THINGS ALL RIGHT FOR THE MACHINE

Legislation Session of 1903 an Orgia of Corruption.

SISSON AND STOBER TOOLS

Empublican Nominees Supported All the Iniquitous Legislation Introduced In the Interest of the Party Bosses.

1903 opened auspiciously for the ma chine managers. The insurgent force which prevented the election of Quay In 1890 and a remnant of which caused nome annoyance during the session of 1901 had been entirely obliterated in the election of 1902, when Pennypack er fooled them all, the Democratic minority had been reduced almost to a negligible quantity and the outlook for "good stealing" was exceptionally bright. The machine traders were present in full force, moreover, and the promise was that everything would go

Probably no measure considered during the session attracted as much public notice as the Salus-Grady libel bill, commonly known as the "press muzzler," read in place in the senate by Mr. Grady, of Philadelphia on April 7. The echo of Quay's voice pleading the statute of limitations in a Phila delphia exeminal court had scarcely died out. All the machine leaders ascribed Quay's trouble to the newspapers and they were resentful. But their plans to stifle the freedom of the press met courageous and consistent opposition at every stage, and the billhad to be amended twice, postponed once and recommitted once before it got through the senate finally. On April 9, however, this sinister result was achieved, both Sisson and Stober voting for it in every form and at every stage. The final vote is recorded on page 1917 of the Journal of the Sen ate, though falsely indexed, for the purpose of confusing inquirers, no doubt, as on page 1828.

The session of 1903 was conspleuous for its raids on the treasury in the shape of multiplying offices and increasing the salaries of public officials. Among the incursions along those lines were the bill to increase the salis of judges. in contempt of the con-

totion, Sisson and Stober both votin the affirmative. Senate Journal. 3. page 1627. The bill to increase number of clerks and other emyes and the salaries in the office of a attorney general, Sisson and Stober both voting for the measure. Senate Journal, 1903, page 958. The bill to create a bureau of elevator inspectors, which was simply a device to create a number of new and expensive offices to be filled by party pensioners. Sisson and Stober voted together for this measure. Senate Journal, 1903,

The bill appropriating \$25,000 to erect a monument on the capitol the late Simon Cameron excited more contempt than indignation, because the public was confident that it would fail. It passed the senate on Jan. 22 however, with the votes of Sisson and Stober in favor of it. Senate Journal, 1903, page 343.

purpose of permitting the machine politicians to acquire such electric railway franchises as they desired or could handle, for the time being, a bill was introduced during the session of 1903, modifying that measure. The new bill provided that before a charter for an electric or trolley railroad should issue from the state department the governor, secretary of state and attorney general should certify that it was necessary. That absurd proposition passed the senate finally on April 9. Sisson and Stober voting for it. Senate Journal, 1903, page 1827.

The Pennsylvania railroad had been carrying a white elephant for a number of years which was increasingly troublesome. When it acquired the control of the canals of the state, conditions were imposed under which it might have been required to maintain these waterways, and it had tried in various ways to relieve itself of this burden and menace.

During the session of 1903 two or three expedients were invoked. One was an act to authorize corporations to sell and transfer franchises and property to other corporations. Sisson and Stober voted for the bill. Senate Journal, 1903, page 910, It was subsequently vetoed by Governor Pennypacker, who liked to keep fresh in the corporate mind the fact that he had

The result was achieved sussequently in another bill, entitled "A further supplement to an act to authorize the formation and regulation of railroads." which passed the senate finally on March 31, Sisson and Stober voting in the affirmative. Senate Journal, 1903. page 1365.

One of the pet iniquities of the session of 1903 was Senator Grady's refrigerator bill. The purpose of that measure was to enable a syndicate of machine politicians to acquire a mosopoly of the refrigerating business in the cities. No man can estimate the evil of such a condition. Butchers. dealers in vegetables and in fact men in every line of business would be at the mercy of such a corporation and pestilence and death would be inevitable. Yet under the spur of the party boss that infamous bill passed the senate finally, Sisson and Stober vot ing for it. Senate Journal, 1902, page

