

LOOTING THE TREASURY

Trail of Blood and Boogie Through History of Spoliation.

Life and Honor Freely Sacrificed to Feed the Rapacity of Republican Machine Managers, Who For a Quarter of a Century Have Been Preying Upon the Industry and Energy of the People.

The history of the Pennsylvania state treasury is an ever interesting though essentially pride-chastening study for the people. For years it has been a prolific source of graft and from the time that the late Senator Quay became secretary of the commonwealth and ex-officio commissioner of the sinking fund, a "trail of blood and boogie" has marked its records. Vast surpluses were unknown a quarter of a century ago, the fiscal officers of the commonwealth having been capable if not always conscientious, so that the receipts and expenditures about balanced. But Quay soon discovered that the sinking fund was an available fountain of funds and by conspiracy with a subordinate official of the treasury he abstracted large amounts for use in speculative operations. Since the keen scent of cupidities discovered the possibilities that are in big surpluses, taxes have been multiplied to create vast balances.

In a speech delivered at Pottstown, September 23d, by Eugene C. Bonnell, Esq., of Philadelphia, the shameful record of this pool of iniquity is fully revealed. Mr. Bonnell said:

The supreme issue which concerns us today is honesty. Ought the common standards ordinarily applied in society and business to be flagrant in the conduct of public affairs, and the funds of the people of Pennsylvania placed at the disposal of corrupt politicians and their gang-bangers? There can be no party lines upon this proposition.

No citizen professing to be reputable can support the so-called Republican ticket in this campaign simply because it is labeled Republican. John Jay is the first chief justice of the United States and said that adherence to party has its limits, and they are marked and prescribed by that supreme wisdom which has united and associated into policy with honor, rectitude and self-respect.

The citizen worthy of the name who proposes to vote for the Republican nominee for state treasurer must do so on one of two grounds—either the conduct of the state treasury in the past has been of so meritorious an order as to justify the continuance of Republican control, or the character of the Republican nominee is so signally inspiring as to make certain an honest conduct of the office despite his political affiliations. Tried by either of these tests the Republican organization hopelessly fails.

Record of Flagrant Dishonesty. Lest the frightful trail of dishonesty and blood of wrecked homes and broken hearts has become less than a memory, permit me to recapitulate the known history of the state treasury. Within our own time when Samuel Butler, an honest man, was elected treasurer of the state of Pennsylvania, in 1879, he refused to accept the assets of the treasury because of the fact that \$260,000 was represented by nothing more than promissory notes of certain politicians. It was never determined that this money was taken out by Matthew Stacey Quay and lost in stock speculations. When exposure became imminent Blake Walters, cashier of the state treasury, shot and killed himself.

Amos C. Noyes, the retiring treasurer, a man of such rugged honesty that he was known as "Square Timber" Noyes, took to his bed and died within a few months of a broken heart, and nothing save the action of Don Cameron in contributing the \$260,000 in cash for political purposes, prevented a public scandal that should have driven the Republican administration from power. It was asserted that at that time Quay contemplated suicide.

Undeterred by the murder of these two men, in 1885 and thereafter, Quay has been elected state treasurer that year, renewed his raids on the state treasury. Following his brief term W. B. Hart was elected state treasurer and his friends have always believed that his untimely death was caused by the frightful knowledge of the condition of the state treasury.

Livesy succeeded Hart. In 1888 another colossal raid was made on the state treasury. With the assistance of A. Wilson Norris, then auditor general of Pennsylvania, Quay secured from Livesy \$400,000 with which to purchase stock in a Chicago traction deal. So deeply did his connection with this case bear upon Norris that before the end of the summer of 1888 he had drunk himself to death.

man who within a few months has sought to erect himself into a bulwark between outraged citizens of Philadelphia and demoralized machine politicians. That eminently respectable member of the Union League of Philadelphia, who settled the Quay case with Mrs. Norris, was Silas W. Pettit, chairman of the so-called Commission of Twenty-one, "pure and undefiled reformers within the party lines."

Through all these years had run the minor thievery. Favored banks, offered by corrupt business men, could always secure a share of the state deposits by promising to reloan a portion of them to the politicians who secured the deposits, and millions of the state's money has been for years in the absolute control of the political bankers of Pennsylvania without a return of a single cent of interest to the state treasury.

