

# CREASY GRILLS RECREANT INDEPENDENT REPUBLICANS

## Criticises Action of a Few Who Have Declared for Sheatz on Insufficient Grounds.

### Shows That the Machine Republican Candidate Was Always Servile and Obedient.—He Was Against Roose- velt at a Crucial Time and Against Good Government Legislation All the Time.

(Special Correspondence.)

Harrisburg, Pa., Oct. 30.

There is an element among the independent Republicans of Pennsylvania which is already "weary of well doing." This was to be expected. In the history of time there has never been a movement involving a considerable number of men which did not develop some recreants. Even the church is frequently embarrassed in its work by the bad behaviour of some professors of Christianity. Such incidents do not permanently retard the work of the Church, however. The delinquents are set aside and the civilizing and Christianizing processes go on.

Recently there has been no more promising movement in the interest of civic improvement than that which organized under the title of the Lincoln Party in this State. It was composed, in the main, of strong and earnest men influenced essentially by the spirit of progress and directed by conscience and patriotism. Such a force could not fail to command popular respect and draw public favor. That was probably its greatest danger. It attracted the support of a lot of self-seeking politicians who hoped to ride into office on the crest of its wave of popularity.

There are men of respectable antecedents and considerable means who would crack a safe if they imagined there was a commission for some public office inside which they could seize. They have an inordinate and insatiable thirst for office. Some of that sort got into the Lincoln party and because their expectation of office was not realized, they are now hurrying back to the machine. A few of them recently held a meeting in Philadelphia and decided that they would support Sheatz. They imagine that such action will please Roosevelt and get them something. False Promises and Wrong Conclusions.

These fellows, or part of them, have issued a letter addressed to the independent Republicans in which they say that the nomination of Sheatz was "a concession to decent Republicanism;" that "the good of the State will be best promoted" by his election; that such a result of the vote "will promote the overthrow of Penrose" and that it will be an "endorsement of the Roosevelt policies." It would be difficult to imagine anything more absurd. The election of Sheatz is absolutely essential to the success of Penrose's plans for next year.

How could it be otherwise? Sheatz was nominated by a convention absolutely controlled by Penrose. The fact that it was presided over by Harry F. Walton of Philadelphia is ample proof of that fact. But it doesn't depend on that evidence alone. The important thing to Penrose was control of the organization. Appreciation of this fact was shown last year in the demand for the retirement from the Chairmanship of the State Committee of Mr. Penrose's Private Secretary. The convention which nominated Sheatz unanimously re-elected Wesley R. Andrews.

The action of these so-called independent Republicans is recreancy of the worst type. But it wasn't the greatest blunder they made. The sending of a copy of their absurd letter to Hon. William T. Creasy enjoys that distinction. It gave Creasy an opportunity to expose their stupidity and hypocrisy. They have betrayed their associates in the movement of the last two years, they have misrepresented facts with respect to the movement and in relation to Sheatz and they have written themselves down as political mercenaries and adventurers.

Mr. Creasy's Proper Reply.

Here is Mr. Creasy's reply to the

letter signed by Mahlon N. Kline, Chairman, and Cyrus D. Foss, Jr., Secretary:

Catawissa, Pa., Oct. 28.  
Mr. Mahlon N. Kline, Chairman, Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Sir:—I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of October 15th, containing reasons why the cause of good government would be conserved by the election of John O. Sheatz to the office of State Treasurer, against John G. Harman. No doubt you have requested me to join you in an appeal to independent Republicans in furtherance of that proposition, because I was one of your candidates for State office last year and for the reason of my identity in the past, in and out of the Legislature, with movements in the interest of those reforms which you profess to advocate.

You say that at the last two general elections thousands of Republicans opposed the candidates of their party because it was controlled by a group of corrupt politicians for their own selfish ends; that the result led to the election of Mr. Berry, the nomination of Stuart, inspired the capital investigation, the arrest and indictment of the conspirators and finally, the nomination of John O. Sheatz for State Treasury. I have not quoted literally.