Several attempts were made during the session of 1963 to create a monopoly with control of the water pow ers of the state. Such an iniquity would be scarcely less in evil consequences than the Grady enterprise. Two of these were in the form of senate bills and another in the shape of a house bill which came over to the senate for concurrence. Sisson and Stober supported all these sinister schemes There were a number of insurance bills introduced during the session in pursuance of the plans of the insurance lobby operating in New York and Pennsylvania, which subsequently led to investigations in both states. Sisson

and Stober voted for all of them. The judicial salary bill, which increased the expenses of the courts more than half a million dollars a year was enacted during the session of 1903, Sisson and Stober voting for it. though it clearly violated the constitution of the state, and they were sworn to "support, obey and defend" that instrument. Senate Journal, 1963, page 1627.

Another attempt was made to raid the treasury through the courts by a law retiring judges at a certain age on full pay. This would have cost the people a quarter of a million dollars a year if it had passed. On final passage in the senate Sisson and Stober voted for it. Senate Journal, 1903, page 1073.

There were also three bills creating new judges considered during the session of 1903, and Sisson and Stober voted for two of them. Senate Journal 1903, pages 1711 and 1712. The other didn't reach a roll call or, it is safe to say, they would have voted for it.

During the session of 1903 there were introduced into the senate a number of labor bills or measures in the interest of organized labor. The coal regions were especially concerned in legislation of this sort. These bills were referred to the committee on mines and mining, of which Senator Heidelbaugh, of Lancaster, Senator Stober's colleague, was chairman, Heldelbaugh consigned the bills to his "inside pocket" and couldn't be prevailed on to present them for consideration until the session had nearly come to an end.

During the period that the bills were kept in concealment efforts were made to pass a resolution to "discharge the committee from consideration of them," but without avail. Among the senators who gave moral and material support to the practive of Heidelbaugh were Sisson and Stober. It was the policy of the Republican legislative machine and that was paramount to Justice and duty to them.

There was no trick too trifling for the machine during the session of 1903, Any expedient which worked to the advantage of the gang and made trouble for the opposition was adopted. In Philadelphia and some other cities the machine had been having trouble with men who, resenting frauds at the pri mary elections, would file objections to nomination papers. In most cases that was all that it amounted to. That is to say, in Philadelphia, for example, in most cases the court being in sympathy with the crooks, would dismiss the petition. Like the late Mr. Tweed, however, these leisurely gengrounds to perpetuate the memory of tlemen don't like to be annoyed, and they conceived the notion that if their obliging friends, the judges, were authorized to put the costs on the petitioner in such case the annovance would be minimized, if not discontinued entirely.

Accordingly a bill was introduced The act of 1901 having served its into the senate during the session of 1903 putting the costs of all such objections upon the petitioner. The purpose to foster fraud was so apparent in this measure that it is surprising that any one would be willing to introduce it. But such a person was found, and among those who voted for the bill were Sisson and Stober, Senate Journal, 1903, page 1813.

> The bill to increase the salary of the state treasurer, enacted during the session of 1903, was another party necessity. While the building and furnishing of the state capitol was in progress a man of their own kidney was wanted in the office of state treasurer. They are not found in every nook and corner, but William L. Mathues, of Chester, filled the bill to per-

> But Mathues was a high-priced man and he wouldn't take the office unless the salary was increased from \$5000 to \$8000 a year. Accordingly the machine managers agreed to his terms. and a bill for the increase was introduced. There were objections, of course, and it was shown that the compensation for other services to the state, equally onerous and exacting, were no more generous. But the looters had to have Mathues, and the rabble were driven to consent. The bill passed the senate finally April 7, Sisson and Stober voting in the affirmative. Senate Journal, 1903, page 1673.

> Citizens of Pennsylvania should be proud to vote for such men as have been nominated by the Democratic party for the several offices to be filled this year. For justice of the supreme court C. La Rue Munson is presented. He is a lawyer of great ability and experience and of the highest character for integrity and learning. The candle date for auditor general, J. Wood Clarke, Esq., is as capable as he is courageous, and the candidate for state treasurer is not only an experienced banker, but a progressive and successful business man. Neither of these gentlemen has been the slave of machine politicians or the servile instrument of partisan knaves. If they are elected the interests of the people will be conserved at every turn.

