

HOUSE No. 15.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, Jan. 20, 1885.

The Committee on Elections, to whom was referred the petition of Julius C. Chappelle for the seat now occupied by Charles Albert Prince, have counted the ballots cast for Messrs. Prince and Chappelle in the Ninth Suffolk District, and find them as follows: for Prince, 813; for Chappelle, 824. Of the votes cast for Mr. Prince, your committee found that on 3 ballots the title to the office for which he was a candidate was wholly or partially obliterated by the "sticker" used by the voter for senator. Of the votes cast for Mr. Chappelle, on 56 of them the title to the office for which he was a candidate was wholly or partially obliterated by the "sticker" used by the voter for senator. But your committee found that it was the intention of the voter to cast his ballot for representative for the person whose name appeared upon the ballot and not to have his vote inoperative for representative; and your committee are supported in that view of the case by the communication they have received from Mr. Prince, a copy of which is hereto annexed. Your committee therefore find that Mr. Chappelle received 11 votes for representative from the Ninth Suffolk District more than were cast for Mr. Prince, and report the accompanying Resolution.

For the Committee,

JESSE M. GOVE.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

In the Year One Thousand Eight Hundred and Eighty-five.

RESOLUTION

Concerning the Seat of Representative for the Ninth Suffolk District.

Resolved, That at the election held on the fourth day of November last, Julius C. Chappelle of Boston was duly elected a representative to the General Court from the Ninth Suffolk Representative District, and that he is entitled to the seat in this House now occupied by Charles Albert Prince.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, Jan. 20, 1885.

Adopted.

EDWARD A. McLAUGHLIN,
Clerk.

BOSTON, Jan. 15, 1885.

To the Chairman of the Committee on Elections :

DEAR SIR, — In view of the contest made by Mr. Chappelle for the position of the Ninth Suffolk District, now held by me, it seems to me proper to express my own position in the matter.

At a recount of the votes cast for this office by the committee of the Board of Aldermen for the city of Boston, upon a petition signed by members of both political parties, a certain number of votes bearing Mr. Chappelle's name were not counted because the ballots did not clearly indicate in writing the office for which the vote was cast, as required by the statute.

This defect was mainly due to the fact that the "stickers" of one of the candidates for senator were either so broad or so carelessly pasted upon the ballot, that it covered the title of the vote for representative printed beneath thereon.

Both Mr. Chappelle and myself were sufferers by reason thereof, but the exact number of the ballots so rejected is unknown to either of us.

I have taken the seat because it was proper that the district should be fully represented at the outset, and because I was creditably informed that I had the greater number on the fullest count.

It is my desire, however, should your committee recount the votes, that every ballot rejected for this technicality should be counted, to the end that the intention of the voter may prevail.

I should perhaps also add that I should not feel justified in keeping my seat if awarded to me on such a technicality.

Respectfully yours,

CHARLES ALBERT PRINCE.

