

**DOCUMENT 45 – RESOLUTION TO INVESTIGATE THE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION**

**January 11, 1896**

**TRANSCRIPTION**

On behalf of the <sup>one</sup> hundred thousand voters who, at the polls, in the spring of 1895 entered their protest against civil service, which means the creation of an office holding aristocracy,

On behalf of the six thousand firemen and policemen of the city of Chicago to whom the alleged civil service law means still less protection than is afforded them under ordinary political methods,

On behalf of the thousand of old soldiers of this city and county who are debarred by civil service rules from even becoming applicants for positions in the service of the city,

On behalf of the general public which has good cause for dissatisfaction with the manner in which ~~these so-called~~ so-called civil service law has been administered; and,

Whereas:—The civil service commission has set at naught the principles laid down by such men as Andrew Jackson, who declared that “to the victors belong the <sup>spoils</sup>”; of Mr. Flannagan, of Texas, who promulgated that equally famous saying: “what are we here for?”, of the well known expression of Czar Reed, of Maine, ~~which is at~~ <sup>spoils</sup> has also passed into history “I believe in standing by my friends.”:

Therefore be it resolved by this council that it has no sympathy with this so-called civil service law and the manner in which it has been enforced.

And be it further resolved that it is the sense of this body that the civil service committee be and is hereby instructed to investigate the civil service commission as to the manner in

which it enforces the law and also as to its peculiar and arbitrary rulings as to the fitness and qualifications of those who are applicants for city positions and promotions; and,

Be it further resolved that the civil service commission be summoned to appear before the council committee on civil service and to furnish to said committee all such books and papers and other data as will enable the committee to ascertain fully the workings of the so-called civil service law and the methods by which it is now enforced in this city.

John Coughlin

 First Ward