

THE COLUMBIAN.

BLOOMSBURG, PA.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 15, 1907

HARRISBURG LETTER.

Special Correspondence.

Harrisburg, Pa., Aug. 12, 1907.

It may be confidently predicted that the investigation of the capitol graft scandal will result in the trial and possibly the punishment of two or three of the looters. Architect Huston and former Superintendent of Public Grounds and Buildings, James M. Shumaker, will be sacrificed to the popular demand for reparation. Contractor Sanderson may be added to this list if he can be caught. But he is out of the jurisdiction of the courts and will probably stay out. Huston may take a header for some secure asylum, also, and that would leave only Shumaker, of those who the machine is willing to throw overboard. He can't get away because he is sick.

That there are to be any prosecutions, however, is attributable to the minority representation on the probing commission. It is clear now that the majority of that body intended to make a white washing report. Senator Fisher had a double interest in that sort of a presentment. He wanted to save the Republican party from the injury that is inevitable from a complete exposure, on one hand, and he desired to save the followers of his friend Justice Elkin from just punishment on the other. Senator Sisson has recently been highly favored by the Machine and naturally wanted to prove his gratitude, and the other Republican members of the Commission were willing to "go along."

DEMOCRATS DEMANDED JUST RE-PORT.

But the Democratic members of the Commission wouldn't stand for that kind of a travesty on justice. Senator Dewitt and Representative Ammerman promptly and emphatically declared that the Commission should do its duty or else they would present a minority report. They know that Pennypacker is as guilty as the others and that there is ample evidence to convict Payne & Company of forgery as well as fraud. Therefore they insisted on inculcating those men with the others. Of course they can't go further than the report. After that it will be up to the Governor and the Attorney General, who will probably allow the "high muck-a-mucks" to escape, even if the others are sacrificed.

If the people hadn't elected a Democrat to the office of State Treasurer, two years ago, nothing would have been known of the capitol graft. If there had been no Democrats on the Legislative Commission charged with the investigation of the scandal, no one would have been punished for the crimes. In this statement I am not aspersing the character of James Scarlet, the distinguished Danville lawyer who has conducted the investigation. I have the utmost confidence in his integrity and the highest respect for his ability. But the song of the machine siren, promising favors of the most substantial form, is sweet melody to his ears and—well things are different now.

VALUE OF MINORITY REPRESENTATION.

When the late Senator Buckalew was urging the adoption of the principle of minority representation as a feature of the Constitution of the State, he didn't pretend to think that one Commissioner of the minority party would control the board or that the minority Auditor would have things his own way. He simply said that minority representation in these fiscal departments would serve as a check against the excesses as well as the cupidity of the majority. In that idea he was singularly prophetic. The minority official is a sort of watch-dog on his associates. He may be influenced by no higher impulse than to prevent the other party from getting undue advantage, but at that he is conserving the interests of the public.

Suppose Berry had been defeated for State Treasurer two years ago and his machine antagonist, J. Lee Plummer, elected. Plummer is no better and no worse than Samuel W. Pennypacker, William P. Snyder or William E. Mathues. They had perpetrated the fraud upon the public of certifying to the completion of the State capitol within the appropriation and he would have continued the falsehood. The nine or ten million dollars already stolen would have been irretrievably lost and other millions to an indefinite aggregate would have been added to the waste. If there had been no Democrats on the Investigating Commission there would have been

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no punishment for these colossal crimes or restitution.

GOOD CHARACTER INADEQUATE.

No man will question the personal integrity of Senator Fisher. Senator Sisson enjoys the confidence of the community in which he lives and Representatives Fair and Shields are held by their neighbors as models of good citizenship. Yet for the purposes of political expediency, according to evidence which comes from the seat of the Commission, they were willing, and even anxious, to make such a report of their prolonged and arduous research, as would have made the investigation a farce. In other words without even the suspicion of moral turpitude these excellent gentlemen would have become accessory, after the fact, to one of the greatest crimes of the age in order to promote the interests of the party at the expense of the public.

Their purpose has been defeated, it may be said, though at this writing the text of their report has not been made public. But we have assurances that they have yielded to the importunities of the minority and consented to recommend the prosecution of the mplefactors. That they haven't come to this conclusion cheerfully may easily be believed. Kind hearted men are reluctant to give their friends over to justice however palpable their guilt and a proper report involves such abnegation on their part. But they had no alternative. The minority members of the Commission refused to compromise and under the circumstances a white washing report would have done their party more harm than good. It would have destroyed all pretense of improved party morals.

POINTING A USEFUL MORAL.

