

BALLOT POLLUTION.

How it Flourishes Under the Rule of the Republican Machine-Philadelphia's Elections the Most Corrupt on Earth-Some of Their Leading Infamous Features-How the Machine Downs Attempts at Ballot Reform. Machine Leaders Who Boast of Their Shame and Make Jest of It.

From machine rule to debauchery of the ballot box is a logical evolution. No machine ever held sway for any length of time without it. Even the Republican party of Pennsylvania, complacent as are its followers, ready as they are in their prejudices and bigotries to tolerate almost anything that comes in the name of and labeled Republicanism, could not have been so long and so completely bossed but for the aid the bosses have had from unlawful purchase and coercion of the voters, falsification of election returns and kindred iniquities.

The writer of this article has himself seen 37 colored men voted in Philadelphia out of a single four-roomed house. It was perfectly manifest that they did not regularly live there, that they were there for election purposes only, and would be in perhaps a half dozen other precincts or wards for the same purpose on the same day. Yet, so far as their record showed, they were legal voters, and their right to cast ballots could not be successfully disputed.

It is not probable that elections are more corrupt anywhere on earth than in Philadelphia. Fully half the Republican majorities returned from there are manufactured. By far the greater number of the election officers are men who have absolutely no respect for an oath, and will hesitate at no crime provided they are liberally paid for its commission, and the machine leaders are never without ample funds for this purpose. It makes no difference how the votes are cast, they will return whatever majority they are ordered to. Men are regularly paid to pose as Democratic candidates for Judge or Inspector, or to become clerks of election, in order that the perpetrators of these shameless frauds may be made secure against detection and conviction.

In the rear of nearly every polling place on election day there is an improvised gin mill, where free liquor is dispensed to those so depraved that they can be influenced by it. The liquors are paid for out of the party coffers, and dealt out by party heeled. Policemen, who owe their places to the machine, are posted at the entrances of the alleys on which these demoralizing dens are located, to protect them, and to arrest and imprison, on trumped up charges of drunkenness and disorderly conduct, any one who may show a disposition to kick at the business.

A few years ago an attempt was made, under the auspices of one of the many evanescent reform movements that are forever bobbing up there, and failing to pieces before anything is accomplished, to purge the registry lists in some of the down town wards of the thousands of names of fictitious voters with which it was known they were padded. The gentlemen composing the committee charged with this work were so annoyed and threatened by the Republicans of the purlieus under the spur of their respective local leaders, that they were compelled to abandon their undertaking. This did not follow, however, until they had ascertained that from 25 to 50 per cent of the names on the lists were illegally there, and that in one instance a dog had actually been registered.

That these outrages are not only tolerated, but encouraged, by the Republican party as a whole is made manifest by the fact that in every election contest that comes before the Pennsylvania legislature the decision is invariably with the Republicans, no matter whether he be the contestant or the contestee, and regardless of the evidence in the case. Some of the testimony in the Saunders-Roberts case, which was up at the '97 session, showed a degree of shamefulness in the manner in which the Republicans conduct elections in Philadelphia that almost passes belief.

Most of these wrongs are expressly forbidden in the statutes. Some, however, find condemnation in the constitution. This is notoriously the case with reference to the men employed by the party to assist "incompetent" voters in making up their ballots. These helpers are the handlers of the party bribe money. They buy the voter, and then make it a condition that he shall declare to the election board his inability to mark his own ticket, and call them into the booth with him, in which way these scoundrels make sure that the goods they have paid for have been delivered as per the contract.

This flagrant defect in the law has been pointed out times without number, and demand for its correction has been made by every reputable newspaper in the commonwealth. Yet it has, thus far, been found impossible, such is the power of the machine over the senators and members, to make the necessary correction. Bills have been presented with that object at every session, but all have fallen under the veto of the machine. At the '97 session Representative Keator, of Philadelphia, introduced a bill, designed, among other things, to prohibit helpers unless in the cases of voters who would deliberately swear that they either could not read or where physically incompetent to mark their own ballots and to require the helper in such cases to make affidavit, on a blank to be provided at the polling places, that he would never divulge how the helped voter had voted.

This bill passed first and second reading in the house, but fell short of a constitutional majority on third reading. Its author would have made a further fight for it, but it had become fully manifest that it could not possibly pass the senate, where the machine's sway is even more absolute than in the house.

Some of the debates to which the measure gave rise are interesting as evidence of the utter depravity of the machines and the impossibility of urging real reform in this or any other matter, until the Republican party is voted out of power.

enable the people to vote intelligently. I submit it might be bad for some of us. It might, perhaps, endanger the return of some of us to the legislature." Under Republican rule there is certainly "successful government" from his standpoint, for Lytle, in recognition of his unwavering subservency to the machine, has since been made by President McKinley Naval Officer at the Port of Philadelphia. He is a smooth, sleek, plausible fellow, and has about as much respect for public opinion as a Pelee Islander.

E. A. Coray, of Luzerne, Republican, said the Baker ballot law was a failure, so far as protecting the voters was concerned. In his county, he added, men were paid to act as helpers, and stood around the polls until they had marked 40 or 50 ballots.