Criminal Episode of the People's Bank

In 1888 the People's Bank of Philadelphia, long known as a political institution, which served as a clearing house for machine politicians, closed its doors. Immense sums of state moneys had been placed there on deposit and loaned Republican politicians for speculation or otherwise. John S. Hopkins, the cashier, following in the footsteps of Walters, blew out his brains. James McMane, president, stockholder and politician, made up a deficit of \$600,000 to quiet a scandal, but in the dead cashier's desk were found papers which prove conclusively that Quay and others had secured state deposits to the bank in order that they might be reloaned to themselves individually. One was the famous telegram, signed M. S. Quay, dated St. Lucie, February 11, 1898: "John S. Hopkins, cashier: If you will buy and carry 1900 Met. Bonds, I will shake the plum tree." Another letter was found from Benjamin J. Haywood, state treasurer, showing that the plum tree had been shaken; that he had placed an additional \$100,000 of state funds in the bank, and requesting the loan of a similar amount to Richard Quay, the son of the senator.

B. J. Haywood died suddenly a few weeks before the time set for his trial with Senator Quay upon the charge of criminal conspiracy. It is recent history to the people of Pennsylvania how the senior senator of this great commonwealth, brought to the bar of justice, avoided punishment for his manifold iniquities by pleading the statute of limitations.

The Philadelphia Press in 1885, in opposing the nomination of Quay for state treasurer, asserted it would take the lid from off the treasury and expose secrets before which Republicans would stand dumb. The lid has never been lifted. How much corruption seethes within its walls, only the fanatics of the Republican machine can tell, unless the spectres of Noyes, Walters, Hart, Norris, Warren, Hopkins and Haywood, driven to their graves by a burden of guilt too great to bear, lend circumstantial corroboration to the stories of plunder.

Treasury Balance May Be Fictitious.

The books of the state treasury have never been audited, although the paper statements show a balance of \$10,000,000 annually. No school of auditors in Pennsylvania has ever been paid until long overdue, and then only in heed of the clamoring of the district boards. Indeed, there is a grave doubt that the \$10,000,000 is in the state treasury, and it may be that the state of Pennsylvania carries aortion of that asset the personal notes, the memorandums of indebtedness and the L. O. U.'s of politicians, many of them now outlawed beyond redemption.

If the state treasurer's accounts are audited by the department of the public? Why refuse that which every honest trustee demands, an auditing of his accounts? Why select the most pliant tool in the employ of the machine for this most responsible post? If any business man were contemplating the appointment of a treasurer to handle, uncontrolled, the receipts of a great business, what sane man would select J. Lee Plummer? Upon his public record his ability is so contemptible that he has never been admitted to the councils of the Republican organization, his disposition so pliant that he served that organization as a messenger boy without inquiry as to the rights or wrongs of the orders he delivered; his record, persistently adverse to every good measure, and consistently favoring every corrupt measure. This man has made himself impossible to the most narrow partisan who holds a remnant of self-respect.

Supported Infamous Legislation.

He was an active supporter of the infamous Pull bill, designed to cripple law and order societies in their war upon the degrading forms of vice which menace our great cities; he was a supporter of the Ehrhardt bills which actually proposed to protect the unthinkable white slave dealers in Philadelphia county. He supported the Susquehanna river grant, the Snyder water works grant, three of the Philadelphia ripper bills; the Grady-Salus libel law; the bill authorizing the county commissioners instead of the courts of Philadelphia to appoint election officers, to further debauch election conditions in Philadelphia. The chief bill to which he was recorded in opposition was the bill to increase allowances to the township high schools.

The Line-Up of Political Forces.

(From the Philadelphia Press, Rep.) On the one side is "Iz," he of the capacious pocket, and his business partner, "Jim," with a choice company of retainers-for-revenue-only, whose ranks have been seriously depleted because the presence of the faithful is required behind iron bars. The Martins, Salters, Smyths, Hills, Sterrs, et al., the gambling house keepers, the proprietors of disorderly resorts and speak-easies, the entire criminal population of the city, the corporation bribe-givers and law-making bribe-takers, all supported by one lone, doubtful "organ," which pipes in uncertain tones, makes up the Machine Organization.

