

THE TREASURY LOOTERS

The Appalling Figures That Show How It Cost More Than Ten and a Half Millions of Dollars in Excess of the Cost in 1883-86 to Run the State. The Machine Figuring on New Tax Bills to Get Money to Make Good the Treasury Deficiency.

A Harrisburg correspondent writes: There are two problems of serious importance facing the treasury officials of Pennsylvania to-day. The first is now, for the sake of the Republican machine, by whose favor they hold office, the fact that there is a practical deficit of nearly \$3,000,000 in the state treasury can be disguised or explained satisfactorily to the voters. The second is, how they can get the additional money which will be absolutely needed for the coming year's expenses if machine rule is to be continued, or unless an anti-Republican Legislature shall be chosen this fall and shall proceed, immediately after convening, to stop all the steals and cut off all the extravaganzas.

As to preventing the people from learning that there is a deficit, that it is an ugly one, and that it will sooner or later produce no end of embarrassment, both for the state and its creditors, that is simply impossible. The facts are too plain. The ordinarily intelligent man has but to take up the reports of the state treasurer and auditor general and glance for a moment at the figures to satisfy himself as to the melancholy and disgraceful truth. Each year, for the four years last past, the appropriations have exceeded the estimated expenditures, and the actual expenditures have been greater than the estimated income by from two to four millions of dollars. For the year 1898 the treasurer's estimate of income, leaving the sinking fund out of consideration, was \$11,191,628, while he found that, in going over the 1897 appropriation bills and adding to their totals the overdue payments on previous appropriations, there would be needed during 1898, again omitting the sinking fund items, the enormous sum of \$17,546,823. That sort of financing, continued for a few years, would bankrupt even a Standard Oil trust.

Corruption and waste have been conspicuous in Pennsylvania state governmental matters for very many years, but it was not until Beaver's administration began, in 1887, that the looters got things down fine and began stealing and squandering by wholesale. Undoubtedly there were moneys unnecessarily expended from 1883 to 1888 inclusive under Pattison, but the total expenditures were nevertheless comparatively modest. The following, taken from the reports of the auditor general, show the total expenditures during that period on current account—that is, less interest, loans redeemed and United States bonds purchased:

1883	.....	\$4,326,974
1884	.....	4,383,515
1885	.....	5,068,782
1886	.....	4,367,751

Total \$18,147,024
Average each year \$4,536,256

During the same period there were state loans redeemed, including the premiums paid thereon, aggregating \$2,290,427, and United States bonds purchased under the Humes' act amounting to \$5,306,814. These items are not included in the above total.

As an exhibit of how the machine has learned to get away with the taxpayers' money since then, the following exhibit of the yearly expenditures under Hastings, added to the actual surplus left over from 1894 in the general fund, and the deficit that will show at the close of 1898 will be found edifying:

The 1894 surplus	.....	\$3,397,747
The 1895 actual expenditures	.....	13,492,962
The 1896 actual expenditures	.....	11,094,517
The 1897 actual expenditures	.....	12,768,515
The 1898 estimated exp.	.....	17,073,452
The probable deficit	.....	2,762,834

Total \$60,820,027
Average per year 1895-98 \$15,205,006
Average per year 1893-96 4,539,256

So that the Hastings administration has cost the state more than ten and one-half millions of dollars each year over and above the yearly cost of the first Pattison administration. Again, I say, financing of that sort would quickly bankrupt even a Standard Oil trust. What are they going to do about it? They don't know themselves. And, except for the disastrous effect it is apt to have upon the prospects of Republican success in November, when the facts become generally known, and they certainly will be, they don't care much. They are just now most concerned regarding the threat of certain school districts to test the state's right to hold moneys that have been appropriated to their use and that are due under the terms of the law. If that test should be made and the decision be against the state, it would not be surprising to see the treasury issuing orders at no distant day in payment of salaries and other current expenses. Of course, if that result can be avoided, it will be, and in the hope of avoiding it the treasury officials are busily engaged in devising schemes to get more money out of the corporations as tax on their capital stock, etc. This will be done by raising the assessments as made in the auditor general's department, and if that plan will not work, then they will be prepared with a bill, to accomplish it, which they will urge upon the legislature next winter. If that legislature is an anti-machine body, as is now hoped, it will address itself rather to lopping off expenditures than to devising new tax schemes.

It is really amusing that "Boss" Martin should be lauded as a reformer. What Wanamaker says and what Swallow says all goes to prove that Jenks should be elected.

