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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 1909.

CAPITAL SCANDAL THREE YEARS OLD.

Approaching Trial of Architect Huston Renews Public Interest in Famous "Graft" Case.

The affair of the Pennsylvania State Capitol, which is about to renew its appeal to public attention through fixing of the trial of Joseph M. Huston, architect, to begin November 29, has been dragging along for three years.

It was in the gubernatorial campaign of 1906 that State Treasurer Berry sprung the charge that graft had figured in the equipment of the big building, and that instead of its having cost \$4,000,000, the sum appropriated by the Legislature to "complete the Capitol, more than twice that amount had been expended on it. Berry's information was fragmentary, as even he did not suspect at the time that actually \$9,000,000 had been paid out for finishing and furnishing the building, in addition to the \$4,000,000 spent for the structure itself.

On taking office the beginning of the following year Governor Stuart asked the Legislature to authorize an investigation, and Senators Fisher, Sisson and Dewalt, and Representatives Fair, Shields, Dearden and Ammerman were named. James Scarlet, of Danville, and James A. Strahan, of Harrisburg, were appointed counsel, and on February 4, 1907, the commission began its work.

The probe lasted six months, during which time auditors and experts went over every foot of the building and its contents, and the voluminous records involved, and the commission examined 188 witnesses on the stand. The commission held 60 executive sessions and 48 public hearings, and on August 16 reported to the Governor, urging criminal and civil prosecutions of the guilty parties.

On September 3 warrants were served on 13 persons, and on September 28 the Dauphin County Grand Jury returned true bills for conspiracy against Contractor Sanderson, ex-Auditor General Snyder, ex-State Treasurer Mathues, ex-Superintendent Shumaker, Architect Huston, Assistant Architect Lewis, Traveling Auditor Irvine, Congressman Cassel and Sanderson's bronze company partners, Kinsman, Boileau, Neiderer and Storm. Charles G. Wetter, of the firm of George F. Payne & Co., contractors for the main building was indicted for false pretense. Payne also was indicted.

Death has been busy with the defendants, Sanderson, Mathues and Payne having passed away. Irvine was sent to an asylum soon after the trial began.

The first case was called to trial January 27, 1908, the defendants being Sanderson, Huston, Snyder, Mathues and Shumaker. Conspiracy was alleged in a bill of \$53,318.60 for tables and chairs, the alleged fraud amounting to \$19,000. The Commonwealth agreed to a severance for Huston, believing he would take the stand as a State witness and tell what he knew. He refused to do so, however. The other four were found guilty March 15. A motion for a new trial was refused December 13 and the defense appealed to the Superior Court. Meantime the four defendants were sentenced to two years in prison and \$500 fine.

In July last the Superior Court affirmed the decision of the Dauphin County Court. On the 22nd of that month the Supreme Court granted a stay of sentence pending an appeal to that body by Snyder and Shumaker, Sanderson and Mathues having since died. Last week the Supreme Court decided to permit this appeal, which will be argued in May next unless the Court can be persuaded to advance the case.

The second trial involved the metallic furniture contract, the defendants being H. Burd Cassel, Architect Huston and the three State officials involved in the first trial. The trial began May 12, 1908 and ended June 13 in an acquittal.

The third trial will be similar to the first in many of its details, involving a bill of \$61,948.50 for 272 Sanderson desks, the alleged overcharge being \$25,577.30. Snyder, Shumaker and Huston were to be tried on this charge, but the Court granted severances to Snyder and Shumaker because of their pending appeal in a like case, leaving Huston to be tried alone.

SAME OLD THING.

The whole gang ticket elected in Philadelphia! And that after a series of robberies and crooked dealings that has been so rotten that the whole country has smelled the odor. So the Contractors' Combine is continued in power for another period of graft. We have no longer any sympathy for that town. We sincerely hope that plans will immediately be laid to mortgage City Hall, the proceeds to be used to defray the expense incurred by the purchase of two automobiles each for all the members of the City Councils; that Broad street be closed, and built up with car barns for the P. R. T. Co; and that Fairmount Park be fenced in and presented to Vare, McNichol & Co. in which to drill their army of thugs for the police department. If the majority of Philadelphians is so stupid, indifferent, or corrupt as to permit a continuance of the policy of the past, they deserve to have their clothes stolen off their backs and sold to junk dealers to provide a fund for booze parties for the victorious gangsters.

Richest Farmer in the Country.

Inventory of the property of David Rankin of Tarkio Mo. richest farmer in the United States, places his holdings at 40 square miles. He has 800 horses, and it takes a hundred cottages to house his help. There are 12,000 hogs and 9,000 head of cattle. The machinery on the farm is valued at a half million dollars.

STEEL TRUST BUYING BREWERIES.

Will Spend \$10,000,000 to Control Coke Workers' Beer Supply.

The United States Steel Corporation has decided to make an effort to control the drink habit of 25,000 persons in Fayette county, Pa., interested in the manufacture of coke, and will invest \$10,000,000 in the project to obtain possession of the nine breweries now running inside the county.

While the effort being made to merge these breweries is being conducted in the name of the Pittsburgh Brewing Company, it is understood that the steel corporation is back of the whole move, and will try to regulate the drinking of the foreigners.

It is figured that at least 3 per cent. better returns can be gleaned on the millions invested there by regulating the drink of the coke worker, permitting him to drink, but stipulating where and when.

Sales of beer by the keg or by the barrel to the coke worker is what the corporation objects to, and this it will try to remedy. For more than a year figures have been gathered on drinking among the coke workers, and it is found that for seventy-two hours after each payday the coke ovens don't run more than two-thirds capacity, and there is scarcely a payday when hundreds of tons of coke are not ruined by inability to get proper men to care for it in the ovens.

