A SHAMEFUL RECORD

Plummer Earned Machine Favor By Abject Servility.

His Legislative Career Shows a Continuous Course of Iniquity and An Unbroken Record of Obedience to the Bosses-Voted For All the Vicious Legislation of the Gang and Against All Measures For the People.

to the affections of the Republican machine managers was in reward of his servility. His first service in the legislature was in the session of 1903, in which he was chairman of the house committee on elections. The sinister service required of him in that capacity was the unseating of two Democratic representatives who were honestly elected and giving their places to Republicans, prevent the passage of ballot reform and personal registration legislation and promote the iniquitous measures of the machine. The members were unseated the day before the close of the session, in order that the claimants might get the salary of \$1500 each and the perquisites of the office.

Base Use of Political Power.

Political iniquity was never invoked for a baser purpose. The testimony was overwhelmingly in favor of the sitting members, and during the inquiry offers were made to abandon the contest in consideration of support of certain legislation by the gentlemen concerned. Even the most daring of the machine leaders hesitated about perpetrating so palpable an outrage. But when the offers of compromise were indignantly refused, Chairman Plummer commanded the admiration of the banditti by boldly declaring in favor of the contestants and awarding the seat of Francis X. Blumle, of Cameron county, to H. H. Mullin, and that to which Bernard J. Ferry, of the Fourth district of Luzerne county, was fairly elected, to James G. Harvey.

Plummer, who prepared the reports by perversion of the evidence, was the only man who defended the iniquity, though it was assailed with great emphasis and considerable vehomence by both Democrats and Republicans on the floor. Frank B. Mc-Clain, of Lancaster, floor leader of the Republicans, was justly indignant at such a betrayal of honor and honesty. "If I felt that the sitting member from Cameron (Mr. Blumle) was not honestly entitled to his seat." said Mr. McClain, "I would vote to unseat him. But after diligent and unprejudiced inquiry and examination of the evidence submitted, I can find no reason for thus dealing with him." Thomas N. Cooper, the veteran and eloquent representative of Delaware county in house of representatives, also spoke earnestly against the adoption of the report, saying that he would cheerfully vote for it if any member of the elections committee who had signed it would give even a shadowy reason for it or produce a scintilla of evidence that Mr. Blumle was not entitled to his seat. Neither the report nor the speech of the chairman of the committee does this, he continued. Plummer's record on this crowning outrage may be found on pages 3729 to 3740 of the Legislative Record.

J. Lee Plummer's rapid progress in | immunity in stuffing ballot boxes and manipulating election returns. He voted for the bill creating a state

department of labor .-- Legislative Record, pages 1694-1700. This bill was opposed by the United Mine Workers for | coveted position, the reason that leaders in that organization believed that it would create a lot of useless offices. As a matter of fact that was the exact purpose of the measure. A place was needed for Captain James M. Clark, Republican machine boss in Lawrence county, who was to have been the head of the department, while the various other sinecures and soft snaps would have made excellent stock in trade for commerce in politics.

#### Hostility to Honest Elections Revealed

He voted for the bill appropriating to J. H. Shaw, one of the Philadelphia councilmen who voted for the gas lease and boasted that he would vote to override the mayor's veto, \$1071 for badges furnished the legislature of 1897 for a junket to Philadelphia to attend the dedication of the Washington monument-Legislative Record, page 2685. He also voted for the bill abolishing the circle on the official ballot-Legislative Record, pages 3, 437-38. The bill was so manifestly dishonest that the late Malcolm L. McConnell, chairman of the House Republican steering committee, voted against it.

As a "dodger" Mr. Plummer proved himself quite artful, moreover, during the session of 1903. That is he "dodged" several very important measures upon which public interest had centered. For example he is recorded as "absent and not voting" on the bill providing that election officers must be residents of the districts or divisions within which they act. - Legislative Record, pages 1029-30. The bill was notoriously designed to protect election frauds. Its effect would have been to legalize the phantom election officers of which so much is now heard in connection with the padded registry lists. He also "dodged" the vote on the bill providing that where a certificate of nomination is not sustained by the courts the petitioner shall be compelled to pay the costs .-- Legislative Record, page 2, 2029. The obvious intent of that bill was to prevent attacks on machine made tickets. With such a law

