

# SISSON FAITHFUL TO THE MACHINE

## Every Act During His Senatorial Service in Interest of Gang.

### FOLLOWED LEAD OF McNICHOL

#### Smothered Meritorious Legislation in Committee, Dodged Votes on Good Measures and Supported Bad Bills Always.

The session of the legislature in 1906 was a ghastly joke. The work of the session of 1906 had so outraged the public conscience that the Republican ticket was defeated at the ensuing election by an overwhelming majority, and Governor Pennypacker called the extra session of 1906 to "save the face" of the machine. Its principal work was destructive. That is to say its main purpose was to repeal the vicious legislation of the previous regular session, and A. E. Sisson and J. A. Stober, blushing or unblushingly, stultified themselves by voting for the repeal of a dozen bills for which less than a year before they had "rooted" vigorously.

There were a few reformatory bills passed during this brief extra session, but Sisson and Stober in every instance voted to limit the merits of such measures to the minimum. In half a dozen previous sessions they had voted against a uniform primary election law, but under the spur of consternation they voted for the apology which is now on the statute book. It is not all bad, of course, and candor compels the acknowledgment that it is an improvement on the primary system that prevailed previously. But a really meritorious law might have been enacted if it had not been for the opposition to any substantial reforms by the Republican machine, in which sinister purpose Sisson and Stober invariably participated. Probably the best result of the session of 1906 was that it retired J. A. Stober from legislation service.

#### The Session of 1907.

The session of 1907 opened with the machine in a state of uncertainty. The result of the election of 1906 was a sort of rescue from ruin, as unexpected as it was undeserved. The machine managers were as avaricious for spoils as ever, but still under the shadow of abject fear. They invoked cunning, however, to mask their operations and conceal their tricks in committee. The two committees in which most of the vicious legislation is considered are those on corporations and railroads. Sisson was chairman of the committee on railroads during the session of 1907 and third man on the committee on corporations. The first four men on a committee practically control its proceedings. In the session of 1907 the first four names on the committee on corporations were Sprout, Scott, Sisson and Stineman, in the order named. The first four names on the committee on railroads were Sisson, Scott, Sprout and Stineman. Another committee which the machine is always anxious to keep tractable is that of judiciary general. Mr. Sisson had second place on that committee and Scott third.

#### Anti-Corporation Bills Smothered.

Most of the bills which were antagonistic to corporation interests were smothered in committee. Among these were bills requiring passenger cars to be kept in sanitary condition, the equal distribution of cars to coal mines and the act to regulate the rate for transportation of freight and passengers on railroads. The act defining the liability of railroads to employees, that providing penalties for giving or receiving free transportation and that authorizing courts to fix maximum passenger rates for railroads, were stifled in committee. It is reasonably certain that Sisson was responsible for all this miscarriage of just legislation. Senator Blewitt's bill to repeal the act creating the state constabulary and Senator Dewalt's bill fixing liability of employers in actions for damages for injury or death of employees, were smothered in the committee on judiciary general. It is fair to presume that he had something to do with the stifling of those measures.

Senator Sisson fairly earned the title of "Artful Dodger" during the session of 1907. It was impossible to stifle in committee all measures which were opposed by the corporations. He dodged the vote on the bill to prohibit the maintenance of bucket shops. (Senate Journal, 1907, page 2728). He dodged the vote on the bill to provide for the health and safety of persons employed in and about anthracite coal mines. (Senate Journal, 1907, page 1682). He dodged the vote on the bill providing that no railroad corporation shall acquire, purchase or guarantee the stock, bonds or other securities of, or lease or purchase the franchise of, or in any way control any street passenger railway corporation having control of a parallel or competing line. (Senate Journal, 1907, page 1681). This measure was simply carrying out the provisions of the constitution and was made necessary by the fact that certain big railroads were endeavoring to get control of trolley lines which were impairing their monopoly in transportation in certain sections. He dodged the vote on a bill to prevent discrimination by and regulate the rates for

carrying freight and passengers by narrow gauge railroads. (Senate Journal, 1907, page 1184).

