

MR. JENKS' PUBLIC LIFE

LEADING POINTS IN A REMARKABLE CAREER—HIS PROMINENCE AND INFLUENCE IN CONGRESS—A COURAGEOUS ADVOCATE OF RETRENCHMENT, ECONOMY AND HONEST AND EFFICIENT ADMINISTRATION. THE TRUE FRIEND OF THE SOLDIER—A BRILLIANT EXECUTIVE RECORD—THE CONVINCING TRIBUTE OF A REPUBLICAN EDITOR.

The following are the principal points contained in a remarkable address, delivered at Carlisle, Pa., recently, by Edwin K. Hart, a leading independent Republican editor of Philadelphia, after a careful personal investigation into the official record of the Democratic reform candidate for governor. Mr. Hart said:

"The record of the private, professional, public and official life of George A. Jenks shows him to be in every respect the man for the present crisis in Pennsylvania as the true and reliable leader in the cause of administrative reform. After building up a most enviable practice at the bar, being recognized as the ablest lawyer in western Pennsylvania, before he had reached middle life, Mr. Jenks entered the national house of representatives, in 1874, and although he served but a single term, in consequence of the preponderance of opposition party sentiment in that section of the state, he made a national reputation, which will ever be a credit to himself and all the people of Pennsylvania, irrespective of political relationships. Instantly recognizing the character and capabilities of the man, all the leaders, on both sides, at once gave him a most influential place in their midst. As chairman of one of the most important committees, that having charge of pensions, he exercised a potent influence in behalf of invalid soldiers and their helpless dependents. He secured legislation in their behalf when others could not, and made a brilliant address, defending the rights of pensioners, resenting the specious idea that their claims were to be regarded from a standpoint of charity. He successfully maintained that pensions were a right and not a gratuity; that a pensioner's certificate must not be regarded as a badge of mendacity.

"In the impeachment trial of General Belknap, secretary of war, Mr. Jenks, on behalf of the house, made two speeches, which were considered masterpieces of law, logic and patriotism, and which commended him to the admiration of political friends and foes. His denunciation of the crimes committed by this recreant member of Grant's cabinet showed his intense and righteous hatred of every form of political iniquity and is applicable to every scoundrel in the political and official arena today. At no time in his life has Mr. Jenks ever shown the slightest measure of sympathy with those who have betrayed their trust, and his election to the highest office within the gift of the people of this great state would be at once a sweeping condemnation of the forces of clean politics and honest government, a magnificent vindication of the principles of popular sovereignty and a bedrock of guarantee of honest, faithful and efficient administration of the executive department at Harrisburg during the next four years.

"When the electoral commission was struggling to keep the country from the throes of a second civil war Mr. Jenks was specially appointed to appear before that high tribunal, and his arguments in the cases of Louisiana and Oregon furnished supplemental proof as to his intellectual resources, showing him to be easily the equal of the ablest men in the nation. These addresses were utterly devoid of narrow partisanship, but were earnest, honest, dispassionate appeals for the triumph of truth and justice, and no one can read them at this hour without realizing how intense is the condemnation of every form of political iniquity which presses the heart and mind of Mr. Jenks. He is the sworn foe of the political crook, wherever he may be found; the courageous upholder of honesty and fidelity in the performance of public trust.

"During his congressional service this conscientious public servant sought to promote in every way possible the interests of the people, believing, as he constantly declared, that economy, diligence and purity should characterize the administration of public affairs. He introduced and pressed a bill for the reduction of the salaries of federal officials, congressmen included, and earnestly opposed every effort to increase the salaries of members of the house and senate. His policy was consistent and courageous throughout, and had the measures he advocated, some of the most important of which, like that looking to the transfer of the pension bureau from the interior to the war department, he originated, been adopted, many millions of dollars would have been saved to the government. And as it was then, so it undoubtedly will be, if he is honored with the special trust and confidence of his fellow citizens as their chief magistrate.

"Mr. Jenks has likewise been tried and found capable and trustworthy in executive office. He was appointed an assistant secretary of the interior in July, 1885, by President Cleveland, at the special request of Secretary Lamar, who had served with him in the house, and gave such striking manifestations of his superior legal attainments that a few months later he was transferred to the department of justice, as solicitor general, next to the highest office in that department, wherein he served four full years, remaining some nine months under President Harrison, at the latter's special request. In this position the capable lawyer and the honest public official were fully united, and Mr. Jenks made a record without a flaw, and one which commended him anew to the confidence and esteem of all right minded people. He was not a favorite with those having unjust claims against the government, or with those who sought to prostitute its functions to the promotion of personal in-

terests. He was faithful to every obligation, and retired from office followed by the sincerest well wishes of his political opponents, to whom he had set the highest example of personal and official honor.

