

SHEATZ'S FALSE PRETENSE IS A FATAL MISTAKE

Forced to Vote for Vicious Legislation by His Obligations to Machine.

Grafters Under Indictment as Well as Those Still in Office Working for His Election.—Interesting Rumor of an Anti-Penrose Defection.

(Special Correspondence.)

Harrisburg, Pa., Oct. 22. Posing as morally better than his party John O. Sheatz, the machine Republican candidate for State Treasurer, stands to-day, convicted of falsifying his record in the Legislature, in order to support an absurd claim. Dragged into voting for the Susquehanna canal bill, he declared, over his own signature, and with manifest deliberation, the other day, that he had voted against that iniquity. There could have been no misunderstanding in the premises. He knew how he had voted and why he voted as he did. His purpose in claiming to have voted the other way was obviously to deceive the public.

A braggart running from an imaginary danger is not an attractive figure. A professor of morality becomes despicable when he is caught in the perpetration of crime. Lying is not a characteristic of honesty. False pretense is not a habit of a man of integrity. John O. Sheatz protesting constantly that he is an honest man has convicted himself of falsification and is entitled only to popular contempt. Moreover his falsehood was malicious as well as deliberate. He aspersed the reputation of others in order to create a false reputation for himself. Everybody despises a malicious liar.

The Penrose machine controls the Republican party in Pennsylvania. It nominated Sheatz because its managers believed that he will serve it in the event of his election. The Penrose machine wants the State Treasury in order to "farm" the patronage of the office. It was one of the most productive of the assets of the machine before Berry was elected. Bankers who are involved will pay anything for funds to tide them over. Frequently if they can't get funds they commit suicide. Penrose likes to hold a lot of bankers in that equivocal position. He can get "money to burn" under such conditions.

Sheatz Under Obligations to the Machine.

No man who is under obligations to such a political combination has strength to resist its importunities. A man with the courage and probity to maintain opposition will not put himself under obligations to that kind of a machine. Sheatz has always been under obligations to "the gang." When he was given the place honored by J. Claude Bedford he mortgaged his manhood. That lightning doesn't strike twice in the same spot, is proverbial. That a political machine doesn't make two mistakes in the same Legislative district, is equally certain. In selecting a man to humiliate Bedford the machine wouldn't take a man like Bedford. They make certain to get the opposite sort.

It was because of this obligation to the machine that Sheatz voted for the Susquehanna canal bill. He knew that was a vicious measure. He had even declared his intention to vote against it. "While in Philadelphia the day before the bill came up," says the editor of the North American, "he inquired of The North American when it was to be called. Upon learning that the vote would be taken the following day, he canceled an important business engagement and went to Harrisburg specially to do his duty and vote against the measure." Yet when he voted the next day he voted for the bill. The machine managers forced him to "throw conscience to the dogs" and serve, not his party, but the machine.

What absolute folly it is to talk of resisting the machine in a matter in which cupidity has stirred the managers to an acute stage by a man who couldn't withstand it in a trifling affair like the Susquehanna canal bill? An organization which drove Hopkins, Blake, Walters, Clark of the Enterprise bank and others to suicide, worried Norris, Hart and Haywood into premature graves and sent Lively into exile as a fugitive, is not likely to abandon its most cherished hope because of fear of a man who hadn't the wit to keep his legislative record right or the wisdom to remain silent when his faults were revealed. It would be as safe to hand the treasury over to Huston or Sanderson.

Judged by the Company He Keeps.

If Sheatz had the courage and conscience which is claimed for him, moreover, he wouldn't have the support of the element which is doing most for his success. Every one of the indicted conspirators is working to the full measure of his power to

elect Mr. Sheatz. Huston, Sanderson, Snyder, Payne, Cassell and all the capitol grafters are moving heaven and earth in his interest. If he is anxious to prosecute them why are they so urgent for his election? It is not likely that they would prefer to be sent to the penitentiary by Republicans rather than by Democrats. Their partisanship hardly takes that form.

Then the grafters in all the other departments are taxing their energies and taking chances of punishment in order to promote the election of Sheatz. Take the case of John S. Neal, chief clerk of the State Highway Department, for example. Neal is under suspicion and unless the machine is restored to power it will be impossible to retain him in the public service. He is one of those who organized "a bureau of information" in the Highway department three or four years ago, to sell advance information to contractors, to the prejudice of the State. If the Department hadn't been rotten he would have been turned out then.

