

All Officialdom in Harrisburg is Putrid in Vice and Crime.

RASCALITY SANCTIONED

Big and Little Abuses Go On Under the Eyes of High Officials.—Promises of Reform Without Performance Annihilate People, Only Remedy is Election of John G. Harman.

(Special Correspondence.)

Harrisburg, Pa., Oct. 8. There are plenty of opportunities for reform on "The Hill," without waiting for the court proceedings in the graft cases. In fact Mr. Berry has just inaugurated a new line of improvement in the public service. It isn't a matter of vast importance but it is a "straw" which indicates the course and measures the velocity of the reform wind in official life. In fact you can sometimes get more information from small things than can be obtained from larger affairs. The smaller a crime the meaner it is at least some times.

Public patronage is the currency used by professional politicians to bribe men to perform political crimes. It was "the mysterious influence which changed a minority into a majority over night" in the convention which nominated Pennypacker for Governor in 1902. It was on account of the potentiality of this force in that way that offices have been multiplied so rapidly in recent years. The corrupt State Highway Department is the spawn of that evil. The Bureau of Vital Statistics was created on that account and new and needless clerkships were authorized in all of the Departments in order to supply places for dependent politicians.

This "thirst for place" developed the evil which Mr. Berry has just attacked. It is an expedient to make one office satisfy two men. The plan is as simple as the practice is contemptible. For example there is an office which pays \$5 a day. A man in Philadelphia or elsewhere is appointed to the place. He remains at home attending to his own affairs and employs a resident of Harrisburg to perform the work for say \$2 a day. The appointee has a "padding." The substitute enjoys a "snap."

How Official Grifters Help the Party.

Both these agents of the "system" work their relatives and friends for the party. The \$2 a day man in Harrisburg who does the work has a large family, as a rule, and not too easy a time making ends meet. His relatives hustle to "hold his job," and the grocer and butcher and baker who serve him are interested. He is \$3 a day man elsewhere "tolls not, neither does he spin," but he chews the string of the padding and enjoys the luxury of "easy money." Of course he works every possible means to continue the source of graft.

The law forbids this "farming" of public patronage and Mr. Berry has given notice that he will pay no employees who perform no work. He is entirely willing to pay the substitutes the full salary of the office because the law provides for it. But he is not willing to furnish the shy-sters with money coined from the sweat of the faces of others. The decision has created consternation among the beneficiaries of the "system." Every last man of them is ready to denounce Mr. Berry as a meddler. They are a unit against John G. Harman who would pursue the same wholesome policy.

The office holders are having other troubles at present, moreover. The collector of "voluntary contributions" is working the employees just now with a rigor never before witnessed. Within the last ten days every official on "The Hill" has been notified to pay a percentage of his salary into the campaign corruption fund. This is a good deal of a burden every year but this year it is worse than usual. Living is expensive and in addition to the contribution the clerk has to pay the expenses of a trip home to register and another to vote.

The Public Printing Conspiracy.

I have referred on two or three occasions to the State Printing job but thus far have been able to discover no signs that the reform impulses of the Governor have turned his energies toward the correction of this abuse. The present State Printer was the highest bidder for that juicy party plum instead of the lowest, as the law requires. The way it happened was this. Four or five men or firms bid for the contract and each deposited a bond for the performance of the work in the event the award was to him. The lowest bidder got the contract and the bonds of the others were returned to them.

Thus far the law had been scrupulously complied with. But the scheme set in at once. The lowest bidder made some absurd excuse for refusing to accept the award and it was offered to the next lowest bidder who also declined and the process was continued until the highest bidder was reached who got the contract at an exorbitant figure. One would have thought that the forfeited bond would in some measure recompense the State for the difference in the rate between the highest and lowest bid. But no such result followed. The "system" never contemplates recompense to the State for anything.

Here is what actually occurred. The forfeited bond was promptly returned to the delinquent bidder, notwithstanding the legal obligation to hold it, and the highest bidder was declared State Printer. He simply let one of the lower bidders take up

the work and, it is alleged and I believe, not only he but two of the other bidders get a rake off while the State "pays the freight." It is clearly a conspiracy to rob the State. There could hardly be a clearer case of collusion and yet the Governor takes no steps to stop the crime.

The Legislative Record Job.

