



THE RECORD STEAL.

How the Publication of the Legislative Proceedings is Made to Do Duty for Machine Protectors—The Frightful Padding, Enormous Indices and the Costly, Confusing and Exasperating Results—When the Contract Price Falls the Cost to the Taxpayers Increases—What An Honest and More Intelligent and Useful Performance of the Work Would Save.

The printing and distribution of the Legislative Record involves a shamefully reckless waste of the public money, and, if it does not include a straight steal, the facts which the figures divulge show a mighty close approach to it. Its distribution, by issues, during the sessions, which was intended to keep the people apprised of what their servants at Harrisburg are doing with their time and opportunities, was for years a scandal, owing to the dilatoriness on the part of the publishers, but even more specifically of the printers' and folders' departments of the senate and house. The men appointed to service in these departments are the working politicians in the districts of those senators and members who have the strongest pull during the sessions. They receive close to \$1,000 per session as salary, but a large proportion of them never do any of the work. They are content to pocket the pay and perquisites and to appear upon the records as pasters and folders, but either because they regard it as demeaning, or because they have something else to employ their time, or because they are adverse to toil of any kind, they refuse to perform the incident labor and employ substitutes to perform it, at from one-fourth to one-half what they receive from the state. These substitutes are generally very cheap and incompetent men, often boys, and as a result it is happening constantly that even when the printing has been reasonably prompt, the distribution is unconscionably delayed, the pasting and folding rooms being gorged with stacks of the stuff which should long before have been in the mails. However, as has been stated, there has recently been some little improvement in this regard, because of the persistent and long continued protests of citizens against being served with printed copies of proceedings a month or two old and long after, as news, they had lost all interest and value.

The total cost of the printing and distributing of the Legislative Record, as set forth in the various auditor general's reports, was, in the years severally named, as follows:

1885	.....	\$22,820
1886	.....	28,675
1887	.....	32,091
1888	.....	36,161
1889	.....	43,580

The figure for 1897 is made up by adding the \$8,500 paid on account in 1897 and the state treasurer's estimate of the sum required to complete the payment in 1898.

A preponderating element in this steal is the index. The reporting of the proceedings and the printing of the Record is paid for, under contract, at so much per page. Bids are received and the award made to the lowest bidder. A maximum price of \$10 is fixed and the competitors bid so much percentage off that price. The president of the senate and speaker of the house make the award and get, by the way, \$100 each for the few hours spent in doing it, while their clerk gets \$50.

The contract price for 1895 and 1897 was \$3.96 per page. This, be it understood, is for both reporting and printing, \$300 additional being always allowed for the completion of the index. Now, the ponderous tomes that contain the proceedings of the legislative session of 1897 cover a total of 6,772 pages, distributed as follows:

Proceedings	.....	3,732 pages
Report aliens' committee	.....	565 pages
Report penitentiary investment committee	.....	231 pages
Index	.....	2,237 pages
Blank pages	.....	7 pages

Total 6,772 pages
Here are almost two-thirds as many pages of index as there are in the report proper. Add to these the 803 pages of reports and blank pages, and we have a total of 3,940 pages, or not far from half of the whole number which the state paid for as having been stenographically reported, as well as printed, whereas not a line in any of them was reported. Whatever is the difference between the cost of reporting and printing and that of the printing alone is, as to these 3,940 pages, a sheer robbery. The volumes are padded by reports, index, etc., to the extent of over 80 per cent of the total payment, and this is exclusive of the constant repetitions and not only useless, but confusing superfluities in the proceedings themselves, and which, it is safe to say, constitute fully two-thirds of the total bulk. What this padding costs at \$3.96 per page, independently of that in the proceedings proper, is as follows:

Index	.....	\$8,858.52
Aliens' report	.....	2,237.40
Penitentiary report	.....	914.76
Blank pages	.....	27.72