But he wasn't even rebuked. It has been said that he was obliged to refund some of the money, not by the department, but by his victims. But that rumor has not been verified. He lost no standing among his associates, however. And why should he? The department was organized as a grafting bureau. It was intended as a political machine. It was designed to be a sort of asylum for party pensioners. Besides the vast force of employes in and about the office here, the considerable number of engineers and draughtsmen in the field, there are a number of contractors who employ great armies of men.

Chief Clerk Neal's Hold-Up.

That all of these employes are expected to contribute to the campaign corruption fund is made plain by a "hold-up" letter recently issued to the contractors, inspectors and other employes of the Highway Department by Chief Clerk Neal. "We are raising a fund to assist the Republican State committee in paying the expenses of its present State campaign," he writes to those who are largely dependent upon him for their tenure of office. "Should you desire to make a voluntary contribution for this purpose," he continues, "please forward me a check as promptly as possible."

The Highway Department grafters are alarmed at the prospect of Harman's election. They know that there will be no interruption of work in roadbuilding, for Mr. Harman, in the Legislature and out is and has been one of the most enthusiastic advocates of good roads. But if he is elected the grafters in the Highway Department will have "troubles of their own." He won't have power to remove inefficient or venal officials or agents of the Department. But he will have the right to compel the fulfillment of the law and the proper performance of the work and every man concerned understands that he will exercise that right.

The other departments are also more or less concerned on the subject. At least the "fat frying" has been extended to all the departments and men are held up for "voluntary" contributions on every part of the "palace of graft," except in the office of the State Treasurer. Chairman Andrews' collectors know that there is nothing to be got there for them and State Treasurer Berry will not indulge in that most contemptible of all forms of robbery. The election of Harman will go a long way toward a stop to that cancer in the official life of the Commonwealth.

Rumor of Anti-Penrose Defection.

There is an interesting rumor current in political circles now which has come out of the center of the anti-Penrose Republicans of the State. This force is an important element in the party's voting strength, and it reasons that the easiest and best way to eliminate Penrose from the political equation would be to forget to vote for Sheatz. Penrose nominated Sheatz not out of love for Sheatz but with the idea of promoting his own interests. If Sheatz is elected Penrose will be strengthened because all the patronage of the office, appointments as well as deposits, will be employed in his behalf. The defeat of Sheatz, on the other hand, will not only deprive Penrose of these potent influences, but it will imply condemnation of Penrose's policies and management. Naturally a good many of Penrose's enemies in the party look with favor upon a proposition to adopt this easy way of effacing Penrose.

There is no doubt that the election of Sheatz will make Penrose invincible. Ever since the death of Quay those who are opposed to Penrose have been complaining of his incapacity for leadership and his proneness to blundering. His success in rescuing the organization from desperate situations, however, is a constant refutation of such charges. It may be gravely doubted if Quay could have saved the party last year. It is known that he was irrevocably committed to the nomination of Colonel Watres of Scranton for Governor and Watres would "have been skinned a mile." Quay never encountered such a perilous situation as the capitol scandal put up to Penrose this year. He was equal to the emergency last year and if he succeeds again this year the anti-Penrose element of the party may as well "bag its head."

Penrose's Sufficient Reason

That is why Penrose nominated Sheatz this year. The voters wouldn't stand for a machine man with "the courage of his convictions." On the other hand Penrose wouldn't stand for an anti-machine man who would not be amenable to orders in the event of his election. Sheatz was the compromise invented by Penrose. He is a machine man in mask. He serves the machine, and, as in the case of the Susquehanna canal bill vote, has the stupidity or invertebracy to deny the fact even though he must have known that the records would reveal his hypocrisy.

G. D. H.

Our Nine Days Wonder

From the Philadelphia Record.

Nine days have elapsed since Candidate John O. Sheatz calling "The Record" to account for the "extravagant writings, and in many cases absolutely false statements, of men employed for their ability in that line," denied that he had voted or any of the "infamous" water snake bills of the legislative session of 1903.

