

SLAKE THAT OUGHT TO BE KILLED

Proposed Amendment Number Seven Would Deprive the People of the Right to Vote For Election Officers and Give the Legislature Opportunity to Debauch Elections and Manipulate Returns at Will.

Citizens who favor honest politics and just government have grave reasons to be alarmed on account of the provisions of one of the proposed amendments to the constitution. It is a palpable attempt upon the part of the machine legislature to deprive them of one of their most important political rights. If adopted the people of the cities will no longer enjoy the privilege of selecting their own election officers by ballot. They will be appointed by the machine "in such manner" as the machine legislature may by law provide.

Section 14, article 8, of the constitution of Pennsylvania reads as follows:

Section 14. District election boards shall consist of a judge and two inspectors, who shall be chosen annually by the citizens. Each elector shall have the right to vote for one judge and one inspector, and each inspector shall appoint one clerk. The first election board for any new district shall be selected, and vacancies in election boards filled, as shall be provided by law. Election officers shall be privileged from arrest upon days of election, and while engaged in making up and transmitting returns, except upon warrant of a court of record or a judge thereof, for an election fraud, for felony, or for wanton breach of the peace. In cities they may claim exemption from jury duty during their terms of service.

The proposed amendment reads as follows:

Section 14. District election boards shall consist of a judge and two inspectors, who shall be chosen biennially by the citizens, at the municipal elections; but the general assembly may require said boards to be appointed in such manner as it may by law provide. Laws regulating the appointment of said boards may be enacted to apply to cities only. Provided, that such laws be uniform for cities of the same class. Each elector shall have the right to vote for the judge and one inspector, and each inspector shall appoint one clerk. The first election board for any new district shall be selected, and vacancies in election boards filled as shall be provided by law. Election officers shall be privileged from arrest upon days of election, and while engaged in making up and transmitting returns, except upon warrant of a court of record or judge thereof, for an election fraud, for felony, or for wanton breach of the peace. In cities they may claim exemption from jury duty during their terms of service.

It will be noticed that the only difference between the sections as at present worded and that which it is proposed to substitute is the language emphasized in the above quotation. Obviously the intent of the legislators who conceived and proposed this amendment hoped to deceive the people by the similarity of expression in an indifference on the subject. The original provision and the proposed amendment begin and end alike, but they are vastly different. The amendment applies only to cities, it is true, but it applies to all cities and will give the machine legislature absolute control over so large a proportion of the total vote that it would be utterly impossible to counteract the fraud which might easily be projected and perpetrated.

It is hardly necessary to speak of the manner of appointing election boards in the cities when the machine legislature would adopt in the event that this power was conferred upon it by an amendment of the constitution. The legislatures of 1903 or 1905 would, in all probability, have appointed a commission consisting of Jim Mc-Nichol, Dave Lane and Sam Salter, for Philadelphia, and men of the same type for other cities of the state, to appoint the election boards. Or it might authorize the Republican state committee to appoint them for all cities. There is absolutely no provision for restraint of the partisanship in the legislature in the event that this odious proposition is insinuated into the constitution.

The Williamsport Sun, in discussing this question, says:

It is doubtful whether in the history of Pennsylvania as bold an attempt to usurp the people's right and delegate the same to a political party was ever made as is now being attempted by a machine Republican legislature in one of the proposed amendments to the constitution to be voted upon at the November election. Fortunately the attempt has been unmasked in time to frustrate its fruition. The amendment in question is that pertaining to the election of district election boards, intending to make the same appointive instead of elective, thus compelling the people to surrender the most important political right they possess, and to part with a safeguard which really lies at the very source of liberty. As it appears upon the ballot to be voted in November the amendment is number seven.

The Cleveland
Willy—You see it was this way. They were all three so dead in love with her and all so eligible that to settle the matter she agreed to marry the one who should guess the nearest to her age. Arthur—And did she? Willy—I don't know. I know that she married the one who guessed the lowest.

MR. MUNSON ENDORSED

Williamsport Board of Trade Recommends Democratic Candidate For Election.

The character of a man is invariably expressed by his reputation at home. One who enjoys the confidence of his neighbors to the full measure is certain to be a man in whom others may confide. People are judged accurately by those who are in daily association with them, and in the action of his social and business associates there is guarantee of the merit of C. La Rue Munson, the Democratic nominee for justice of the supreme court. At a meeting of the board of trade of Williamsport the other evening the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That the Williamsport board of trade, acting solely in a non-partisan way, and in recognition of the fact that the election of C. La Rue Munson as justice of the supreme court, knowing him to have every qualification for that position, and particularly calling the attention of the business men of Pennsylvania to his long and active connection with a number of important manufacturing concerns and his practical knowledge and wide experience in commercial affairs, making him peculiarly well fitted to pass upon the many important questions which concern the interests of the business men of Pennsylvania.

