

SHEEHAN A LARGE SUCCESS IN BUSINESS OF POLITICS

Ambition Not Satisfied With Petty Jobs—A Master at Scouting Direction of Wind and Telling Which Side of Bread Contained the Butter

WHEN the management of a big and well-managed business concerns finds itself in need of men to fill vacancies in important positions it goes into the market for men. By newspaper advertising or other means it makes its requirements known. It solicits applications. Statements and the records of all applicants are investigated and scrutinized. The bigger and better managed the concern is, the more jealous of its good name in the business world, the more careful its inquiries. It does not mind spending two weeks of a \$200-a-month man's time to find out which of a half dozen applicants is the most desirable for a \$60-a-month clerkship.

A city is a big business concern. Philadelphia is a big business concern. It is in the market for men and there are many applicants. As the success of any other big business concern depends upon the care and success with which it picks its employees, so the success of Philadelphia depends upon the care and success with which it chooses its.

As a man employed for the purpose would investigate the records of applicants for positions in a big commercial or industrial house the Evening Ledger has made, for the benefit of the city of Philadelphia, some investigations of the records of applicants for important city posts. The results of those inquiries are being published in a series of articles, the fifth of which is printed herewith.

JAMES B. SHEEHAN, candidate on the Republican ticket for re-election as Register of Wills, is a politician. In the thoroughness of his devotion to politics and in his reliance upon politics for the making of a living and the accumulation of wealth, he is distinguished from all other candidates, even from those who stand with him as standard bearers of the "blackjack" machine. Mr. Shoyer and Mr. Rotan, though active and energetic in politics, are lawyers, and as such have won legitimate success. Walter George Smith is a successful lawyer. Mr. Armstrong is a business man, the head of a thriving manufacturing business built from the bottom. Mr. Nicholson is a banker. Sheehan is and has always been a politician.

He has, however, some business connections. He is the president of the James B. Sheehan Building and Loan Association. The association is governed by a board of directors, not by Mr. Sheehan, although circulars issued by the association bear a large picture of the Register of Wills, thereby giving an impression to some persons that he is the real head of the concern. Mr. Sheehan's position in City Hall enables him to advance the interests of the building and loan association and it prospers. It is a legitimate institution.

The routine business of Mr. Sheehan's office in City Hall is conducted systematically and to the entire satisfaction of the vast majority of persons having legitimate business to transact with the Register of Wills. There may be occasional criticisms, such as are directed at every the biggest and best-organized business houses, but, generally, satisfaction is given to employees, who are courteous and understand their work.

James B. Sheehan began his political career in South Philadelphia, where he was a bare follower. He was a typical division worker in the first place. The mental make-up and the morality of a professional politician are such that he can turn his allegiance from one party or faction to another as easily as a typewriter salesman can go from one company to another that offers him higher pay or better prospects.

Late in the nineties Sheehan got into a factional row and it became expedient for him to put on the badge of the reformer. He went to the Union party, then fighting for cleaner politics and better government, and asked for a job. The job that was

ness and send them to the proper persons if their errands were legitimate. But Sheehan was not the man to remain long in such a humble place. He was clever and he made friends. He had a convincing manner that won the confidence of men who believed in political virtue, just as it had won confidence of Vane's henchmen in other days.

The year 1902 found Sheehan and William R. Knight at the helm of the Union party in the city. By this time virtually all of the real leaders of reform were out of the Union organization, which had been intended in the first place as a temporary thing, and were planning a new and permanent party of reform. There remained in the Union ranks men of two classes, sincere but not over-enthusiastic who favored good government and did not realize what had happened to the party, and professional politicians, who, abandoned by the machine or machine factions, had suddenly grown virtuous and crept into the reform ranks in the hope of staving off starvation.

With this material to work with Sheehan and Knight set about recovering their political fortunes. The Union party nominated them for Magistrates. Their organization was not strong enough to stand against the others, but it was strong enough to command the attention of the Republican machine. Sheehan and Knight had demonstrated that they had a following worth dealing for.

In the autumn of 1902 the Republicans nominated Samuel W. Pennypacker for Governor and the Democrats Robert E. Pattison. The Union party of the State called its convention to be held in Musical Fund Hall. The day of the convention was September 3. Frank M. Ritter, Thomas L. Hicks, Colonel Mapes and other

leaders of the Union party State organization, having set wind of a scheme of Sheehan and Knight to seize the State body and therefore increase their political strength, appealed to Director of Public Safety English for police protection. It was promised. Early on September 3 James B. Sheehan, erstwhile Vane follower, erstwhile reformer, obtained tickets to the convention for thirty-two city Union party delegates to the State Union party convention. These he took to the delegates who were assembled to await him in the Republican committee rooms at 1212 Walnut street.