Total \$12,038.40
An infinitely more intelligent and satisfactory record of the sessions' proceedings could have been compressed into about 1,000 to 1,200 pages without sacrificing a word of the "eloquence" of the senators and members which, it is needless to say, is, as a rule, far more effusive than edifying. An index that would be really useful for reference purposes could be put into 200 pages, and this is making a liberal allowance. The 2,237 page index to the 1897 volumes is, in fact, no index at all. It is full of errors. It has countless repetitions. And these are so embarrassing that on the rare occasions when the Record must be referred to, the seeker after information is likely to be driven half frantic by the difficulties he will encounter in obtaining it. For instance, "An act to regulate avis

brought by and against foreign corporations doing business in this commonwealth, to which certificates have been or may be issued, etc." is indexed under the word "Issued." Was there ever a padding for robbery so bold or a method of indexing more completely imbecile? And this is but a sample of hundreds of similar instances of the fraud. What is referred to above as the aliens' report is the report of a committee appointed by authority of the legislature of 1895 to ascertain the number of aliens quartered upon the commonwealth in the various public institutions thereof. As a printed public document it is of no more value than would be a second fall to a cat. The 565 pages covered by it contain nothing but the names, sex, nativity, etc., of the individual aliens found to be in the various prisons, hospitals, almshouses and other like institutions of the state, each case being made to consume eight-lines, or about one inch in the length of a column, as follows:

John Smith.
Sex—male.
Nativity—Kamschatka.
Number of days treated—Thirteen.
Cost per day—One dollar and thirty-one cents.
Total cost—Sixty-one dollars and fifty-one cents.

Any sane private individual having such a thing to print would put it in this way:

Jno. Smith, Kamschatka; treated 13 days at \$1.31 per day; total, \$17.13.
But that would have consumed only two lines, and would have lessened the grab of the Legislative Record contractor \$3 out of every \$4.

It is safe to say that a far more intelligible record of the proceedings of the legislature could be reported and printed, with a comprehensive index to the book, for about \$10,000, or less than a third of the cost of the present publication, which is most exasperating to all those who have to consult it because of its cumbersome and other described faults, and that the sum named would include a fair compensation for both the reporter and the printer.

But suppose only half the present expenditure could be cut off, the saving would still be close to \$20,000, and that sum would materially help in caring for the indigent insane and other wards of the state, now in large part neglected by reason of this and other machine corruption and waste in the handling of the state's moneys.

Regularly every fourth year the contract price for reporting and printing the Record has fallen, owing to the introduction of improved facilities for printing, such as machine type setting, etc. In 1883-85 the price was \$5.54 per page; in 1887-89 it was \$5.72; in 1891-93 it was \$4.90, and in 1895-97 it was \$3.96. The contract for the ensuing four years, 1899-1901, has been awarded to the same parties who have had it for several years past, at \$3.41. And the Wilkesbarre Record, a Republican paper, has this to say regarding it:

"The contract for printing the Legislative Record for the next two sessions has been awarded to the same party who had it the last four years. As the price will be lower than before, the work is likely to be also worse, provided that is possible, which is doubtful. Parties who have had this contract heretofore and failed to comply with its requirements should have been ruled out of the competition. But the officials who award state contracts are not in the habit of doing business that way."

Passing by this Wilkesbarre editor's criticism of the character of the work done on the Legislative Record, though it is even more than justified, it is worthy of remark that, though from 1885 to 1891 the contract price fell from \$5.54 to \$4.90 per page, the cost of the reporting and printing kept constantly increasing. The lower the price the higher the cost. In 1892 and 1893 there was a small drop in the cost, but not at all in proportion to the drop in the contract price, but in 1897, by force of the successful padding already detailed, it went up again.

If there is an office in connection with the state government which, under Republican machine rule, does not involve a theft or criminal profligacy, the fact has not yet been made apparent.

A MACHINE INFAMY.

Exploiting the Schools, Prisons, Hospitals and Charities, Etc., for Base Partisan Purposes—Full Details as to the Methods of Achieving This Great Outrage—Senator Penrose's Attempt to Deceive the State as to the School and Charity Appropriations Fully Refuted From the Records.

