

SISSON AND STOBER SHIELD THE GRAFTERS

Tried to Prevent Investigation of Insurance Department During Extra Session.

SISSON LED THE OPPOSITION

He Declared That the People Had No Interest in the Question Involved and That It Was None of the Legislature's Business What Officials Did With the Fees.

The extra session of the legislature of 1906 afforded little opportunity for political or legislative juggling. It was called for the purpose, mainly, of correcting the evils perpetrated during the regular session of 1905...

But the brief session was not entirely without political interest. Shortly after the session began rumors of a scandal in the insurance department made their appearance. Six months previously "Dave" Martin had become insurance commissioner...

On the 25th of January Senator Herbert of Berks county, introduced a resolution into the senate for an investigation of the subject. His preamble quoted the statement of the insurance commissioner and added that the actuary had expressed a desire "to go on the stand before a committee of the legislature"...

In support of his motion Mr. Sisson became voluble. He said the money didn't belong to the commonwealth and the people had no interest in the question, and he ridiculed the resolution. "It seems to me," he added, "that we might possibly be inquiring into things that do not concern the legislature"...

The effect of this was so obvious and menacing to Sisson's proposition that he "took another tack." He moved to refer to the committee on judiciary general and promised a report from the committee within five days...

Mr. President—I desire to express my reasons why I shall vote for this motion to refer the resolution to the committee on judiciary general. It is for the purpose of giving ample time to the gentleman (Herbst) who introduced the resolution into this body, in giving him five days' time, to go home

to his constituents and there investigate the court proceedings of his county. I see by the reports from his own county that one director of the poor was tried and found guilty of graft in office day before yesterday, and another found guilty of the same offense yesterday...

AN APPEAL TO SOLDIERS

Veteran of the Valiant "Bucktails" Gives Reasons Why Sisson Should Be Defeated.

The following open letter to the veterans of the Civil War, which applies with equal force to soldiers of the Spanish-American War, was written by a member of the famous "Bucktails," who has always been a Republican:

"Comrades—When the martyred Lincoln called us boys to imperil life and health, to go legless, armless and sightless to our graves, in defense of the Union, there went out with that call the assurance that we should be taken care of in our old age. What do you think Lincoln would have said if he could have seen more than 399,000 'old vets' marching to their graves on a less pension than the country pays for keeping prisoners? No doubt if he could have seen that he would have prayed for Booth's bullet to relieve him from the sight."

"Pennsylvania soldiers, who revere the name of Andrew G. Curtin, the great war governor, the soldiers' friend, the father of our soldiers' orphans' schools, what do you think this great patriot would have said to prison-house rates for the fast dying and disabled soldiers and their widows? Can any soldier think of it without a shudder?"

"What, then, should we think of Senator A. E. Sisson, who by the power vested in him, as president pro tem, of the state senate, has nullified the express will of the people of Pennsylvania in burying the act of the popular branch of the legislature in the noisome recesses of his own finance committee of the senate."

"That act of the legislature would have given each of the old soldiers of Pennsylvania the sum of \$72 a year, to assist them in the dark, cold days of the winter of their lives. And yet Senator Sisson, by his own act, denied that meager relief to the soldiers of Pennsylvania and their widows and children."

"When you go to the polls, on the 2d of November, before casting your ballot for this man Sisson, think of the sunshine that act of giving you \$72 a year, out of the \$12,000,000 surplus in the state treasury, would have conveyed to your homes and firesides, and then vote against the man who turned the intended generosity of the state into disappointment and wormwood and ashes."

"Think of Senator Sisson voting in this committee to prevent the presentation of the act of the lower house to the senate—and then vote against him. 'Old soldiers, sons of veterans and wives and widows of the survivors of the war, raise your voices and cast your votes against this man Sisson, who sold the dues and good will of the Keystone State should not be extended to the aged, failing, fast-dying, defenders of our commonwealth and our country. Vote against him."

"Tell this man, who has desecrated the name of Pennsylvania, that he cannot, by your suffrages, be chosen to hold an honorable office in Pennsylvania."

ANOTHER DELAY

Indications Are That No One Will Be Punished For Capitol Graft.