Hardly were the convention delegates from the State assembled in Musical Fund Hall when a crowd of 200 men, among them the Sheehan-Knight Union party delegates, marched against the building. The marchers, it was declared, were armed with black-jacks, knives and revolvers. They demanded admittance to the delegates and refused to appeal to the police for protection against the mob, which was threatening violence. The police stood still, refusing to interfere. One policeman insistently stepped forward, but was sharply ordered back into line by the officer in command. Then the mob rushed the doorkeepers and smashed its way into the hall. The tactics were the same as those employed in the recent Fifth Ward reign of terror, but by good luck nobody was killed.

Chairman Ritter pounded for order and commanded the other who were delegates to quit the hall. Yells and oaths drowned his voice. The gang demanded that Ritter take the chair, and he was thrust upon the platform, a policeman on each side of him. Other knights-Sheehan men grabbed Ritter's leg and tried to haul him down, but he stood

his ground. Confusion reigned for more than an hour. When Ritter saw it was impossible to restore order he declared the convention adjourned to meet in the afternoon in the Continental Hotel, and the State Unionists left the hall to the mob. The knights-Sheehan forces, left in command of the hall, proceeded to nominate Pennypacker for Governor and adjourned. The State Unionists met in the Continental Hotel and nominated Pattison.

Pennypacker was elected. The Union party had been made an adjunct, a tail or a trailer for the Republican machine. In what degree the methods employed by the Sheehan-Knight crowd were like those resorted to by the Vane machine in the Fifth Ward is shown by comparison of newspaper editorials that followed the Fifth Ward outrage with one published in the Public Ledger after the Musical Fund riot. The Public Ledger said, in part:

The Administration of Mayor Ashbridge is the active embodiment of the unscrupulous tyranny which the convention was

called to oppose, a tyranny which rests upon force, fraud and political terrorism. The scenes enacted at Musical Fund Hall were but a repetition, on a larger scale, of the methods commonly employed at the polling places, where honest citizens are driven away and organized crime, protected by the police, rolls up the fraudulent majorities that defy the popular will.

Sheehan's services to the machine were recognized by his appointment to a clerkship in the Orphans' Court, where he served as assistant to James S. Bird, marriage license clerk.

Now the Vares, their ambition keeping ahead of their gaining strength, aspired to capture McNichol territory. Sheehan moved into the Twelfth Ward, and the Vares expected him to advance their interests. But Sheehan, who had been a politician so far, was a politician still. He knew upon which side his political bread was buttered. He became a McNichol follower. After John E. Keyburn became Mayor, Sheehan was made Assistant Director of Public Safety,

and held the post until Keyburn was ousted by the voters. Sheehan then became Mayor. Sheehan "went into business" with his nephews, lawyers and real estate dealers, with offices in the Lincoln Building, and this business was not enough to keep him busy, and he obtained appointments as a mercantile appraiser.

In 1912 Sheehan was elected Register of Wills, and he took office January 7, 1912. As Register of Wills, Mr. Sheehan has collected approximately \$125,000 in estate and inheritance tax fees. Under an act of Assembly of July 21, 1913, these fees should be turned into the County Treasury, and Sheehan would receive only the salary. Sheehan has been sued for the fees, and has attacked the constitutionality of the act. So far he has won, but the litigation is still pending in the Supreme Court. Sheehan has fought every step of the way, and is still fighting. He has been asked to be charitable to the county and turn over the fees, even though technical flaws in the act may enable him to retain them.

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ONE YELLOW TRADING STAMP WITH EVERY 10c PURCHASE ALL DAY

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Straight line styles, belted all around. Made of fine wool, velour, mannish coatings and black seal plush—plain tailored or trimmed with kit cone, velvet, plush or kerani.

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Of serge, mesaline satin, crepe de chine and tulle, in brown, Concord, Copenhagen blue, navy blue, black, etc. Pretty styles with belts, Georgette crepe sleeves and button trimming.

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WOMEN'S COATS \$29.75

Of Velour, Broadcloth and Mannish Coatings in Brown, Green Taupe, Navy Blue and Black

They show collars and cuffs of kerani. French cone fur collars or long shawl collars of plush. Suits lined.

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