

REPUBLICAN RECORD.

A BITTER ARRAIGNMENT OF COMMISSIONER RAUM'S METHODS.

A Notorious Land Speculation and a Certain Gypsum Mine Transaction—Where Did the Money Paid by Helpless Pension Office Employees Go?

It has been said that the scandals of the Raun regime ran nearly the whole gamut of possibilities. The greater part of them grew directly out of the Raun family's desire to get money without earning it and in devious ways.

It was for money considerations that Raun got his daughter into two government posts at once, contrary to law, and tried to get her through a loophole of the statute into a remunerative place in the civil service without the civil service examination that all others must pass—a thing which would have cheated some capable and law-abiding person out of the place and pay.

It was for the sake of money that John Raun exploited his relationship to the commissioner by way of advertising his business as a pension attorney. It was for the sake of gain that he seems to have been allowed illegitimate knowledge of what the pension office records contained.

It was for gain to his family that the commissioner created a place in the service for his other son to occupy. It was for money that Green B. Raun, Jr., levied tribute upon the earnings of his subordinates and sold appointments for bribes, as the civil service commissioners have declared that the evidence justifies them in charging, and as the congressional committee in its report says "there can be no reasonable doubt" that he did.

In the Lemon case Raun gave Lemon an alleged security block of stock in a certain gypsum mining company of which he was president. This stock happened to be, as the committee reported, "of no particular value" because Raun's company did not own the property it represented, and because the mining value of that property was of very doubtful existence. But whatever its worth, the stock appears not to have belonged to Raun, but to the company. Yet Raun pledged it for \$12,000 and put the money into quite another speculation of his own in which the company that owned the stock had no interest whatever.

The transaction was so foreign in its methods to the ordinary accepted way of doing business that one of the mining company stockholders remarked to Raun that he "didn't think there was much difference between that and embezzlement," an opinion in which many business men will perhaps share.

This gypsum mine was one of the speculations which Raun undertook to promote from the pension office and chiefly at government expense. With one Buckley he had become possessed of some lands vaguely located in southwestern Virginia alleged to be gypsum bearing. The company, of which he was president and factotum, seems never really to have owned the lands. It had contracts of purchase merely, on which it had paid an insignificant amount, partly in "stock" of the company. Under these contracts the company was bound to pay the full purchase price—\$100,000—within a specified time or forfeit not only the land, but all that might have been paid upon it.

This vague, inchoate title to unpaid for lands of uncertain value seems to have been the only property Mr. Raun's "company" possessed. Yet he capitalized this at \$2,000,000 and tried to work off the stock on that basis.

According to the testimony of Buckley, who first got possession of the claim thus capitalized, and who was nominally made secretary of the company, Raun adroitly managed to get the whole thing into his own hands and to keep it there. The secretary swore that he had never been able to see the stockbook but once; that he had never succeeded in getting his own stock issued even to fulfill a contract of delivery for a part of it to Colonel W. W. Dudley, of "blocks of five" celebrity; that Raun evaded the fulfillment of the contract by reason of the fact that the attorney who drew it omitted to name in it a date for Raun's fulfillment of his part of it; in short, that Raun got possession of everything pertaining to the company and did what he pleased with it regardless of the rights of everybody else.

The one occasion on which the secretary had been permitted to see the stockbook seems to have been when Raun wanted some stock issued—presumably for delivery to Lemon—and found it necessary to have the secretary's signature to the certificates. Then, according to Secretary Buckley's testimony, he sent for him to sign the papers, but upon pretense of having mislaid his memorandum had him sign the certificate in blank so that the secretary never knew how much of the stock Raun issued.

There is no reason to suppose that Raun imposed upon Lemon in giving him this stock as security for his \$12,000. Lemon was not a man to be thus taken in. He neither knew nor cared anything about the value of the stock. He had other recompense for his outlay. But if, as Buckley says, Raun confessed to him the stock given to Lemon belonged to the company, the transaction, in its relations to the company, was of a character which the courts are accustomed to take cognizance of in a way not agreeable to the person concerned. As the stock was "of no particular value" at the time of its issue, and as what value it had went out of it soon afterward by the foreclosure of the contracts and the forfeiture of the shadowy rights that constituted the company's only assets, nobody seems to have cared to subject Raun's dealing with the stock to legal question. The whole enterprise seems to have been of that kind which honorable men of business resolutely decline to have any connection with—the "heads I win, tails you lose" sort of speculation.

Another of Raun's peculiar ventures was the Charlton Heights speculation. Charlton Heights is a village of twenty-eight houses near Washington. Raun got possession of a tract of land there and proceeded to organize a "company" for its exploitation. He represented the place as one of peculiar picturesque, salubrious and convenience, sure to become at once one of the most prosperous suburbs of the capital.