"In the present crisis it is our duty, as citizens, regardless of partisan views, to unite in support of a candidate for governor who thus embodies every essential requirement, and no good citizen can be excused from seeing clearly and acting intelligently and courageously. The election of Mr. Jenks to the governorship would be one of the most notable triumphs in the annals of true patriotism in the annals of the country. Stand up for him, and see that your neighbor understands that manner of man he is, and also comes to his support with his voice and his influence and his ballot. Let there be a mighty unification of the righteous sentiment of good citizenship. The opportunity to elect such a man as Mr. Jenks as the guardian and defender of the people's rights at the state capital is too rare to be overlooked or neglected. The duty is imperative. Let partisan lines be obliterated, and let the enemies of honest government be overwhelmed. Rally for Jenks and reform, and save our noble state from another era of misgovernment and public robbery and disgrace.

THE STATE DEBT.

HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS OF DOLLARS COLLECTED BY THE REPUBLICAN MACHINE FROM THE PEOPLE, AND THE STATE DEBT YET REMAINS UNPAID—MANY INTERESTING FACTS AND FIGURES IN THIS CONNECTION FROM ONE OF THE BEST POSTED MEN IN PENNSYLVANIA.

Before there was a Republican party in the country the Democratic party in Pennsylvania had succeeded in incorporating into the state constitution such adequate provision for a sinking fund and the gradual payment of the state debt that its ultimate cancellation was assured. The credit for payment, therefore, so far as any party is entitled to it, is a Democratic monopoly. The following additional facts from the pen of Hon. B. F. Myers, in the Harrisburg Star-Independent of late date, in answer to ignorant Republican vaporing, will be found interesting:

The claim made that when the Democrats went out of power in this state in 1861 the state debt was \$40,000,000, and since then this debt has been almost entirely liquidated, has done duty in party organs and on the stump for at least two decades. It was first made in the Hoyt-Dill campaign in 1878, and it has been repeated ever since in every canvass in which questions affecting the administration of the state government were raised. Let us accord all the credit for the reduction of the state debt that is due the party which has had almost uninterrupted control of the legislature during the 37 years ending with 1897, and which always had sufficient power in one of the two houses to negative any reforms emanating from the executive office when that was in possession of the opposing party. But let us ascertain from statistics on the subject of the state debt what credit really belongs to that party. What are the facts involved in this matter? Turn to pages 1003 and 1004 of Smull's "Legislative Handbook for 1897 and find there a statement of the "Public Loans of the Commonwealth" from 1821 until 1881. As nearly as can be ascertained the sum total of those loans was, in 1861, in round numbers, \$34,900,000. This sum included the loan of May 15, 1861, for arming the state, which was made by a Republican administration. The state debt, on its face, left by the Democrats when they went out of power was, therefore, \$31,900,000, not \$40,000,000. But against this stood the proceeds of the sale of the public works, effected by the Democrats, which, as nearly as can be ascertained, amounted to about \$11,000,000. Thus it appears that the real amount of debt left by the Democrats when they were turned out was \$20,900,000, not \$40,000,000. Thus is the tale cut in twain. Now, look again on page 1004 of Smull and you will find that the state debt is \$6,815,305. Deduct \$6,815,305 from \$20,900,000 and it appears that \$14,084,695 of the principal of the state debt left by the Democrats in 1861 were paid during a period of 37 years by the Republican party. A careful calculation of the interest on the debt paid during that period shows that it amounted to about \$27,000,000. Add the principal and interest paid during that time and the total payments are shown to amount to \$41,084,695. Add, also, the repayment of the war loan of 1861 (\$3,978,597) and the payments on the debt created by both the political parties sum up to \$45,063,292. Now turn to page 998 of Smull for 1897 and there find a statement of the receipts and expenditures at the state treasury from 1861 to 1897, both years inclusive. Foot up the receipts and you will find that they aggregated \$226,223,600 for the 37 years. Taking the expenditures of the state government for 1880, for all purposes, as a fair average of what the payments at the state treasury should have been per annum since the constitution of 1874 has been in force, and multiplying that average by 37, we find that if the state government had been as economically administered during all the years from 1861 to 1897 as it was in 1880, the payments at the treasury should have been for the 37 years \$252,344,403. Deduct this sum from \$226,223,600 (the amount of the receipts at the state treasury for the 37 years) and there is shown a surplus of receipts over necessary and proper expenditures of \$73,978,597, but of this surplus only \$43,154,694 were applied to the payment of the principal and interest of the state debt. The \$30,823,903 which should have remained at the treasury would have wiped out the \$6,815,305 of the state debt still unpaid, and left \$23,978,598 to be given to the common schools over and above the appropriation made to them on the basis of 1880. How much credit, then, is due to such administration of the state government as, notwithstanding the immense revenues received at the treasury, has failed to pay off the state debt by nearly \$7,000,000?

