

# Local elections have come a long way — or have they ?

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dates signed just such an agreement and placed it in the hands of their opponents at once, with a request that it be signed by candidates and the committee of the ring."

Fortunately, the 1905 election was not decided on the front pages of either newspaper, but they had brought voting fraud to the public's attention. On election day the *World* reported, "The floaters are standing around the polls with hungry looks of disgust, and aside from a liberal supply of booze they are not receiving the attention formerly accorded them on election day."

Apparently a self-appointed bipartisan committee was responsible

for a cleaner election. On Nov. 6, S.W. Collins, Fred J. Prow, James Karsell, W.A. Fulwider, W.W. Wicks, William Johnson, James D. Barr, J.G. Urmev, W.B. Seward and George W. Bollenbaker circulated a handbill which said, "We, the undersigned, hereby offer and agree to pay \$100 for the detection, arrest and conviction of any person found violating the election laws of the State of Indiana in the city election, Nov. 7."

On Nov. 8, even though the Republican Party again captured the office of mayor and all of the council seats, the *World* claimed a moral victory. "No less than 250 Republicans voted the Democratic ticket yesterday as an emphatic protest against the ring and the graft of the city administration."