

CITIZENS' LEAGUE ACTIVE

EFFORTS TO CURB NEW-JERSEY RACE-TRACK GAMBLING.

In Some Counties the Leagueites Are Also Fighting for Other Reforms—The Race-Track Men Stole a March in Camden County—Republicans Not in Hearty Sympathy with the League, as They Count on a "Revolution"—Democratic State Committee Working Hard.

TRENTON, N. J., Oct. 1.—The Citizens' League movement is showing signs of activity in Camden, Union, Essex, Hudson, Passaic, and Monmouth Counties. These are notably race-track counties. The officers of the State League indicated the cause at issue in the manifesto they published, but the county organizations have enlarged on its scope. Instead of concentrating energy on the race-track fight, they are urging a general attack on all the evils Republican papers have cited as errors of Democratic legislation.

A series of league meetings is being held in Freehold. At the initial meeting there was a general arraignment of the State Government and the legislators. Nor did the county officers escape condemnation. These meetings are to lead up to a general citizens' movement on



H. F. Lee.

election day to prevent the Monmouth race-track people getting control of the county offices. The league is out for a general fight against everything that smells of the race course.

Up in Paterson the league men are assisting in the formation of a new reform league to fight not only race tracks, but all vicious legislation, and particularly that kind which has increased offices and salaries and added to the tax rate. Their war cry is better men for the Legislature. It is to be a Citizens' League, with the qualifying word "Reform," and they promise to support independent men.

In Camden County the Citizens' League has found a candidate for State Senator. His selection has created a sensation. He is Howard M. Cooper, a friend of W. J. Thompson, the "Duke of Gloucester." The league wanted to take up Judge Howard M. Carrow, the man who placed Gov. Werts in nomination, expecting he could secure the Democratic indorsement, but Thompson was against him. While they were casting about for a candidate, Howard M. Cooper was quietly pushed forward and nominated. Mr. Cooper is a lawyer of no very decided political convictions so far as is known.

He is President of the Security Trust and Safe Deposit Company, a new banking institution organized a few months ago in this city, in which "Billy" Thompson is largely interested. The parent institution is now buying \$250,000 of the bonds of Thompson's electric railway company. The bookmakers, jockeys, and horse owners at Gloucester are requested by the "Duke" to deposit with the Gloucester branch. The whole affair is so farcical that it is probable the Citizens' League will now be laughed out of existence.

The Republicans have shown no particular love for the Citizens' League. They want Republicans to vote for the candidates they have selected and hope the citizens' movement will draw from the Democratic Party. This fact was emphasized by the refusal of the Essex County Republican Committee to join with the Essex County Democracy, an organization composed of men opposed to the Democratic leaders of the county, and institute a fusion movement.

It is expected the Republican State Committee this year will really be sincere in its efforts, because of the possibilities of this and the next Legislature. Major E. J. Anderson and John J. Toffey are members of the committee, and particularly active this year, because there is a State Controller and a State Treasurer to elect. They held those offices before the Legislature became Democratic, and neither would object to going back again. The State Controller and the State Treasurer are elected in the joint meeting of the Legislature.

The United States Senatorial fight begins with this Fall's contest. Gen. Sewell carries in his vest pocket the caucus nomination of the Republicans, and he would like to see both houses Republican at that time.

The State League of Republican Clubs is trying to get a convention together, but the two last State gatherings were such failures that they are feeling their ground carefully before giving out the official call. The Republicans have had



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more or less trouble with the league because of the sectional feeling in the State. The clubs in the upper part of the State think it hard to have to journey to a little country village like Mount Holly to see the President and Secretary of a State organization.

There are many young Republicans who claim that the league is run in the interest of certain cliques in the Republican Party and that it is used for the edification of a few individuals. No convention was held last year because of the general lack of interest shown. It will, however, meet the middle of this month and elect new officers. It is likely Joseph H. Gaskill, the President, will be re-elected.

In this campaign the league will be used as a purveyor of campaign literature for the State Committee, and will also prepare some documents of its own.

The Democratic State Committee flourishes no trumpet. It meets regularly, but says little. The general meeting will be held within a week and the plan of the campaign mapped out. Allan McDermott and Benjamin F. Lee are the men who direct the movements of the Democrats. The latter is generally known as the South Jersey manager and the former as the general State manager. Lee is Treasurer of the State Committee. He has just returned from Chicago and is familiarizing himself with all the facts in the present contest.

The Democratic majority in the last House was 18. It is possible that it may not be so large this year. It will be impossible to say how large it will probably be until the character of the nominations is known. In some of the close counties there may be changes, but it is impossible to indicate them now.

The Republicans are counting on a general political revolution this Fall. This they have devoutly prayed for during the past four years, and each year their defeat grows worse.

The Democratic State Committee will smooth out factional troubles in the several counties and prepare the way for an active and energetic campaign in which all hands will be united.

There will be considerable new material elected to the House, for twenty of the Democratic Assemblymen have served their two consecutive terms. The indications are that the following Democrats will be returned: Thompson, Harrigan, Armitage, Clark, Byrne, Ol-

vanev, Kearns, Peal, Barrett, Carroll, Kelly, Chamberlain, O'Brien, Flynn, and Sheppard.

The Senatorial fights will be in Essex, Monmouth, Union, Somerset, Gloucester, Salem, Warren, and Camden. The contest will be worth watching in Union, Somerset, Gloucester, and Camden. Here the fight will be close and fierce.