The Sheriff personally had charge of these packages supposed to contain official ballots less than two hours, and then in broad day light, in a public place, and then turned them over to a deputy, who delivered them to the Judges of Election.

The opportunity for substituting local laws for the official ballots, therefore, was much more ample while in Democratic than in Republican hands, and the motives for such substitution were much stronger with Democrats than with Republicans, for obvious reasons.   This was a large Republican precinct, which by its majorities, usually—aye, almost invariably— overcomes the Democratic majorities in the rest of the county.

Neither the Sheriff nor his party had anything to gain by the loss or destruction of the ballots, but all to lose, while the Supervisor and his party had everything to gain and nothing to lose.   When crime is committed, the motive for its perpetration is always a leading factor in ascertaining the perpetrator.   Men do not act without motives, especially in politics.

The finding of the committee, therefore, "that the Democratic Supervisor of Election *did* deliver the official ballots in properly sealed packages to the Republican Sheriff of the county," is not only not sustained by the facts, but cannot be drawn from them by any fair or reasonable inference.

These packages laid all night unprotected in the office of a Democratic newspaper ; were found next morning removed from the position they had occupied the night before and there is absolutely no proof that they contained the official ballots on Saturday morning when the Supervisor delivered them to the Sheriff. The Sheriff had opportunity for the substitution, but no motive, while the Supervisor and his party had both.

With this plain and accurate statement of the facts in evidence and the inferences arising therefrom, I leave this ill-concealed attempt to fix this fraud upon the Republican Sheriff or his deputy to the candid judgment of fair and reasonable men, and proceed to the discussion of the real question in this case, viz :