MACHINE'S HALCYON SESSION OF 1905

Boas Mansion Converted Into a "House of Mirth" in Harrisburg.

PARTY BOSSES PLAN INIQUITY

Senators Sisson and Steber, Republican Candidates. Supported All the Vicious Legislation That Made the Session of 1905 Infamous.

The legislature of 1905 was a "haleyon and vociferous" affair. In imitation of the Albany "House of Mirth, the Boas mansion in Harrisburg was generously contributing to the "gayety of nations" during that session. Under the control of the insurance commissioner it was a sort of kennel of "yellow dogs" of all sorts and conditions. Each night the gang assem bled within its hospitable walls and planned and schemed the looting oper ations of the immediate future. It was the seat of revelry and a fountain of

The legislature of 1905 has gone in to history as the most wanton and venal in the history of the state. Its work was so bad that Governor Pennypacker felt constrained to call it back to repeal most of its measures and the men responsible for its injust ties obeyed orders to thus stultify themselves with the same servility that they accepted orders to pass the bills at the regular session. This fea ture of the legislature of 1995 has no parallel. No other legislature within the memory of man has such a record

The legislature of 1905 was as eagto defeat good legislation as it was zealous in promoting bad. Few good bills got out of committee, and such as did were allowed to die on the calendar. Early in the session Senator Goeiring, of Pittsburg, Introduced a bill providing for civil service tests in the selection of state officers, but it was stifled in the committee. Mr. Edmiston, of Bradford, introduced a bill requiring that anthracite coal offered for sale in the state be 95 per cent pure, and it met the same fate.

There were a good many other measures which would have conserved the interests of the people if they had been enacted into laws. But they were all killed before that stage, at which a roll call is in order, was reached. Under such conditions the action of a particular senator upon such bills is left to conjecture. But the managers of the dominant party were against such legislation or it would have passed. Senators Sisson and Stober invariably voted as the machine manager directed, and it is safe to say that they were against the bills that failed.

No Uncertainty on Vicious Bills

But there is no uncertainty as to how the Republican candidates for auditor general and state treasurer voted on the vicious legislation projected and promoted by the machine. The bill to increase the number of bank examiners, for example, was supported by both of them. Senate Journal, 1905, page 308.

One of the principal jobs of the ses sion was the "act to amend an act relating to the board of public grounds and buildings." Upon this measure Mr. Sisson and Mr. Stober voted in the affirmative. e Senate Journal, 1905, page 842. In vetoing this bill Governor Pennypacker said: "The effect of this bill, if it became a law, would be to authorize the board of public grounds and buildings to engage the services of 132 new employes. The amount of their salary and compensation, together with the increases of salaries and compensations of persons now employed, would amount to the sum of \$216,960 for the ensuing two years. Vetoes by the governor, 1905, page

A bill to increase the number of courts in Allegheny county was voted for by both Sisson and Stober. Senate Journal, 1905, page 255. This measure was also vetoed by Governor Pennypacker, who said in his message: "The effect of this bill would be to increase the number of judges in Allegheny county from nine to fifteen and to lead to an expenditure in salaries alone of the annual sum of \$51,000," Vetoes by the governor, 1905, page 18.

Bills were passed providing for additional law judges in Cambria county, Senate Journal, 1905, page 888, and in Erie county, Senate Journal, 1905, page 492. Sisson and Stober voting for both

of them. The machine majority in the legislature is always open-handed with the judges, but during the session of 1905 it was liberal with everybody. A bill providing for stenographers and assistant stenographers for courts was passed finally on Feb. 23, Sisson and Stober voting in the affirmative. Senate Journal, 1905, pages 556-557. It was subsequently vetoed by Governor Pennypacker on the ground that "it would be an attempt upon the part of the legislature and the governor to exercise control over the courts." Vetoes

by the governor, 1905, page 24. Corporations Favored Freely.

An act declaring valid and indefeasible as to any right of escheat in this commonwealth was voted for by both Sisson and Stober. Senate Journal. 1905, page 891. This measure also

fell a victim to Governor Pennypacker's veto axe. In his veto message the governor said: "To permit corpora tions, organized for reasons given above in other states, to hold real estate and do business here, would be, in effect, to nullify, indirectly, our own laws. This bill presents to such corporations an easy means of escape from the disabilities imposed upon Vetoes by the governor, 1905 page 30.

