

AS WE SEE THE RIGHT

The Post has been more or less a spectator in the campaign which will culminate in the city election Tuesday.

Throughout the contest The Post, so to speak, has been on the sidelines. It has watched the play and interplay, not without a cynical smile now and then.

The Post knows the motives of the leaders in this campaign; is not unaware of the string pullers on both sides of the contest, and knows who will pull the strings after the election, whichever side wins.

Thousands of men and women, Democrats and Republicans, who will vote Tuesday look to The Post for guidance. This newspaper feels that responsibility keenly, especially as the election offers, as The Post has stated repeatedly, only a choice between two evils.

Under the circumstances The Post knows of no better way of performing its duty to these readers than by analyzing the issues of the campaign as it sees them and then leaving the decision up to the individual voter.

In the case of Mr. Foster, the people have his record as police commissioner to guide them. He says, and the records show, that under his administration the police department made 50,000 arrests in its drive to stamp out vice and lawlessness. Undoubtedly many innocent persons were jailed.

The question then is, did the results accomplished justify the methods used? Have the fundamentals of democracy been threatened by an overzealous, poorly run police department?

The voter must weigh these questions in making up his mind who to vote for, as the manner in which Mr. Foster has conducted the police department must be taken as indicative of how he would deport himself in the office of mayor.

Governor Hyde has seen fit to journey to Kansas City and give answer that charges against the police department are the result of the mistakes of individual policemen, and that his appointee, Foster, cannot be held responsible. That is true in a measure, but what the public must concern itself with is not a few isolated cases but whether all such cases, viewed broadly, were the result of the general policy of the police department.

The whole thing resolves itself into a question of the soundness of Mr. Foster's judgment. Did he lean over backward? Did he make the cure worse than the disease?

Another question to be considered relative to Mr. Foster is whether he will, if elected, rise above, and be independent of, the chief influence backing him for election.

This same question applies to Mr. Cromwell. No one, not even his opponents, have seriously attacked Mr. Cromwell personally. They have attacked the system that brought about his nomination and the nomination of the rest of the ticket which he heads.

If elected, will Mr. Cromwell be able to make this system enduring—the system which made possible and permitted the graft at the new city market?

Will he be able to carry out his promise to be his own boss?

The whole situation may be summed up in two questions.

Which will be best for Kansas City—

Cromwell—personally all right—but backed by the boss-ridden; Democratic machine?

Or Foster, whose intentions are all right, but whose judgment has been seriously questioned, not without reason, and whose chief backer is the Kansas City Star?

The voters of Kansas City must answer these questions for themselves, and The Post will say "Amen" to the voice of the people, whatever that voice may rise to say.