sound statesman and a loyal Republican. His splendid defense of the autonomy of Brooklyn in the Legislature this morning entitles him to the heartfelt gratitude of every loyal citizen, and if when Thomas C. Platt has passed into the limbo of the has-beens, his name should be inscribed upon a State ticket, he will find that the men of Brooklyn have long memories for their friends as well as for their enemies.—*Brooklyn Times.*

"Robbins is one of the cleanest, brightest and ablest men on the floor. He has, moreover, good legal ability and is a hard worker."—*Albany correspondent Rochester Herald.*

SOME OPINIONS UPON OUR CANDIDATE.

Hon. Charles T. Saxton, Lieutenant Governor of the State of New York, writes to a friend:

"I have no hesitancy in expressing the opinion that, Mr. Robbins was one of the ablest and most conscientious legislators I have known during my ten years' service as Assemblyman, Senator and Lieutenant Governor. He had the thorough respect of his colleagues in both branches, and was considered by all as one who placed his duty to the State above any selfish or party interests."

Mr. Robbins, Allegany.

Unquestionably the best record of any Western New York man in this Legislature has been made by Fred A. Robbins, who has just finished his third

term as Allegany's representative in the House. Mr. Robbins has demonstrated that he is above the ordinary run of Assemblymen, and he has also demonstrated that a member of the Legislature can represent his constituents at all times if he chooses to. Last year Mr. Robbins attracted the attention of the House, and it was frequently said that he was made of the stuff that becomes good Speakers. He has shown this year that he has qualities which well fit him for the Speakership, and that they are of a character not possessed by most occupants of the chair in these days. Mr. Robbins led the fight against the Platt-Tammany Greater New York bill, and made a splendid showing against great odds. The only time he voted with the Plattsites on a big measure was when the Raines bill came up. The Allegany member won great praise for his handling of the Attorney General's bills to break up coal trusts, ice trusts and other unlawful combinations. It is doubtful if any other member of the House would have had the courage to stand against the influences which the trusts exerted to prevent these bills from becoming laws. Readers of the *Express* are familiar with Mr. Robbins' plucky refusal to endanger one of the anti-trust bills by recalling it from the Governor. His action at that time was most noteworthy. In all matters he has been taken as a true indicator of the character of legislation. If he supported any bill, it was prima facie evidence that the bill was all right. If he opposed it, there was good reason to think that tricks were being played. Mr. Robbins made an effort to reform coroners' abuses, but the coroners had too many friends, and improvement was prevented. One of Mr. Robbins' bills now awaiting the Governor's signature amends the Compulsory Education law by extending the provisions relative to truant officers to rural communities. Mr. Robbins looked after the Wellsville paving bill in the House.—*Buffalo Express.*

One of the strong figures in the next Assembly will be Assemblyman Fred A. Robbins, of Allegany, who begins now his third term. At the close last spring he had impressed himself on the House probably more than any other member—certainly more than any not holding a chairmanship—and it was due to him that the Gerry Whipping Post bill was defeated. He made one of the ablest speeches of the session against that measure, and on closing had a score of his colleagues about him offering congratulations. Robbins was second man on the Judiciary Committee last year, and will doubtless go to the head as chairman next winter.—*N. Y. Mail and Express.*

The Chairman of the Judiciary Committee of the Assembly is Frederick A. Robbins, of Allegany, a Western New York representative whose career in the Legislature has been distinguished for very great ability and thorough devotion to the best interests of the State. The county of Allegany has never had an abler representative, and we believe that Mr. Robbins is the only Assemblyman in the history of that county that has had the honor of three elections.—*Rochester Post-Express.*

"Frederick A. Robbins of Allegany county, one of the ablest Republicans in the Assembly, led the opposition to the bill (Greater New York bill). As Chairman of the Judiciary Committee, he has won the esteem of the Assembly."—*Albany correspondent N. Y. Tribune.*

It was an easy matter to turn down Mr. Robbins, but when the turning down process of four fifths of the Republicans of Allegany county was attempted, it proved to be a miserable abortion.

The judgment of Mr. Robbins is of the best. His weight in the Assembly is unquestioned, and the defeat of the Town Meeting bill last Thursday is due largely to his arguments against it.—*Albany Evening Journal.*