Reference has also been made in a previous letter to the corrupt collusion in awarding the contract to print the Legislative Record for the session of 1907. On the day fixed for letting that contract the printer who received it was in the inner office of the officer of the Senate who made the award and another printer sat in the anteroom. About a minute before the time for opening bids the official approached the man in the anteroom and asked if he had a bid to submit. He replied in the negative, the official returned to his office, and soon afterward announced that the contract had been awarded to the only bidder.

The contract price under the award thus made was nearly three times what the work had been done for the previous session. Of course that is not in itself an evidence of either conspiracy or collusion. But it is alleged that during the period between which the official had spoken to the man in the anteroom and the announcement of the letting the bid had been changed and the price nearly doubled. In other words the bidder having been informed that he was the only bidder and that the award would be to him however exorbitant his price, changed the figures to a price which was little short of grand larceny.

The corridor gossip concerning this conspiracy got so insistent, during the session, that an investigation was ordered by the House of Representatives. Representative Hagwood of McKean county was made Chairman of the Investigating committee. He was informed of all the facts and even had a conversation with the man in the anteroom at the time of the letting. But he reported that while the price was high there was no evidence of collusion and besides the publisher had promised to make a better "Record" than any of its predecessors. It may have been only a coincidence that Mr. Hagwood was elected President of the State League of Republican Clubs a few days ago.

All the Departments Are Putrid.

The fact is that every Department of the State government is rotten with corruption. There are not only an excessive number of employees in every office but there is grafting everywhere. The Highway Department makes no contracts for road building or improvement that does not yield a bonus to somebody on the inside. The Health Department has become a veritable asylum for political pensioners. Not long ago the son of an influential citizen of this town came home from school to spend his seven weeks' vacation. He was immediately given employment in the Health Department. After standing around the office for two weeks he was given a "vacation" of three weeks on full pay. Then he returned, worked two weeks and went back to school. He enjoyed a lucrative rest at the expense of the State. But it looks as if that is what the Health Department is for.

Meantime we hear much about prosecuting the capitol grafters and nothing concerning these other looters who are working like rats in a cheese cellar. They tell us that Governor Stuart is a model of official integrity and that he will purge not only the State but the party, of crooks and corruptionists. But what merit is there in promises in the absence of performances. The talk of the prosecution of the capitol grafters is declamation to the galleries. A year ago the boast was that the insurance grafters would be fitly punished. They made us almost imagine Durham in prison stripes. But there has been no prosecution of the insurance grafters. Durham is still the Party leader of Philadelphia and the Republican committee of Chester county, the other day, set Auditor General Snyder up as an exemplar of political morals and civic virtue.

The Machine Can't Reform.

You might as well try to bleach linen by plunging it into a pitch bath, as to reform the official life of Pennsylvania while the Republican machine is in control. The managers of that organization are compelled to continue their iniquities. With them it is graft or gravel. If they can remain in office they must go to prison and they have debauched the electorate to such an extent that most of their voters have to be bought. Vast sums of money are necessary to buy their majorities. Ballot box stuffing is a hazardous enterprise now and bidders demand compensation according to the hazard. The remedy is in the election of John G. Harman to the office of State Treasurer. Berry began the work of political regeneration and Harman will complete it.

G. D. H.

John O. Sheatz was never a reformer either in the Legislature or out. In the Legislature he voted for some of the most iniquitous measures and out of it he has supported some of the most notoriously bad men. Two years ago, for example, when all reformers were aligned against J. Lee Plummer, Sheatz stood with the machine. To rank him as a reformer is not only absurd but it is actually dishonest.

We rise to remark that nearly a month has elapsed since John G. Harman challenged John O. Sheatz to discuss the question of minority representation on the Board of Public Grounds and Buildings and there has been no reply to the challenge. The delay indicates that Mr. Sheatz's mental machinery works entirely too slow to be effective in the office of State Treasurer.

What could Lieutenant Governor Murphy have meant when he said in his Jamestown speech the other day, "as Pennsylvania and Virginia were alert one hundred and thirty years ago to-day, each to strike down that which threatened to harm the other, so must Pennsylvania and Virginia be alert now when different foes must be conquered? We haven't heard that there is anything the matter with Virginia and we can't see how Virginia can help us in our troubles. The remedy which we must apply is an aroused public conscience to guide us at the polls and Virginia can't participate in our elections. It is true that the people of that State can sympathize with us in our lack of civic virtue and self-respect. But we must cure our own ills with our own votes and the time to begin is at the approaching election and the way the election of Mr. John G. Harman to the office of State Treasurer.