The Session of 1905. J. Lee Plummer's abject subserviency to the machine in the contested election cases disposed of during the session of 1903 made him a prime favorite at the beginning of the session of 1905. During the two previous sessions, Ward B. Bliss, of Delaware county, had been chairman of the committee on appropriations, admittedly the most important position in the Legislature rrom a machine standpoint, with the possible exception of the Speakership. According to precedent, Mr. Bliss, having been re-elected, stood to succeed himself, with Mr. McClain, of Lancaster, the fittest man in the body, measured by experience and ability for the office, first in the line of succession. Shortly before the session opened, however, Mr. Bliss died, and Plummer was jumped over McClain's head into the

Few outside of those intimately associated with legislation understand the vast power for good or evil vested in the chairmanship of the house committee on appropriations. He is in fact in control of the purse-strings of the Commonwealth, and supported by a well-disciplined machine can dispose of the revenues of the State almost at his pleasure. For years it has been one of the principal sources of revenue for the machine, the rake-off from appropriations to charitable and educational institutions amounting to a vast sum each session. But to make this graft available, it is necessary to have an absolutely obedient and entirely conscienceless man at the head of the committee. In the contested election cases, Mr. McClain showed that he couldn't be depended upon, and Plum-

## mer proved that he could. Therefore, State Charities Perverted.

Plummer was taken.

The record of the appropriations committee of the last Legislature is so notorious and rotten that it's hardly worth while to cite it in detail. The managers of every charity in the State know how their recommendations were ignored, the members of the committee remember how they were slighted, and the general public has come to understand that political expediency rather than the merits of institutions or the necessities of the wards of the Commonwealth was consulted in dispensing the charities. Representative Hays, of Butler county, a lifelong Republican and member of the committee, openly charged Chairman Plummer with usurping authority and betraying public interests by shaping the appropriations to serve the political machine ratuer than the interests of the people. Plummer was silent under the accusation because he knew it could be proved.

His relationship to other vicious legislation of the session of 1905 may well be examined by the voters who are

who contributed to the funds of the society as unfriendly and venal police authorities can. He voted for two of the infamous

Ehrhardt bills, and dodged the vote on the other. Legislative Record, pages 1080-81: 1414-15. These monstrous measures were in-

tended to protect the "white slave" dealers in Philadelphia. A number of miscreants had formed a syndicate to recruit for the brothels of that city and New York. Their method was to send agents into the country towns and to the ports of entry where, under promise of lucrative employment, they would induce attractive country girls and likely immigrant girls to accompany them to the dens of vice and crime. Once there, there was no escape, and they were starved or coerced into lives of shame. The Law and Order Society having obtained information of this most awful iniquity, set about to break it up. The deputy constables were invoked and several

> arrests made. The Ehrhardt bills prohibited deputy constables from serving warrants unless they were countersigned by the Superintendent of Police, the purpose being to notify any of the "white slave" dealers when warrants were issued against them so that they could escape arrest

Plummer was fully informed of the nature of those infamous bills as well as the object of them, but he supported them nevertheless Other Votes Inimical to Public Interest

'He voted for the Quay monument in capital park. Legislative Record, page 2292. He dodged the vote on the bill abol-

ishing fees for District Attorneys and substituting stated salaries. Legislative Record, page 2324. He voted for all the Philadelphia

'ripper" bills. Legislative Record, pages 3027-35. He voted for the freak libel bill in-

troduced at the instance of Mr. Olier. of Pittsburg. Legislative Record, pages 3919; 3957-58. He dodged the vote on the bill giving

privileges to the paper trust in Pennsylvania that are not enjoyed by other foreign corporations. Legislative Record, pages 848-51.

He spoke and voted against the amendment to the general appropriation bill, offered by Mr. Creasy, increasing the appropraition for township high schools from \$100,000 to \$200,-000. Republican Floor Manager Mc-Clain and others supported the meas ure, and the day after its defeat the machine bosses compelled Plummer to move a reconsideration of the vote. and stultify himself by an apology for his blunder. Even Durham and Penrose wouldn't stand for such folly.