#### Voted For Bad Bills.

Mr. Sisson's sins during the session of 1907 were not all "sins of omission," however, as the record thus far would indicate. He voted affirmatively on bad bills and negatively on good bills as the exigencies of the machine required. As a rule Keyser or McNichol was his "bell-weather," and he voted as they voted, probably without taking the trouble to inquire whether it was right or wrong. On the bill to create a bureau of elevator inspection, for example, he voted aye, because he was told the machine wanted some new offices to distribute among the faithful. (Senate Journal, 1907, page 1088). The state had no more use for such a bureau than a dog has for two tails, but the machine needed the places. He also voted for the extension of the Capitol park at an expense of \$2,000,000. (Senate Journal, 1907, page 691).

The McCall's Ferry dam in the York Haven dam in the Susquehanna river, and other dams in other streams throughout the state having given the machine emissaries all the water power and privileges they needed for the time being, it was decided to monopolize the business. Accordingly a bill was introduced into the legislature of 1907 that "no dam-wall, wing-wall or other obstruction shall be built in streams, heretofore declared public highways." Upon this question Sisson voted aye. (Senate Journal, 1907, page 1748).

#### Wasting Public Funds.

The act increasing the compensation of senators and representatives in the general assembly was about as atrocious an attempt to raid the treasury as has ever been perpetrated. Upon that measure Sisson voted aye. (Senate Journal, 1907, page 791).

There were bills to create additional law judges in Blair, Cambria, Delaware and Erie counties, and Sisson voted for all of them. (Senate Journal, 1907, pages 521, 598, 806, 1363).

Senator Sisson supported the bill authorizing one-half of all fines and forfeitures to which counties are entitled to be appropriated to law libraries. (Senate Journal, 1907, page 778). This bill would have legalized as bald a robbery of the people as was ever conceived. It would have taxed the people to provide lawyers with books for personal use, and is clearly unconstitutional.

He voted for every bill presented during that session which contemplated the increase of the number of offices and the salaries of officers. This is a favorite way the machine has of rewarding politicians for sinister service. Whenever it is found that there are not enough offices to go around new ones are created. Sisson was always a willing helper in this wicked work.

#### Trick to Help the Judges.

For years, in pursuance of the plan to win the favor of the judges at any cost, the Republican legislative machine had been striving to enact a judicial pension bill or a judges' retiring law, or something that would serve a tub to the judicial whale. Every other expedient having failed, a bill to create in the supreme court, the superior court and all other courts a "judge emeritus" was introduced during the session of 1907. It was read in place by Senator McNichol, for Senator Brown, of Philadelphia. It provided that after a judge had served a certain period of time he became a judge emeritus, and during the rest of his life would be entitled to full pay without performing any service. The machine senators, including Sisson, were enthusiastic for the bill. It was promptly reported out of the committee on judiciary general, of which Sisson was a member, but after passing second reading was retired. It was a trifle too rank for the country senators.

The bill providing for the initiative and referendum in cities had a rather "rocky road to travel." The people wanted it and didn't hesitate to let the fact be known. But the machine was against it flat. It was a house bill and referred to the committee on judiciary general in the senate, from which it was subsequently reported with a negative recommendation. On May 13 Senator Grim moved to place it on a calendar, which required an affirmative vote of two-thirds. A majority of the senators favored it, but the minority amounted to more than one-third and the motion was defeated, the eyes being 22 and the nays 17. Senator Sisson voted against the measure.

#### Railroad Commission Bill Mutilated.

Senator Sisson was chairman, on the part of the senate, of the committee on conference, to which was referred the differences between the two houses on the bill to create the state railroad commission. During the consideration of the measure he aimed to make it as innocuous as possible, and his vote for it was reluctantly cast. In conference he opposed every feature which might invest it with potency for good and finally secured the adoption of the measure, which has since been practically useless except as a medium of extracting money from the treasury to pay the salaries of the commissioners and employees. He declared that the bill as it came from the house was "too grasping," but that cannot be said of it as it came from the conference committee and became a law.

The Republican candidate for auditor general proved his fidelity to the machine, moreover, by voting against the McCord bill, which provided for an expression of party opinion at the primaries for United States senator. Pennrose knew what that meant to him and so did Sisson.