All the "Pluck me store" proprietors in the field are candidates on the Republican ticket. There are Tropp in the Bedford and Woodin in the Columbia district running for congress as Republicans.

The Philadelphia Times says that two influential Democratic papers are out for Swallow. One of them is a Populist paper and the other a side organ in a county where there were but 1,106 Democratic voters in 1896. A larger, brainier and in every way better Democratic paper in the same county is straight for the ticket. The voters are in the same boat.

QUAYISM IN FIGURES.

How Four Years of Machine Rule Converted a Real Surplus of Nearly Four Millions into a Real Deficiency of Nearly Three Millions--The Figures From the Records That Support Mr. Jenks' Charge That the State Treasury Is Bankrupt.

Mr. Jenks has charged, upon the stump, that the state treasury is bankrupt and the astounding fact has not been and cannot be denied. Here are the figures, from the official records of the machine state treasurers, that prove it:

GENERAL FUND RECEIPTS.	
1895	..... \$11,746,411
1896	..... 12,265,756
1897	..... 12,475,970
1898	..... 11,191,628

GENERAL FUND PAYMENT.	
1895	..... \$13,402,962
1896	..... 11,094,517
1897	..... 12,768,515
1898	..... 17,073,452

Total \$54,249,446

The figures for 1898 are the official estimates of the state treasurer. He calculates the probable receipts, and he puts down the actual obligations. By the end of the year, therefore, if all the obligations are in the meanwhile met, the state will have expended, during the four years of Governor Hastings' administration, \$6,570,581 more than its income.

But there was a real balance left over from Governor Pattison's last year, 1894.

Auditor General Gregg (Republican) spoke of that balance in his annual report for that year as follows: After noting that the nominal balance was \$5,014,942, he said: "Of the amount paid into the state treasury (as personal property tax) there remains to be paid back to the counties \$1,273,578.69. This should properly be deducted from the reported balance, in order to ascertain the real, which deduction being made, would show a real balance of \$3,741,363.25."

"While we may point with pride to the existence of this large balance, it must not be too readily assumed that it will prove an unmixed blessing. Its very existence will invite applications for its appropriation to purposes neither necessary nor deserving. The revenues of the state are at present ample to meet its expenses if economically applied."

And then this Republican auditor went on to recommend the appropriation of the surplus "to some needed public use, whose benefits should be enjoyed by the entire people, without placing upon the commonwealth an annual charge therefor."

Inheriting this "real surplus" of \$3,741,363.25 from his predecessor, and expending in four years \$6,570,581 in excess of its income, the Hastings administration has exhausted the surplus and left the state \$2,762,834 in the hole. With "money to burn," so to speak, four years ago, the treasury now has, if its debts were paid, nearly \$3,000,000 less than nothing.

This is Quayism fittingly illustrated in figures.

STATE REFORM.

Democrats No Eleventh Hour Convert to the Doctrine--Hear Cent Extracts From Their State Platforms.

The Democratic party is no eleventh hour convert to state reform. For years it has been presenting the ugly facts and urging amendment. Whenever it has had opportunity it has loyally redeemed its pledges, to the full limit of its power. The following will be interesting reading in this connection:

In 1874 the Democrats of the state in their platform denounced the Republicans for fostering corporations to the detriment and injury of the great agricultural interest; for having introduced frauds and corruption into the departments of the state government and among the state officials generally, and for having failed to dismiss them when exposed and convicted. They demanded a greater economy and the lopping off of every needless expense.

In 1882 the Democrats elected their state ticket and secured a majority in the house on a platform devoted to state issues and condemning Republican theft and reckless expenditure.

In 1885 the party thus said: "The long continued abuses and spoliations of the state treasury and the defiance of laws by its management make essential a radical reform so that large sums shall not be accumulated by taxation of the people to be distributed among the favored depositories of the state."

The convention of 1887 denounced the Republican legislature for "its failure to pass the state revenue bill, which was urged by nearly all the people in the commonwealth and which, by its failure, made the people pay a million of dollars annually that should and would have been paid by corporations."

It denounced, also, "the failure of the administration to attempt any correction of the wrong doing or exposure of the fraud or criminal neglect, as confessing the supremacy of ring rule in Pennsylvania."

The convention of 1890 again urged reform, condemned the Bardley steal, and, following the election of the Democratic governor, Robert B. Pattison, the monies stolen by the said Bardley and others were restored to the state treasury.