On the other side are the president of the United States, the mayor of the city, the secretary of state, the secretary of the navy, all the respectable newspapers of Philadelphia, with the one exception noted, the national magazines and the press of the country generally, the Philadelphia preachers of all denominations, the Pennsylvania Bar Association, the leading business and professional men of the city, a splendid host of young men, fired with the glow of patriotism, and all the tried and proved leaders in movements for civic welfare and human betterment.

Blackmailing the Bankers.

(From the Boston Herald, Ind. Rep.) The Pennsylvania Republicans have been appealing to about 100 banks of the Keystone State for campaign contributions to meet the expenses of the election this fall. The banks selected for this "touch" are those that have been favored by deposits of the state's money. But is there not some limit to the amount such banks can afford to contribute for the sake of holding deposits of the public funds? If campaign contributions must be made each year, and if banks holding public funds must loan money to political bosses whenever they desire it, we should suppose that the outgo might be greater than the income. Presumably all the banks will not pull together in this matter. If they did they could refuse to be bled for campaign contributions or to grant loans to political bosses; but there are those morally weak in business as well as in politics. That class will yield and share the profits they make from holding the state's money with those who are of service to them in obtaining this privilege.

now He Needed.

A Washington county editor writes that a newly married young woman kneads bread with her gloves on. The editor of this paper needs bread with his shoes on; he needs it with his trousers on, and unless the delinquent readers of this old rag of freedom pay up soon we'll need bread without a darn thing on.—Louisiana Press-Journal.

Secret of Japanese Success.

The Japanese generals have never found time to halt and investigate the results of either victories or reverses. They have had no time for quarrels among themselves or for courts-martial. It has been a case of forward-on, on—with no thought of hunger, death, disease, or any obstacle in the path to the consummation of their plans. They have furnished the world a lesson in the value of preparedness and persistency. They have demonstrated that success comes to armies and nations as to individuals, by keeping everlastingly at it. That's the secret of it. It's an illustrated leaf in the lesson of life.—Washington Post.

Chain Carved From Tree Trunk.

Among the curiosities recently presented to the Maritzburg museum, in South Africa, is a chain twenty-three feet six inches long, carved from the trunk of a tree by "Knobnose" natives, a tribe in the Zoutspanberg district, Transvaal. The chain is continuous, requiring phenomenal patience and skill in carving.

The Bible in Turkey.

While permitting the Bible to be circulated in Turkey, the Turkish authorities suggested that the text: "Come over into Macedonia and help us," really ought to be omitted, and that, at any rate, wherever the word Macedonia occurs it should be changed to "the vilayet of Salonika and Uskub."

Value of Old Felt Hats.

In the course of a case at Lambeth County Court, London, it was in evidence that old hard felt hats, which were valueless up to a few months ago, could now be sold for \$35 a ton, and the market was rising. The hats are burned to get the shellas, which is worth 50 cents a pound.

Earth From the Holy Land.

It is stated by a London newspaper that a company has been formed to do up earth from Palestine in packages and to import them into the United States, labeled with an affidavit to the effect that the contents are guaranteed to be from the Holy Land.

ELECTION PROCLAMATION.

I, W. W. BLACK, High Sheriff of Columbia County, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, do hereby make known and give notice to the electors of the county aforesaid, that a general election will be held in the said county of Columbia on

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 1905

(being the Tuesday next following the first Monday of said month) for the purpose of electing several persons hereafter named: One person for State Treasurer of Pennsylvania.

Three persons for Judge of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania.

Three persons for Judge of the Superior Court of Pennsylvania.

One person for Prothonotary and Clerk of the Court of Columbia County.

One person for Register and Recorder of Columbia County.

One person for Treasurer of Columbia County.

Three persons for Commissioners of Columbia County.

Three persons for Auditors of Columbia County.

One person for Mine Inspector.

The qualified voters of Columbia County are hereby authorized and required to vote by ballot, or by ballot, or by printed and partly written for such of the following named persons as they see fit:

Table listing candidates for various offices such as State Treasurer, Judge of Supreme Court, Judge of Superior Court, County Treasurer, District Attorney, and County Commissioners, with their respective political affiliations.