Mr. Berry Alone Achieved Results. You will pardon me if I am unable to agree either with your premises or conclusions. The election of Mr. Berry alone brought about the special session, unseated the gigantic capital frauds and if he had not been retarded by an unfriendly administration, the grafting would have been prosecuted long ago. The nomination of Mr. Stuart was certainly no reform movement for, as was notoriously dictated by Senator Penrose, while his election has resulted in the retention in office of all the gangsters of the old Quay regime. Even Stuart, who as Secretary of the Board of Public Grounds and Buildings, covered up the grafting operation, still a clerk in the office of the Auditor General, and in the enjoyment of the confidence of the machine leaders. Is it not a fact that the same corrupt politicians are still in control of the party, and using it as before, for their own selfish ends?

You add that "the policies of President Roosevelt's administration have the enthusiastic support of all independent Republicans," and pledge to him "for the future, as in the past, our hearty support." You will probably recall the fact that in 1905 when President Roosevelt's most cherished policy was in its crucial stage, a resolution pledging him the moral support of Pennsylvania was introduced into the Legislature, and Mr. Sheatz voted against it. Only a few days ago he denounced in a speech at Pittsburgh that he is in cordial sympathy with the movement to nominate Senator Knox for President, who not only doesn't reflect the Roosevelt policy but was conspicuous among those in the Senate who were denounced by President Roosevelt as railroad lawyers. Mr. Harman, who was a member of the House at the time, voted for the resolution. (See Legislative Record, session of 1906, page 295.)

The System Rather Than Men. You say: "We regard House Penrose as the centre and mainspring of the group of corrupting, contracting and corporate influences which have so long dominated the politics of the State. In my opinion, the centre of this system than was Quay or those who preceded him. The evil done so much men as the system. The citadel of the power of the system is the State Treasury. We have been striving for years to destroy the system and by the election of Mr. Sheatz two years ago temporarily achieved that result. Your opposition to elect Mr. Sheatz will restore the system and entrench it, because he owes his nomination to the machine and must depend upon it for his election. On the other hand the election of Mr. Harman will continue the policies of Mr. Berry and make perpetual the triumph of civic righteousness which his election secured."

You say that the nomination of John O. Sheatz by the Republican State convention was a concession forced by decent Republicanism, unavoidably and bitterly distasteful to the management that sought to retain power. Senator Penrose controlled the convention which nominated Mr. Sheatz as also privately as any party boss ever controlled a caucus. He dictated the platform, selected the presiding officer, controlled the speeches and what is of the greatest significance, he held the organization in his own hands by the nomination of himself as secretary to the office of Chairman of the State Committee.

You say that Mr. Sheatz is as truly one of us as if we had given the votes that nominated him. It is a well-known fact that Mr. Sheatz is playing both sides. The Penrose people declare confidently that Mr. Sheatz is with them. You say he is against them. But why is he silent? A man's position can best be defined by himself. Let Mr. Sheatz take the public into his confidence and frankly announce whether he is for or against Penrose for Senator.

Your letter, in short, conveys the idea that your main concern is to re-enter the machine organization. Recent experience has perfectly proved that minority representation in the State administration is of the highest value. Plain business principles require checks of this sort, and the election of John G. Harman will accomplish that result. It will destroy the system absolutely and save the people of the State millions of dollars.

Sheatz's Record Revealed. You say that in 1905, prior to the reform movement of that year, Sheatz stood alone in the State Legislature in urging the passage of ballot reform and registration acts. The only ballot reform bill introduced during the session of 1905 was "read in place" by Representative Flynn, and it was supported by all the Democrats and by a few Republicans. Sheatz introduced a personal resolution and with the apologetic "by request" attached.

I have served in the Legislature during all the time of Mr. Sheatz's membership of the House and am familiar with his record. He voted for a few notorious measures and against vicious legislation occasionally. But he was not a militant reformer by a long way. On the contrary, he voted with the machine so usually that the exceptions only proved the rule of his servility to the machine. Sheatz voted against the Philadelphia "ripper," but served the machine by voting against an amendment which would have destroyed its evil effects.

I do not concur in your opinion that the good of the State will be subserved by the election of Mr. Sheatz, or that such a result of the election will promote the overthrow of Penrose. On the contrary, to my mind, it will entrench Mr. Penrose in his position as party boss. In view of these facts I am constrained to support John G. Harman for State Treasurer, and believe that his election will guarantee the results which you pretend to aim for.

Very truly yours,

W. T. CREASY.

Independents Resent Recreancy.

