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Von Moschzisker and the Machine.

We believe that Senator McNICOL, the machine "contractor-boss," of Philadelphia, is the author of the statement that the district attorney's office was aware of and assented to the packing of a jury to acquit SAMUEL SALTER, who was tried for the crime of ballot box stuffing. SALTER had practically confessed his guilt and became a fugitive from justice. The ballot boxes had been stuffed in order to prevent the re-election of P. F. ROTHERMEL to the office of district attorney. Mr. ROTHERMEL had refused to prostitute his office and betray his professional and official obligations in order to acquit the late Senator QUAY of the crime of missing the State funds, and the machine determined to punish him. It refused him a re-nomination and bestowed that favor on JOHN WEAVER. But the Democrats and Independents united on ROTHERMEL as their candidate, and according to the Philadelphia Press, good Republican authority, 80,000 fraudulent votes were cast for WEAVER.

Immediately after the election proceedings against SALTER were begun in the criminal courts and he forfeited his bail and went into hiding in Mexico where he remained until after WEAVER had been inducted into the office and had the office affairs arranged satisfactorily to the machine. The arrangements included the appointment of obedient machine men as assistants and as soon as they were completed SALTER returned and offered himself for trial. If Mr. McNICOL, or whoever other machine leader became the spokesman of the gang in the subsequent quarrel with WEAVER, is to be believed, the jury was packed for acquittal and the district attorney's office agreed to "pass" the men chosen by the machine for that service. The assistant district attorneys at the time were NORRIS S. BARRETT and ROBERT VON MOSCHZISKER. District Attorney WEAVER was almost immediately afterward promoted to the office of mayor. Mr. BARRETT got the first vacancy on the bench and VON MOSCHZISKER the second.

Upon the death of Judge McCARTHY, of Court No. 3, the machine managers determined to discharge their debts and balance the accounts of the SALTER trial by putting VON MOSCHZISKER into the vacancy. They presented his name to Governor PENNYPACKER for appointment but the lingering respect which the Governor retained for the reputation of the bench asserted itself and he flatly refused. After a considerable time spent in quibbling over the matter with DURHAM and McNICOL, the Governor endeavored to close the incident by appointing a distinguished and capable lawyer named BISHOP, who declined the honor. The machine renewed its effort to convert PENNYPACKER to VON MOSCHZISKER, but again failed. Then the machine nominated him for election with the idea of thus forcing the Governor to make the appointment, but even that drastic course failed of its purpose. PENNYPACKER maintained the dignity of the bench by leaving the seat vacant until the machine catapulted VON MOSCHZISKER into it as the following election.

Taft to Ship Subsidies.

President TAFT appears to respect the old adage, "honor among thieves." That is to say he doesn't want it all, and having made certain of his share of the proceeds of the looting of the Treasury, he is entirely willing to let all the others have whatever they imagine is "coming to them." He has applauded, not to say anointed, Senator ALDRICH for forcing through Congress a tariff bill which will yield a thousand millions of dollars in graft every year, to be divided among the trust magnates and other "Captains of Industry" and "Napoleons of Finance," and now he expresses a willingness to open the Treasury to those persistent and ravenous beggars who compose the steamship trust.

In other words in one of his western speeches President TAFT, the other day, unequivocally declared himself in favor of ship subsidies. This is an old form of expressing a covetous desire to raid the Treasury. But it is one of such forbidding aspect that it is never seriously presented until in the campaign of 1896 the late MARK HANNA entered into an agreement with a lot of commercial pirates that if they would organize a corporation for the ostensible purpose of building ships and contribute liberally to the Republican campaign fund, he would guarantee them a subsidy which would aggregate a couple of hundred million dollars within the period of a dozen years. HANNA got the contribution and tried his best to fulfill his part of the bargain. But the proposition was so monstrous that he never could get the legislation through Congress.

But the pirates have never despaired of ultimate success. They have hammered away ever since in the hope of achievement. Until now, however, they have never been able to get a President to align himself on their side. ROOSEVELT, who was always liberal with other people's money, was most persuaded but never

actually said the word. At last, however, TAFT has come out in the open. Enjoying the fruits of a raid on the Treasury under a law which violates the constitution, he probably feels that all others who are willing to rob the people ought to have an opportunity, under the sanction of an act of Congress, to do so. It shows that he is no hog, anyway, but that is about the best that can be said of it.

