

FROM THE KANSAS CITY TIMES OP WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5, 1936.
PRIMARY HELD ON TUESDAY, AUGUST 4, 1936.

From first page Times:

'WE SAW FRAUDS'

Three Democratic Officials Denounce Machine Tactics At The Polls.

Shannon An Eye Witness.

The rabbit boss, Sheriff Bash and Judge Henderson Relate 'Outrages.'
In One Precinct Ballot Boxes Were Taken Away An Hour Earlier.

APPEALS TO GOVERNOR PARK.

At Shannon's Request Commissioner Bellemere Joins The Tour of Polls.

High officials in the Democratic party last night gave eye witness testimony to the strong arm vote frauds in the Kansas City election yesterday.

These officials were Joseph B. Shannon, Democratic Representative in Congress from the Fifth District, Mitchel J. Henderson, Democratic Judge of the Probate Court, and Thomas B. Bash, Democratic Sheriff, all leaders of the Shannon faction and eye witnesses yesterday to the methods which they denounced.

"So corrupt it was a disgrace to American civilization." The indignation of the Shannon faction arose out of the contest between that faction and the Pendergast organization over the McDaniel-Gantt race for the State Supreme Court.

"Being in politics as I am," Shannon said, "I wouldn't stand for what I saw myself in the 12th Ward for all the honors in the United States."

"I wonder how much of this Kansas City can stand," said Sheriff Bash, "Personally I want no politics of this sort." Henderson declared, "The Democratic party cannot exist with this kind of outrage."

Shannon related that his faction's judges of the 12th precinct, located at the Southwest corner of 15th Street and Bennington Avenue, told him they were forced to leave the voting place under threats. A woman judge in the precinct, Shannon said, was so terrified she refused to return when Shannon called Fred Bellemere, chairman of the Election Board, to reinstate her.

"I told her I thought Bellemere would protect her, and I called Bellemere. When I turned from the telephone she had collapsed from terror. Her husband held her and while I was talking to the precinct captain the couple left. The captain told me they had gone home and that she was too frightened to go back to the precinct even with police protection.

SIGNATURES ON BOOKS BY FORCE.

"When these judges reached the voting place at six o'clock in the morning," Shannon went on, "they found three hundred names entered on the books as having been voted. They were told to sign the books and were threatened if they didn't that would receive no pay.

"They signed the books and a little later two men entered the booth, each wearing the badge of a deputy election commissioner. The deputies told these judges they wouldn't be needed, and also | drove away the challenger.

"That means that this skullduggery was done either by men commissioned as deputy commissioners or by someone who was posing as a deputy.

"I called Governor Park about the situation, and he advised me to call Fred Bellemere, chairman of the Election Commissioners, that he would direct Bellemere to see that the judges were reinstated.

"I called Bellemere and he said he would come out. I told the judges Bellemere would be along, but the woman judge said she was too frightened to go back. She left soon thereafter."

FOUND NEW JUDGES AT WORK.

"The precinct captain asked me if I thought they should risk their lives, I told him that would be asking a good deal, but I believed that Bellemere would take care of the situation. When Bellemere arrived we drove to the voting place and found other judges had taken the places of those driven out.

"While we were there, Sheriff Tom Bash drove up, and in a few minutes someone came in and declared the election judges and clerks of the 14th precinct, which was a fire station diagonally across the street, had run out the back door with the ballot boxes.

"We didn't believe it, but when we went across to investigate, the fireman told us they had left. They took all their supplies with them, except a few ballots and seal. While we were there they called up to ask for the seal, but Bash took it. That was shortly before 6 p.m., and of course the polls are not closed until 7.

"Quite a number of people were waiting to vote, so Bellemere arranged for them to do so. We found some ballots and took their names as they voted, and at 7 o'clock, as I recall, 38 had voted, 27 of them were for McDaniel and 8 for Gantt, the rest were Republicans.

"Our precinct captain told us that when the voting booth was opened at 6 o'clock in the morning the first voter in the booth was number 401. There were 400 ballots put in the box the night before. We don't know what became of the box or how the count was made, or where the count was held."

Shannon's story was corroborated by Frank Wasmer, precinct captain, Judge

Henderson and Thomas B. Bash.

The count on the tally sheet of this precinct showed 453 for Gantt and 34 for McDaniel.

JOSEPH B. SHANNON AS A BOLTER.

In April, 1904, the Democratic delegates of Kansas City in convention nominated William T. Kemper for mayor of Kansas City. Kemper was supported by the Pendergast faction. Joseph B. Shannon was not satisfied and bolted the convention and held a romp convention of his own and nominated for mayor George M. Shelley (now deceased) to oppose Mr. Kemper. The results were that both Mr. Kemper and Mr. Shelley were defeated, and J. H. Neff, a Republican, was elected mayor of Kansas City.

PARTY SUPPORT.

If the Pendergast organization in 1936 bought and paid for Governor Stark by their support, what position will Judge Billings be in if he is elected to the Supreme Court by reason of the fight Pendergast is making for him now?