There is no record of the vote on the motion of Mr. Dunsmore, of Tioga sociation with the treasures of the years to 90, but as that bill was a macontradiction that he supported with voted for the Judges' salary increase to the people. voice, vote or personal solicitation at the previous session, it may be preservile tools of the machine against the amendment. It was adopted, however, and the iniquitous bill was subsequently laughed off the calendars.

# WILLIAM H. BERRY

Brief Sketch of the Life and Achievements of the People's Candidate For State

Treasurer.

The biography of William H. Berry, Democratic nominee for state treasurer can be briefly written. His life has been one of endeavor and achieve. ment. He has been a worker from earliest manhood and whatever of success he has attained has been the fruit of his own effort.

Mr. Berry was born in Edwardsville, Illinois, September 9, 1852, and was educated in the public schools of that village. He served an apprenticeship as a machinist in Buffalo, New York, where he acquired a technical education in the night schools, giving his evenings to study after his days of labor. Upon the completion of his apprenticeship he served seven years as a journeyman machinist at the bench

In 1874 Mr. Berry located in Chester, where he had obtained employment as a machinist. Subsequently he worked there as journeyman, assistant foreman and foreman for 17 years, during which time he invented several labor-saving devices, some of which have proved profitable as well as useful.

In 1902 Mr. Berry established a plant of his own in Chester for the manufacture of steam specialties, under the title of the Berry Engineering company. He became president and general manager of that company, and incidentally, as its title invited, became consulting engineer of several large manufacturing plants in Chester and adjacent cities and towns.

Mr. Berry is essentially a self-made man. From the proceeds of his labor and the fruits of his inventive achievements he has enjoyed during recent years sufficient income to properly educate his children and create for his family a comfortable home. One of his sons has been schooled in the sciences sufficiently to take his place in the factory and another is serving honorably as a lieutenant in the Marine Corps of the United States navy.

Mr. Berry joined the Methodist church in 1876 and was made a local preacher in 1879. He has preached acceptably and with advantage to the church in all the churches in the vicinity of his home. He lectures frequently on scientific and economic subjects and is actively identified with all the charitable and philanthropic movements in the city in which he lives.

In politics Mr. Berry is a disciple of Thomas Jefferson, and though adverse to holding office has always been county, increasing the age limit in the faithful to civic obligations and active asked to entrust him with a closer as- odious Judges' retirement bill from 70 in public affairs. He has served in the Councils and School Board of his State. It can be said without fear of chine measure, and as Plummer had adopted home with great satisfaction

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#### Further Proof of Turpitude.

Though Mr. Plummer's efforts in those cases would have entitled him to the everlasting gratitude of the machine pirates they are not the sum and substance of his infamous achievements.

He was in full accord with all the machine legislation and voted for the Susquehanna river grab, which involved the repeal of the canal company's charter.

He supported the notorious Kingston Dam bill which was intended to bestow on machine favorites authority to seize the canal as well as all rivers and streams of the commonwealth.

The iniquitous filtration bill, which was designed to enrich certain favorites of the state machine and would have put the people of all parts of the state under the mercy of the "gang." received his active and earnest support.

Those bills were subsequently stricken from the calendar of the senate for the reason that Governor Pennypacker served notice on those concerned that he would positively veto every one of them. Even to oblige Quay and serve the conspirators who had gone to dangerous lengths to help him to the gubernatorial nomination the servile Pennypacker would not approve such monstrous measures. But Plummer had no qualms of conscience. He was cordially for them and his record to that effect will be found on pages 1520 and 1521. 1689, 2431 to 2435 of the Legislative Record.

Plummer's record on other machine legislation during the session of 1903 was equally maladorous, moreover. He voted for and made a speech in support of the Moore's judges' salary bill, which increased the salaries of all the judges in the state in violation of the constitution-Legislative Record, page 897

He roted for the bill authorizing the city commissioners instead of the courts of Philadelphia to appoint election officers in that city .- Legislative Record, page 909. The purpose of that bill was to give the Penrose-Durham-McNichol machine greater freedom and

would be hazardous and might be very expensive.

in force nominations by certificate

Plummer As An Artful Dodger.

