

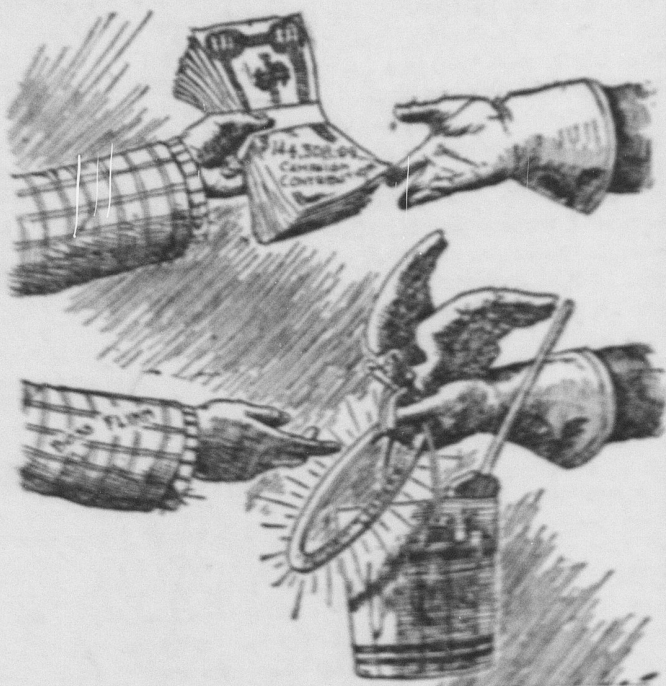
# EDITORIAL COMMENT

By HERBERT

The most significant sentence in Mr. Berry's speech of acceptance was uttered near its close. "Immense bond issues for road building are contemplated," he said, "and tried men may prove valuable in handling this money." The appropriation for the capitol building was \$4,500,000. With that as a basis of operations the managers of the Republican Machine stole \$9,000,000. If William H. Berry had not been elected State Treasurer the loot would have amounted to \$25,000,000, according to an admission of one of the beneficiaries of the graft. With \$50,000,000 to start on the possibilities are simply a problem in mathematics. Four and a half into nine goes twice; into twenty-five, six and a quarter times. Six times fifty are three hundred and the figures stand for millions which may be stolen unless properly guarded.

Speaking upon this subject it may be worth while to remark that William Flinn, the Bull Moose Boss, originated the brilliant idea of spending \$50,000,000 in road construction in this State. Flinn didn't know at the time that the constitution of the State forbids the borrowing of money for the purpose of building roads. He did know, however, that he had better facilities and more complete equipment for building roads on an extensive scale than any other man in Pennsylvania and that a law providing for \$50,000,000 worth of road construction would be a pudding for Bill. But other Senators and Representatives in the Legislature were equal to persuasion and refused to vote for the project until after they thought Flinn was dead or lost in the struggle.

Flinn was neither dead nor lost during the interval in which he was obscured from public observation. He was simply "doing work," so to speak, and when the



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skies had somewhat cleared he emerged on the back of the Bull Moose, galloped into control of the Republican State convention and nominated candidates for Auditor General and State Treasurer who would burn down the capitol to oblige him. Meantime preparations had been made to amend the constitution to authorize the expenditure of the \$50,000,000 in road building and as everybody is in favor of good roads the chances are more than even that the plan will be consummated. In that event with A. W. Powell in the office of Auditor General and Robert W. Young in that of State Treasurer Bill's pudding would be immersed in an inexhaustible fountain of molten gold sauce.

BOSS FLINN has two ambitions. One is to be Senator in Congress and the other to be among the enormously rich men. With his servile tools in control of the fiscal agencies of the State and a fund of \$50,000,000 accessible for road construction, he might easily gratify both these desires. Senator Penrose alleges that he offered one and possibly two million dollars for the Senatorial toga when he only had a fortune of five or six millions. With the augmented resources which the \$50,000,000 road building operations would afford, he could increase his offer to a figure multiplied by five and there is a tradition that "the longest pole knocks the persimmons." No other Pennsylvanian could, even if there were another willing to, stand against him in the market.

In the light of these facts we are compelled to concur in the opinion expressed by William H. Berry, in his speech of acceptance, that in view of the fact that "immense bond issues are contemplated and tried men may prove valuable in handling this money."



THE CLEANERS.—Dr. McR. In the Record.