[From the Philadelphia Press, Republican.] The action of the supreme court in allowing an appeal to the men convicted of defrauding the state in the capitol matter creates another delay in the tedious progress of this case. The crime was made public three years ago. It has been the subject of an exhaustive legislative investigation, a long court trial, an application and argument for a new trial and an appeal to the superior court. In every case the same conclusion was reached that the defendants were guilty, or had been properly proved guilty, of conspiracy and fraud against the state. It has been brought as a reproach against the state of Pennsylvania that no man has had to go to jail for that monumental fraud against the state. This is a painful thought that the supreme court should exert itself to dissipate.

Suppose it does take an hour or two of time to vote on election day, and admitting that it will require the use of a buggy for a short time to take an invalid neighbor to the polls, a Democratic victory will be worth more than it comes to, nevertheless. It will save the state vast sums, for the machine is getting ready for another raid on the treasury, and this time it will lay on a wholesale scale.

POSITION OF INDEPENDENT REPUBLICANS

True Disciples of Lincoln Are Supporting Cyrus LaRue Munson For Justice of Supreme Court.

BERRY AND NILES ADDRESS

Sisson and Stober, With the Living Bosses and Effigy of Quay, Smile in Cynic Contempt of All Reform.

The Independent Republican meeting at Plymouth on Thursday evening was both a surprise and an inspiration. It proved that in that section of the state, at least, the better element of the Republican party is quite as active and altogether as determined against the Penrose machine as they were four years ago, when Mr. Berry was triumphantly elected. The meeting was large and enthusiastic.

The speakers were in harmony with the spirit of their audience and both in excellent form. Every strong point made was enthusiastically applauded and every sentence expressed a strong point. It was easily the most effective political demonstration in that section of the state this year. The speakers were Hon. W. H. Berry, former state treasurer, and Hon. Henry C. Niles, chairman of the Lincoln Party state committee.

Mr. Berry said in part: "There can be no confusion as to the issues of the campaign. No question as to the personal character of the candidates is raised. No question of political significance in the state or nation is involved. We are simply to consider the advisability of electing candidates selected by a thoroughly discredited leadership and thereby insuring their return to power in the state and opening the way for a return to the disgraceful conditions existing prior to 1905."

"It is the duty of every Democrat in the state to actively support the nominees of their party. They are men of the highest character and ability, nominated by the free choice of their party and they deserve our support for these reasons. Moreover, the best interests of the state demand that a strong and formidable opponent of the dominant political party be maintained in the state. Let it not be said that Democrats are apathetic or indifferent in this campaign."

"Republicans who love political virtue more than party success can endorse the sentiment and will vote accordingly unless they believe that their leaders are repentant and will regulate their life-long records. That they were thoroughly scared by the election of a Democrat in 1905 is certain. The hasty call of the extra session of the legislature in 1906, the good work done by it and the selection of excellent candidates at the next election, leave no doubt of this. But recent events disclose the old spirit revived. The Quay statue is erected in a prominent niche in the capitol pursuant to the votes of both the present Republican candidates, Sisson and Stober. No protest or apology is of record from them. They, with the living bosses and the marble image smile in cynic contempt of all reform."