Nine days have elapsed since this newspaper called the attention of Candidate Sheatz to page 2435 of the Legislative Record, whereon it is officially certified that he did vote for the most infamous of all the water snake bills.

As yet Candidate Sheatz has not condescended to explain why he set up a defense that was so easily demolished by reference to his official record. He promised in his letter of denial to "reply to the rest of the misstatements" at his first opportunity. Has he thought better of it? Have the gangsters who are managing his campaign called him off?

The Veterans and the Grafters

From the Butler Herald.

John O. Sheatz, the Republican machine candidate for State treasurer, offers as an excuse for the vetoing of the soldiers pension bill the statement that it would have cost the State over \$4,000,000 a year to pay the pensions to the veterans. Had it not been for the election of William H. Berry it is safe to say the bunch of capitol grafters would have robbed the State of \$4,000,000 more in addition to that already stolen and the machine campaigners would now be pointing with pride to the magnificent capitol which WE built and furnished. It costs too much to give the old veterans \$10 a month, but an expenditure of millions of dollars for "fake" trimmings is a legitimate expense.

Spell the Name Correctly.

From the Philadelphia Record.

Some of our esteemed county and city contemporaries are in the habit of misspelling the name of the Democratic candidate for State Treasurer, Hon. John G. Harman, of Columbia county. It is well enough to be correct. The misspelling of names has sometimes led to grave after-election disputes. Luckily, there is no mistaking of Sheatz for Harman nor of Harman for Sheatz; but it is not well to alter the spelling of either candidate's surname.

Todd Tarries.

From the Harrisburg Patriot.

The Attorney General of the State, who is in charge of the prosecution [of the Capitol thieves], is away on his vacation. It was stated at his office yesterday that the date of his return has not yet been fixed. If the administration is using all energy and diligence to bring the criminals to justice and to recover the stolen money the place for the Attorney General just now is Harrisburg, not the woods of Maine.

Responsibility for the Graft.

From the Reading Telegram.

Can you touch a man who had anything to do with this monumental conspiracy of plunder and betrayal without touching a minion of the Republican state machine, to which Sheatz is indebted for his present nomination?

Must be Plucked Out.

From the Sunbury Democrat.

The long continued system of loot practiced by the Republican leaders in the State must be completely eradicated, or else the fruits of industry will be absorbed in the payment of unearned and unlawful bounties to the corruptionists.

Precisely What They Know

From the Pittsburg Dispatch.

It is to be hoped the alleged capitol grafters will not delude themselves with the fancy that there is "politics" in their arrest, and that after election they will be on Easy street.

Pennypacker Needed in the Group.

From the Phila. North American.

The old pirate chorus used to be "Fifteen men on the dead man's chest." Might be sung in close harmony at Harrisburg if Pennypacker had been added to the defendant fourteen.

Can't Break the Habit.

From the Pittsburg Dispatch.

Former Governor Pennypacker has been taking the hero killers to task in a speech at Phoenixville. Poor old man can't get over it!

KILLED MURDER WITNESSES

Warring Philadelphia Chinese Factions in Fierce Combat.

Philadelphia, Oct. 19.—The warring factions of Chinese in this city, who have periodically resorted to the use of knives, pistols, and hatchets to settle their disputes, engaged in a fierce combat in Chinatown, which resulted in the death of Lee Dick and Lee Ting and the probable fatal shooting of Leoy Tong.

The authorities say the killing was the result of a premeditated plan made by members of the Hip Sing Tong society to assassinate witnesses who were to have testified in the trial of Hip Sing Tong men, charged with the murder of Long Yung, on July 7 last. Long Yung was a member of the On Leung Tong society and was shot down and killed after he had given testimony against Hip Sing Tong men in another murder trial.

Just as the Hip Sing Tong men were placed on trial for the murder of Yung, Chinese, who the police say were brought here from New York, Boston, San Francisco and other cities, began shooting in the streets of Chinatown and riddled with bullets Lee Dick and Lee Ting, a friend. Both were members of the On Leung Tong, and Dick was to have been the star witness against the Hip Sing men in the trial. He was on his way to court when he was shot down and killed, and the case was postponed. Members of the Leung Tong faction ran from their headquarters and began shooting when the first shots were fired and Leoy Tong, a Hip Sing follower, was dangerously wounded. A general fight followed, in which many heads were battered and several were slightly injured. Wholesale arrests were made by the police who descended upon the Chinese settlement.