Bright Prospects for Democrats.

Registration in the cities of the First class closed last Saturday and according to the most careful estimates, the result is entirely satisfactory to Democrats. In Philadelphia what are known as the "reform wards," those in which the better element of the electorate combine against the machine, have a comparatively full registration and there has been a falling off in the machine strongholds. In Pittsburgh and Scranton the same results are noted. The voters in cities of the Third class have another chance to register. One week from tomorrow, Saturday, October 16th, the Registrars will sit at the polling places in such cities, and citizens who have not heretofore qualified themselves to vote may do so. It is to be hoped that Democrats in such cities will not neglect their civic duty.

Reports from the suburban polling districts are also very gratifying from a Democratic viewpoint. All the Democrats have not fulfilled their obligations but an unusually large proportion have and compared with the opposition the advantage in this respect is decidedly in their favor. In fact in a considerable number of districts the returns filed in the office of the Democratic state committee in Harrisburg is to the effect that every Democratic voter is fully qualified to cast his ballot on the 30d day of November, for the admirable ticket nominated by the State convention and the equally deserving local candidates. In other districts the registration and payment of taxes has been fuller than usual and the promise is of a very large Democratic vote throughout the State. This will guarantee a glorious Democratic victory.

It only remains now for the Democrats of the State to "make good" on these promises. Election day usually comes at a busy time and if the weather is favorable for farm work many electors reluctantly spare the time necessary to go to the polls. Lack of confidence in the result is the reason for this in many instances and indifference is a contributory cause. There is no justification for the lack of confidence and even less for the indifference. Except in Presidential years there has been no election within a period of twenty years which would have failed of giving a Democratic majority if the full vote had been polled. But the gains which are made from the reputable element of the Republican party are balanced by the losses through failure of Democrats to vote and the result is defeat. Let us see that this doesn't happen this year.

Spreading a False Statement.

The Republican candidates for Auditor General and State Treasurer are not making many speeches but they are traveling over the State and in meeting groups of voters are reiterating the statement made by Senator PENROSE in his Altoona speech to the effect that Pennsylvania has never lost a dollar on account of the dishonesty or neglect of any Republican fiscal officer. With the memory of the capitol building graft in their minds it is a bold statement for them to make. It is a matter of court record that \$9,000,000 was stolen in the building and furnishing of the capitol and that loss is ascribable directly to the dishonesty or neglect of Republican fiscal officers now under conviction.

If the Auditor General and State Treasurer in office at the time the looting operations were in progress, had been honest and vigilant, not a dollar could have been taken from the Treasury in excess of a just price for the work and materials. That was the ground upon which Auditor General SNYDER and State Treasurer MATTHEWS were convicted. It was not alleged that they got the money. It was even charged that the value of the plunder was divided so that they got a share. But it was proved that they permitted the loot in violation of their official obligation to zealously and vigilantly guard the interests and property of the State.

Nobody on earth knows this fact better than A. E. SISSON and J. A. STORER. Three years ago the Republican party nominated ROBERT K. YOUNG for Auditor General for the reason that the dishonesty or negligence of his predecessor was so fresh in the public mind that the party managers were afraid to select a machine candidate. Two years ago JOHN O. SREATZ was nominated for State Treasurer for the same reason. But at the time the convention was held this year the fear had disappeared. The machine managers had come to the belief that the events of the past had been forgotten and they nominated the two most servile tools of the machine to be found in the State.

If SISSON and STORER are elected the looting will be resumed and they will be as obedient as SNYDER and MATTHEWS.

A Startling Accusation.

Congressman HERBERT PARSONS, of New York, has made a startling statement with respect to political conditions in that State and in Washington. Mr. PARSONS, besides being a Representative in Congress is chairman of the Republican party of New York city. He is also "on the visiting list" of former President ROOSEVELT and presumably a political partisan. Referring to the approaching election for mayor of New York he declared, the other day, that in the organization of the present Congress Speaker CANNON and New York friends of his had entered into a bargain with the TAMMANY society that in consideration of favors to the Speaker at that time, no legislation would be enacted at Albany which might interfere with the electoral fraud plans of the TAMMANY organization. In other words Speaker CANNON and TAMMANY had formed a partnership to promote electoral crimes.

