

NOVEMBER 28, 1893.

"PINKY" BLITZ SENTENCED.

THE VOTE REPEATER MUST GO TO PRISON FOR TWO YEARS.

Judge Phillips Believed He Was Only a Tool and Therefore Did Not Give Him the Full Limit of the Law.

In the federal court this morning Judge Phillips sentenced Maurice, alias "Pinky," Blitz, the vote repeater, to two years and two days in the penitentiary for fraudulent voting at the general election held November 5, 1892.

Soon after the court convened this morning Judge Phillips took up the motion in arrest of judgment filed by the attorneys for Blitz. The motion attacked the three counts of the indictment on which Blitz was convicted by a jury at the present term of the United States district court. Judge Phillips, after carefully reviewing the counts and citing many federal authorities, overruled the motion in arrest as to the first and third counts, but sustained it as to the second count, as in his opinion it had been improperly drawn. This saved Blitz from being sentenced on one of the three counts on which he had been convicted. When Judge Phillips concluded his analysis of the indictment he reached for the United States statutes and called Blitz forward to receive sentence.

"Mr. Blitz, you have been found guilty of fraudulent voting. Have you anything to say more than already has been said by your attorney?" asked Judge Phillips.

THE "PUSH" NOT BETRAYED.

Blitz clutched nervously at the bench as he stood facing Judge Phillips, and in a tremulous voice which barely rose above a whisper made an appeal for clemency. Every eye in the court room turned forward to hear if Blitz was about to betray the members of the "push" who were responsible for his following Blitz did not weaken. To the strained ears of the spectators came the words "mother" and "family," and then it was known that he had finished the few disjointed sentences which his fear of imprisonment caused him to utter, Judge Phillips said:

"That you followed your natural instincts and not been influenced to violate the law by others you might not be here. Under the circumstances I am not disposed to punish you to the extent the law permits. I will sentence you to one year and one day in the penitentiary on the first count and one year and one day on the third count of the indictment."

The sentence of one day on both counts will prevent Blitz gaining the benefit of the three-fourth rule for good behavior.

After the sentence, Blitz was then taken from the court room and returned to his cell in the county jail.

Attorney A. S. Lyman saved exceptions to Judge Phillips' decision for the purpose of taking the case to the supreme court. He has given until December 9 to file a bill of exceptions. In the meantime, Blitz will remain in the county jail. If a bond is accepted by Judge Phillips he will be released, otherwise he will have to go to the penitentiary, even though his appeal is pending.

BLITZ ONLY A TOOL.

The limit of the punishment for fraudulent voting is three years and if Judge Phillips had been inclined to be severe this morning he might have sentenced Blitz to six years in the penitentiary. It was apparent, however, that he considered Blitz only a passive tool in the hands of those who have exercised influence in the city since at elections in this city for many years, and it is certain that if one of the principals had stood before Judge Phillips this morning he would have received the full extent of the law.

The court room was crowded this morning, but it was remarked that not a member of the all powerful "push" was present to hear Blitz sentenced. Even the formidable array of attorneys which gathered in the court room yesterday in his behalf was missing and only Attorney Lyman was present to make a weak and ineffectual attempt to stem the tide which was bearing "Pinky" to the penitentiary.

Blitz was indicted by a United States grand jury on November 19, 1892, for voting three times at the election held on November 5, 1892. He voted for Congressman Tammey successively in his own name, the name of W. J. A. Vee and James Williams at the Sixth precinct of the Second ward. No cognizance was taken of the number of times that he voted for city and state candidates, as the United States election laws provide for a penalty only when federal officers, congressmen or a Presidential elector has been illegally voted for.

The news of Blitz's sentence caused much satisfaction. A Republican who had taken an interest in the prosecution, said today: "That is the best thing which has happened for Kansas City in a long time and perhaps after a few more convictions are made fraudulent voting, ballot box stuffing and repeating at elections in this city may come to an end. I have dreamed that we could convict Blitz or any members of the 'push.' If we had thought there was any possibility of securing a conviction we would have secured evidence against many other illegal voters. If we could get at the real offenders—the men who influence men like Blitz to do such things—that would be the best way to break up dishonest elections. Perhaps we may get at them yet."

1893-11-28-KansasCityStar-p1-PinkyBlitzSentenced

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Fri, Oct 17, 2014