The legislature revealed its subserviency to the railroad corporations in the passage of the act "in relation to railroads under lease, and saving their charters and franchises from forfeiture or impairment in case of failure of their lessees to maintain and operate any portion of their lines," This was a silmy and venomous legislative snake. It would have enabled big railroad corporations to get rid of any branch or troublesome small railroad at the triffing expense of the cost of leasing it. Under existing law failure to operate a piece of railroad for two years works the forfeiture of the franchise, and communities damaged by being deprived of railroad facilities to which they are entitled could build a new branch and connect with another road. But this bill would have given the big concern power to close up the smaller road permanently. It was pass ed by the senate finally on March 31. Sissen and Stober voting for it. Senate Journal, 1905, page 850. Governor Pennypacker vetced it. Vetces of the governor, 1905, page 66,

One of the most absurd bills con sidered during the session was one au thorizing coroners in counties of pop ulation between 100,000 and 125,000 to employ stenographers at a compensation of \$6 a day. Both Sisson and Stober voted for it. Senate Journal, 1995, page 1679. Fortunately it was vetoed

Another legislative absurdity was a bill providing for the draining of swampy lands, and both Sisson and Stober voted for it. Senate Journal, 1905, page 1031. In vetoing this preposterous proposition Governor Pennypacker said that owners of swampy lands ought to pay the expenses of their own improvements, and that if the measure should become a law it would clandestinely bestow upon the owners of the land the right of eminent domain. Vetoes by the governor, 1995, page 44.

A Ripper In Disguise.

The bill to provide for the employ ment and support of the poor in Schuylkill county was a sort of "ripper" in disguise. The obvious purpose of it was to legislate out of office the directors of the poor of that county, and it only failed of its purpose because Governor Pennypacker had a lucid interval. Sisson and Stober voted for the bill. Senate Journal, 1905, page 897. Governor Pennypacker disapproved it because it deprived the people of their right to elect their own local officers. Vetoes by the governor 1905, page 52.

There were a number of water snakes wriggling through the legislature during the session of 1905. machine managers, rich in spoils, had come to realize the vast value of water powers and were striving to get control of all that were available. The railroad corporations were also reach ing out for control of watersheds and water supplies.

Among the bills introduced with this object in view was one "authorizing railroad companies to acquire, hold, dispose of and guarantee the stocks and securities of water companies." In the event of a water famine this measure would enable the railroad companies to supply their locomotives even if the people of communities famished. Sisson and Stober voted to bestow this dangerous power on railroads. Senate Journal, 1905, page 1158.

The bill entitled "an act to preserve the purity of the water of the state" was another serpent. It provided that consent of the board of health should be obtained before any community or company could erect water works. The iniquity was fought with considerable energy and was supported at every stage by Sisson and Stober. On final passage, however, Sisson dodged the roll call, but Stober is recorded as voting for it. Senate Journal, 1905, page 998.

The gang didn't feel quite secure with the legislation thus far obtained. and Senator McNichol, the Philadelphia contractor-politician, introduced a bill to create a commission to regulate the water supply and control the watersheds of the state. This measure was railroaded through at a high rate of speed. It was "read in place" March 15 and passed finally March 22, Sisson and Stober both voting in the affirma tive. Senate Journal, 1905, page 901,

Pet Iniquities of the Machine.

The Philadelphia "rippers" were pet iniquities of the machine. John Weaver, who had been promoted from the office of district attorney to that of mayor as a reward for permitting Sam Salter to be acquitted, was indulging in some insincere reform pretences. and the machine concluded to "clip his wings," so to speak. The "rippers" provided for the election of the heads of certain departments by a vote of councils, which under the then existing law were appointed by the mayor. It might be said that this was "the erowning atrocity" of the session. There were three of these bills, numbered respectively 441, 479 and 480. The two latter were so vicious that Pennypacker vetoed them. Both were voted for by Sisson and Stober, how ever. Senate Journal, 1905, pages 1283 and 1284. It was in this veto message that Pennypacker eulogized the late Mr. Durham as "the most influential political leader in Philadelphia." Ve toes by the governor, 1905, page 167.

was the bill increasing the salary of the deputy insurance commissioner Mr. Durham was insurance commis sioner at the time, but he was so busy managing the politics and "milking" the people of that city that he couldn't get to Harrisburg oftener than once in two or three months. The warrants for his salary had actually to be sent to him by mail. This absenteelsm de volved a good deal of additional labor on the deputy, and Mr. Durham's so vile slaves in the legislature naturally concluded that his recompense ought to be increased in the ratio that his burdens were multiplied. Sisson and Stober voted for the bill. Senate Jour

nal, 1905, page 1689. The Quay statue bill was "the apple of the eye" of the machine at the time and ever since has been the burden c its grief and an abomination. Sisson and Stober both voted for it. Senat. Journal, 1905, page 1589.