At the organization of the present Congress, in March, last year, a number of progressive Republicans formed a coalition with the Democrats to alter the rules of the House of Representatives so as to materially curtail the powers of the Speaker and oppose the re-election of CANNON, incidentally. The plan would have succeeded but for the recalcancy of Representative FITZGERALD, of Brooklyn, a TAMMANY man, who misled a few other TAMMANY men and southern protectionists into the support of the CANNON program. The conspiracy was managed by ex-Representative LITTAUER, of New York. LITTAUER is a glove manufacturer, who narrowly escaped conviction for cheating the government in gloves, supplied for the army a few years ago, and his reward for work for CANNON was to be an increase in the tariff tax on gloves, which pledge of the Speaker was subsequently fulfilled.

After the CANNON victory in the organization of the House Mr. FITZGERALD, who by the way is a very capable and cunning fellow, was highly favored by the Speaker in committee assignments and in other ways and most people believed that these favors were in payment for his sinister services to the congressional machine. Even at that situation was had enough for it implied a premium on treachery. But the statement of Mr. PARSONS to the effect that there were involved so many and such grave crimes, makes it infinitely worse. The tariff tax on gloves is a matter of pecuniary interest as well as injury, to all the women and most of the men of the country and the corruption of the ballot is, in the estimation of every thoughtful man, a species of treason. But there is another bad phase to the matter. That President TAFT was concerned in the conspiracy is a matter of common understanding.

Ruffianism in Office.

In Philadelphia there is an excellent naturalized citizen named CHARLES A. NARDELLO. He is engaged in reputable business, pays his debts, maintains his family decently and prosper. Naturally a naturalized citizen of that character would acquire influence in a community in which there are a considerable number of his fellow countrymen less fortunate in the matter of acquisition and success. Quite as naturally such a man would feel that he is entitled to all the rights of good citizenship, among which is the right to vote as he pleases and support, for any office, the candidate of his choice. Even decent and prosperous naturalized citizens, however, are in terror of the law.

The Assistant Superintendent of Police in Philadelphia is a ruffian named TIM O'LEARY. Mr. O'LEARY doesn't share the opinion which appears to have been held by Mr. NARDELLO with respect to the rights and privileges of decent naturalized citizens. At any rate Mr. O'LEARY sent for Mr. NARDELLO, the other day, and remonstrated against that gentleman exercising his right to electioneer among his fellow-countrymen for the candidate for District Attorney of Philadelphia, who is opposed to and by the machine. Mr. NARDELLO protested that, as a citizen, taxpayer and business man, his right to support Mr. GIBONEY for District Attorney is unquestionable, and that he intended to continue it with all the energy at his command.

This odorous greatly incensed Mr. O'LEARY, according to sworn evidence in the case, and he threatened to pursue the offending foreigner with the vindictiveness of the law. In his magnificent office, with the paraphernalia of police power about him, Mr. O'LEARY is no doubt, a formidable figure in the eyes of the average Italian. In the frenzy of a furious passion he probably did his best to terrorize the object of his wrath by threatening that the police would destroy his business and force his family to starvation. But such a picture doesn't look good in the eyes of an intelligent and fair-minded native American citizen. Any just man would feel like wringing the ruffian's neck and voting against the party that keeps men of his kind in office.

Who Pays the Tax?

The citizen who is not a property owner and hence thinks he is not a taxpayer is woefully mistaken. We say woefully because all errors are full of woe in some degree. The man or woman who is not a property owner, nor even a renter, is paying tax on every article of food and clothing used. The landlord of the hotel, boarding house or restaurant includes in the cost of his fare and service the taxes or rent he pays, and if this landlord does not own his place, but pays rent, the rent he pays to the owner includes the taxes the owner pays; and the larger part of these taxes are finally paid by the consumer. And no matter whether the taxes be direct taxes, as we understand the term, or indirect taxes, such as the cost of gas, electric light, water, telephone—all these go to make up the cost of living. We are all bonded up in each other's fortunes, successes and failures. Solon knew this fact when he said: "The wrongs and errors could only be corrected by each one feeling that each other's wrongs were his own wrong, or a wrong to him."