At the late Harrisburg convention that met in Harrisburg to express its contempt for honesty and economy in the state government the boss sent the junior senator to represent him and sing a siren song into the ears of the people which, if it did not deceive them, might still be used by the heeblers for such clamor as should confuse and drown the cries of the reformers. Mr. Penrose made a very valiant, but manifestly very laborious effort to fulfill his task. He, of course, ignored the detailed, specific and widely published evidences of the Republican machine's theft and waste of the public moneys, because it is impossible for him or anybody else to fairly meet and successfully refute them. But sweeping them aside, as with a wave of the hand, he undertook to account for the constantly increasing cost of machine rule by ascribing it to a greater liberality to the schools, the hospitals and eleemosynary institutions of the state, leaving it to be inferred that Mr. Quay and the machine were being criticized and abused, not for any real wrongdoing, but for their enlarged liberality in caring for the helpless wards of the state.

Even if it were true that the differences in the gross annual outlay of the

state were accounted for solely by the larger appropriations to the schools, the hospitals, etc., these appropriations are themselves made to dishonestly and unlawfully contribute to the maintenance of the machine, whose astute chief and ever watchful lieutenants would consider themselves grossly benefited in permitting such large sums to pass through their hands without gathering on it some profit on the way. But the excess of the cost of maintaining the state government as between 1883 and 1897 was almost three and three-quarter millions of dollars greater, leaving wholly out of the consideration the cost of the schools, the penitentiaries, the insane and the charities, as the following figures will show:

THE PADDED PAY ROLL.

Mr. Wanamaker, in Reply to Chairman Elkin, Gives the Names and Records of Some of the Men Who Were on the Roll.

In his Media speech Mr. Wanamaker said: "Chairman Elkin, for shame. Dare you stand up and assert that all the politicians who were on the padded pay roll performed any service to the state? Dare you assert that Phillip Gori, of Shechequin, Bradford county, who was appointed to pay a political debt the machine owed to the now discarded Louis Plollet, and who drew from the padded pay roll \$1,050, ever performed any service to the state?"

"Dare you assert that James R. Greiner, of Luzerne county, now serving sentence in the Western Penitentiary for murder, who, as a political reward from the machine, received nearly \$1,000 from the padded pay roll, and who visited Harrisburg but three days during the session, performed any service to the state?"

"Dare you assert that Jonathan Jones, of Schuylkill county, who testified under oath in a libel case at Pottsville in November, 1897, that his name was placed on the padded pay roll by Senator Coyle, a Quaker, who drew for him \$900 during the session, performed any service to the state?"

"I have in my possession other names that were on the padded pay roll, and the amounts of salary they received, and stand ready to furnish before a court of record indisputable proof that these men performed no labor for the state, and that the money was paid as political rewards."

"I am discussing Mr. Elkin as a public official, and not as a private individual, and all interrogatories are addressed to him as the official head of an organization."

"Chairman Elkin, though you have been declared an unfaithful state official and have been dismissed for cause from public office, and though your attempted defense is a complete confession of your guilt, and your explanations, in the light of historical facts, have convicted you of the grossest misrepresentations, still, under the principle of law that grants immunity to a copilot who turns state's evidence, and gives testimony that will result to the good of the public, there may yet be left a chance for you to save yourself, in some degree, if you will give to the people of this state the inside history of that fatal indemnity bond transaction."

WHAT IT COSTS.

To Run the State Department Under Quayism in Comparison With the Cost Under Democratic Management.

Here are some figures showing the cost of certain branches of the state government under the appropriation acts of 1883 and 1897 respectively, the former having been the nearest approach to a Democratic year the state has had since the war:

Executive offices	.....	\$517,006	\$1,515,971
Legislative expense	.....	\$41,111	724,823
Judicial expenses	.....	\$97,000	1,242,552
Printing and binding	.....	605,863	1,130,984

\$3,630,980 \$4,722,465
These figures need little explanation. They show that in fourteen years, under the unbroken direction of Republican lawmakers, executive departments have been multiplied, salaries increased, new and useless departments added, employed and contingent funds padded, and that in a half a million, our executive expenses have swelled to a million and a half for each two years.

