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Eureka Elections

Humboldt County Federated Trades and Labor Council

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Eureka---Eureka's voters marched to the polls Monday, June 19, cast the largest vote in recent years and elected a new Mayor and an entire new City Council of five members, presaging a definite progressive trend in the administration of municipal affairs for the coming two years.

The 6742 ballots cast (semi-official count) was approximately 500 more than was cast in the State elections last year, indicating the broad interest centering around the issues brought forward in the campaign.

Incumbents in all other offices, including the Assessor, City Clerk, City Attorney, City Engineer, Police Judge, Superintendent of Streets and City Treasurer, were re-elected. The City Clerk, City Attorney and City Treasurer were unopposed. The acting Superintendent of Public Works, who assumed responsibility for that office after the retirement of Jack Griffith, held a slight lead over his nearest opponent in a field of five; the final outcome to be determined after the tabulation of approximately 360 absentee ballots.

Only one other office, that of Councilman of the Second Ward, remained theoretically in doubt as Angelo Franceschi polled a 168-vote margin over the incumbent, G. H. Schulze, which might possibly be overcome by the absentee vote.

Semi-official returns released by the City Clerk's office ^(including etc.) showed the following results:

Mayor: Simmonds, 3669; Quinn (incumbent), 2839.

Councilmen:

First Ward: Massei, 3388; Stuart (incumbent), 2936.

3621
3029
6850

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Second Ward: Franceschi, 3240; Schulze (incumbent), 3072.

Third Ward: Cave, 3025; Runner (incumbent), 2041; Smith, 1357.

Fourth Ward: Berry, 4069; Mc Dade (incumbent), 2192

Fifth Ward: Ryan, 3055; West, 1442; Larson (incumbent), 1298;

Lima, 544.

Assessor: Stewart (incumbent) 3876; Moore, 2333.

City Attorney: Mitchell (incumbent, unopposed), 5331.

City Clerk; Barkdull (incumbent, unopposed), 5216.

City Engineer: Gardner (incumbent), 3305; Porter, 2868.

Police Judge: Johnston (incumbent), 2915; Tadlock, 1729;

Monette, 1685.

Superintendent of Streets: Getty, (incumbent), 4333;

Danielson, 1934.

Superintendent of Public Works; Robinsen (incumbent), 1739;

Winzler, 1685; Burns, 1226; Anderson 1145; Niskey, 567.

City Treasurer: Putnam (incumbent, unopposed), 5418.

Eureka's new Mayor, H.R. Simmonds, and all five members of the new City Council were supported and endorsed, both directly and indirectly, by various progressive and labor organizations. The Humboldt County Federated Trades and Labor Council, and the First Assembly District Club, No. 1, Labor's Non-Partisan League, interviewed and endorsed candidates, while the Eureka Progressive League, although not making any endorsements, flayed the incumbent Mayor and City Council in large newspaper advertisements for alleged past mismanagement of municipal affairs.

Two other organizations, which made their appearance in the last days of the campaign, also directed their fire at the incumbent Mayor and City Council.

As far as could be ascertained, no groups or organizations came out openly in support of Quinn and the incumbent Councilmen, their

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campaigns being carried on by friends and through newspaper announcements and radio talks.

When the new Mayor and City Council take office on July 10, nine of the fourteen elective City officials, excluding Library Trustee and School Directors, will have had endorsement and support of progressive sections of Eureka's populace and labor groups. City Clerk J. C. Barkdull and City Attorney E. S. Mitchell, running unopposed, and Vincent Getty, re-elected Superintendent of Streets, were endorsed by Labor's Non-Partisan League two years ago--the League then ^{being} comprised of delegates to the Humboldt County Federated Trades and Labor Council. The large courtesy vote given Barkdull and Mitchell, and the overwhelming re-election of Getty, showed a definite desire for a progressive administration of municipal affairs.

Just prior to, and immediately following, the deadline for filing of candidacies, one month before election day, the issues that were to decide the outcome were beginning to be brought forward by various groups and organizations and began to be reflected in the campaign pledges and programs of the candidates. Unlike in former elections, when no programs were offered for the consideration of the voters, this year found the candidates, in most instances, offering a platform in the final weeks of the campaign based on the issues already being widely discussed by the people.

The main issue of the campaign centered around the costs of the Mad River water project, which, although still incompleted, has cost \$2,075,000, nearly twice the amount of the original estimate. Two bond issues were made necessary for the completion of the project; one for \$959,000 and another for \$625,000. In addition, a grant was obtained from the Government amounting to \$318,000 and a large amount of monies was transferred from the City's general fund to pay for the water project costs.

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Charge of completing the water project was assumed by Mayor Quinn, who was appointed Mayor after the death of former Mayor Sweasy. To date, the water project has no filter system and no reservoir in Eureka as originally planned, the water being distributed from the Mad River Dam into the City's mains through the storage tanks of the old water system.

Failure of the present Mayor and City Council to provide a swimming pool and recreational centers with \$50,000 bequeathed to the City for that purpose by the late William Carson, prominent Humboldt County lumberman, was another sore spot in the minds of Eureka's voters.

Other major issues included the present inequitable license fees and taxes levied against small businessmen and homeowners, inadequate transportation facilities, lack of sidewalk and street improvements, and lack of proper sewers and drainage systems.

One important issue involved in the campaign was the guaranteeing civil rights and the fundamental rights of labor, although the plank was not openly included in the platforms of the candidates supported by labor and other progressive groups. However, candidates endorsed by the Labor's Non-Partisan League, stated they were in accord with the League's platform, which included:

1. Union wages and working conditions on all City Projects.
2. Guarantee of Labor's rights to bargain collectively, to strike and picket peacefully; and a guarantee of the civil liberties of all Eurekans.
3. Cooperation with all progressive civic groups for city betterment.

Although not publicized, the candidates supported by the Humboldt County Federated Trades and Labor Council were understood to have given similar assurance.