SISSON AND STOBER ARE SERVILE SLAVES

Voted Under Boss Orders on Every Question of Legislation.

NOT AN EXCEPTION IN RECORDS

Throughout the Entire Session of 1901 There is Not a Single Sign of Independence of Thought or Action.

The legislative record of A. E. Sisson and J. A. Stober might be briefly expressed in the statement that they voted for every vicious measure which was considered during the periods of their service and against every bill which made for civic improvement and political morality.

Stober came to the senate with the beginning of the session of 1899, hav ing previously served one term in the legislature covering the sessions of 1875-6. Sisson's service in the senate began with the session of 1991. Both participated in the election of Matthew Stanley Quay for his last term as tenator in congress. During the session of 1899 Stober attended most of the joint sessions and invariably voted for Quay, who failed of election. In the session of 1901 both Stober and Sisson voted for Quay and contributed to his election notwithstanding the protest against that result implied in the prolonged contest waged by members of their own party during the session of 1899.

There were times when Sisson may have suffered from remorse of conscience because of his servility to the machine and recreancy to his public obligations. At least in private conversation he has been known to lament the degeneracy of the body of which he was a member and the ab sence of that conscience and courage which would resist, if not resent, the mandates of the machine. But Stober never experienced any trouble of that kind. He accepted smilingly the sin ister orders of the bosses and obeyed them willingly. It may be doubted if he understood whether they were right

Among the first machine bills which were presented for the consideration of the legislature of 1901 was that known as the Pittsburg ripper. It was the Quay reprisal against the late C. Magee for permitting certain friends to join the insurgents. Magee's friends controlled the municipal government of that city, and the purpose of the bill was to legislate them out of office and put the friends of Quay into their places. It was referred to a special committee, packed for the purpose of promptly approving it, on Monday evening, Jan. 21, 1991. On the same day it was reported out by J. A. Stober and reached the stage of final passage Feb. 13, Sisson and Stober voting in the affirmative. Senate Journal, 1991, page 437.

Both Sieson and Stober voted for for the fifth court bill for P Senate Journal, 1901, page 207. On the bill increasing the number of factory inspectors, they voted in the affirmative, Senate Journal, 1991, page 1387. The purpose of this bill was to create a lot of soft places for political work-

There were three insurance bills considered during the session of 1901. That was the period during which "the House of Mirth" flourished in Albany and Insurance Commissioner Durham and his associates in the machine were overlooking no opportunities to get a share of the "yellow dog" funds maintained by the big insurance companies of New York. Both Sisson and Stober voted for the final passage of all these measures. Senate Journal, 1901, pages 500, 727 and 810.

The session of 1901 was made infamous by the muny attempts to raid the state treasury by increasing the number of judges. There were bills providing for additional law judges in the Eighth and Eleventh Judicial districts and for orphans' court judges in Allegheny, Lancaster, Westmoreland and Montgomery countles. Sisson and Stober invariably voted for those measures. The vote on the Eighth district bill is recorded in the Senate Journal, page 1097, that for the Eleventh district on page 2126 of the Senate Journal. The vote on the bill for an associate orphans' court judge in Allegheny county is found on page

2027 of the Journal of the Senate. One of the most colossal jobs of the recent legislation was what is known as the Presque Isle bill. That measure was intended to cede to the city of Erie a vast and valuable tract of lake front land. It was introduced into the senate during the session of 1901 by Senator Sisson. It got no farther than the committee during that session, hav ing been defeated in the house after

an attempt to correct it had failed. Probably, however, the crowning strocity of the session of 1901 was the trolley railway grab. That iniquity was sprung late in the session, and Sena tor Wentworth, of Montgomery county, tried to prevent its passage by introducing a resolution for final adjournment before it could be culminated. But the machine was equal to the occasion and defeated the Wentz resolution. Both Sisson and Stober roted against the adjournment resolution and for the fixal passage of the infamous measure. Senate Jourgal

MR. MUNSON ENDORSED

Williamsport Board of Trade Recommends Democratic Candidate For Election.

The character of a man is invariably expressed by his reputation at home. One who enjoys the confidence of his neighbors to the full measure is certain to be a man in whom others may confide. People are guaged accurately by those who are in dally association with them, and in the action of his social and business associates there is guarantee of the merit of C. La Rue Munson, the Democratic nominee for justice of the supreme court.