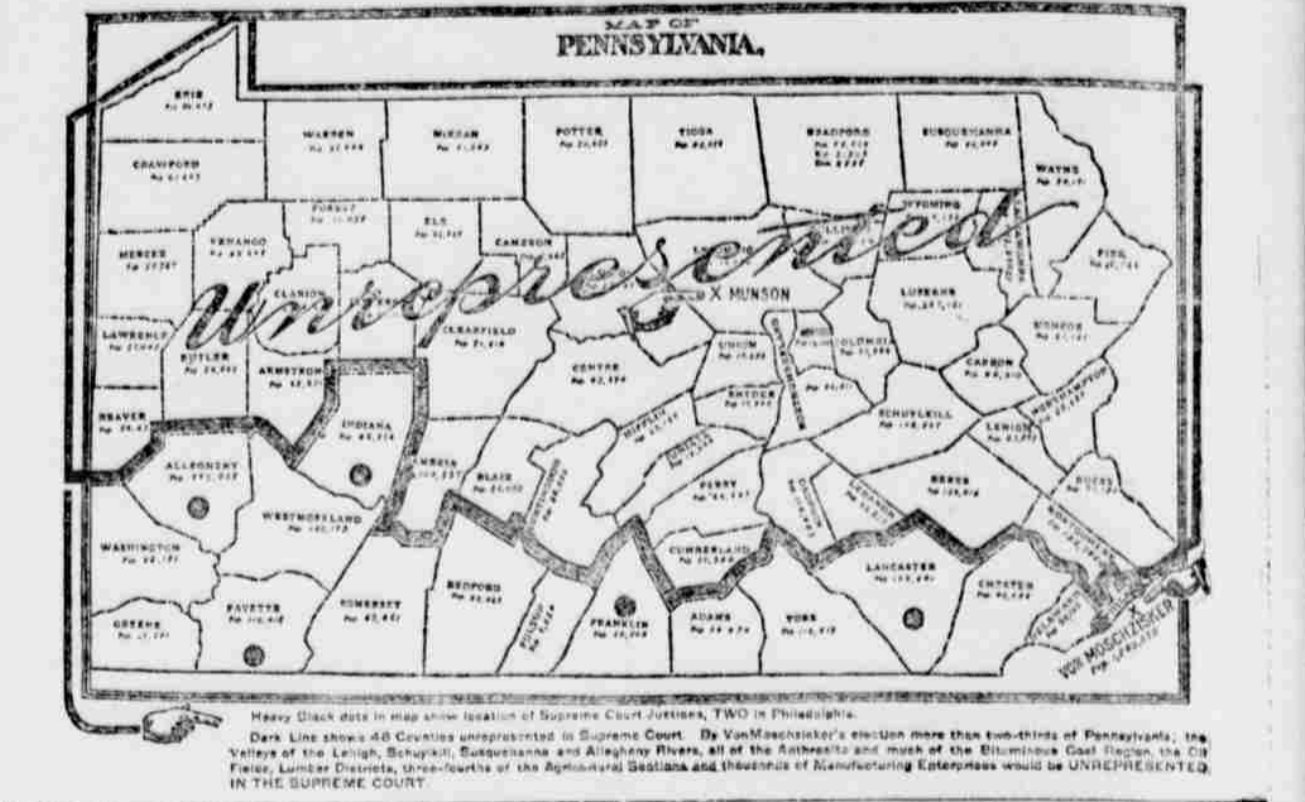
"Salter, the confessed traitor, who fled the country to escape conviction for notorious ballot box stuffing in Philadelphia, returned when the district attorney's office was manned by Norris S. Barrett and Robert von Meschzisker, when, according to Senator McNichol, the jury was fixed and Salter acquitted. Barrett was nominated and elected judge by the machine that profited by Salter's crime. Von Meschzisker was presented by them to Governor Pennypacker for appointment to the bench soon afterward, but the governor declined to appoint him. He was nominated, however, and elected to the bench by the gang at the succeeding election."

Following is a summary of Mr. Niles' speech: "The state ticket that is this year labeled Republican is in no honest sense the ticket of the Republicans of Pennsylvania. They are urging the Republicans who believe in honest government and pure politics to vote for their selection for the important offices of state treasurer, auditor general and justice of the supreme court."

"There is no moral, legal or political obligation so to do. 'So long as the crime and fraud of one Philadelphia ward is permitted to defeat the will of the honest anti-graft Republicans of whole counties of the state, the nominees of such methods are not entitled to our support.' 'Since the defeat of Plummer, in 1905, the bosses have pretended to an unusual goodness. They are now fixed of even the appearance of reform. Their temporary restrained hunger for the spoil has become irresistible and they are now engaged in an effort to resume control of the money and the auditing of the state. The candidates who have been given the Republican label have always been for and never against the corrupt methods which have been Pennsylvania's shame. They are satisfied to those bosses."

UNEQUAL APPORTIONMENT OF JUDGES

The Vast Part of Pennsylvania Is Misrepresented on the Supreme Court Bench—For Just Representation in That Court Vote For Munson.



"Therefore, they are not satisfactory to the true Republicans, and ought to be defeated by them. 'In 1905 the duty of Independent Republicans was to elect Berry, the Democratic candidate. 'This year, for the same reasons the duty of the same class of patriotic Independent Republicans is to elect the Democratic candidates, Kipp, for state treasurer; Clark, for auditor general, and Munson, for the supreme court."

CHAIRMAN DEWALT MAKES STRONG APPEAL

In Personal Letter to Committeemen, He Urges Activity on Election Day.