A Halting Cry Everywhere. All along the northern tier of counties, throughout the old regions and in the iron manufacturing districts the name of the Democratic candidate for governor is a talisman to conjure with, a rallying cry for multitudes of honest men who stand stoutly together for honest politics. The western Pennsylvania Democrats and Independents are flocking to the standard of George A. Jenks because they see in his candidacy an assurance of deliverance of the state from the clutches of unclean hands that have grasped power only for plunder and personal advantage. Wherever intelligent public opinion finds expression throughout the state there is ready and ample concession of Mr. Jenks' fitness for the office of governor, and especially at this juncture, when there is need for a stern executive hand at Harrisburg to restore old landmarks of honest state administration.—Philadelphia Record.

LEGISLATIVE EMPLOYEES.

How Their Number and Cost Have Grown Since the Democrats Had a Voice in the Matter--A Dead Swindle in the Thing--Extra Clerks and Employees Paid for Twice--The Chief Clerks Drove the Law's Limitations as to Contingent Expenses, Etc.

The number and cost of the officers and employees of the two houses of the legislature are justly objects of much criticism. If the public business were expedited by the constant increase of the number of this class of hangers on, with the attendant large expense involved, there would be no complaint. But it is plain that so large a force is not needed. Many of them do nothing at all, practically, to earn the money they draw from the treasury. Some of them spend but little more than as much time in Harrisburg as will suffice to sign the requisite vouchers and draw their pay. Those that are at hand are so numerous that they crowd each other and are in each other's way. There are certain periods of the session at which certain of the clerks, notably those in the transcribing rooms, are required to work hard, and even excessively, but this is compensated for by the far more numerous other times, when they have little or nothing to do. Outside of two or three in each house, none of them put in as much time, or render as much service, as would be exacted from them in private or corporate employ for much less remuneration.

Up to and including 1883 the force was large enough in all conscience. It is not easy to dig out the records—there are generally in so unsatisfactory a state as to details, and change their form so frequently from year to year—with absolute accuracy, just the information of which one is in search.

But, in so far as can be gathered from the reports of the auditor general and the general appropriation acts, the senate in that year had 41 officers and employees and the house, which was Democratic, 37. The very next legislative year (1885), however, the number in the house was increased to 58 regular and two extras, making 60 in all. There was no need or reasonable excuse for the jump. The 7 clerks of 1883 did as much work as the 10 of 1885, the 6 pasters and folders of 1883 put up and sent out the documents as promptly as the 11 of 1885, and the 10 pages of 1883 served the personal needs of the members as faithfully and fully as the 15 of 1885. But there was demand for more sinecures to compensate the "workers," who had repaired in 1885 the damage the machine had suffered at the hands of the Democrats and Independents in 1882, and they had to be provided.

There were no apparent increases of the force in either body for the ensuing 10 years, the 41 sufficing in the senate and the 58 in the house. But in 1895 came an enormous jump, the number in the senate being increased to 47 and that in the house to 69. In fact, excepting the "extra employees," which gave rise to the indemnity bond scandal, there were no more in 1897 than in 1895. It was the legislature of the last named year that was the primary offender in this regard, notwithstanding the fact that it was scarcely noticed by the gentlemen who were so indignant and outraged by the performances of 1897. And in connection with the 1895 employees in the senate, there is something singular. An act of March 5 of that year authorizes the chief clerk to appoint an executive clerk at \$1,500, two additional transcribing clerks at \$7 per day and two additional janitors at the compensation usually allowed that class of employees. These appointments were made, and the auditor general's report shows that the salaries stipulated were paid to the appointees direct from the state treasury. But it shows also that \$3,700 was paid to the chief clerk for the "salaries of additional officers and employees under the act of 1895." Who did that \$3,700 go to? Not to the executive clerk and the others lawfully, though needlessly authorized, for they got their money from the treasury on the regular pay rolls. Who, then, got it? Are we not right in saying that it is difficult to determine from the records how many officers and employees there are?

There is a very loose and entirely unconstitutional process resorted to in both houses to provide for extra employees and for their compensation. Section 19 of Article III of the constitution, which article covers the subject of legislation, says: "The general assembly shall provide by law the number, duties and compensation of the officers and employees of each house, and no payment shall be made from the state treasury or be in any way authorized, to any person, except to an acting officer or employee elected or appointed in pursuance of law."

Section 15 of the same article is to the following effect: "No money shall be paid out of the treasury except upon appropriations made by law and on warrant drawn by the proper officers in pursuance thereof."