Mr. Creasy's letter has stirred the real independent Republicans of the State to the highest measure of enthusiasm in the support of Mr. Harman. The authors of the letter to which it was a reply, have deliberately falsified the record in order to deceive the voters. Their purpose was, of course, to qualify themselves to participate in the Republican primary elections next Spring. Penrose, and as Mr. Creasy alleges, Sheatz are opposed to Roosevelt's candidate and these mercenaries hope that through the popularity of Roosevelt they will get back into the organization and control it.

But they are pursuing a very stupid course. If Sheatz is elected Penrose will be more firmly established in control of the party organ-

ization than Quay ever was. Quay never went up against a condition as difficult as the capitol scandals presented to Penrose this year. Last year he had a rough road to travel and won with Stuart. If he succeeds this year in rescuing the party from the peril in which it is involved and restoring it to complete control of the government of the State, he will be invincible, for the credit will go to him rather than to the independents, whatever part they take in the battle.

G. D. H.

Let Us Hope They Will.

From the Reading Telegram. Maybe if these prosecutors don't look out, Sanderson, et al., will up and tell who really got it.

According to the statement of Mahlon N. Kline, Lewis Emery, Jr., is of the opinion that the best interests of the State were conserved by the election of Edwin S. Stuart to the office of Governor last year. Mr. Stuart has done all that was possible to retain Penrose's friends in the public service and to foster the interests of the "criminal conspiracy masquerading as the Republican party." He has inaugurated no reform and delayed the prosecution of the capitol grafters as long as possible, probably with the purpose of letting them escape by way of the statute of limitations, Quay's favorite method. Still Lewis Emery, Jr., was the candidate against him and the possibilities for harm in this country are vast. Taking one consideration with another, therefore, we will not undertake to dispute his point with Mr. Emery.

Representative Creasy has made an interesting, though unattractive spectacle of Mr. Mahlon N. Kline, of Philadelphia, and those associated with him in an effort to delude independent Republicans into the support of Penrose's candidate for State Treasurer. Mr. Creasy shows not only that Mr. Sheatz has always been a servile tool of the machine, but that in a selfish desire to participate in the primaries next Spring Mr. Kline and his associates have attempted to deceive the public by misrepresenting the facts. So long as Wesley R. Andrews, one of the bank wreckers of the Quay regime remains at the head of the Republican organization nobody but a knave would say that it has reformed and only fools would believe the falsehood.

One of the most significant features of the State campaign was the meeting of veterans of the Civil war and the sons of veterans held at Shamokin, a few days ago. The veterans were deeply earnest in their denunciation of the trick by which they were deprived of the pitance contemplated in the Cochran bill and in view of the fact that there is likely to be three times as much surplus money in the treasury as the law would have required at the time the payments would have been made they are justly indignant. They feel that Pennsylvania owes something to the heroes of that great war and that there is little chance of getting it while the gang wants money for speculative purposes.

Chairman Andrews admits that Burd Cassell who was at the time robbing the State of \$1,500,000, gave Senator Penrose a campaign contribution of \$15,000, but protests there was nothing wrong in the transaction. Maybe that is true, according to Chairman Andrews' notions of political morals. But anybody who is not a political degenerate would probably take another view of the subject.

Governor Stuart is for Penrose for Senator and Mr. Sheatz is for Penrose. The election of Sheatz, therefore, will give Penrose complete control of the administration of the State government for the reason that the Governor and the State Treasurer constitute a majority of all the important Boards and Commissions which administer the government.

The voters of Philadelphia ought to understand by this time, that the reform promises of machine politicians are not to be depended upon. While a candidate, Mayor Reyburn promised anything that the people could possibly want but since his election he has ears only for the gangsters.

John O. Sheatz claimed that he voted against the Susquehanna canal bill while the records show that he voted for it. This discrepancy between his statement and the records marks him as a common falsifier and reformers are not moulded from that sort of metal.

A man who has been proved a liar has a hard cheek to continue the pretense of integrity. Honest men don't lie and heroes of political battles never try to deceive the people by misrepresenting their actions in public affairs.