Mr. Plummer likewise "dodged" the vote on the resolution of Frank W. Mohr, anti-machine Republican of Berks county, to refer to the committee for a public hearing the atrocious Snyder water works bill, which the "gang" was forced by public sentiment to abandon after orders for its passage had been issued. This buil was clandestine. ly introduced into the house and was intended to give the Penrose-Durham-McNichol machine power to dispose of the Philadelphia water works in the same manner that they tried to steal the gas works since. Plummer's record on the resolution will be found in the Legislative Record, page 2359. The "culminating atrocity" of Mr.

Plummer's record during the session of 1903 was his vote for the infamous but useless "Press Muzzier," the Salus-Grady libel law. He had been admonished against the outrage of the constitution and attempt to stifle civil and religious liberty. But Quay was smarting under the shame of his then recent trial for misusing the funds of the state and his associate gangsters probably felt that the storm which has since broken over them was then impending and hoped to avert it by muzzling the press. The expectation was disappointment, however, and the per-

fidious legislator rather than his intended victims is suffering the consequence of his folly.

## Plummer's Crowning Outrage.

It was during the session of 1903, moreover, that Plummer made clear his servility to the machine and treachery to the people by openly opposing personal registration. Mr. Ikeler, of Columbia county, had introduced a resolution to discharge from the committee on elections, of which Plummer was chairman, the ballot bill prepared by the Democratic state committee and which Quay had promised to support. It provided for personal registration in the cities and in opposing the resolution to discharge the committee and place it on the calendar Mr. Plummer said:

"I does not seem to me to be right or just because there is a cry of fraud in Philadelphia that every city in the state should be put to the inconvenience and expense of a personal registration law to enable a few reformers to experiment with the cure of fraud in that city." Legislative Record, pages 192-22.

As the claim of patriotism is "the last refuge of a scoundrel so the bugaboo of the cost is the first and last resort of a corruptionist who sees reform approaching." Naturally Mr. Plummer invoked this expedient to delay personal registration, but the failure of it then has cost the people tenfold more in graft since than personal registration would have come to in a generation

Current.

every iniquitious measure considered sumed that he voted with the other during the session, and that he didn't vote for a single measure in the interest of the people unless it was some trifle which the machine consented to as a sort of sop to the reform whale. For example:

He voted against a resolution instructing Pennsylvania Senators, and requesting our Representatives in Congress to vote for the legislation advocated by President Roosevelt prohibiting discrimination in freight charges and the payment of rebates. Legislative Record, pages 200-204.

### Against Personal Registration.

He voted against the resolution offered by Mr. Sheatz, of Philadelphia, to discharge the elections committee from the further consideration of his personal registration bill for cities of the State. Legislative Record, pages 977-78. The measure had been held in committee so long that the purpose to smother it stood revealed, and the object of the motion was to put it on the calendar in order that it might have a chance of passing. Mr. Plummer and most of the Republicans under orders from the machine managers voted against the motion and defeated it.

He dodged the vote on the resolution offered by Mr. Creasy to put the bill allowing trolley railrads to carry freight on the calendar. Legislative Record, pages 2219-22. That measure was also being stifled in committee by machine orders.

He voted against the resolution offered by Mr. Scofield, Republican, of Clearfield, to take the employers' liability out of the committee on judiciary general and place it on the calendar. Legislative Record, pages 2224-27. This bill was advocated by the United Mine Workers and other labor organizations, and is already in successful and satisfactory operation in a number of States.

#### The Infamous Vice Bills.

He voted for the atrocious Puhl bill. Legislative Record, pages 1039-40.

This measure was designed to destroy the Philadelphia Law and Order Society. When the partnership between the police department and the purveyors of vice became so notorious that the public conscience revolted, the Law and Order Society was organized as a defensive expedient by well-meaning people. For several years it had been the only agency to repress vice, and its activities were in some measure menacing the prosperity of the odious partnership. The society operated through deputy constables appointed by friendly Magistrates. The constables operated under the direction of agents of the society, and without consultation with the police. The Puhl bill required all such organizations to make public all its movements, including its sources of revenue, the obvious purpose being to enable the police department to "tip off" the criminals all contemplated raids, and punish those

## DR. WESTON IS FOR BERRY

The Venerable Theologian Congratulates Candidate On His Speeches. The religious world, as it is repre sented in Pennsylvania, is concerned in the pending political campaign more than usual. That is, those concerned with the conservation of the moral interests of the State are cordial in their support of the Democratic nominee for State Treasurer. For example, when the newspaper

comments on Mr. W. H. Berry's speech accepting the Democratic nomination for State Treasurer reached the retreat of Rev. Dr. Henny G. Weston, president of Crozier Theological Seminary, that venerable educator and clergyman was delighted, not only with the fact of the nomination, but with the high plane upon which the candidate placed himself.