Yet, on the last day of the session of the house of 1897, Mr. Keyser offered and the house passed the following resolution: "Resolved, That the payment for extra labor in the house of representatives for session of 1897, including committee and transcribing clerks, not provided for by special items in the appropriation act, be paid by the chief clerk, on vouchers approved by the speaker and attested by the chief clerk, warrant to be issued by the auditor general to the chief clerk or the state treasurer therefor."

The house has no constitutional right to vote money in that way. The state treasurer has no right to issue his warrant upon any such authorization. The auditor general has no right to pass such an account. The question of lawful right or constitutionality will never, however, amount to a deterrent when the machine has a purpose to fulfill, so long as the machine remains dominant in the legislature. There is but one cure. The Democrats must capture the body named. The Democratic house of 1883 was as well, if not better, served by the 37 lawfully authorized clerks and employees as was the Republican house of 1897 by 69, nearly, if not twice, the number. The \$27,886 paid during the regular session of 1883 for

the service was sufficiently extravagant. The \$74,197 paid in 1897 for no better service, if as good, was more than half of it thrown away. And yet, if Hastings had permitted it, the appropriation would have been \$12,500 more, that being, in round figures, the sum of the governor's vetoes in this line. The increase in the cost of the senate clerks, etc., has been just about as great. The appropriation for 1883 was \$23,700. The appropriation for 1887-88 was \$47,710, and was \$54,974 before being trimmed by the vetoes. And if William A. Stone should be elected governor and a majority of machine legislators returned, every item vetoed by Hastings will be reinserted in the general appropriation bill to cover "a deficiency in salaries, etc." passed and approved.

The contingent funds of the senate and house indicate a like degree of fraud and extravagance, even if we admit that the money is actually expended as professed. In 1883 an appropriation of \$4,000 for the senate and \$5,000 for the house, to be paid out by the chief clerks, was considered adequate to cover all contingencies. In addition, the librarian of the senate got \$1,200 for recess postage, etc., and the resident clerk of the house got \$1,050 for the same purpose. In 1897 the appropriation for the senate for contingencies was limited to \$8,925, and for the house to \$13,580. In 1895 the limitations were \$7,700 for the senate and \$10,800 for the house. Notwithstanding this, however, the actual expenditures by the chief clerks for contingencies in that year were \$8,500 in the senate and \$14,741 in the house. In the senate the limitation was exceeded by \$600 and in the house by nearly \$3,900. It is not so much the amounts thus expended that is to be deplored as the impudent and daring disregard of constitution and statute law that characterized them, and the evidence it affords that, under Republican sway, all the departments of the state government are in constant collusion to loot the treasury and swindle the people.

COLONEL STONE'S TEN THOUSAND.

His Fee Three Times Larger Than the Amount Recovered--The Accusation, the Admission, and All the Details.

In the Philadelphia Press of April 13, 1897, was an address delivered by Major George W. Merrick, of Tioga county, who was a schoolmate of Colonel W. A. Stone, the Republican candidate for governor, in which he said:

"I have undertaken to state from the stump that Colonel William A. Stone, now of Allegheny, late of Tioga county, is the slated candidate for governor; that his candidacy was agreed upon by the powers that be some two years since; that he had served the machine faithfully, during the whole of his political life; that he said to me frequently during the past eight years that his great ambition in politics was to be governor, but that he could not be a candidate for office until the 'Old Man' said so, but he would be when he did say so; that two years ago in the senatorial campaign, he made the declaration that his relations to Mr. Quay were such that his political fortunes would rise or fall with those of Mr. Quay. I asserted also that I did not deem him a safe man for governor to stem the tide of corrupt approach upon the state treasury, since in private life he had charged the state \$10,000 for collecting \$2,400."

"Mr. Stone has undertaken to deny the last statement. Addressing a meeting at Royersford, April 12, he said: 'It has been said that I charged the state \$10,000 for a case which returned \$2,400. I never made a charge against the state.' By this statement I understand Colonel Stone to deny the allegation that he received a fee of \$10,000 for collecting \$2,400. Does he mean to charge me with accusing him falsely? I will submit the record, and you may judge, gentlemen, who is guilty of duplicity."