# GUFFEY APPEALS TO DEMOCRATS

## Urges Personal and Political Friends to Energetic Effort.

### ASKS EARNEST SUPPORT

#### National Committeeman Declares Democratic Ticket Will Command and Receive the Independent Vote.

The Democratic campaign is being conducted this year with a degree of vigor which is as unusual as it is promising of victory. During last week, it is reported, 100,000 pieces of mail matter were sent out from the headquarters of the state committee at Harrisburg, and it is believed that a greater quantity of campaign literature will go out this week. The Democrats are determined to elect their excellent ticket.

One of the most important pieces of campaign literature sent out thus far is a personal letter of Colonel James M. Guffey, member of the Democratic national committee, to the active workers of the state. Colonel Guffey, in characteristic language, appeals to his Democratic friends to supplement the work of the state and county organization with energetic individual effort. In other words, in terse and forceful periods, he urges Democratic workers to actively support the admirable candidates nominated on the 4th of August, which he believes "will command and receive large and valuable support from the independent voters of the state."

There is no doubt in the minds of any of the intelligent observers of the work of the campaign that the trend of public sentiment is toward the Democratic ticket. The forces which revolutionized the politics of the state in the election of William H. Berry are again in action. The conditions which gave the Democratic candidate for state treasurer a large majority in Philadelphia four years ago are present in that city now, and the opportunities for defeating the will of the people by frauds at the polls are vastly diminished. In Pittsburgh the machine is in confusion and almost in despair. All that is necessary to secure a glorious victory is for the Democrats to do their duty.

The Republican candidates are a menace to the interests of the people. A. E. Sisson and J. A. Stober have been for years servile slaves of the machine. If a man of their type had been nominated for governor three years ago he would have been defeated by an overwhelming majority. Even two years ago, if J. A. Stober had been nominated for state treasurer the majority of his opponent would have been 100,000. What gave the machine managers the confidence which made them daring this year? Simply they believe that the people have forgotten the exposures of graft operations made in 1906 and since. They believe that the memory of the shame of the capitol construction and furnishing no longer abides in the public mind.

If the Republican candidate for state treasurer had been elected in 1905, when William H. Berry was chosen, the building and furnishing of the state capitol would have cost \$25,000,000 by this time and the people never would have known that they were being robbed. If Sisson and Stober are elected this year, the plundering will be resumed and the revenues of the state will be diverted to the pockets of the grafters. On the other hand, if J. Wood Clark is placed in the office of auditor general and George W. Kipp in that of state treasurer, there will be new revelations of official dishonesty in the past which will astound the country. The whole truth has not been told.

We do not allege or even insinuate that there has been any grafting since the present governor, auditor general and state treasurer were inducted into their respective offices. But we do believe that they have concealed facts which ought to have been exposed and know that they have not been zealous in bringing the offenders to punishment. It is nearly two years since four of the grafters were convicted in the Dauphin county court. Two of these men have since died natural deaths, and it looks as if the others will have an opportunity to die of old age before punishment is meted out to them. For these reasons we believe that all of the graft business will not be known until the offices of auditor general and state treasurer are filled by Democrats.

The text of Colonel Guffey's letter follows:

Democratic National Committee, Office of the Member From Pennsylvania, Harrisburg, Pa., Oct. 9, 1909.

My Dear Sir: The action of the Democratic State Convention, on the 4th of August last, when candidates were nominated for the offices of Auditor General, State Treasurer and Supreme Court Justice, has met with unqualified approval throughout the state.

The convention was actuated by one idea—to name candidates of unquestioned integrity and ability for these three most important positions. As a result of this, your candidates will command support large and valuable from the independent voters of the state.

With this sentiment prevailing, this ticket ought to be elected, and it will be the fault of the

Democrats if it is not. The State Central Committee and the county organizations are actively at work, but, in order to have success in November, we must poll the Democratic vote, and this can only be accomplished through individual writing you the situation and the importance of this campaign, and to ask from you and your friends your earnest and active support for the ticket, and to assure you, in making this request, that your efforts will be appreciated not alone by the Candidates and the Party, but by me personally. Very truly yours,

J. M. GUFFEY.

### STOBER AND SISSON

#### Self-Respect On the Part of Voters Should Make Their Election Impossible.

[From the Philadelphia Record.] Everybody in this state knows what machine for state officers up to 1905. The investigation of the capitol frauds disclosed that. Two of them are already under conviction of swindling the state in that tremendous enterprise of fraud.