The act authorizing street rallway, electric light and power, hotel and park companies to merge or consoll date, was a sort of tub to the smaller corporation whale. There are a num ber of men in the cities, tin-horn gamblers, thimble-riggers and other sorts. who go to the legislature or ply their vocations in the winter, and imagined that such a combination of powers would afford them splendid opportunitles in the summer. These gentlemen proposed to legislate themselves into the chance. The bill was introduced and passed. Sisson and Stober voting in the affirmative. Schate Journal. 1905, page 1590, Pennypacker vetoed the bill.

Snakes In the Legislative Grass.

Another snake in the legislative grass was the bill authorizing manu facturing corporations to deal in goods and materials manufactured by others. It was in direct violation of the constitution, the spirit of the common law and the traditions of the country. Sisson and Stober voted for it. Senate Journal, 1905, page 895. The bill was

The bill to rebute taxes on forest lands, enected during the session of was what the old-timers would call "a little thing" for the timber and tannery trusts. It provided for a rehate of 80 per cent of the taxes on sorub timber tracts for a period of thirty-five years. Before it was introduced the trusts had bought up practically all that kind of land in the state with a view of holding ft until another crop got ripe and ready for the axe. Paying taxes on land during the reriod in which they were waiting would be expensive, and the always fertile-minded trust managers conceived the plan expressed in this law to escape the burden. These facts were pointed out clearly, but the trust agents stick together, and the bill was passed. Sisson and Stoher voting for it. Senate Journal, 1995, page 1346.

The bill to increase the salary of the harbor master of Philadelphia was the payment of another installment of the machine obligation for the acquittal of Sam Salter. The then harbor master swore to all kinds of alibis and other things to justify the packed jury in voting to acquit the champion ballotbox stuffer, and the easiest way to reward him for his crimes was to increase his salary. The bill passed finally, Sisson and Stober voting for it, Senate Journal, 1905, page 1689. The acquittal of Salter has cost the state more than any other crime ever committed within its borders

The number and salaries of employes of the state treasury were increased, Senate Journal, 1905, page 1106, and the number and salaries of the employes of the state library were increased during the session of 1905, Senate Journal, page 777. Sisson dodged the vote on the treasury increase, but voted for the library increase. Stober voted for both.

Pennypacker Provokes Foolish Bill.

In his veto messages Pennypacker was in the habit of poking fun at the legislature on account of the wretched grammar and other delinquencies in form and expression of the bills sent to him for approval. Finally the legislature passed a law providing for the appointment of a man to edit the bills and whip them into some sort of shape. Really the purpose was to provide a fat and eminently respectable job for some favorite political "lame dack," and Pennypacker's criticism inspired the idea and furnished the excuse. Both Sisson and Steber voted for the bill. Senate Journal, 1905, page Another office of similar character was created during the session of 1909, both Sisson and Stober voting

The lawyers of Pennsylvania are bearing testimony, every day, to their high appreciation of the learning, ability and fitness of C. LaRue Munson for a seat on the supreme court bench. Wherever Mr. Munson goes he is most cordially and enthusiastically received by lawyers. Even the partisan lawyer relaxes his prejudices when the question of putting a fit or unfit man on the bench confronts him. Mr. Munson fulfills the lawyers' ideal of a judge and the lawyers will express that fact at the polls this year.

Democrats used to win in Pennsylvania because they used to feel that good government is as important to the average citizen as good crops. In this country the average farmer, with a family of four or five children, pays the price of fifty bushels of corn annually in excessive taxes. If he would A merry little joker of the session duty and save money.

DEFEAT AMENDMENT NO. 7 IS URGENT DUTY

Pittsburg Chamber of Commerce Sounds Alarm to Voters.

POINTS OUT STARTLING DANGER

City Gangsters Could Manipulate Election Results, Through Corrupt Election Officers, If the Seventh Amendment is Adopted.