They show that while the number of senators and members and the allowances for mileage, stationery and postage are the same as in 1882, by increasing the already large enough force of clerks and other employees, by adding enormously to contingent expense to fee party favorites, by awarding pay for regular committee services, by creating whitewashing and fraudulent investigating committees (whose perquisites were not vetoed), by piling up the cost of contested elections, etc., they have swelled the charge upon the people for holding a legislative session about \$200,000, or over 25 per cent.

They show that the expenditure for printing and binding the often worse than useless state publications has almost doubled since 1883, although the actual cost of doing that kind of work has been very materially reduced in the interval.

They show that even the bench has been made to contribute to the imposition largely by laws that multiply the number of judges beyond all reason, and then making statutes that enable some of them to add almost 50 per cent to their legal salaries by holding court in other districts in years when, in order to keep up with the trial lists, they must have other judges come and hold court in their own districts.

They show, in brief, that under Republican rule, the system is rotten from core to rind, and that there is but one chance for real reform, which lies in electing a Democratic executive administration and a Democratic legislature.

Col. Stone charged the State \$10,000 to collect a claim of \$4800. Can you vote for Stone for governor?

WASHINGTON LETTER.

ARREST OF SENATOR QUAY CAUSES A SENSATION.

Mrs. McKinley Left Washington for Canton, Ohio, to Attend the Funeral of Her Brother

WASHINGTON, Oct. 10.—Lawyers for the defense seldom bring out any testimony against the accused. The members of the McKinley war investigation Commission—"The Alger Relief Commission," is what a local paper calls it—who have put the questions to the witnesses who have so far testified may not consider themselves Secretary Alger's lawyers, but, if they were, their questions could not in the opinion of many unprejudiced persons, have been more carefully prepared to prevent the giving of undesired evidence. One witness—Col. Lee, who started to tell about some of the War Department's mismanagement, in the matter of transportation, without being questioned upon the subject, was at once called down and informed that the Commission was not ready to enter that branch of the investigation. He took the hint and thereafter only answered such questions as were asked. Gen. H. V. Boynton reiterated his theory that flies were responsible for so much sickness at Camp Thomas, and another witness—a brigade surgeon—indorsed it. Instead of trying to find out, the Commission appears to be trying not to find out anything derogatory to Secretary Alger's management of the War Department. It appears to desire only evidence that will be complimentary to the Department.

There is much sympathy expressed for Mrs. McKinley, who left Washington for Canton, Ohio, Saturday night, to attend the funeral of her brother, who was killed, supposedly by a jealous woman, Friday evening. She was to have started to the Omaha Exposition today, with Mr. McKinley and a party of officials and their wives. The party went and will be joined at Canton by Mr. McKinley, but Mrs. McKinley will probably not go.

The arrest of Senator Quay, for conspiracy in connection with the failure of a Philadelphia bank, has been much talked about in Washington. Opinion is not unanimous as to whether Senator Quay is innocent or guilty of this particular charge, but, aside from a few men who are under personal obligations to him, the letters from Quay to the cashier of the bank, who committed suicide after the bank closed its doors, have added to the opinion long held by most persons who know his business habits that Quay is utterly unfitted to hold a seat in the U. S. Senate. Quay is, and has been for years, a regular stock gambler, and has never hesitated to make use of knowledge obtained in his official capacity to gamble in stocks for his own profit. He was one of the most prominent of the Senatorial sugar speculators, whose operations shocked the country, and brought about an alleged investigation while the tariff was under consideration by the Senate Finance Committee. At the investigation, Quay admitted bluffing methods, told the committee that he speculated in sugar or anything else, whenever he wished to, and in effect asked what the committee was going to do about it. No real patriot will deny that the country would be better off if all such men as Quay were driven out of the Senate and kept out.

Nothing could show more encouragement for Democrats in the Congressional campaign than the fact that Republicans acknowledge their fear of losing four out of the eleven Iowa districts, now all represented by Republicans. A gain of thirty seats is all that is needed by the Democrats to put the Republicans in a minority in the next House, and the prospects of getting them and many more, is very bright at this time.