In 1905, although the capitol disclosures had not then been made, the people of the state were sufficiently apprised to the sort of candidates the state machine was putting up to defeat the Republican candidate for state treasurer and elect Mr. Berry. He paid over the school funds promptly, instead of holding them back so that the bank depositors could have the Best of all, he lifted the cover from the colossal swindling that had been practiced in building the capitol.

Two years ago the state machine nominated John O. Sheatz, who is far superior to the men it is accustomed to select for office. He had dared to oppose the gang occasionally. Nothing on earth would have led the gang to nominate such a man except fear of another defeat.

The state machine has recovered its courage and its impudence. It has nominated a couple of men of precisely the same class as the men it had been in the habit of nominating up to 1905. They are its subservient tools. They stop at nothing that the bosses demand. They labored for Quay's reelection, and they supported the party which was expected to protect Quay on his trial. They supported the "Pittsburgh Ripper," which the supreme court declared unconstitutional, and a most infamous session of the legislature we have suffered. They supported the Salus-Grady press muzzle, which a subsequent legislature was shamed into repealing. They supported the street railway franchise robbery of 1901. Sisson antagonized the bill to make \$35 the minimum salary for school teachers. They opposed efforts to improve the Focht ballot law. They defended the "assistance" clause which enables a purchased voter to take a witness into the booth and to order to give evidence that he had earned his bribe. They voted for a bill that would have given State Treasurer Mathews a salary of \$10,000 a year. They have supported all legislation demanded by the gang of this city to make it easier to corrupt the ballot box and to get money out of the city treasury.

Stober and Sisson are typical members of the state machine, typical tools of the bosses who have made the government of this state notorious and who have worked in harmony with the "corrupt and criminal combination" in this city. Ordinarily self-respect on the part of the voters of Pennsylvania should make their election impossible. The voters who defeated J. Lee Plummer should send Stober and Sisson to meet him.

### RECREANT PUBLIC OFFICIAL

#### District Attorney's Office Consented to "Fixing" a Jury to Acquit Salter.

[From the Bellefonte Watchman.] It appears that Robert Von Moschzisker was an assistant district attorney in Philadelphia at the time that Samuel Salter was tried and acquitted for stuffing ballot boxes in Philadelphia. Salter had previously confessed his guilt and became a fugitive from justice. The evidence against him was overwhelming. A Philadelphia newspaper had employed a man to offer his services to Salter as an election officer and Salter had engaged him. Subsequently in his presence Salter had caused to be put on the ballot box 200 fraudulent ballots and the detective election officer exposed the crime. Salter went to Mexico and remained until after John Weaver had been elected district attorney and Von Moschzisker appointed one of his assistants.

During an acrimonious dispute between John Weaver and the leaders of the Philadelphia Republican machine, after Weaver had abandoned the machine and gone in for reform, the machine leaders charged that Salter had been fixed, with the knowledge and consent of the district attorney's office, to acquit Salter. This accusation, which has since been denied, is supported by a strong chain of circumstantial evidence. John Weaver was soon after promoted to the office of mayor and was said to have been elected to succeed Pennypacker in the office of governor of the state. One of the assistant district attorneys, Norris S. Barrett, was promoted to a seat on the common pleas bench at the city and at the next vacancy on the bench Robert Von Moschzisker was similarly honored.

It is hard to imagine a crime of greater turpitude than that of a lawyer betraying his client. But there is a truce by a public official, and if the accusation be true that the Philadelphia machine induced, by any means, the public prosecutors of Philadelphia to permit a miscarriage of justice in the Salter case by allowing the jury to be packed for the purpose of acquitting him, the acme of official recidivism of the Salter case, the acquittal of that self-confessed ballot box stuffer, and the subsequent honors bestowed upon the then district attorney and his assistants, combine to form a group of facts sufficient to convince the most incredulous.