Foster, Democrat, of Centre, said his constituency were not in favor of the law as it stands, being satisfied, after recent contests, that it was defective, and are ready for any change that will improve it.

Goula, Republican, of Erie, said: "The present ballot law is not an aid to voters, and the machine politicians have got hold of the blanket ballot today, and can move up their phalanxes to vote just as they ever did."

Roger, Republican, of Philadelphia, said: "The system proposed by this bill is in vogue in Massachusetts, and is a Republican system. * * * Within my own experience at the election last November (1896) I observed the most flagrant violations of the law, and yet I had to stand mute."

Here Focht, of Union, one of the most blatant and unblushing of the machine tools in the body, interrupted and asked Roger if he did not vote for Crow, the Citizens' candidate for sheriff of Philadelphia, the imputation being that no man who would in the least degree protest against Republican machine edicts could be honorable and straightforward.

Roger replied hotly in the affirmative, and added that Crow would have been the regular Republican nominee but for police interference (under orders from Boss Martin (at the convention, "I stand," continued Roger, "for Republican principles and not for corruption or boodle, and that is why I am standing here. * * * God only knows that every reform that has come to the city of Philadelphia has come from the rural portion of the house."

R. J. Baldwin, of Delaware, another of the men who never refuses prompt and joyful compliance with whatever may be the orders of the machine, said that it is "all buncombe to come up here and prate about reform."

Mr. Keator showed that the Baker law as it stands is not the Australian system, as it is called, but that his amendment would make it practically that. He showed further that the ticket provided for in his bill would lessen the cost of printing from 60 to 75 per cent—the bill is now an enormous one—that it was necessary to insure a secret ballot, that it would encourage honest voting, and that it was in no sense partisan; but all to no use. Orders had been promulgated that the bill must not pass, and it did not pass.

We can never have a free ballot and a fair count in Pennsylvania so long as the present Republican organization makes and administers the laws for the state and the larger of its cities. The Republican party is the party of the corporations. It is managed upon the presumption that the chief purpose of law is to enable a few to live handsomely by bleeding the many. These few share their gain with the party. Hence comes the corruption funds. And with the funds comes the disposition to make the laws and practices so that they are assured of the full money's worth in the way of votes. But by electing Mr. Jenks governor and electing a majority of the members of the legislature—both of which results are easily possible this year—we can checkmate their game. We can compel the repeal of the most iniquitous of existing laws and set in motion a force that will be certain ultimately to purify our politics, make our elections less of a farce than they have of recent years come to be, and our state and municipal governments to serve the needs and interests of the many.

UNCONSTITUTIONAL SALARIES.

Flagrant Abuse of the Constitution in the Interest of Adjutant General Thomas J. Stewart.

Thomas J. Stewart was appointed by Governor Hastings on Jan. 15, 1895, to the office of adjutant general at the then salary of \$2,500 per annum. He accepted the appointment, and at once entered upon his duties. Before assuming the duties of adjutant general Thomas J. Stewart did solemnly swear or affirm that he would "support, obey and defend the constitution of this commonwealth." When he thus pledged his support and obedience Thomas J. Stewart must have known that Section 13 of Article 3 of the constitution reads as follows:

"No law shall extend the term of any public officer, or increase or diminish his salary or emoluments after his election or appointment."

Four months and fifteen days after he had accepted his appointment Thomas J. Stewart had his salary raised, in defiance of the mandate of the constitution by "an act" of the legislature, approved by Governor Daniel Hastings, said act reading as follows:

"Section 1. Be it enacted, etc., that the salary of the adjutant general of the commonwealth shall be four thousand dollars per annum." See P. L., 1895, page 128.

In the general appropriation act for the years 1895 and 1896 the sum of \$8,000 was specifically appropriated for the payment of the salary of the adjutant general. See P. L., 1895, page 554. In the general appropriation act for the years 1897-8 a like sum was specifically appropriated for a like object. See P. L., 1897, page 477.

NO FEAR IN THE NAVY.

ADMIRAL SAMPSON TALKS OF THE COURAGE OF CREWS.

After the Enemy's First Shot Their Daring is Rockless. All the Officers Fear Is Running the Ship Aground. Men Seem to Court Danger.

"No," said Rear Admiral Sampson, with decided emphasis, "the element of fear is an imperceptible quantity among our naval crews when in action."

"Indeed," he went on to say, in slow, carefully weighed words, "I can't tell whether it is braggadocio, or foolhardiness, or a plain passion to be always in the thick of it, but the men of our crews, all that I have ever seen in action, display an amazing propensity to hunt for danger unless it comes naturally their way. For instance, when only the starboard gunners are engaged the port men will deliberately seek the exposed decks, right in the line of shot and shell, instead of keeping below behind armored protection. All sense of danger seems to be paralyzed while the excitement of action is on. It pervades the entire crew as well as those engaged at the guns. And this accounts for the fact that, in most cases, the casualties reported were among those who had no business to be where they were at the time; but it is almost impossible, in moments of such great excitement, to restrain them."