As usual, he does not seem to have paid anything of consequence for the land. He merely secured an option upon it, at a price reported to be thirty dollars an acre, and laid his plans to work it off on his pension office subordinates and others at \$1,440 an acre, making for himself and his associates a neat little profit of \$1,410 on every thirty dollars thereafter to be paid.

The prospectus of the company represented that streets were to be laid out and graded, a \$70,000 hotel to be built and everything possible done to hasten the already rapid growth of the suburb. All this was false. No evidence has ever been discovered that any of the money received in subscriptions was spent in improvements at Charlton Heights. The suburb was not growing and really had no capacity for growth, as all the lots that were not in a marsh, and therefore unfit for residence, had been sold already. The scheme was a mere trap for the savings of pension office and other government clerks.

They were asked to subscribe to the stock of their chief's company and to pay their subscriptions in monthly installments of five dollars each. As they were dependent upon their chief for their bread and butter they naturally subscribed in considerable numbers. It pays a poor clerk to give up five dollars a month rather than risk the loss of his place and pay.

The receipts from subscriptions to this enterprise are reported to have amounted at one time to about \$2,000 a month. What became of the money nobody seems to know. It is certain that the few fellows who bought the stock could not now sell it for the price of a single month's subscription.

They were promised that if at any time they wished to withdraw from the company they should receive their money back with interest. Several of them asked for this return, but only two or three who had influential friends got it. The rest did not deem it prudent to make any kind of disturbance.

A poor clerk cannot afford to press his official chief for money wrongfully got out of him.

It is a noteworthy fact that of all the people who have been coaxed, enticed, deceived or driven into investing in the speculative schemes fattered by Commissioner Raun not one has ever got a profit upon his investment, and scarcely one has ever got his money back or any part of it.

The man who has engineered these schemes; the man who has in this way levied tribute upon his subordinates; the man who has used his official term, his official influence and his official control over a government office to make market of worthless shares is so especially the confidential agent and friend of the president that even the exposure of his misdeeds has not induced Mr. Harrison to remove him or to withdraw from him his official confidence and personal support.

Raum has publicly proclaimed that he is "an issue in this campaign." He is so. He represents that old issue which has always existed since the sense of right and wrong was born in the human mind—the issue between honor and shame.

But the speculations recorded here—or should the word be spelled without the initial "s"—are insignificant as scandals in comparison with the universal refrigerator affair, and Raun's shifts, evasions and plain falsehoods concerning it.—New York World.

Force Bill Is in Evidence.

The force bill is as much a part of the Republican platform as the protective tariff or any other feature of it. It is now called a bugaboo and other derisive names by its authors. It is laughed at and sneered at on all sides. Would this be its treatment if the platform containing it should meet with popular indorsement next November? It might be, and then again it might not be. In fact it might, like the tariff issue, be made more terrible than ever. There is good reason to believe that this would be the case, but even if there were no good reason for thinking this there is a chance that it would be, and this alone is sufficient to point out to every good man and every lover of free and independent government his duty to vote against the party which brought such an iniquitous measure into being.—Dallas News.

A Tissue of Untruths.

Even Mr. Harrison's letter of acceptance was a tissue of untruths almost from beginning to end. If he is re-elected president it will be due principally to the astute dissemination of falsehood by the party managers. It is hard for the Democrats to keep pace with these artistic untruths, but we have reason to believe that the people have been pretty thoroughly warned regarding the contemplated deceptions, and that they will carefully sift all the statements made by the Republican managers.—Memphis Appeal-Avalanche.

A Coat and Turncoat.

Not so very long ago Mr. Harrison met the Democrats' proposition to reduce tariff taxation and cheapen prices with the sneer that "a cheap coat makes a cheap man." He now claims that the great object of the Republican tariff policy was to cheapen prices. Evidently the president has added not only a cheap coat, but a turncoat to his wardrobe.—Louisville Courier-Journal.

Statesmanship—Political Cunning.

If Harrison is a statesman, as some of the organs of Republicans profess to believe him, he has won that reputation in spite of himself. Between the utterances of Cleveland and Harrison there is all the difference between statesmanship and political cunning.—Utica (N. Y.) Observer.

The Women Will Do It Again.

When the Republican party was flattered to the proportion of a postage stamp in November, 1890, Mr. Thomas Brackett Reed ruefully remarked, "The women did it." If that explanation was correct, as it was in part, the women are likely to do it again. Nothing has happened since 1890 to mitigate their resentment against the men who made their shopping battles harder. They, at least, are not to be deceived by the reports of senate committees purporting to show that retail prices have gone down, for they know better. They know when they are given shoddy for wool and cotton for silk. They do not care for Commissioner Pecksniff's assertion that wages have gone up if their own husbands are getting as little as or less than before. They are not seduced by pictures of the protected workman eating roast turkey in a dining room furnished with morocco cushioned chairs and an Axminster carpet if their own protected table is set with corned beef and cabbage and situated in a kitchen equipped with a pine table and a broken stove.—San Francisco Examiner.

