

Despite the quiet that prevails on the surface, a great many hard licks are making here and there by people interested in the outcome of the approaching municipal election. While the surface of municipal politics is unruffled, there are the elements of a strong contest beneath, and the forces are marshaling for the fray. Elmer Mitchell at this juncture looks like the nominee of the Republicans. Indeed, it is said that at present there are no other candidates for the honor. There is a strong effort in certain quarters to bring about a complete fusion of the Populists, the Democrats and the Silver Republicans to unite in endorsing Mayor Truelsen for a second term. A serious menace to this proposition appears to be the fact that the friends of D. G. Cash are putting him forward with much energy, and as he is recognized as a strong silver man, he would be certain to be a factor of importance. As Mayor Truelsen is an avowed candidate for re-election, and will run independent if he is not nominated, D. G. Cash, if nominated by the silver people, the fight will be three-cornered. Mr. Cash, it is said, is likely to be nominated, and more work is now in progress in his behalf than is generally supposed. It remains to be seen whether the Populists and Democrats will pull together.

It is commonly believed that party lines will not be very rigidly observed, and it is considered certain that fusion, if fusion there shall be among the various silver parties, will be more in name than anything else. The Populists do not take as kindly to fusion as they did a year ago last fall in the general election. Many of the leaders prefer to bide the time when the party will become stronger, rather than to be the participants to a doubtful degree in a victory with some other political organization or organizations.

Chairman Warner of the Republican city committee will not be in Duluth for a few weeks to come, and he has given his proxy to Dr. W. H. Salter, who will act in the capacity of chairman till his return. The Republican call has been issued in The News Tribune. The primaries will be held Jan. 17, and the convention on the following day. The Populist primaries are to be held on the 18th, and the convention on the following day.

There is considerable gossip of late in the wards concerning aldermen. It will be necessary to elect two aldermen in the First ward this spring, as both of the present aldermen are appointees. Among the new names mentioned are A. R. McDonald, J. P. Johnson and Fred Kugler in the First ward. In the Second ward, Ald. A. J. Harker, Samuel Sterrett and Theodore Krumseig are mentioned, Harker to succeed himself, and Krumseig to again represent the ward after a year's absence from the council. In the Third ward, J. L. Cromwell, who made a run for alderman last spring, and D. W. Scott are mentioned. Mr. Scott is understood to be a passive candidate. Some of the Fourth ward prognosticators say that Ald. Trevillion will succeed himself, and that there appear to be no other candidates at present. In the Fifth ward, F. D. Hunter, W. M. Abrahamson and William E. McEwen are described as among the leading aldermanic possibilities. In the Sixth ward, ex-Ald. John Nelson is said to be likely to be urged by his friends to run this spring. In the Seventh ward it is said to be quite certain that Ald. Stevens will be returned. James Ross is mentioned, but it is understood that he will not be a candidate, and that Ald. Stevens is his choice. In the Eighth ward, Edward Armstrong is mentioned prominently, as is W. B. Hartley. Other possible candidates are ex-Ald. Olafson, M. Jacoby and Mr. Mosher. Mosher came within six votes of election last spring.

In regard to the municipal judgeship, there seems to be nobody avowedly in the field as against Judge Edson for re-election. It is said that C. S. Wilson will be a candidate for the special judgeship.