Are the people of Pennsylvania ready to further compensate a recreant official for his turpitude? The Republican machine has nominated Robert Von Moschzisker, the faithless assistant district attorney of Philadelphia, for a seat on the bench of the highest court of the state. His decision affirming the constitutionality of the judicial salary bill of 1903 is ample proof of his professional unfitness for the place and his recreancy in the office of district attorney proves his moral delinquency. For these reasons he ought to be defeated by an overwhelming majority and we have faith enough in the intelligence and integrity of the people to believe that such will be the result of the vote at the coming election in November.

### Unless United States Supreme Court Grants Writ of Certiorari and Reverses Case He Must Serve His Sentence.

New York, Oct. 12.—Unless the supreme court of the United States reverse the decision of the president of the United States Interferes, Charles W. Morse, one time "Ice King," coastwise steamship line organizer, banker and capitalist, will serve fifteen years at hard labor in the federal prison at Atlanta, Ga. After having been at liberty under \$125,000 bail since June 17 last, he is back in the Tombs prison, where he contemplates the decision of the United States circuit court of appeals annulling the judgment of the lower federal court, which found him guilty in November last of violating the national banking laws.

There was solace in the decision of the court of appeals, however, in that only ten of the fifty-three indictments on which he was convicted were sustained, and on the strength of this his counsel, Martin W. Littleton, will immediately carry the case before the United States supreme court on a writ of certiorari. To this end the United States circuit court of appeals has granted a forty days' stay of execution, and pending a decision by the supreme court application will be made to have the prisoner again admitted to bail.

Morse took the decision calmly, although he was plainly grief stricken and perhaps surprised.

#### Verdict Sustained by Proof.

In rendering its decision the United States circuit court of appeals said: "We fully realize the consequences to the defendant which must follow an affirmation of this judgment, and yet we cannot doubt that he was given a fair trial, and the verdict on the fourteen counts was amply sustained by the proof. No unprejudiced person can read the record without being convinced that by the defendant's procurement the bank (National Bank of North America) bought its own stock and the stock of the ice securities company, and by his procurement the entries in the bank book and in the reports of the comptroller as to these transactions were so arranged as to conceal the truth and to record transactions which in reality never took place."

#### Negress Had Lost White Child.

Marguerite Fink, the white child rescued almost from the grave and cared for during the last four years by Mrs. Marie Fink, a negress, in Denver, Col., has been given into the custody of her mother, Mrs. Charles Backoff, of Chicago.

Mrs. Backoff arrived in Denver Sunday after learning that the child whom she had mourned as dead since the time of birth was alive and had grown into a healthy, beautiful little girl.

When Judge Lindsey, in the juvenile court, gave his decision little Marguerite screamed and begged to be allowed to stay with the colored woman.

The mother is given custody of the child only as guardian and must pay the negress \$500 as recompense for the baby's keep.

#### Has Six Husbands; Tired of 'Em.

Grace E. Chapman pleaded guilty to a charge of bigamy in Justice Miller's court at her preliminary trial at Kansas City, Mo., admitting that she had married six men without having obtained a divorce from any of them.

"Yes, I'm guilty," she testified. "I've had six husbands and I'm sick of matrimony. Most of the men I married were farmers. I would live with them until I got tired of them and then I'd leave. They were so tiresome."

"Were you ever divorced?" "Not that I know of," Mrs. Chapman replied.

Mrs. Chapman was unable to furnish a bond of \$2000 and was remanded to jail.

#### Woman Arrested as Common Scold.

The charge of being a common scold has been made against Mrs. Susanna Suraton, of Higgins Corners, near Butler, Pa., arrested on information made by Mrs. Maria Kohler, a neighbor.

It is alleged that Mrs. Suraton utters harsh and provoking words about her neighbors in the little town. Mrs. Kohler complains that the woman spends her time nagging, faultfinding and trouble making. A score of women, it is claimed, will appear against the alleged scold to insist that she be punished.