Ex-Senator Blackburn, of Ky., now in Washington, said: "The political outlook in Kentucky is as satisfactory as Democrats could wish. Of the eleven congressional districts they will carry nine certainly, and of the remaining two there is more than an even chance of carrying one—the Louisville district. It seems to me that there is every reason to regard the condition of the Democracy throughout the nation, with complacency, and I believe that the gains made by the party in November, will be large in a majority of the states."

Col. Phil Thompson, once a member of the House from Ky., who spends much of his time in New York, has been telling his Washington friends about the campaign. He said: "I believe that Judge Van Wyck will beat Col. Roosevelt, for Governor, by a heavy majority. There is an element in the Republican party that does not like Roosevelt and will secretly rejoice in his downfall. He is cordially hated by the saloon keepers and his friends,

for his course while police commissioner, and they will work like beavers to roll up the ballots for his opponent. Then, too, Judge Van Wyck is an amiable and upright man, with no blemish in his record, and conservative people think he will make a far better executive than the brilliant, but rather impracticable rough rider. The strongest card, however, for the Democrats, is the bad record of the Republican state administration. The tax payers are up in arms over the canal improvement fraud, and when they come to vote they are going to take a sure way of manifesting their displeasure with Gov. Black's regime."

Mr. McKinley is said to be very much disgusted at the position taken by Teddy Roosevelt, that his election to be Governor of New York is necessary as an indorsement of the administration and the war and it would not be surprising if he should take some way of letting it become known that he would not consider Roosevelt's defeat an affront to himself or his administration, although pressure is being brought to keep his mouth shut.

PATTISON FOR JENKS.

Being interviewed the other day, Ex-Governor Pattison gave answer to the following questions:

"It is really your opinion that Mr. Jenks has the vantage ground in the contest, is it not?"

"Unquestionably, unquestionably," he replied. "I firmly believe, from what I have seen, from what I personally know and from what I hear, that George A. Jenks will be elected governor of Pennsylvania. He is just the man the people need in an emergency of this kind and they know it. I know of no man in the country so eminently adapted for the peculiar circumstances that exist in Pennsylvania today as this very George A. Jenks. His character, ability and his every qualification would him out as a person specifically fitted for the duties an honest governor would feel called upon to perform at such a time as this. The voters appreciate this; they are bound to. Where Mr. Jenks is known he is loved and revered. Think of the fact that there is not a single incident of his life out of which his desperate enemies can make capital. He will live as a remarkable figure in the history of Pennsylvania politics."

"Now take Swallow's case. With his little band of prohibitionists he is hardly a figure in the campaign. Admitting he has stirred up considerable sentiment, do you think that anybody who is sufficiently interested in the campaign to give it a thought believes he has secured the difference between about 30,000 and 505,000? Of course you don't. It is a reflection upon the thinking capacity of our people. The Swallow boom is based almost entirely upon misrepresentations and the sentiment will gradually disappear. It is not dangerous now and will be inconceivable before election day. I give it about the same thought the Stewart movement proved to deserve. The one virtue of the Swallow movement is that it offers a haven to those Republicans who are not sufficiently in earnest and do not appreciate the importance of voting for Jenks."

"Are you sufficiently interested in the success of the ticket headed by Mr. Jenks to remain on the stump until the fight is over?" I asked.

"I have tendered my services for what they are worth, I will do my best, and cheerfully do whatever is mapped out for me. I am as deeply interested in the success of George A. Jenks as I was when I was myself a candidate. The very thought of that man as the governor of Pennsylvania, with a sympathetic Legislature, is enough to inspire any man to his highest and greatest efforts. Think what could be accomplished through his great ability, determination and honesty. It would be one of the greatest eras in Pennsylvania's history. Its effects would bless future generations."

Found a Petrified Indian.

The Phillipsburg Journal says an interesting discovery was made a short time ago in Clearfield county, which is already attracting wide spread attention. It is the perfect body of a large Indian, solidified through petrification.