I am discussing this question now not for the purposes of argumentation or filling space, but with the idea of pointing a useful moral. The good effect of minority representation on the fiscal boards of the State has been shown by Mr. Berry's exposure of the graft in the construction of the capitol. The impossibility of preventing graft when the fiscal boards are composed entirely of men of the same party is proved by the delinquencies of Samuel W. Pennypacker, William P. Snyder and the weakness of the Republican members of the Investigating Commission. That is to say that the records of these events demonstrate that there must be a member of the minority party present to secure honest public service.

Nobody, so far as I know is inclined to question the personal integrity of the Machine Republican candidate for State Treasurer, though his legislative record is very vulnerable. But he is neither more honest nor more courageous than Governor Pennypacker who prostituted himself to the full measure of his opportunities. Quay knew Pennypacker and Penrose knows the man he has chosen to fool the people. A year ago the machine managers lacked confidence. If it had been possible then the restoration of the gang in Philadelphia would not have been undertaken. But the Mayor of that city feels safe now in condemning fidelity to the people and openly rewarding service to the machine.

HARMAN THE EQUAL OF BERRY.

The good effect of minority representation having been thus clearly shown, why should the people of Pennsylvania vote to discontinue it and restore the old methods and iniquities? The election of the machine Republican candidate for State Treasurer this year will make the Board of Public Grounds and Buildings and that of Revenue Commissioners unanimously Republican. The election of the Democratic candidate, John G. Harman, will preserve the present status and put in Mr. Berry's place a man who is his equal in every respect. Mr. Harman has ability of the highest order and courage of the inflexible type. Why not vote for him, therefore, and complete the reforms which Berry began?

G. D. H.

JERSEYS

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S. E. NIVIN, Landenberg, Pa 5-23-19\*

REPORT OF CAPITOL INVESTIGATING COMMITTEE.

With binding recommendations of criminal and civil prosecutions of all persons involved in the \$13,000,000 capitol scandal, the report upon the exhaustive inquiry into graft case has been finally and unanimously approved by the Pennsylvania capitol investigation commission, and is ready to be sent to Governor Edwin S. Stuart. This action virtually completes the commission's work. Now begins the legal work preliminary to the prosecutions, which will be conducted by Attorney General M. Hampton Todd, with James Scarlet as chief special counsel for the commonwealth, against the grafters.

OUTLINE OF RECOMMENDATIONS.

Briefly, the report to Governor Stuart as finally and unanimously approved, contains these recommendations:

First—Criminal and civil prosecutions against all persons implicated in the \$13,000,000 capitol scandal as indicated in the report and as warranted by the evidence and legal conclusions.

Second—The actual naming of the prospective defendants and the exact definition of the crimes for which indictments will be brought at the discretion of the attorney general, acting upon the commission's findings.

For a report of its character, the document drafted and approved by the capitol investigators is drastic, even sensational, being virtually a legislative indictment involving suggestive criminal prosecution of eight, at least, of the men who had part in the capitol "trimming" and civil proceedings to recover between \$3,000,000 and \$5,000,000 collected illegally as profits.

DEFENDANTS IN PROSPECT.

As found in the testimony taken by the investigation commission, these are the men who were conspicuous in the scandal, most of whom will figure in the contemplated prosecutions:

Joseph M. Huston, the half million dollar architect, who acted for the capitol building commission in the construction of the building for the Pennypacker board of grounds and buildings in the "trimming" work. Huston not only certified to the correctness of John H. Sanderson's enormous accounts, but, as testified, actually co-operated with Sanderson in planning for the contract.

John E. Sanderson, chief "trimmer," who collected \$5,500,000 from the state for "trimmings" sold at fabulous profits. Sanderson's collections, it is alleged, were \$3,000,000 too high.

Congressman H. Burd Cassel, whose Pennsylvania Construction company disposed of metallic furniture and collected \$2,000,000 for filing cases and lockers, the actual cost of which, as appraised by an expert, should not have exceeded \$500,000.

James M. Shumaker, superintendent of public grounds and buildings during the secret "trimmings" of the capitol, who approved the receipts for Sanderson and Congressman Cassel's concern.

Dr. William P. Snyder, who as auditor general, approved the bills submitted by Sanderson and Cassel's company.

MATHUES' PART.

William L. Mathues, who as State Treasurer, paid the money demanded by the "trimmers" without question, and who, with Snyder and Governor Samuel W. Pennypacker, composed the board of grounds and buildings which let the Sanderson contract.

E. B. Hardenbergh, who, as auditor general preceding Snyder, approved the alleged Cassel contract for filing cases and lockers.