#### Salaries of Chicago Officials to Be Cut

A cut of 10 per cent in salaries of all officials and employees of Chicago, from Mayor Busse's \$18,000 down to the lowest laborer, has been agreed upon by the mayor and department heads, it was learned, for next year. This drastic measure was made necessary by the simple fact that Chicago has not money enough to maintain the

payroll at its normal level. The payroll last year approximated \$15,000,000. The cut before becoming effective must be sanctioned by the city council, where a big fight against it is expected.

### Bear Fights Farmers.

In a desperate encounter a big bear was killed at the McKane farm, back of Shonola, Pike county, Pa., by George McKane and Cleveland McKane, father and son. The bear was eating apples in the orchard. The elder McKane put a bullet in the bear's neck, and then a running fight was kept up for a mile to a swamp. In the swamp the bear charged the elder McKane, disarmed him and tore a sleeve from his coat. Young McKane fired a bullet into the bear's brain, killing it. The carcass weighed 400 pounds. It measured six feet.

### Killed While Teasing Cow.

Ewing Mack was gored to death at Mobile, Ala., while teasing a cow. The man was under the influence of liquor and he persisted in teasing the animal, which turned suddenly, gored him in the abdomen and then threw the man's body twenty feet in the air. Mack was dead when he hit the ground.

### New Advertisements.

#### EXECUTOR'S NOTICE.

Letters testamentary upon the estate of W. C. Patterson, late of the borough of State College, deceased, having been granted to the undersigned, all persons knowing themselves indebted to said estate are requested to make immediate payment and those having claims against the same to present them duly authenticated for settlement.

H. J. PATTERSON, Executor, College Park, Md.

54-31-6t

#### CHARTER NOTICE.

Notice is hereby given that application will be made on Tuesday, November 9th, 1909, to His Excellency the Governor of the Commonwealth, at Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, for letters patent to a proposed corporation known as the "Bellefonte Foundry and Machine Company," having its principal office at Bellefonte, Pa., the business of which proposed company is a general foundry and machine business and the manufacturing and selling of tools, implements and other materials in steel, iron, copper, brass, nickel, lead and other metals.

GETTIG, BOWER & ZERRY, Solicitors.

54-11-3t

#### BOY FOR ADOPTION.

A good family desiring to adopt a boy, 6 weeks old, healthy, with grey eyes and brown hair can do so by applying to the undersigned.

MISS EMILY NATT, Secretary Children's Aid Society, Bellefonte, Pa.

#### UPHOLSTERING.

Have your Sofas, Chairs, Mattresses or anything in the line repaired? If you have, call E. M. Sidel on Commercial phone. He will come to see you about it.

54-11-7\*

#### HOUSES FOR SALE.

Two nice homes in Milesburg borough for sale on easy terms. One \$700, one \$900. Much better inducements for cash.

L. C. BULLOCK, JR., Owner of Poor.

54-33-1f

#### WILLARD'S STORE

GENTS' FURNISHINGS, HATS, CAPS, ETC.

I deal in only the best articles and latest styles, but sell at lower prices than those carrying shoddy and inferior grades. I would be pleased to have your custom.

D. I. WILLARD, Bellefonte, Pa.

West High St. 54-8-1y

### Automobiles.

#### AUTOMOBILES

AGENT FOR THE FOLLOWING:

FRAZKLIN, PEEBLES, THOMAS, BUICK, OLDSMOBILE.

A number of good second hand cars for sale.

JOHN SEEBING, JR., 54-8-1f, BELLEFONTE, PA.

### Lumber.

#### BUILDING MATERIAL

When you are ready for it, you will get it here. On

Lumber, Mill Work, Roofing, Shingles, and Glass.

This is a place where close prices and prompt shipments of reliable materials get the orders of all who know of them.

AN ESTIMATE?

52-5-1y Bellefonte Lumber Co.

#### LIME. LIME.

High Grade Commercial and Building Lime. Agricultural Lime. Hydrated Lime (H-O) Hydrated Lime. Ground Lime for Agricultural Purposes. Crushed Limestone for Concrete Work. Graded Limestone for Road Making.

Works at Bellefonte, Tyrone, Union Furnace and Frankstown, Pa.

Address all communications and orders to AMERICAN LIME & STONE COMPANY, Tyrone, Pa. 54-4-1y