ATTACKS MERGER

Suit to Restrain P. R. R. From Operating the Philadelphia & Erie.

Philadelphia, Oct. 22.—A bill in equity to restrain the Pennsylvania railroad from operating the Philadelphia & Erie railroad as part of its system under the merger effected by a vote of the majority stockholders of both corporations last spring, was filed in the common pleas court here by Andrew J. Reilly and Walter S. Humphreys, trading as Frank T. Bell & Co., and Gustav S. Soulas. The plaintiffs, who are Philadelphia & Erie stockholders, hold that the agreement entered into by the defendant companies is unconstitutional and confiscatory and deprives them of their property without due process of law and without adequate compensation. They argue that the law of March 22, 1901, under which the merger was effected, is unconstitutional and that one railroad corporation under the law may acquire the franchise and rights of a connecting railroad in which it owns at least two-thirds of the capital stock. The Pennsylvania railroad, it is argued, did not hold this amount.

The court is asked to declare the law of March 22 unconstitutional and void; to declare the agreement between the two corporations null; to restrain the Pennsylvania railroad from operating under the present agreement and to resume under the terms of the original lease, and to order the Pennsylvania railroad to render an accounting for moneys secured from operating the Philadelphia & Erie since the merger was effected.

PENSION ROLL DECREASE

But Amount of Money Paid Increases By \$4,613,131.

Washington, Oct. 22.—The decrease of 18,600 in the number of pensioners on the rolls at the end of the fiscal year 1907, as compared with the year previous, is the feature of the annual report of Pension Commissioner Warner, just issued. This is the greatest decrease in the history of the pension bureau.

The total number of pensioners on June 30, 1907, was 967,371, and the total value of the pension roll at that date was \$140,850,880. This is greater by \$4,613,131 than the value of the roll for the year previous, and is accounted for by the higher rates of pensions provided by the act of February, 1907, under which act there had been enrolled on June 30 of the present year, 116,239 pensioners. The total number of pensioners on the roll on account of the war with Spain was 24,077.

Carnegie Says Financial Crash Is Near

Queenstown, Ireland, Oct. 19.—Andrew Carnegie predicts a big financial crisis in America. He believes it has already begun, in fact. It will extend to England, too, he says. The Laird of Skibo regards the coming flurry with composure, however, because he thinks its ultimate results will be good by restoring actual values and putting a stop to the general craze for speculation.

Dies From Worry.

Pottstown, Pa., Oct. 21.—Worried because she was accused of having spent a souvenir \$5 gold piece that she had accidentally left on the counter of a Pottstown store, Mrs. Henry Nester died in New Hanover township. The doubting of her word so preyed on her sensitive mind that she was prostrated, and at times it required several men to control her.

Finished 1000-Mile Walk.

Cincinnati, O., Oct. 21.—The long-distance walker, Dan O'Leary, finished a 1000-mile walk at Norwood Inn. He walked one mile during each hour for 1000 consecutive hours. He is nearly 65 years old, but has shown no signs of faltering.

Bellefonte Shoe Emporium.

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PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD

BULLETIN.

ALL ABOUT THE WINTER RESORTS.

Have you made your plans for the winter outing? The Pennsylvania Railroad Company will issue November 1st, its Winter Excursion Book, containing about 200 pages of information concerning the various resorts open during the Winter and Spring.

From this book one may make a choice of nearly two hundred resorts—the east and west coasts of Florida; the Gulf coast from the western border of Florida to the Rio Grande; New Mexico, Arizona, California, and the Pacific Coast.

If one cannot find time for so extended a trip, there are the Virginia, West Virginia, or North Carolina resorts, only a day's journey from eastern cities.

Health seekers will turn to the pages devoted to the places in the highlands of North Carolina, the long leaf pine region of South Carolina and Georgia, or the nearby resorts in the pines of New Jersey.

Among the all-the-year-around seaside points, Atlantic City and Cape May stand pre-eminent.

Winter Excursion tickets to the greater number of the resorts listed in this book, and good for return passage until late in the Spring, will be on sale on and after November 1st.

Full information concerning winter trips and copies of the Winter Excursion Book, when issued, may be obtained of Ticket Agents.

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