

inated, but the young Democrats would not withdraw their support from Burbridge with the result that there were two Democratic candidates in this election. The Republicans did not enter a candidate in this contest. The election was held April 4th, and resulted: Burbridge, 854; Dancy, 644.

1887—(December election) C. B. Smith (Rep.)

The charter of May 31, 1887, abolished the towns of La-Villa and Fairfield, and extended the limits of Jacksonville to include these and the most of Springfield. The term of City officials was increased to two years. The charter was so drafted as to permit the interpretation that it included no provision for the registration of voters for the first election. Legal opinion was divided on the subject and the question was carried to the Supreme Court for decision. The decision was that an election would be legal. In the meantime the districting of the city into 9 wards was accomplished. The new registration indicated a majority of 364 colored voters for the entire city.

There were two tickets in the field for this election—one called the Citizens' ticket with Frank W. Pope for Mayor, and the other the Composite ticket headed by C. B. Smith. There was no Democratic ticket. Supporting the "Composite" or Smith ticket were the Republicans and the large negro vote brought in with the absorption of the suburbs.

The election was held December 13, 1887. Smith received an overwhelming majority, the vote being: Pope, 736; Smith, 2,394. Of the 18 Aldermen elected with Smith, 13 were Republicans and five of these were negroes.

The question of the legality of this election was immediately revived and the matter was again carried to the Supreme Court. Pending the decision a peculiar situation prevailed. The newly elected officials met and organized; but Mayor Burbridge and the old Council continued to function until March 28, 1888, when upon the decision of the Supreme Court they surrendered the government to the newly elected officials.

In the Smith administration five Aldermen, the Municipal Judge, fifteen of the twenty-three Policemen, two Sergeants of Police, and the Chairman of the Board of Police Commissioners were negroes.

This administration was entirely distasteful to the majority of the white people of Jacksonville and it was fre-