The Quay Monument.

The board of public grounds and buildings at Harrisburg has declined to take action in the matter of the Quay statue, and by resolution adopted at its recent meeting referred the subject to and shifted responsibility upon the Quay monument commission. This was neither courageous nor consistent. The act of assembly provides that the board of public grounds and buildings and the statue commission shall select the site on the capitol grounds for the monument. As there is not and never has been a monument commission, the board of public grounds and buildings has simply dodged its own obligations by referring them to a body which has no existence. That is not creditable.

The constitution requires that all such appointments by the governor shall be confirmed by the state senate, and in the absence of such ratification there can be no valid appointment. The senate never confirmed the nomination of David H. Lane, J. Donald Cameron and Samuel Moody as commissioners to procure a statue of Quay or anybody else, and those gentlemen had no authority of law to contract for such an effigy. Having done so, however, in the absence of authority, the fiscal officers of the state ought to have refused payment. As this was not done, the only right course left for the board of public grounds and buildings was to emphatically refuse to deprecate the capitol or park with it.

Senator Quay never performed any valuable service for the people of Pennsylvania. He looted the treasury, debauched the politics and corrupted the public life of the commonwealth, and if he hadn't pleaded the statute of limitations to secure immunity from punishment for his crimes he probably would have died in jail or as a fugitive from justice. To hold the effigy of such a moral degenerate up to future generations as a type of the citizenship of Pennsylvania is an insult to the intelligence and an outrage upon the consciences of the people. But in its cowardly evasion of an obvious duty the board of public grounds and buildings has paved the way to this disgraceful result.

A Call Upon Frick and Carnegie.

The statue of Matthew Stanley Quay remains unplaced by the ungrateful Pennsylvanians. Will not Mr. Frick and Mr. Carnegie combine to buy a site for it in some pleasant corner of Pittsburgh, if such there be where in springtime the blossoms of the plum trees may fall upon it as, wafted by the gentle winds, the rose-leaves flutter over the tomb of Omar the Tentmaker in Naishapur?—New York World.

Study the proposed constitutional amendments. The proposition to give the Pennsylvania legislature the right to fix the manner of "appointing election officers." The constitution now provides for their election by the people. The proposed amendment would confer upon the legislature the authority to require that they be "appointed." Suppose the legislature would require that they be appointed by a Republican state committee or by a commission headed by Sam Salter.

The people of Philadelphia can easily elect Clarence Gibbons to the office of district attorney if they only indicate an inclination to favor the same sort of men for other offices. It is as important that honest men be in the offices of auditor general and state treasurer as that the district attorney of Philadelphia be honest. This is a time for honest men to pull together for honesty in all branches of the public service.

Speaker Cannon represents his party, and if he is lax in morals it is because his party prefers people of that sort. No stream is purer than its fountain or more impure. Cannon is foul-mouthed, but he is the ideal of his party, and there is no reason why he should change his methods of life or forms of expression.

The settlement of the Pressed Steel Car strike didn't last even until the election. The tariff-pampered hogs who control that enterprise couldn't be fair to labor even for political purposes.

Nomination of Stober Has Not Mollified the Lancaster Republicans or Appeased the Just Wrath of the "Red Roses" of That County.

Among the orators of Pennsylvania who were expected to participate in the opening of the Republican campaign at Allentown last week, Frank B. McClain, of Lancaster, was conspicuous. Mr. McClain was speaker of the house of representatives at Harrisburg during the session of 1907. The political upheaval following the iniquities of the session of 1905 had admonished the machine managers that it was necessary to make at least a pretense of improvement, and Mr. McClain was made speaker as a concession to the decent element of his party.

Speaker McClain is known variously as the "Silver-Tongued Representative" and the "Red Rose of Lancaster." A man of good impulses and gifted with oratorical powers of exceptional merit, he is greatly in demand on the "stump." It was said at the time that the nomination of J. A. Stober for state treasurer was more for the purpose of enlisting the active help of McClain in the campaign than to honor Stober. There is a tradition that Lancasterians hold together under all circumstances, and it was believed that the nomination of a Lancaster man, however bad, would guarantee the services of McClain.

Events have proved that this expectation has been disappointed, however. Mr. McClain was invited to be the principal orator at the opening meeting, which is regarded as the most important of the campaign. That honor is usually bestowed on Penrose himself, and it is said that he coveted it. But exigencies this year suggested that it be used as a bait for Frank McClain. But it didn't work. On the day of the meeting he failed to appear, and his absence was explained by a statement that he had been called to Pittsburgh on unavoidable legal business.