The Philadelphia machine shows the same indifference to the interests and will of the people as it did before the outbreak of two years ago. The people of that city restored the machine to power last winter by the election of Mayor Reyburn and it is indulging in a riot of bossism and a deluge of political immorality. If Sheatz in elected the State machine will be quite as daring as that of the city and the looting and grafting will be resumed and continued indefinitely. Happily, however, there is no danger of such a result. Sheatz will be defeated as badly as Plummer was two years ago if not worse. The highjink of the Philadelphia machine just came in time to admonish the people of the danger of restoration in the State.

Manifestly President Roosevelt has gone mad on the subject of Federal authority over the affairs of the States. He wants to completely revolutionize our form of government in order to gratify his inordinate lust for power. But the people are not likely to sympathize with such absurd notions. The history and traditions of the government of the fathers are as dear to the hearts of the people to-day as they ever were and though Roosevelt has been a popular idol he will lose out if he advocates such nonsense as was expressed in his St. Louis speech last week.

If every Democrat in Pennsylvania votes for the splendid candidate of the party for State Treasurer next month his majority will be equal to the largest that has ever been received by a candidate with the single exception of that cast for Roosevelt three years ago. And there is no reason why every Democrat should not vote for him. He will be an ideal public official. Capable, courageous and honest he will do whatever is possible to restore the public life of the Commonwealth to the high plane which was once an honor to the people.

If Governor Stuart wants to do some effective reform work through the medium of the criminal courts he has a splendid opportunity to manifest it by beginning on the insurance grafters who were investigated last year. Insurance Commissioner Martin was among those who were condemned in the report of the Committee but so far from that having any adverse effect on Martin's standing at the Governor's office the indications are that he is still in the highest favor. At any rate he continues to hold his office and draw the salary.

Dave Lane is again instructing the voters of Philadelphia to stuff the ballot boxes at the coming election. If the voters of Philadelphia are wise, however, they will pay no attention to Dave Lane's advice. Ballot box stuffers will go to jail this year. The style of treating that sort of calendar has vastly changed within a couple of years. Even crooked Dave Lane won't be immune from punishment this year if there is anything doing in his line of political work this year.

A citizen has not performed his full duty in the election of this year when he casts his own vote any more than a man discharges his full duty when he notified the police that a crime is being committed. He ought to assist the police in preventing crime just as he ought to urge his neighbors to vote to rescue the State from the desperadoes who are despoiling it. Let us all do our full duty this year.

The corrupt and contented City Party men of Philadelphia may have, like the dog, returned to their vomit, but the vast hosts of independent Republican voters in the interior of the State who voted for Mr. Berry two years ago will vote for Harman this year. They have not been purchased, dragooned nor deceived into supporting Sheatz.

HAD NARROW ESCAPE

Runaway Endangered Governor Stuart at Jamestown Fair.

Norfolk, Va., Oct. 5.—Governor Stuart, of Pennsylvania, and President Harry St. George Tucker, of the Jamestown Exposition, had narrow escapes from serious injury and possibly death, on the outside of the exposition grounds, prior to the commencement of the Pennsylvania day celebration there.

A runaway team, attached to a carriage in which were members of Governor Stuart's staff and others, dashed into the Pennsylvania soldiers' mess, missed by a hair's breath the carriage ahead, containing Governor Stuart and President Tucker, who would both have been dashed into the water below had they been struck. The runaway horses were stopped by soldiers striking them in the head with their guns. No one was seriously hurt.

The accident occurred on the long, deep-water pier.

At the main entrance to the auditorium Governor Swanson, accompanied by a large and distinguished party of exposition officials, prominent Virginians and others, met Governor Stuart and the Keystone state officials, and the governors of Virginia and Pennsylvania proceeded, arm in arm, to the stage, where the exercises were held, with Henry F. Walton, chairman of the Pennsylvania executive committee, presiding.

Addresses of welcome by Mr. Tucker and George Swanson were responded to by Governor Stuart, and the oration was by Lieutenant-Governor Murphy.

AID CAME TOO LATE

Check to Pay Judgment Came After Bottler Cut His Throat.

Philadelphia, Oct. 8.—Hyman Hungerleider, aged 52 years, a bottler residing in the southern section of this city, committed suicide by cutting his throat under unusually tragic conditions.

