City of Cambridge

Massachusetts

Office of the City Clerk

August 11th, 1913.

Hon. J. Edward Barry,

Mayor.

Dear Sir:-

With reference to your communication of the 9th inst. from the Progressive Party of Massachusetts requesting the appointment as election officers of two members of said Party for each voting precinct, I desire to say that the provisions of law applying to this matter appear to be Sections 226 and 228 of Chapter 835 of the Acts of the present year.

I presume that such appointment may be made if, in the judgment of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen such an appointment is deemed advisable because Section 228 provides that "election officers shall be so appointed as equally to represent the two leading political parties, except that, without disturbing the equal representation of such parties, not more than two of such election officers not representing either of them may be appointed."

Therefore this appointment may be made by having the Warden and Clerk of different political parties, appointing four inspectors, one of whom shall be of the same political party as the Warden, one of the same political party as the Clerk and two of the third party so as to provide equal representation, as for example:-

under the present arrangement in a Precinct suppose that the Warden is a Republican, the Clerk must be a Democrat, and then there have been appointed two Republican and two Democratic Inspectors.

Under the proposed change there could be appointed a Warden who may be a Republican, a Clerk who must be a Democrat, one Democratic Inspector and one Republican Inspector, and two Progressive Inspectors. This would give each Party two representatives behind the rail, and I think would agree with the requirements of Section 228.

Of course under such arrangement many of the present election officers, both Republican and Democratic, would be displaced, as there would have to be provided seventy-two(72) places throughout the city for the Progressive Party.

In addition to the foregoing requirements, there must also be appointed Deputy Officers for each Regular Officer so appointed. Any change made as aforesaid would not increase the size of the aggregate amount required for pay rolls.

I presume another method of agreeing with the request aforesaid, would be to take advantage of the provisions of Section 226 of said Act which provides that in addition to the regular election officers appointed, the Mayor may " appoint two Inspectors and two Deputy Inspectors". These two additional Inspectors and two additional Deputy Inspectors could be members of the Progressive Party. This would not give more representation behind the rail because there would then be three Democrats, three Republicans and two Progressives on service and I do not think that such a method of appointment would be in violation of the provisions of Section

228 as it would not destroy the equal representation of the two leading political parties, and would give the third party the representation it requests.

This latter method would increase the pay roll for each election as follows:-

For regular officers, $576.00

For Deputy Officers, $1.50 each in accordance with the number of Deputy Officers who may report. The total extra amount that could possibly be charged for deputy officers would be $108.00 making a possible additional cost of the latter arrangement of $684.00 for each election.

Of course the appointment of election officers whether according to the present method or in agreement with either of the outlined methods, requires not only the assent of the Mayor but the approval of the Board of Aldermen,

Respectfully,

Edward J. Brandon

City Clerk.

√ #210. Aug. 11th, 1913.

City Clerk:-

Letter in re appointment of Progressive Election Officers.

(Mayor will fill vacant places if Matthew Hale wants him to do so.)