PENN'S LANDING CELEBRATED

Rain Interfered With Exercises at Chester and New Castle. Chester, Pa., Oct. 29.—The landing of William Penn on the site of what is now this city, 225 years ago, was celebrated here. The exercises were to have included a spectacular reproduction of the landing of the great Quaker, but a heavy rain marred the ceremonies, and after escorting Governor Stuart and others officials and guests to the exact spot where Penn landed, the Penn Memorial monument was viewed and the exercises were transferred to the Larkin public school, where Governor Stuart addressed the children.

New Castle Unveils Tablet. Wilmington, Del., Oct. 29.—Though rain marred the celebration, a tablet commemorating the 225th anniversary of the first landing of William Penn at that place, was unveiled at New Castle. The tablet, which is of marble, is set in the east wall of the old court house, a part of which was standing when Penn arrived. The exercises were conducted by the Delaware Society of the Colonial Dames of America. The tablet was unveiled by Mrs. Charles R. Miller, of Wilmington, president of the Delaware Society of Colonial Dames, and the principal address was made by President Joseph Swayne, of Swarthmore College.

RAILROAD TIED UP

Trainmen on the Huntingdon & Broad Top on Strike. Huntingdon, Pa., Oct. 28.—The trainmen on the Huntingdon & Broad Top railroad went on a strike, and practically tied up the entire road from Huntingdon to Mount Dallas and Broad Top. Only two engineers and one fireman out of a total of 150 trainmen have not gone out. Superintendent Greenleaf managed to get out one passenger train by drawing on his office force, and it is expected that there will be a complete tie up when the men on the coal crews join the other strikers.

The men are demanding more money and expect the support of the Pennsylvania railroad trainmen, who can aid them by refusing to handle shipments from the road. The striking men want wages equaling those paid to the men on the Pennsylvania railroad, with which they come in contact. The strike, it is said, was hastened by the action of Vice President Gage, who failed to meet the striking trainmen after promising to do so.

WANT TO GIVE BABY AWAY

Parents Don't Care to Bother With Their First Born. Indianapolis, Ind., Oct. 29.—Judge Stubbs and the officers of the juvenile court are wrestling with an unusual problem in the case of a father and mother who want to give their baby away because they don't care to bother with it any more. The father, an intelligent workman, applied to the judge to take the child. "I have to work at night," the father said, "and I can't sleep in the daytime when the baby cries. A public home can do more for it than we can." A woman officer of the court was sent to investigate. She found the husband and wife comfortably fixed. "Yes, we want to dispose of the child," the mother said. "I have the neuralgia and can't care for it day and night, too." The baby is their first born.

A BOLD ROBBERY

Two Men Hold Up Bank Runner in Philadelphia Sub-Treasury. Philadelphia, Oct. 26.—Two men made a bold attempt to rob Patrick Coonan, a runner for the Franklin National bank, of nearly \$5000 in the lobby of the United States sub-treasury in the custom house on Chestnut street.

One of the men was captured immediately and the other caught after he had been chased a hundred yards up Chestnut street. The money was recovered after it had been thrown into the street.

The men gave their names as C. D. Bates, of New York city, and Charles Watkins, also of New York. Both were given a hearing and committed.

Lynched Negro and Burned Body. Macon, Ga., Oct. 28.—John Wilkes, a negro, was lynched at Byron, Ga. The negro robbed two small boys of 75 cents. When Marshal Thomas Johnson made an effort to arrest him the negro attempted to shoot the officer. Quick work prevented this, however, and a general mix-up followed, with the result that the negro was arrested and locked up. Unknown persons forced an entrance, dragged the negro from his cell and after carrying him a short distance the body was riddled with bullets. It was then burned upon a log fire prepared for the occasion.

Christmas Boxes For Soldiers. Washington, Oct. 29.—Following a custom inaugurated by the late Secretary Alger, the war department will again this year transport free Christmas boxes for officers and soldiers on the foreign stations. Boxes for the troops in the Philippines may be consigned to the superintendent of the army transport service in San Francisco, and those for Cuba may be sent to the depot quartermaster at Newport News, Va.

Climbs on Mergue Slab and Dies. Vincennes, Ind., Oct. 26.—After swallowing carbolic acid, Ruth Anderson, 15 years old, walked to the morgue, climbed up on a slab, and died 10 minutes later while the morgue attendant was in search of a doctor. The girl had been disappointed in love.

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PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD

BULLETIN.

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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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