

## CLOSE VOTE IN BALTIMORE; McLANE CLAIMS MAYORALTY.

**Democratic Candidate Has a Slight  
Plurality—Republicans Elect Other  
Candidates on the Ticket.**

*Special to The New York Times.*

BALTIMORE, May 6.—Robert M. McLane and the Democratic managers at 1 o'clock this morning claim the election of Mr. McLane as Mayor of Baltimore by a plurality of 350. The returns show a plurality for McLane of 174, with the count in two precincts not yet reported. It is said that they will not make any appreciable difference. There will be a contest over the vote in these and probably other precincts.

Frank Wachter, the Republican candidate, declared at midnight that he would contest the election on the ground of fraud and irregular count in certain precincts.

E. Clay Timanus, Republican, is elected President of the second branch of the City Council, and George R. Heffner, Republican, is elected City Controller over W. Starr Gephart and Harry F. Hooper, respectively. The pluralities of Timanus and Heffner are about 1,400.

The defeat of the Democratic candidates for Controller and President of the second branch of the City Council is a severe blow to "Free" Rasin, the head of the Democratic organization in Baltimore for thirty years. He agreed that McLane should head the ticket, because he knew the young States Attorney would command the independent Democratic vote.

The Democrats will control the First Branch of Councils and the Republicans the Second Branch. As the Mayor's appointments must be confirmed by the latter body, a lively time is expected. The Board of Estimate, which passes upon all appropriations, is composed of the Mayor, Controller, President of the Second Branch of Councils, City Solicitor, and City Engineer. The Mayor will appoint the two latter officials. As the Controller and President of Council elected to-day are Republicans, the Second Branch can tie up the appointments of the two remaining members of the board and for a time, at least, practically prevent Democratic control of appropriations.

It was the closest city election ever held in Baltimore, and proves again that the independent vote has the balance of power. The result foreshadows a very close and sharp contest in the coming State election. McLane as Mayor can greatly strengthen the Democrats in the city if he distributes the offices so as to more strongly unite the party.

The Republicans will have to carry the city at the November election to secure a majority in the Legislature, which elects a successor to Senator McComas.