Unable to meet a judgment which was due, he took his 6-year-old son John and went to his place of business, not far from his home. While the boy waited he sharpened a large knife on a grind stone, and when he had finished he sent the child home, telling him to bring his mother to the bottling establishment at once. The boy ran home, and when the mother returned she found Hungerleider lying in the cellar with his throat cut. He died in a short time. Half an hour after the man ended his life Mrs. Hungerleider received a letter from New York, which contained a check sufficient to cover the note which had driven her husband to suicide.

PRESIDENT GOES HUNTING

Roosevelt After Big Game in Louisiana Canebrakes.

Stamboul, La., Oct. 7.—The president spent Sunday quietly in his camp on Tensas Bayou, and began his hunt this (Monday) morning. This report is not official, but comes through natives who are keeping as close an eye upon the movements of the chief executive as courtesy will permit.

Scouts express confidence that some bear will be bagged, and they are even more assuring on the subject of venison. They say the woods are full of deer, of the Virginia variety, but the disquieting rumor has gone abroad that many of them are dying of the disease known as black tongue. The party will be augmented by the addition of a Mr. Metcalf, a guest of Mr. McIlhenny and Mr. Parker, who will escort the negro bear killer, Holt Collier, who will bring with him 21 of his own dogs. There will be, therefore, three professional hunters in the crowd, Collier, Ben Lilley and a negro named Brutus Jackson. All have their own dogs.

Robbed, Beaten and Bound to Track.

Cleveland, Oct. 8.—Beaten into insensibility by thugs and bound hand and foot across the railroad tracks in the Pennsylvania yards here, Samuel H. Shaw, a sailor of Port Huron, Mich., narrowly escaped being ground to death by a freight train. Shaw was robbed by three men, who after knocking him senseless, bound him to the track. He was discovered by the engineer of the train, who barely managed to stop a few feet from the prostrate man.

Dr. and Mrs. Rowland Acquitted.

Raleigh, N. C., Oct. 7.—The jury in the Rowland murder trial returned a verdict of acquittal. There were few people in the court room at the time. The jury took the case late Saturday. Dr. and Mrs. David Rowland were jointly charged with poisoning the woman's former husband, Charles R. Strangle.

Thaw Trial December 2.

New York, Oct. 8.—Harry K. Thaw's second trial will begin on December 2. This agreement was reached between District Attorney Jerome, Martin W. Littleton, counsel for Thaw, and Justice Dowling, of the supreme court. It was announced that Justice Dowling will preside at the trial.

Boy Shoots His Brother.

Pittsburg, Oct. 7.—Angered because his 18-year-old brother, George, chided him for remaining away from home all night, in the absence of their mother, Moses Rosenberg, 16, shot George through the heart, killing him. The boy was arrested.

Acquitted and Killed by Lightning.

Dallas, Texas, Oct. 8.—Dock Willis, a young planter acquitted last week of the murder of Sheriff Edwards in Shelby county, was struck and killed by lightning just over the state line to Louisiana.

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A large assortment of Ladies' Coats in black and all the new colors in the new loose and half fitting models and full lengths, lined and unlined, from \$7 to \$35.00.

MISSSES COATS.

Misses Coats, everything in the new plain cloths and plaids, all the new colors and models from \$3.90 to \$18.00.

CHILDREN'S COATS.

Children's Coats, new styles, and all the latest colorings. Also white, all colors, in Bear Skins and Astrakan and lowest prices. Caps to match.

NOTIONS.

Everything new in Trimmings, Notions, Laces and Embroideries, Hosiery, Gloves and Corsets.

CLOTHING.

We have just received a new line of Men's, Boy's and Children's Clothing.
Men's Suits from \$5.00 to \$20.00.
Boy's Suits from \$3.50 to \$10.00.
Children's Suits from \$1.50 to \$5.00.
Men's Overcoats from \$3.50 to \$25.00.
Boy's Overcoats from \$2.50 to \$7.50.
Children's Overcoats from \$1.00 to \$5.00.

SHOES.

A full line of Men's Working Shoes.
A full line of Men's Dress Shoes.
A full line of Boy's Working Shoes.
A full line of Boy's Dress Shoes.
A full line of Ladies' and Children's Shoes.

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A complete line of Men's, Women's and Children's Fall and Winter weights in Wool and Cotton Underwear.

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