"In Colonel Stone's speech last week in Williamsport he said, alluding to this charge: 'I was pained when my old comrade, Mr. Merrick, stated here in the city of Williamsport, not for the purpose of helping me but to injure me, that I had charged the state of Pennsylvania \$10,000 for collecting \$2,400. This is an old story and retold in the campaign against me in 1890, but I never lost a vote. I never denied the facts, and I do not deny them now, but I never presented a bill or made any charge. That is 12 years ago, and is known to everybody in Allegheny county, and now Major Merrick is reviving that old tale.'

"Well, gentlemen, that is a pretty broad admission of the truth of my charge against Brother Stone, but Mr. Stone is mistaken when he charges me with reviving this old tale. On Dec. 14, 1897, a clergyman of Wellsboro wrote him as to the truth of this allegation, asking for information, saying: 'In reference to the past record to which you refer, I would say that for some years there has been a report current here that once in a case in which you collected a claim for the commonwealth in the amount of about \$3,000 you charged and received a fee of \$10,000; the story seems to be well supported. If it is true it would suggest some doubt as to the propriety of placing you in the high and responsible control in the office you seek in the affairs of our commonwealth. I shall be pleased to receive an answer to this question.'

"In reply to this letter Candidate Stone, in a letter dated Washington, Dec. 20, 1897, from which I now read, said: 'The matter of the fee which you speak of occurred nearly 12 years ago. My fee was not fixed by me, but it was fixed at the request of the auditor general by attorneys in Pittsburg at \$10,000, which the state paid me. Of course I am aware that my enemies will raise many objections to my candidacy, which will appear from time to time in the newspapers, but it is not my purpose, nor has it been my practice, to pay attention to them.'

Major Merrick is a prominent attorney. He is a Republican and a native of the county where Candidate Stone was born, and lived many years. He was Stone's schoolmate and his friend in later years. He was every thing that would have inclined him to be Stone's friend. Charges of so grave a character, coming from such a source, would be a serious business, even without Stone's admission of their truth, as above avowed.

Battle-Ax
PLUG

Remember the name when you buy again.

GROCERIES...

when purchased at this store are always pure and wholesome.

You can always find the best fruits the season affords.

There always is an endless variety and everything you may need.

You are always certain of receiving your full money's worth.

The highest prices are always paid for CHOICE country produce---don't want anything else.

This is the oldest and most reliable firm in Centre county.

Do you deal there? If not--Why not? Try it.

SECHLER & CO

HIGH STREET,
BELLEFONTE, PENN'A.

GARMAN HOUSE,
High Street, opposite the Court House,
Entirely new. New Furniture, Steam Heat,
Electric Light, and all the modern improvements.
C. M. & B. S. GARMAN,
Proprietors.

WANTED--Several Trustworthy Persons in this state to manage our business in their own and nearby counties. It is mainly office work conducted at home, salary straight \$300 a year and expenses--definite, bonafide, no more, no less salary. Monthly \$75. References: Enclose self-addressed stamped envelope, Herbert E. Hess, Pres't, Dep't M, Chicago, Ill.

7000 BICYCLES



Carried over from 1897 must be sacrificed now. New

High Grade,
all styles, best equipment, guaranteed.

\$9.75 to \$17.00.
Used wheels, late models, all makes, \$3 to \$12.

We ship on approval without a cent payment. Write for bargain list and art catalogue of swell '98 models.

BICYCLE FREE
for season to advertise them. Rider agents wanted. Learn how to earn a bicycle and make money.

J. I. MEAD CYCLE CO,
Chicago, Ill

W. H. MUSSER

GENERAL AGENT
UNION CENTRAL LIFE INS. CO.
CINCINNATI, OHIO.

Office on 2nd floor
Cridler's Stone Block Bellefonte, Pa.

This Company has the Following Advantages:

☞ Average interest rate for 20 years has been over 7 per cent. and the average Death Rate less than Three-fourths of One per cent.

☞ The Receipts from Interest for 25 years have more than paid all death losses.

☞ Realizes the Highest Interest and has the lowest death rate of any company

Assets Dec. 31st, 1897: \$18,705,130.31.

JOHN M. PATTISON, President.
E. P. MARSHALL, Secretary.

MONEY TO LOAN

On first-class real estate security. A limited amount in sums of from \$500 to \$1000 and any number of loans desired in larger sums. Bring deeds and apply in person to W. GALER MORRISON, 214 E. Bishop St., Bellefonte, Pa.

CENTRE COUNTY BANKING CO.
Corner of High and Spring street.
Receive Deposits; Discount Notes.
J. D. SUGGERT,
Cashier.