The discovery was made by the workmen who are building a railroad from Clearfield Bridge to Belsena. As the men were making a cut through the rocky hill they unearthed the petrified body of the Indian at a depth of seven feet from the surface. The body is a perfect specimen in every respect, the features being clean cut and lifelike, except for color, and the entire specimen resembling a statue chiseled by a master hand. The arms of the Indian are folded. Ten men were required to remove the petrified body from its resting place.

Contractor McGovern contemplates presenting the interesting discovery to the Smithsonian Institute at Washington.

LOCAL ITEMS.

Cuttings of More than Ordinary Interest from Everywhere.

Cider is not very plenty. Shook's cider mill made some busy runs this week.

Abednego Stein, of Loveville, was granted a \$9 pension.

Eq. Bishel, of Farmers Mills, is furnishing the evaporating plant with many loads of apples.

Miner's apple evaporating establishment has taken in several thousand bushels of apples this week.

Mitchell Gardiner for Prothonotary is popular. He is well qualified and has an unstained character.

Israel Confer, an old resident of Millheim, seriously ill for a number of weeks, is still in a critical condition.

R. A. Bumiller, of Millheim, is not improving from the paralysis which followed his severe illness of typhoid fever.

The showers during the nights of Friday and Tuesday, have had a wonderfully refreshing effect upon the grain fields.

Rev. Rearick's appointments, Sunday Oct. 16: At Centre Hall, 7 p. m.; at Spring Mills, 2 p. m.; at Tusseyville 10 a. m.

A chicken and waffle supper will be served by the grangers in their new hall, on Thanksgiving evening, to which all are invited.

Some parties in town have refused to pay that part of their tax noted as "boro tax," thinking it is water tax in disguise, as we are informed.

Adam Krumrine's new traction engine has arrived, and it is a daisy; it will introduce itself to farmers forthwith and meet with favor, no doubt.

Mrs. Sarah Tressler, of Centre Hill, last spring planted five pecks of potatoes from which she had a yield of 30 bushels this fall. This is hard to beat.

Plasterer George Koch is now at work upon the walls of grange hall. The completion of the brick work gives the edifice a stately and imposing appearance.

A new ruffle has appeared on the Republican waters, by Dave Martin urging the election of Harry C. McCormick, of Williamsport, to the United States senate, to succeed M. S. Quay. Next to McCormick he is said to favor C. L. Magee, of Pittsburg.

On Thomas Hettrick's farm at Hummel's Wharf, Snyder county, a bed of stone has been discovered, of a very fine grain, equal to the finest whetstone, and which, on being tested, has all the qualities for bringing the sharpest edge on a razor.

From Saturday evening at 5, until Monday morning, there was no water from the new plant in one half of the town, the north part. The storing of the liquid during this interval, made certain of a fair flow from most of the hydrants on Monday, washday.

Newt. Spangler, candidate for district attorney, will be the recipient of a rare honor at the polls in November. He will be elected by a unanimous vote. He is so good and worthy a man that no candidate has been put upon the course against him.

The frame work for George Benner's new dwelling, at the station, is up and soon it will be under roof. The next to get on its pins will be the new house of shoemaker John Martz, after which one to be erected by dentist Hosterman, for which the cellar is now being excavated, will rear its head.

With a number of new names booked in the past few weeks the Reporter's edition is far above any period in its history. We are pleased to note this evidence of good will shown over the county. The Reporter has at all times striven to deserve the confidence of the public.

At an election about a year ago, the citizens of our town were asked by Council to permit bonding the boro for \$5000, pledging "AN ABUNDANCE OF PURE WATER for domestic and mechanical purposes AND FOR FIRE PROTECTION," from the Bible spring. Being warned in time that this spring was utterly inadequate, malice led to pushing on the work and spending the heavy taxation uselessly, outside advice evidently getting Council to go it blindly. The water supply, as predicted, proved a failure and the Bible scheme had to be abandoned. Then another demand was made for further bonding of the town to the amount of \$2500 "for an abundance of pure water for domestic and mechanical purposes and for fire protection." Our amiable boro fathers may have given too much heed to a suspected "hidden hand."