The Democratic state committee has made a most thorough and apparently effective campaign. No opportunity to create interest in and arouse enthusiasm for the candidates of the party has been overlooked. It has been an exceedingly quiet campaign so far as 'blaring trumpets and tinkling cymbals' go. But every party worker in the state has been directly appealed to and personally urged to effort. One of the last appeals of the campaign was in the form of a personal letter of Chairman Dewalt to the chairmen and members of the Democratic county and city committees. There are about 10,000 of them, all told, but not one was neglected. Following is the text of this letter, which will be of interest to all Democrats:

Democratic State Central Committee of Pennsylvania, Harrisburg, Pa., Oct. 21, 1909. My Dear Sir—A thorough organization of our forces throughout the state at this time will result in a substantial victory at the coming election, but this organization cannot be obtained unless I have the individual aid of every county chairman and every county committeeman in the commonwealth who is a Democrat. The wonderful canvass that has been made by our state candidates, and the reports that we are receiving at headquarters, convince us that victory is not only a possibility but a probability, and this assurance will be made certain if I can obtain from you and the rest of my committeemen throughout the commonwealth a substantial aid."

The Republicans, up to this time, have not been alarmed by our quiet efforts, and it is well that we do not arouse them to activity. Our opportunity is whilst they are apparently asleep. I know that in every district in this state there are hundreds of Democrats who are not in the habit of going to the polls. This is largely because the committeemen who are in charge have failed to induce them to go there. The best way, in my judgment, to do this is to see and assure each voter, if possible, that victory is in the air and that by his vote and the vote of his fellow Democrats it will be made a certainty. Let me then, at this time, implore you as never before, to put your shoulder to the wheel. I know what individual effort in this direction amounts to."

The people of this commonwealth are not only unwilling to continue the rule of the Republican gang, but they are willing to aid honest government if they believe that there is a chance for success, and the only hope of success lies in the work that Democrats may do. Personally, the Democratic chairman must depend upon the county chairmen and county committeemen to do this work for him, and in these last days of the campaign I appeal to you in this personal letter to make a thorough canvass of your district and arrange to have every Democratic voter at the polls. This will win. I am, very respectfully yours, ARTHUR G. DEWALT, Chairman."

We have sadly failed in our purpose as well as fallen short of our duty if we have failed to make clear to any intelligent mind that the Democrats of Pennsylvania can have an easy and glorious victory this fall. A full Democratic vote will give the candidates of the party an overwhelming majority. Ninety per cent. of a full vote will give them a large majority and eighty per cent. of the vote for Mr. Bryan last fall will guarantee their election. It will be impossible to get out the full vote in the cities, where personal registration is required, but a full vote in the country districts will bring the total up to ninety per cent. of the Bryan aggregate. Let every Democrat strive for this result.

MINISTERIAL ASSOCIATION ENDORSES C. L. MUNSON

Clergymen of Williamsport Declare Their Esteem For Democratic Candidate. At a largely attended regular monthly meeting of the Ministerial Association of Williamsport the following resolution was passed:

Whereas, Cyrus LaRue Munson, of this city, has been nominated for the office of justice of the supreme court, and Whereas, We know him to be a Christian gentleman, who in a long life in this community has exhibited a high moral character, a broad philanthropy and a church activity which have won the admiration and confidence of us all; be it Resolved, That we, the Ministerial Association of Williamsport, endorse Mr. Munson for this great office, and earnestly hope that the citizens of the state will take advantage of the opportunity to secure the services of a man of such character and attainments.

If the Democrats of Pennsylvania fall to elect their ticket this year it will be for the reason that they haven't sufficient civic virtue to influence them to perform the plain duty of good citizenship. The Republican machine has done everything possible during the campaign to help the Democrats. They have outraged the public conscience by nominating a ticket composed of servile slaves, they have forced the effigy of Quay, the arch-corruptionist, into a niche in the corridor of the capitol to the insult of public and private morals and finally they have compelled the supreme court to issue an order which will give the capitol grafters immunity from just punishment for all time. These things, treading upon each other's heels, have disgusted the better element of the Republican party and if the Democrats are faithful to their admirable candidates they will be elected by an overwhelming majority.

According to information gathered with care, the Democrats have very much the better of the registration in the cities of the third class. In other words, while there has been a considerable falling off in the registry as compared with the last year, the Republican party will suffer much more than the Democrats in the diminished vote. This fact ought to encourage Democrats in the boroughs and townships, where personal registration is not necessary, to get out a full vote, so that they may share, in full measure, with their political friends in the cities in the victory which will be achieved as a result.