The idea is to increase the number of licensed drinking places in the county, so that all the workmen will be supplied, but to kill the sale of drink in bulk to the coke worker, it being alleged that the workman lays in a great store of drink when he has money; then "lies down beside it."

HOOK-WORM DISEASE.

Habitual Laziness of Poor People of South Attributed to It. Rockefeller Gives a Million to Fight It.

A gift of one million dollars by John D. Rockefeller to fight the "hookworm disease" was announced at the office of the Standard Oil company at New York recently.

A dozen well known educators and scientists in large part from institutions of learning in the south where the parasite is prevalent, were called in conference with Mr. Rockefeller's representatives at the Standard Oil company's offices at 26 Broadway, recently, and at that meeting Mr. Rockefeller's desire to organize a commission to carry on a campaign against the malady was discussed. As a result of this discussion of the situation, the "Rockefeller commission for the eradication of the hookworm disease" was organized.

The "hookworm," according to New York medical authorities, is a hair-like parasite to which is charged a form of anemia prevalent especially among the poor people of the south. It was not until recent years that members of the medical profession recognized that a parasite caused the malady.

In December, 1902, Dr. Charles Wardell Stiles, then a zoologist in the bureau of animal industry at Washington, who had been studying intestinal parasites, announced to the Pan-American Sanitary Congress his conviction that the so-called "laziness" and "shiftlessness" widely observed in certain portions of the south was a specific disease, due to the "hook-worm." Many members of the congress expressed surprise at the announcement and up to the present the disease has been a matter of some controversy.

Earthquake Very Severe.

The earthquake shock felt in Northern California and Southern Oregon last Thursday night is reported from a number of places to have been more severe than any experienced for several years. The vibrations continued from 10 to 25 seconds, according to observers in different towns.

Windows were shattered, chimneys prostrated, dishes broken and small pieces of furniture moved, but as far as known the financial damage was nominal. Humboldt county appears to have been the center of the seismic disturbance.

A naval battle was fought last Friday between Greek battleships manned by loyal government troops and torpedo boats in the hands of mutineers on the bay of Salamis. Just two thousand years ago the Greeks won the battle of Salamis from the Persian fleet in these same waters.

Children Cry FOR FLETCHER'S CASTORIA

FOR A SAFE AND SANE 4TH.

Officers of American Civic Association Favor Plan-Washington an Example.

Press dispatches from Washington, stating that a movement is under way for a general safe and sane observance of the Fourth of July, are pleasing to the American Civic association and the American public in general.

At the Cincinnati convention of the association a campaign is to be launched for a safe and sane Fourth and it is probably due to the announcement that the story comes from Washington on the same subject. Speaking of the subject, Richard B. Watrous, secretary, whose office is at Harrisburg, says: "For the first time we shall be able to report specific cases of a noiseless Fourth, and of course Washington will afford the best example. The celebration in that city last July was entirely devoid of noise; there were no deaths or accidents reported to the hospitals. There were no fires due to fire works. Best of all, the people had one of the most enjoyable days in the history of Independence Day celebrations."

"The district commissioners, who are responsible for the order prohibiting the use of explosives, gave of their energy to provide a substitute for the usual celebration and the co-operation with which the business men of the city, headed by Hon. Henry B. F. Macfarland, district commissioner, as chairman, arranged a program of daylight fireworks, parades, picnics and gorgeous fireworks in the evening, all under official direction, that made a gala day for Washington and convinced the people that the new kind of Fourth of July is better in every respect than the old kind. There was no abatement of interest in the observance of the nation's birthday, but it was along sane lines, without disaster to life and property."

GREAT MART FOR WHITE SLAVERY.

Cornell Professor Says New York is the Center of the Traffic.

Jeremiah W. Jenks, professor of political economy and politics at Cornell university, has given out a statement in which he says that "white slavery" does exist in New York as charged by a recent anti-Tammany magazine article, but he does not hold any political organization responsible for the traffic.

Professor Jenks, who was a member of the commission appointed by Congress to investigate immigration conditions, says in part: "I have no knowledge as to whether the traffic is greater in New York than in Paris. I believe, however, that it is greater in New York than elsewhere in the United States—first, because New York is the largest city; second, because it is the chief port of entry. Women imported for immoral purposes from Chicago and Seattle largely come through New York, and many of the dealers are here. There is no question that the traffic exists on a large scale in New York, and that from New York many women are sent to other states and even some to foreign countries."

Don't Neglect That Cough!

It certainly racks your system and may run into something serious. Allen's Lung Balm will check it quickly and permanently. For sale at all druggists. 9-30-04.

Hog Milt Indicates a Mild Winter.

C. F. Bennett, of West Cheshire, Conn., famous the country over for his weather prognostications, is out with his annual winter prediction. He says:

"My predictions are as follows: A late fall. I look for the month of November to be warmer than October. I don't look for any winter weather until well up in December."

I don't look for any ice until after the first of January. The milt indicates the cool weather we have had the last two weeks. I look for a reasonably early spring."

Bennett always bases his prophecies on "hog milt." Milt is another name for spleen.

Saved Life, Got \$200,000.

It has just become known that Charles W. Bennett, a wealthy man of Binghamton, N. Y., who died recently, willed \$200,000 to J. W. Casey, of Denver, Col. as a reward for saving his life thirty years ago.

Casey is the proprietor of a laundry and is comfortably well off. Casey and Bennett were school chums in Binghamton, and the incident which caused Bennett to remember Casey so handsomely occurred when the latter, who was an expert swimmer, rescued Bennett from drowning in the Susquehanna river.

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