"Possibly they might learn some discretion," suggested the reporter, "if they ran across gunners who could hit things better than the Spaniards."

"Yes," said the Admiral, with a smile, "perhaps they might; but I wouldn't like to be too sure of it, either. They lose their identity, and with it all sense of personal danger, and with it the stimulus of battle. But, let me say right here that a striking difference can be seen in the conduct of all crews between the first time they are under fire and all subsequent ones. It may not be fair to call it fear exactly, for we don't see that sort of thing in our men; caution, natural caution, would be a better word. In their first action they show a decided tendency to enjoy the benefits of all the protection afforded, but these principles of self-defense seem to evaporate with the smoke of the enemy's first fire, and, from that on, the most reckless daring takes their place. The only crews that came personally under my observation in this recent campaign were those of the Iowa and New York, but this sudden change in them from common sense caution under fire to the most reckless exposure, could very plainly be noticed, and I'm sure other officers have the same experience to give on this point. The ice of battle once broken, so to speak, the men are total strangers to anything resembling fear."

Here the reporter instanced the case where one of the compartments of the Texas was hit by a Spanish shell which killed one sailor and wounded a number more, and asked the Admiral whether such a calamity on a warship would cause any temporary stampede in a crew.

"Oh, no," he replied. "It wouldn't be human nature for a man to see one of his comrades torn to tatters by a shell and others badly wounded around him, without a shudder, but no American sailor would think of leaving his gun at such a sight. It is astonishing how cool and callous they become to such spectacles during the heat of action. We don't have stampedes in the navy."

"And now that you have disposed of the American crews, Admiral," the reporter said, "what about the officers on the bridge in action? Have they any acquaintance with fear?"

"Yes, they have, every man of them," he answered, as the care-worn furrows in his brow grew deeper, and his eyes rested on the questioner with unusual force, "but it isn't the fear of the shells or any of the accidents of battle. It's that awful, unspeakable fear of running his ship aground or getting her otherwise in bad position. This is the only dread that bothers the commanding officers. In an open sea-way there is none of this danger to keep their nerves in a tension, but it comes with consuming force when they begin an engagement with shore batteries, approaching nearer and nearer to get a more effective range, and menaced more and more, each moment, by the oppressive fear of striking a shoal or bar"—and the Admiral's face wore an expression of positive pain, as if the recollection of this great fear had come back to him vividly like a nightmare, and he was seeing shoal ripples in the rustling of the trees.

"In the matter of courage among the crews," the Admiral was asked, "is there any marked difference between our native-born sailors of American pedigree and those of foreign parentage?"

"I have not been able to detect any," he replied very heartily, "for they are all equally brave."—New York Mail and Express.

All He Got From Casey.

Muldoon—Ah! so yer fr'ind Casey shod by an' saw Brannigan giv' ye that tirrible batin', without makin' any offer t' help ye?

Ducey (mournfully)—He did. He yilled out, "Go in an' win, Ducey," and then laned ag'in in a posh wid his hands in his pocket. Raycognition widout intervention wuz all Oi got from Casey.—Puck.

Easily Accounted For. She. Assuming that women do tell more lies than men, I do not see any reason for it. He. The reason is plain enough. Women do more talking.—Indianapolis Journal.

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THE MARKETS. BLOOMSBURG MARKETS.

Table with market prices for various goods like Butter, Eggs, Lard, Ham, Pork, Beef, Wheat, Oats, Rye, etc. Includes a section for COAL prices.

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Wigwag—"Jones is complaining about the money it cost him to move." Jobson—"Why didn't he do his own moving, then?" Couldn't afford to." "What do you mean?" "He's a railroad baggage man."

Reduced Rates to Pittsburg. On account of the Knights Templar Triennial Conclave, to be held at Pittsburg, Pa., October 10 to 14, the Pennsylvania Railroad Company will sell excursion tickets from stations on its line to Pittsburg and return at rate of single fare for the round trip, with minimum of 25 cents.

Scene 1. Mr. Johnson is obliged to give up work, remain in the house and take care of himself on account of a dreadful scrofula sore on one of his limbs. Scene 2. Mr. Johnson reads a testimonial which tells of scrofulous troubles cured by Hood's Sarsaparilla. He resolves to try it, sends for a bottle and begins taking it. Scene 3. Mr. Johnson has taken six bottles of Hood's Sarsaparilla. His scrofula sore is cured. He is feeling stronger, has a good appetite and is able to attend to his work. He writes a testimonial telling of his experience with Hood's Sarsaparilla, and recommends it to others.

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A GOD-SENT BLESSING.—Mr. B. F. Wood, of Easton, Pa., was a great sufferer from Organic Heart Disease. He never expected to be well again, but Dr. Agnew's Cure for the Heart was his good angel, and he lives today to tell it to others, hear him. "I was for fifteen years a great sufferer from Heart Disease, had smothering spells palpitation, pain in left side and swelled ankles. Twenty physicians treated me, but I got no relief. I used Dr. Agnew's Cure for the Heart. One dose relieved me inside of thirty minutes. Seven bottles cured me."—26 Sold by C. A. Kleim.

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