Get out the vote. It will be an honor to the people of Pennsylvania to elect such men as Munson, Clark and Kipp to important public offices. There is an adage that "men are judged by the company they keep" and it is equally certain that communities are measured by the standard of the men they choose to represent them in public life. If Sisson, Stober and Von Meschzisker are elected to the offices for which they have been nominated over Clark, Kipp and Munson, the impression will be justified that the people of Pennsylvania prefer evil to good, that they would rather have unfit than fit public servants.

Every faithful Democrat in Pennsylvania will give sufficient time on election day to cast his ballot. Such action will result in a complete Democratic victory and that will be worth all it costs, no matter how much time and labor it requires. If the Republican party had been voted out ten years ago we would have had no capitol graft and the people would have been saved the ten or more millions stolen.

The Independent Republicans are a unit for the entire Democratic state ticket and they could hardly be otherwise. The gentlemen who compose that ticket represent the highest standard of civic virtue and intellectual and moral fitness. Their election will rescue the state from the Republican machine which has planned a new campaign of spoliation.

THE ISSUE DEFINED

Mr. Niles Presents the Points Forbly and Clearly. [From the Harrisburg Patriot.]

No one can read the speech of Hon. Henry C. Niles at the Pottsville mass meeting without being impressed by his sincerity, the power of his logic and the clarity of his statement of the facts of recent political history in Pennsylvania. Calmly, without any suggestion of rancor or ill-humor, Mr. Niles presents the issue of this campaign so forcibly that who runs may read. Speaking of the candidacy of Judge von Meschzisker, Mr. Niles trenchantly declares:

The chief reason for the general opposition of the bar of the state to Judge Robert von Meschzisker is that he is the product and the candidate of the Philadelphia machine. If he were the most learned and able lawyer in the state, the fact that the influence of his learning and ability has never been against, but always in support of the party in power, would not be a disgrace and shame, were sufficient to make us pause.

Such logic is inescapable. Men do not look for the champions of decent government among the adherents and beneficiaries of that machine that fattens on the spoils system, that punishes for the good of the people the good of a little coterie of contractors. A man is known by the company he keeps in politics as well as in private life. The duty of the independent, patriotic Republican is plainly pointed out by Mr. Niles when he says of the Democratic candidates:

They should be supported by the same independent Republican sentiment and vote that supported John Stewart for the supreme court, and Berry for the treasury in 1905. The highest duty of true Republicans in 1909 is to defeat the candidates nominated by the Philadelphia gang, and vote for Munson, Kipp and Clark, who are free from taint.

When he declares that the Democratic candidates are free from taint Mr. Niles puts his finger upon the very core of the truth in this campaign. Sisson, Stober and Von Meschzisker all have records of alliance with the Philadelphia machine and thin that brands them with the stamp of the spoils system. The political preference they have received at the hands of the machine has been in payment of service rendered, not to the people but to the men who spend their lives in debasing the machinery of democratic government to their own selfish ends.

The late Senator Quay once wrote that justices of the supreme court had been catapulted into their seats to serve the purposes of the political machine and they never fulfilled their sinister obligations more completely than they did the other day when they granted the special allocatur to review the capitol graft cases. It was never intended that any of those grafters should be punished and this action of the court of last resort will guarantee them immunity. A new trial and acquittal are the certain consequences of the review, because, as Mr. Niles says, the Republican machine managers "are now tired of even the appearance of reform," and will go boldly into the courts to prevent conviction at a subsequent trial.

It was hardly a friend of Robert Von Meschzisker who conceived the idea of publishing portraits of the Republican and Democratic candidates for justice of the supreme court side by side. The picture thus made is a striking one, beyond doubt, but it doesn't create a favorable impression of Von Meschzisker. It calls to mind the scene in the play in which Hamlet reproves his mother for her iniquities by comparing his father, whom she has abandoned, to his uncle with whom she has taken up. It is a fair campaign argument, however, and ought to be effective. An esteemed contemporary remarks that the supreme court might as well have issued an order for the acquittal of Dr. Snyder and Mr. Shumaker, the convicted capitol grafters, and it is right. With Quay's memory honored by a marble effigy the punishment of grafters whom he taught to be corrupt would be incongruous and grotesque.