And so the oft expressed idea that only the property owner is a taxpayer is erroneous. The farmer pays taxes on his farm and includes them in the price the grocer pays him for the things the farmer produces. The owner of the grocery property pays taxes and includes them in the rent. The taxes of both these, as well as those of the grocer himself, are included in the price the customer pays for the groceries. If the customer happens to be a boarding house keeper the taxes are passed along again to the boarder. Every person who pays rent or board or runs a household pays his share of taxes in a community. The landlord is not, in real fact, the taxpayer. The ultimate user or consumer pays the tax. The landlord simply collects and turns it into the treasury. In this way every member of the community pays his share of the taxes. The owner of many houses has no reason to set himself, about the renter as a loyal citizen or one who bears an excessive share of the burden of operating the government. He pays direct taxes only on the one house in which he lives. His tenants pay the taxes on the other houses—he merely collects for the government of the community.

That's a point to be remembered in municipal matters. When you get down to actual facts no man pays taxes on more than the one house in which he lives. The tenant pays taxes on his others.

More "Reading Out of the Party."

From the Topeka Capital (Rep.) The sometimes esteemed Hutchinson News exultingly remarks that the president at Winona declared the "insurgents" Republicans to be "not good Republicans." The president said that he could not judge for other men, but he described the "insurgents" who voted against the Aldrich tariff as one who regarded the departure from principle in the bill as so serious that "he must in conscience abandon the party." The "insurgents" do not consider that they have "abandoned the party," but one thing is certain, they did not abandon the party platform pledges, although they abandoned the Aldrich machine, or organization.

But suppose that the "insurgents" and Republicans who agree with them and support their position, should abandon the party? What hope would the party have of carrying the congressional elections next year or the presidential election three years from now? Senator Aldrich undertook to read the insurgent Senators out of the party during the tariff debate, but Senator Nelson of Minnesota replied that "it will take more than the Senator from Rhode Island to read Minnesota out of the Republican party."

Big Decrease in Exports.

From the Portland (Ore.) Journal. It comes as a surprise to many Americans that our foreign commerce is not only relatively but actually shrinking. Sales of American products to South America, China and Japan, and to England, Germany, France and other countries, decreased last year, and promise to decrease more. In manufactured goods the loss for 1908-9, as compared with 1907-8, is \$95,000,000. A New York newspaper represents the figures as "alarming," and while this may not be literally true, they should certainly be suggestive of a change of high tariff policy. We cannot expect to sell largely to other countries against whose products we erect impossible barriers. Even so great a protectionist as McKinley saw that, and in his last speech declared that "the period of exclusiveness has passed." But under the Aldrich-Cannon regime we have been more exclusive than ever. Protection, indeed, has run mad. Its high priests will consider no reciprocity, and allow no revision downward, except at a few points as a compromise and a sop; hence foreign commerce is decreasing, and American consumers are being plundered on account of prohibitive protection more than ever before. Even most of the pretended reductions, as on lumber, were false pretenses, and a general ad valorem clause in the new law really raised the duties. No wonder manufacturers, except those in the big trusts, as well as all intelligent consumers, are bemoaning tariff.

That Envious Bug.

From the Baltimore News. These bugs that are able to get a fall meal from the back of a postage stamp will be envied by the ultimate consumer who has to pay for meat and butter nowadays.

Spawls from the Keystone.

—Some of the milk dealers in Lock Haven have decided to drop the price on their commodity from eight to six cents a quart.

—During an exciting running race at Lock Haven, a fast little horse owned by Peter Lee, of that city, stepped on some object and broke its leg near the hip and had to be shot.

—As the result of the completion of the new Franklin and Clearfield railroad, a car that is used to take ten or twelve days to go from Chicago to Phillipsburg now makes the trip in three.

—One of the boldest and most cowardly holdups ever in DuBois took place when a robber knocked Mrs. Eva Russell down and took \$2 from her purse. She was unconscious for three hours and still suffers from shock and bruises.

—The Whitmer-Steale company is rushing operations in the construction of its narrow gauge road from the saw mill at Hawk Run to the timber tracts of the concern, near Phillipsburg. The saw mill is expected to be in running order by November.