Frank G. Harris, who as State Treasurer and member of the board of grounds and buildings, approved of the Cassel company's contract.

George F. Payne & Co., builders

Must Use The Knife

Said the Surgeon, but Dr. David Kennedy's Favorite Remedy was taken and the Knife Avoided. The Union and Advertiser of Rochester, N. Y., recently published the following interesting account of how William W. Adams of 127 South Avenue, that city, was saved from a painful operation by the use of Dr. David Kennedy's Favorite Remedy. Mr. Adams said: "Three years ago I was taken with kidney disease very badly; at times I was completely prostrated; in fact, was so bad that the day was set for the doctors to perform an operation upon me. But I decided I would not submit. I had been put in hot water baths, and, in fact, nearly every means was tried to help me. Upon the day set for the operation I commenced the use of

DR. DAVID KENNEDY'S FAVORITE REMEDY

and from that moment began to gain, and it was not long before I was entirely cured and have had no return of the trouble since. My weight has increased and I never was so well as I am now. I have recommended Dr. Kennedy's Favorite Remedy to many people, for it saved my life." Write to Dr. David Kennedy's Sons, Rondout, N. Y., for a free sample bottle of Dr. David Kennedy's Favorite Remedy, the great Kidney, Liver and Blood medicine. Large bottles \$1.00. All druggists.

of the capitol and "trimmers" of the capitol attic at a cost of \$303,000 to the State.

Charles F. Kinsman and Wallis D. Boileau, partners in Sanderson's Pennsylvania Bronze company, which manufactured chandeliers upon which Sanderson collected \$1,600,000.

There are others implicated in the capitol scandal who have not been so prominently mentioned, but who, it is said, will figure in the prosecutions.

NO APOLOGY.

Ex-Governor Pennypacker's name appears frequently in the report of the investigation commission, and there is no apology for his official acts in aid of the capitol grafters.

With Governor Stuart and Attorney General Todd, the commission and its counsel will consider the course to be pursued in the scandal, in a conference to be held in Harrisburg on Friday. Not until then, however, will the exact character of the report be made public. From the beginning of the commission's consideration of its duties as to the legal phase involved in the investigation there has been a question whether the probers actually ought to specify the persons against whom the commonwealth should proceed. It has been ascertained that counsel for the commission, Mr. Scarlet and James Stranahan, as well as some of the members thought it would be proper to do so, but it is said that the attorney general held that he, as the State's prosecutor, should be permitted after careful review of the evidence and the law, to exercise that authority.

STATE'S MILK SUPPLY IS PURE.

Commissioner Foust Pleased With Test of 6000 Samples Collected Recently.

About 6000 samples of milk and cream have been taken by the dairy and food department during the past thirty days at various points throughout the State. The result is most gratifying to Commissioner Foust, who says it is the most remarkable showing ever made in Pennsylvania. The absence, he says, of violations of the milk laws is in marked contrast to the inspection of four years ago when hundreds of prosecutions for use of preservatives and the watering of milk occurred. In the city of Philadelphia 910 samples were secured and a comparatively few people were found who used adulterations.

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NOTICE.

Notice is hereby given that the following account has been filed in the Court of Common Pleas of Columbia county and will be presented to the said court on the first Monday of September, A. D. 1907, and confirmed nisi and unless exceptions are filed within four days will be confirmed absolute:

First and final account of J. R. Montgomery, Committee of the estate of Mary A. Pursel, a lunatic.

C. M. TERWILLIGER, Prothonotary.

Prothonotary's Office, Bloomsburg, Pa. 8-8-07.

WIDOW'S APPRAISEMENTS.

Notice is hereby given that the following Widows Appraisements will be presented to the Orphans' Court of Columbia County on Monday September 2d, 1907 by the Clerk of said Court and confirmed nisi and unless exceptions are filed to same within four days they will be confirmed finally.

Estate of A. J. Derr late of the Township of Greenwood deceased. Personality \$300.00.

Estate of David Raup, late of the Township of Catawissa deceased. Realty \$300.00.

Estate of James M. Shultz, late of the Township of Sugarloaf deceased. Personality \$65.25. Realty \$234.75.

Estate of Peter Huttenstine, late of the Township of Centre deceased. Realty \$225.00.

Estate of Jacob E. Welliver, late of the Borough of Berwick deceased. Personality \$300.00.

Estate of A. D. Good, late of the Borough of Benton deceased. Personality \$82.09.

Estate of Patrick McHale late of the Township of Conyngham deceased. Realty \$300.00.

C. M. TERWILLIGER, Clerk O. C. Bloomsburg, Pa., Aug. 14th, 1907.

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