As a matter of fact Mr. McClain is not a lawyer and had no legal or any other kind of business in Pittsburgh on the day of the Allentown meeting. He wasn't in Pittsburgh at all on that day, but was quietly pursuing his own affairs at home, the contemplation of the consternation in Allentown on account of his absence, no doubt, being a considerable source of enjoyment to him. The following Harrisburg dispatch, published in the Philadelphia Record the day after the meeting, gives the real reason for McClain's absence from Allentown:

Harrisburg, Pa., Sept. 11. There is trouble in the Lancaster political camp—not only trouble, but revolt. The manner in which the dictators of the organization rode rough-shod over the opponents of John F. Cox for speaker of the house and lashed the friends of Frank B. McClain, of Lancaster, may have some effect on the campaign this year.

It will be remembered that to mollify Lancaster county for the turning down of McClain the last Republican state convention nominated ex-Senator Stober, from Lancaster county, for state treasurer. This was not only to mollify Lancaster county but to bring McClain, a plain-spoken man, back into the fold and secure his services on the stump. McClain, however, has not given the least hint that he is reconciled to the situation. It is said that he is still smarting under the punishment inflicted on him at the organization of the last house, when it departed from a time-honored custom and refused to give him a second term as speaker.

Among the speakers announced for the Republican gathering near Allentown today was McClain, but he was not present. McClain was in Harrisburg yesterday, and told some of his friends that he did not propose to attend the Allentown meeting today. This is all the more significant, as both Sisson, the candidate for auditor general, and Stober, of Lancaster, the Republican candidate for state treasurer, were at the meeting and opened the campaign, after a manner.

In expressing his determination not to take part in the campaign the former speaker was very emphatic, and, despite the fact that his county supplied the candidate for state treasurer, the "Red Rose of Lancaster" will not lift his silver-tongued voice in behalf of the ticket this year. And the question is being asked whether there are many more like McClain in the state.

President Taft said in his brief speech at Springfield, Mass., on Wednesday, that the people had voted him \$25,000 "for traveling expenses." That was inaccurate. The people obey the laws and the organic law of the land forbids such an appropriation. Congress voted that money and in accepting it the president violated the constitution and his oath of office. The chief magistrate of a great republic ought to be more careful in speech.

The Philadelphia machine is trying to stuff the registry list with as much zeal as it used to stuff the ballot boxes. But the people are wise to the conditions and the harvest will be a full jail.

Vesuvius cut but a small figure in history till the latter half of the first century of the Christian era. In 79 B. C. its crater served as a camp of refuge to a band of gladiators. In 63 A. D. the serenity was broken by a violent grumbling that manifested itself in a severe earthquake that shook up the surrounding region. For sixteen years the subterranean rumblings continued at intervals, and in the year 79 A. D. came the great catastrophe in which Herculaneum and Pompeii were overwhelmed. In 1631 there was another terrible explosion, and since that time Vesuvius has seldom been at rest for many years together.—Exchange.

Catching Butterflies by the Tons.

The caterpillars of a certain kind of night butterfly, called "nons," have wrought enormous devastation during the last few years in the fir woods of Germany and other Middle European countries, where many thousands of acres have become a prey to the voracious insect, necessitating the hurried felling of many millions of cubic feet of wood.

In combating this dangerous foe of the forests excellent results have been obtained in the course of the past year in the city of Zittan, Saxony, where electric lamps have been used as insect traps.

Huge searchlights of about forty amperes each were erected, throwing their enormous light beams on the parts most frequently visited by insects of the neighboring city forests. These searchlights were found to exert an intense attraction.

The butterflies were then destroyed by an exhaustor-fan—installed in the immediate proximity of each of the searchlights. A piece of wire gauze mesh was stretched out in front of the exhaustor opening of the exhaustor and the butterflies, on being thrown against this, would break their wings.

It is impossible for any London newspaper to exploit crimes as is done in New York. It would be impossible for any one to say how many burglaries were committed in London last week, how many pockets were picked, how many swindles, or whether crime is more prevalent now than it was this time last year. The leading daily newspapers, including the Times, give the proceedings of the police courts a very prominent place, selecting the cases of general interest, and reporting the proceedings without comment.

The London police told me that there is just about the amount of crime in London that would be normal to a population so large and where there is so much wealth and such an army of strangers. From other sources I was told that a number of mysterious crimes, including murder, go undetected, though the number is far below that in New York.—September Century.

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