In proof of this fact, the following leter from Dr. Weston to Mr. Berry la apropo:

Crozier Theological Seminary

Chester, Pa., Sept. 3, 1965. My Dear Mr. Berry: Allow me to say that I have been exceedingly pleased with the reports in the newspapers of your speeches—your campaign speeches throughout the State. They are not only admirable in spirit, but most poli-tic in their influence on the contest. Attacks on the personal character of an opponent invariably crouse sym-

pathy for the man abused, and awaken or increase a personal dislike for the speaker. Where it is possible, a manly tribute like that you paid to the late Mayor here intensifies the impression that you are honestly striving for a principle and not for personal advance ment or personal revenge. You can not do better for yourself or your cause than to rigidly adhere to the course you have thus far pursued. For your success you have my best wishes and my words always when they will do you any good. I am very truly HENRY G. WESTON. yours.

Dr. Weston is widely known throughout this country and Europe as a theologian and scholar. His tribute to the personal fitness and character of Mr. Berry will have a profound influence on the public mind of the country.

#### Plants That Mimic Stones.

In South Africa a plant of the genus Mesembryanthemum, growing on stony ground, so closely resembles a pebble that it has been picked up in mistake for a stone. Another species of the same plant growing on the hils around the Karru produces two leaves about as large as ducks' eggs. having a surface resembling weathered stone of a brownish gray color. tinged with green. These plants look like stones, but for a short time they put forth bright yellow flowers. Still another species of the same plant resembles the quartz pebbles among which it grows.

Mr. Berry was that in which he is now in commission. The city of Chester had been ring ridden far beyond the limit of peaceful endurance for many years, and public protests were literally laughed down. Last spring, however, the people determined to make one great effort at rescue, and the Democrats nominated Mr. Berry for Mayor. The prospect of sucess was not promising when he was notified that the honor had been bestowed upon him. At the November election prevolusly. Roosevelt had nearly 6000 majority out of a total vote of a little more than 10,000, and in order to win, therefore, it was necessary that he should get all the Democrats, every Prohibitionist in the city and nearly half the Republicans. Most men would have been appalled at such a condition, but it didn't frighten him. He accepted the nomination, and promptly set about to secure the election. After the most exciting contest in the history of the city, the vote resulted in a substantial majority for Mr. Berry.

And he has "made good." During the campaign Mr. Berry declared that in the event of his election the iniquities which were disgracing the city should cease. Just as he asserts now, that if he is elected State Treasurer the graft in the finances of the state will be stopped, so he said then that if elected Mayor the gambling dens, speak-easies and vice resorts should be eliminated from the life of the city. That pledge has been fulfilled, moreover. The moment he entered upon the duties of the office he set himself to the task of fulfilling his promise and found it exceedingly easy of achievement

Probably no man in Pennsylvania had less thought of the Democratic nomination for State Treasurer on the day of the Democratic State Convention met than Mr. Berry. But the revolt against civic uprighteousness had just begun in Philadelphia, and all minds were turning toward reform and reformers.

In this state of public opinion the name of William H. Berry, the reformer who "does things," was mentioned, and it ran through the body like "fire in an August clearing," and he was unanimously nominated. As he declared in his speech of acceptance, he

had nothing to do with the matter up to that time, but he has taken a hand since, and is now leading a triumphant army to certain victory.

Mr. Berry has always been peculiarly fortunate in his relations with workingmen and organized labor. Indeed, he freely ascribes his success in the mayoralty campaign to the cordial and earnest support of the artisans in the community. He has been an employer of labor for many years, and during recent years extensively so. But he has never had a labor strike or serious difficulty with his employes on account of wages or differences of any kind.