By virtue of an order of the Orphans' Court of Columbia County, the undersigned, administratrix of Jonas Rantz, late of Benton township, deceased, will sell at public sale on the premises in Benton township on

SATURDAY, NOV. 11th, 1905.

at one o'clock p. m., all that certain real estate described as follows: Beginning at a white oak; thence by lands of Charles Ash north eighty and one half degrees east eighty-eight and four-tenths perches to a stone; thence north forty and one-half degrees east twenty and eight-tenths perches to a maple tree; thence by land of Thomas Bellas, north one and one-half degrees west fifteen and six tenths perches to a stone; thence by land of William Appleman, north sixty-two and one-half degrees west twenty-seven and three tenths perches to a stone in public road; thence south sixty-six and three-quarter degrees west fifty-four and three-tenths perches to a stone in public road; thence north twenty-eight and one-half degrees west twenty-four perches to a chestnut tree; thence south seventy and three-quarter degrees west sixty-one and two-tenths perches to a stone on the east side of the aforesaid public road; thence along said public road south forty-two and one-half degrees west thirty-four perches to a stone on the west side of the road; thence by land of M. Kline south sixty-five and one-half degrees east one-hundred and thirty perches to the place of beginning. Containing

SIXTY-SEVEN ACRES OF LAND.

TERMS OF SALE—Ten per cent. of one-fourth of the purchase money to be paid at the striking down of the property; the one-fourth less the ten per cent. at the confirmation of sale; and the remaining three-fourths in one year thereafter, with interest from confirmation nisi.

TRUSTEE'S SALE OF VALUABLE REAL ESTATE.

By virtue of an order of the Orphans' Court of Columbia County, the undersigned, trustee of the estate of Henry C. Hartman late of the town of Bloomsburg, deceased, will sell at public sale on the premises in Bloomsburg on

SATURDAY, NOV. 18, 1905,

at two o'clock p. m., all that certain messuage, lot of ground situated in the Town of Bloomsburg County of Columbia, and State of Pennsylvania. Bounded on the East by lot of R. E. Hartman, on the South by Main or Second St. on the West by lot of T. L. Gunton and on the North by lot of the Y. M. C. A. being twenty-two feet more or less in width and seventy-one feet more or less in depth whereon is erected a

ONE STORY FRAME STORE BUILDING.

TERMS OF SALE—Ten per cent. of one-fourth of the purchase money to be paid at the striking down of the property; the one-fourth less the ten per cent. at the confirmation of sale; and the remaining three-fourths in one year thereafter, with interest from confirmation nisi.

AUDITOR'S NOTICE.

In the matter of the distribution of the funds in the Sheriff's hands arising from the sale of the Real Estate of Rebecca A. Levan and Stephen Levan, deceased.

Professional Cards.

N. U. FUNK, ATTORNEY-AT-LAW, Ent's Building, Court House Square, BLOOMSBURG, PA.

H. A. MCKILLIP, ATTORNEY-AT-LAW.

Columbian Building, 2nd Floor, BLOOMSBURG, PA.

A. N. YOST, ATTORNEY-AT-LAW.

Ent Building Court House Square, BLOOMSBURG, PA.

RALPH R. JOHN, ATTORNEY AT LAW.

Hartman Building, Market Square, Bloomsburg, Pa.

FRED IKELER, ATTORNEY-AT-LAW.

Office Over First National Bank, BLOOMSBURG, PA.

CLYDE CHAS. YETTER, ATTORNEY-AT-LAW.

BLOOMSBURG, PA. Office in Ent's Building.

W. H. RHAWN, ATTORNEY AT LAW.

Office, Corner of Third and Main Sts CATAWISSA, PA.

CLINTON HERRING, ATTORNEY-AT-LAW.

Office with Grant Herring, BLOOMSBURG, PA. Will be in Orangeville Wednesday each week.

WILLIAM C. JOHNSTON, ATTORNEY-AT-LAW.

Office in Wells' Building over J. G. Wells' Hardware Store, Bloomsburg. Will be in Millville on Tuesdays.

H. MONTGOMERY SMITH, ATTORNEY-AT-LAW.

Office—Ent building, over Farmers' National Bank, 11-16-99

EDWARD FLYNN, ATTORNEY-AT-LAW.

CENTRALIA, PA. Office Liddell building, Locust avenue.

H. BIERMAN, M. D.

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Table listing insurance companies and their capital assets, including Franklyn of Phila., Penn'a. Phila., Queen of N. Y., Westchester, N. Y., and N. America, Phila.

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