—Various granges throughout Huntingdon county are thinking of buying twenty acres of land near Huntingdon on which to hold agricultural fairs. The land which they are now considering is the Taylor farm, located beyond Juniata college.

—Now that the road is in operation the Franklin and Clearfield officials are thinking about a suitable location for the shops and yards and will soon make known their decision. The towns along the route of the new railroad are elated over the prospects for increased prosperity which it brings.

—Votes will be taken at the meeting of the stockholders in the merged light, heat and power concerns of Johnstown on December 1 to increase the indebtedness \$3,000,000. The companies are all united with the Citizen's Light Heat and Power company, whose present indebtedness amounts to \$555,000.

—Another industry is to be added to the Clearfield region. The University Brquette and Construction company has obtained a sixty-day option on the Hillside colliery to arrange for the transfer of the property and will erect a \$30,000 plant to manufacture briquettes, a fuel in blocks composed of coal and crude oil.

—Pittsburg's Associated Charities will borrow \$10,000 with which to secure a suitable structure to shelter the homeless wanderers who in other cities are sheltered in police stations, filthy lodging houses, etc. It is expected that the movement will eventually lead to an up-to-date establishment supported by the city.

—The state forestry commission this week added 12,300 acres of forest land to the state preserves, making the total now under the control of the state 940,000 acres. The land added this week was 5,000 acres in Clinton, 6,000 acres in Cameron, and 1,300 acres in Perry and Franklin counties. The forest land cost on an average of \$1.50 an acre.

—The building boom at Ramsay continues. In addition to the new houses built this far this season and those now in course of construction, Sol McCulley has commenced the erection of a new store building and H. E. Wagner is building an addition to his general store. Other improvements are noticeable, evidences of increasing prosperity.

—John James and Joseph Kelley were arrested charged with stealing a furnace from the house of C. C. Berger, of Bloomsburg. The men, it is alleged, boldly entered the house and said that they had been sent to take the furnace out. The heater was a new one and the family believed the men. The men then sold their booty to a junk dealer, it is alleged.

—In addition to the regular quarterly dividend of 2 per cent, the Johnstown Telephone company distributed among its stockholders an extra dividend of one dollar per share. The par value of stock is \$50 which makes this extra dividend one of 2 per cent or an aggregate of 10 per cent, a year upon the original investment. Extensions and improvements will be made by the company in the near future.

—Hazelton's council has adopted a license tax under the provisions of which street cars are annually taxed \$5 each, public utility companies \$100, theatres \$75 down according to their size etc. The pawnbrokers, financial brokers, circuses, bill posting concerns and other come in for a share. As originally intended the taxation was to include all business men, down to the rag pickers in the street, but the ordinance was limited.

—Mayor R. W. Jacobs, of Huntingdon, has secured a lease on 2,000 acres of land in the lower end of Huntingdon county with the privilege of buying. The property is known as the Martin tract and is one of the best fields in central Pennsylvania. The mayor is interested in other coal properties. He will start to develop the new land at once. There is already from six to fourteen feet of coal opened up on the grounds. The consideration for the option amounts to about \$51,000.

—Ten thousand people live in Lock Haven as computed from data taken from the new directory which will be issued in six weeks. Five thousand more reside in the suburbs. The new book contains the names of those who live in the many townships of Clinton county as well as those who live in Renovo, Lock Haven and its suburbs. It contains the names of 3,896 people over 15 years of age. In Lock Haven there are shown to be fifteen churches and a like number of licensed hotels. Twenty-four is the number of boarding houses while there are thirty-one lodges and secret societies.

—Thirty years hard labor in the Eastern penitentiary was the sentence received at Bloomsburg Thursday by Ward Ketchum, convicted of the charge of stealing 21 barrels of wheat from the barn of Levi Miller, in Millin township. The recent law provides that where a man has twice served sentences of over one year he shall be given the maximum sentence of 30 years. Ketchum has served three years for burglary in Columbia county and 18 months for larceny in Luzerne county. Accordingly when he appeared before Judge Evans Thursday he was sentenced to pay the costs of the prosecution, a fine of \$100 and serve the maximum term of 30 years in the penitentiary.