Blaine Not Yet Placated.

All the Republican machines in the country are now for Harrison. And with them all he feels that his defeat is assured if one man up on the New England coast will not come to his help. This man is advancing in years, broken in health, bowed down by domestic affliction, and with no further political aspirations of his own to serve. He was defeated at Minneapolis by the official machine which nominated Harrison over the sentiment of the party. He never had a machine of his own. Every time he was a candidate in a national convention the official machine was against him. And yet, with everybody else placated, with all the "practical politicians" at their posts, and all the cogs and wheels of all the machines in perfect running order, Harrison turns to Blaine with an appeal to rouse the sentiment and enthusiasm of the party; to appeal to its intellectual sense; to awaken it to a recognition of its duty to its candidate as the representative of its ideas, policies and aspirations.—St. Louis Republic.

Cleveland's Idea of Pensions.

Mr. Cleveland's letter of acceptance reassures every veteran who has been affected by Republican clamor. The Democratic candidate for president believes that the pension roll should be a roll of honor. The list should not be contaminated by the names of men who have no title to the respect and rewards of the government. At the same time it should receive the name of every deserving wearer of the line. This is the view taken by the soldiers themselves, whose contempt for the shirkers and fraudulent pretenders exceeds that of any other class of citizens. Even the billion dollar congress dared pass again only a very limited number of the bills vetoed by Cleveland when president. The name of Grover Cleveland is on more private pension bills than that of any other president.—Elmira (N. Y.) Gazette.

Republicans Masters of Bribery.

The Democratic managers cannot compete with the Republicans in a campaign of bribery. They have neither the money, the skill nor the disposition necessary to do so. But they ought to be able to arouse the indignation of honest people to such a degree that the campaign of bribery will fail. If they do that they can and fail, the prospect for good government in this country will be very gloomy. If it be once thoroughly demonstrated that the people can be bribed with money taken from themselves to keep the party of special privileges in power, the popular confidence in free institutions will be greatly weakened.—Macon (Ga.) Telegraph.

A Phenomenal Majority Probable.

As Hill's personal influence in New York will carry that state for Cleveland, so will Gresham's personal influence in Indiana carry that state for him, and so the Democracy may safely now count on the electoral votes of the solid south, New York, New Jersey, Connecticut and Indiana and a portion of Michigan. This will secure Cleveland's election, but there are many states heretofore safely Republican which are considered now doubtful, and it will not be at all surprising if his majority in the electoral college were as phenomenal as it was when he was elected governor of New York in 1882.—Richmond Times.

No Fines at Custom Houses.

It is our right to trade with foreigners; to honestly acquire wealth from them, and to bring it home without being fined at the custom houses. This is what we are standing up for. It is not a question of percentages. We are willing to pay all the tariff taxes the government needs, but we are not willing to pay one cent in tariff fines because we have acquired foreign wealth and are trying to bring it home.

This is the issue, and whatever argument is not directed to this falls outside the issue.—St. Louis Republic.

Let South and West Join Hands.

There is little hope that Republican protection will ever be destroyed until the west is ready to join hands with the south against it. The south is all right. It is in line to give tariff thieves its deathblow and to establish commercial freedom and industrial independence. But the south can do nothing unaided. With the help of its fellow victim and natural ally—the west—it can do everything. If the west is ready to act intelligently and for its own interest in this campaign protectionism is doomed.—Chicago Herald.

An Important Omission.

One of the comedies of the campaign is the patent cartoon of Uncle Sam pointing to Peck's report showing the effects of the McKinley bill on labor. It fails to show Mr. Peck in the background under arrest for destroying the public papers from which his report was compiled.—Kansas City Mail.

An open letter to women. No. 3.

Thurlow, Penn.

"Dear Mrs. Pinkham:

"If any one wants to know how good your medicine is, just refer them to me.

"I was so low, people thought I never could get well again.

"The trouble was in my womb, causing bearing-down and severe backache. I was so nervous and irritable my people could hardly live with me. Sometimes I would almost fall down, I was so dizzy, and how I did lie awake nights! I thought I should go crazy!

"But now all that is changed, and I am a well woman. I owe all to Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound. Now, when I do not feel just right, I take a bottle of your medicine and a box of your pills, and they never fail me."

Mrs. L. Travis.

All druggists sell it, or sent by mail in form of Pills or Lozenges, on receipt of \$1. Correspondence freely answered. Address in confidence. LYDIA E. PINKHAM MEDICAL CO., LOWELL, MASS. Liver Pills, etc.



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