At a meeting of the board of trade of Williamsport the other evening the following resolution was unanimously

Resolved, That the Williamsport board of trade, acting solely
in a non-partisan way, and irrespective of politics, recommend
the election of C. La Rue Munson
as a justice of the supreme court,
knowing him to have every qualification for that position, and particularly calling the attention of
the business men of Pennsy is
to his long and active count
with a number of important manufacturing concerns and his practical knowledge and wide experical knowledge and wide experi-ence in commercial affairs, making him peculiarly well fitted to pass upon the many important ques-tions which concern the interests of the business men of Pennsyl-

The Quay Monument.

The board of public grounds and buildings at Harrisburg has declined to take action in the matter of the Quay statue, and by resolution adopted at its recent meeting referred the subject to and shifted responsibility upon the Quay monument commission. This was neither courageous nor consistent, The act of assembly provides that the board of public grounds and buildings and the statue commission shall solect the site on the capitol grounds for the monument. As there is not and never has been a monument commission, the board of public grounds and buildings has simply dodged its own obligations by referring them to a body which has no existence. That is not creditable.

The constitution requires that all such appointments by the governor shall be confirmed by the state senate. and in the absence of such ratification there can be no valid appointment. The senate never confirmed the nomfnation of David H. Lane, J. Donald Cameron and Samuel Moody as commissioners to procure a statue of Quay or anybody else, and those gentlemen had no authority of law to contract for such an effigy. Having done so, however, in the absence of authority, the fiscal officers of the state ought to have refused payment. As this was not done, the only right course left for the board of public buildings and grounds was to emphatically refuse to desecrate the capitol or park with it.

Senator Quay never performed any valuable service for the people of Pennsylvania. He looted the treasury, debauched the politics and corrupted the public life of the commonwealth. and if he hadn't pleaded the statute of limitations to secure immunity from punishment for his crimes he probably would have died in jail or as a fugitive the bill known as the Philadelphia tax | from justice. To hold the effigy of such "ripper," Senate Journal, 1961, page a moral degenerate up to future gen-812. They are also recorded as voting erations as a type of the citizenship of Fennsylvania is an insult to the in consciences of the people. But in its cowardly evasion of an obvious duty the board of public grounds and buildings has paved the way to this disgraceful result.

> A Call Upon Frick and Carnegie. The statue of Matthew Stanley Queremains unplaced by the ungrated Pennsylvanians. Will not Mr. Fridand Mr. Carnegie combine to buy site for it in some pleasant corner of Pittsburg, if such there be, where it springtime the blossoms of the plu. trees may fall upon it as, waited by the gentle winds, the rose-leaves flutter over the tomb of Omar the Tenemaker in Naishapur?—New York World.

Study the proposed constitutional amendments. The proposition to give the Pennsylvania legislature the right to fix the manner of "appointing election officers." The constitution now provides for their election by the peo- THE COLUMBIAN. ple. The proposed amendment would confer upon the legislature the author ity to require that they be "appoint ed." Suppose the legislature would require that they be appointed by the Republican state committee or by a commission headed by Sam Salter.

The people of Philadelphia can car ily elect Clarence Gibbony to the offic of district attorney if they only inc cate an inclination to favor the samsort of men for other offices. It is as important that honest men be in the offices of auditor general and state treasurer as that the district attorney of Philadelphia be honest. This is time for honest men to pull togethe for honesty in all branches of the pub lic service.

Speaker Cannon represents his party, and if he is lax in morals it is because his party prefers people o that sort. No stream is purer than its fountain or more impure. Canno is foul-mouthed, but he is the ideal his party, and there is no reason wh he should change his methods of Ill or forms of expression.

The settlement of the Pressed Stee Car strike didn't last even until the election. The tariff-pampered hogs who control that enterprise couldn't be fair labor even for political purposes.

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"In time", says the Williamsport Gazette and Bulletin "the citizens of Pennsylvania will recognize

is for fiction, in proportion ten to

one of history or biography.

the propriety of the Quay statue." Not unless their memory goes to the bad, and posterity neglects