Contributed by Maine Historical Society and Maine State Museum

Collectiion: 1972; 1997.16.3

Description: Account of Columbian Exposition Contest, Bangor, 1893

## **BANGOR** THE LUCKY WINNERS.

A Total of 261,200 Coupons Received - - -Names of Successful Competitors.

Something About the Contest and the Scenes at the Hour of Closing

Harry I. Bridges, Clerk, Bangor	48,756
Patrick Burke, Wage Earner, Bangor	22,583
Cora B. Coy, teacher, Hudson	18,796
John E. Leavitt, Clerk Old Town	14,298
Mabelle Martin, Teacher, Bangor	13,713
F. E. Colvin, Wage Earner, Brewer	3,328
[Left column]	

The COMMERCIAL extends its congratulations to the winners of the World's Fair tickets.

The twelve leaders have received a large vote, and many of those who were not fortunate enough to win, may well be proud of the complimentary testimonial to their popularity. They made a splendid record.

The figures testify to the popularity of the COMMERCIAL as well as to that of the contestants.

The total vote was 261,200, which is a tremendous large return, and proves the great interest taken in the contest by all the people in the whole eastern section of Maine.

The percentage of coupons returned, comparing circulations, was very much larger than in the recent Boston Globe contest which in some respects was conidered a notab one.



[Continued from previous page] But the COMMERCIAL beats them all.

The keenest interest was manifested in the contest from the start.

The contestants increased in number and thousands of votes were received each day, and almost the first thing the COMMERCIAL readers looked for was the standing of those whose names appeared in the list.

Friends sang the praises of their favorites in poetry and prose and the "Predictions" have formed an interesting feature of the contest.

All day Monday the coupon counters labored with the mass of votes that came in by mail and messenger and as the hour for closing arrived our desks were filled with huge boxes and bundles containing coupons.

During the evening our office was crowded with eager spectators who anxiously scanned every package that was brought in. Outside two officers kept the crowd back and the sidewalk clear.

Many of the spectators were interested in the result and wore very anxious looking countenances. Several of the contestants stamped votes and handed them in up to the time the clock struck 8.

After the crowd had looked at the piles of coupons on our desks to their hearts' content all went out and the counters commenced their task of counting and recording the votes. The work to be done looked as though it would take a month to get through, but after working until midnight quite an impression was



[Continued from previous page] made on the huge pile. The counting was finished today and we are pleased to present the result so-soon after the closing hour.

Since last Saturday the total number of coupons received was 110,706 about 100,000 of which were received last evening.

The contest in the Bangor clerks class has been watched with great interest. The winner, Harry L. Bridges, comes out ahead with a magnificent lead. His vote is the largest of any of the contestants, and more than double that of the next largest winner, and he may well be proud of the support given him by his friends.

Patrick Burke, the winner in the Bangor wage earners, has more than ten thousand over his nearest competitor, the fair Miss Nellie Riley. The latter's friends will regret that she did not win, but she received a splendid vote. Close behind her in third place was Sewall A. Brown, who also received a vey large vote. The race in this class has been a close one from the start between these three leaders.

There has also been an exceedingly interesting contest in the Bangor teachers class. Miss Martin, Miss Kennedy and Miss Kenney have been very close to each other all the time and each have received a vote that they may well be proud of. Miss Martin has a handsome lead, however, at the close.

As exciting and interesting as any has been the contest in the outside teachers class. It has been the belief all through



[Continued from previous page] that at least four and perhaps six of the contestants in this class would make a great effort to win. Cora B. Coy carries off the honors, with a lead of only about 1500 over her popular rival Mildred Blanche Dodge. Miss Coffin is third and all three have received a handsome vote. Jennie Homer also received generous support form her many friends.

John E. Leavitt, of Old Town, is the winner in the outside clerks class. The race in this class has also been an interesting and doubtful one. James De-Rocher of Orono and Chas. F. Prentiss of Brewer, have kept close up to the winner at the time and each in turn have been on top. The last two named finished

[Right column] very close to each other and have a vote to be proud of.

F. E. Colvin, of Brewer, has had a "snap" so to speak, in the outside wage earners class. He wins by a very small vote in comparison with the other winners and has only 509 votes more than Miss Marden, of Kingman. The showing in this class will be apt to make some of the other popular outside wage earners wish they had entered the race.

We append a list of those receiving over five hundred votes. Although not winners all of these may well feel proud of the record they have made.



[Continued from previous page]
Bangor Contestants.
Teachers.
Clara E. Kennedy9,272
Carrie M. Kenney7,728
Clerks.
Thomas E. Higgins13,446
Robert O. Burr7,887
Fred Perkins2,036
Percy Smith
Wage Earners.
Nellie A. Riley12,222
Sewall A. Brown10,408
Out Of Town Contestants.
Teachers.
Mildred Blanche Dodge, Carmel17,277
Bessie Coffin, Lee13,460
Jennie H. Homer, Bucksport5,842
Fred P. Briggs, Orono4,224
Hosea B. Buck, Stillwater2,181
Clara W. Tapley, Danforth1,115
Grace M. Libby, Prospect892
Frances L. Merrifield, Mattawam-
keag754
Ada A. DeLaite, Presque Isle650
Clerks.
Charles F. Prentiss, Brewer9,471
James DeRocher, Orono9,272
Georgie E. Knight, Dexter2,414
Wage Earners.
Laura B. Marden, Kingman2,819
Herbert A. Flanders, Ea. Hampden610