Defeat of amendment No. 7, of the series of constitutional amendments on which the people of Pennsylvania are to vote this fall, has been called for by the Pittsburg Chamber of Com-

It is the fear of the Chamber of Commerce that amendment No. 7 will allow political schemers to gain control of city election boards for crooked Should this particular amendment be adopted, it would open the way for the naming of such boards in the city by appointment instead of by election. That change undoubtedly would serve to make election boards more corrupt and to multiply ballot

In a public statement the directors of the Chamber of Commerce say:

The board of directors of the Chamber of Commerce of Pittsburg would respectfully call attention to the fol-lowing matter of vital importance to the clitzens of Punnsylvania, and one worthy of the most careful consideration and action by the electors of the

By joint resolution of the senate and couse of general assembly of Penns unia, passed at the session of 1997. mber of amendments were propose the present constitution of the state. Among them are the following

"Amendment 7-To Article VIII. Section 14. "Section 8. Amend Section 14 of Article VIII, which reads as fol-

lows:
"District election heards shall consist of a judge and two inspectors, who shall be chosen annually by the citizens. Each elector shall have the right to vote for the judge and one inspector, and each inspector shall appoint one clerk. The first election board for any new district shall be selected and vacancies in election boards filled new district shall be selected and vacancies in election boards filled as shall be provided by law Election officers shall be privileged from arrest upon days of election and while engaged in making up and transmitting returns, except upon warrant of a court of record or judge thereof, for an election fraud, for felony or wanton breach of the peace. In cities they may claim exemption from jury duty during their terms of service.

"So as to read:
"District election boards shall consist of a judge and two inspectors, who shall be chosen bicannially by the citizens at the municipal election; but the general assembly may require said boards

assembly may require said boards to be appointed in such manner as it may by law provide. Laws regulating the appointment of said boards may be enacted to apply to cities only; provided that such laws be uniform for cities of the same class. Each elector shall have the right to vote for the judge and one inspector and each inspector shall appoint one clerk. The first election heard for any The first election board for any new district shall be selected, and vacancies in election boards filled was shall be provided by law. Election officers shall be privileged from arrest upon days of election and while engaged in making up and transmitting returns except and transmitting returns, except and transmitting returns, except upon warrant of a court of record, or judge thereof, for an election fraud, for felony or for wanton breach of the peace. In cities they may claim exemption from jury duty during their terms of ser-

This proposed amendment will be This proposed amendment will be submitted to the voters at the election this fall for approval or rejection. If approved, it becomes a part of the state constitution, and must be observed as such, unless eliminated by a future constitutional amendment. Inasmuch as the constitution cannot be amended more than once in five years, this proposed amendment would have this proposed amendment would have considerable time to operate before I could be replaced or superseded by an-

other.

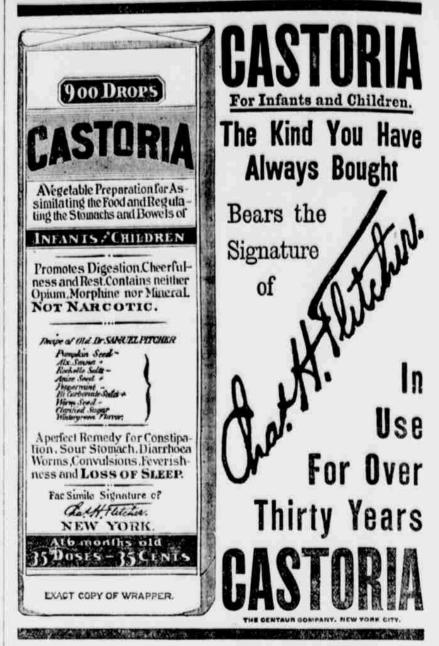
The amendment is surrounded by a multitude of other proposed amend-ments, which divert the mind from its purport, and it is only by close reading that its meaning and mischief be

Only forty-eight words seek change the practice respecting selec-tion of election boards for almost a century, and to destroy the first foun-dation of the people's political free-dom. These words are so obscure and the amendment so sandwiched between others of more or less harmlessness, and placed with such cunning in the proposed amendment itself, that only a close reading reveals the true purport of the change.

The proposed amendment first purports to leave the constitution just as it is respecting the selection of election boards. It begins by repeating almost the exact words of the same section of the present constitution, viz.:
"District election boards shall consist "District election boards shall consist of a judge and two inspectors, who shall be chosen biennially (instead of annually) by the citizens at the municipal election." A nasty reader would overlook the meaning of what follows, for the last part of the proposed amendment is similar to the paragraph on the same subject of the present constitution. It is as follows: "But the general assembly may require said board to be appointed in such manner as it may by law provide, Laws regulating the appointment of said boards may be enacted to apply to cities only, provided, etc."

It leaves the cities in a worse condition than the country districts, for by its provisions the country districts

by its provisions the country districts may be left in full enjoyment of their may be left in full enjoyment of their nacient privileges, while the cities may be deprived of them, or both city and country may be legislated into the merciless hands of the political party overtaxes him would be put out of business and he would perform a civic duty and wave money.



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