JENKS A WINNER.

THE TREND OF PUBLIC SENTIMENT ON THE GUBERNATORIAL ISSUE MADE MANIFEST BY THE CHANGED AND STILL CHANGING ATTITUDE OF THE HERETOFORE ANTAGONISTIC OR NON-COMMITTAL NEWSPAPERS—IF ALL THE DEMOCRATS COME OUT AND STAND FAITHFUL JENKS AND HIS COLLEAGUES ARE SURE WINNERS.

Two weeks ago Hon. George A. Jenks had but one friend among all the newspapers in Philadelphia, but one that had faith in even the remotest possibility of his election. But since then the people have heard and seen Mr. Jenks, and the Philadelphia newspapers have evidently heard from the people.

The Philadelphia Press, claiming to be the leading Republican journal in the state, said editorially on Sunday: "No one questions Mr. Jenks' capacity, his character and unusual attainments as a lawyer, and in many respects he would make an ideal governor; nothing could be better than to have the crude work of the legislature subjected to his keen scrutiny and sharp criticism, and winnowed by the vetoes of one of the greatest lawyers in Pennsylvania. Pennsylvania has rarely had a governor so well qualified for its duties as President Cleveland's solicitor general. Yet, how can Republicans vote for a man who is a free silver Democrat? True, there is no mine in Harrisburg, and Mr. Jenks' views on silver bear no relation to the duties he would be called on to perform as governor. His Democracy, too, is rather of the old fashioned type of the Jere Black, George Sharslow, Charles R. Buckleaw variety. Nevertheless, Republicans will pause long and debate much before they bring themselves to vote for a free silver Democrat, however great his attainments, unimpeachable his character and profound his learning."

At the same time The Press, in answer to the inquiry of a Republican, who is against Stone, whether he should vote for Swallow or Jenks, said, first conceding Dr. Swallow's honesty and good intentions:

"There are many, however, who, while wishing him well, are not satisfied that he has the sobriety of judgment and sound horse sense necessary to make a safe and successful chief executive of such a difficult and complex institution as the commonwealth of Pennsylvania."

If this is not asking that Jenks be voted for, as far and as plainly as a Republican would dare ask such a thing, then there is no meaning in "the King's English."

On Monday McClure's Times, which has been all along insisting that Jenks had no chance of election whatever, and that Swallow was the man to support, in the course of a lengthy article on the situation, said:

"Colonel Stone is weaker today, before the people of Pennsylvania than he has been at any time since his nomination for governor, and Mr. Jenks, the Democratic candidate, is certainly stronger today than he has been since his nomination at Altoona. Dr. Swallow's loose aggregation of enthusiasts but undisciplined free thinkers in politics, has suffered during the last fortnight by the attacks of the regular armies of the old parties, but he has made a most gallant fight, and to whatever extent he has lost in the varying political tides is due wholly to ostentatious incompetency in the leadership of his organization and not in any degree due to himself.

"The vote of Colonel Stone is not likely to exceed 400,000, and it is possible that it may be from 30,000 to 50,000 less. If he shall receive 400,000 votes his election would be assured, but if he shall be reduced to 350,000, as is quite possible, his defeat would seem inevitable; and in the present political tides, which are not likely now to be changed on the brief homestretch, Mr. Jenks would be the winner. There is one possible chance for Dr. Swallow, and that is a groundswell from the silent voters of the state. His forces are without effective organization, and his cause would be better today if he had been without any organization at all, but it is remotely possible that his entire freedom from machine complications may give him the disaffected vote of the state that certainly embraces close to one-half of the whole people, but all the surface indications now point to a contest on the homestretch between Stone and Jenks, with the success of Jenks quite possible."

The Ledger and others equally unfriendly, a very short time ago, have, in a similar way, changed their minds and are giving now, some of them grudgingly, it is true, but all so that the wayfarer man can understand, their belief that Mr. Jenks is the coming man.

Now, collate with this the coming to Mr. Jenks' support of the Pittsburgh Leader, the leading Republican evening paper of that city. The Dispatch of Pittsburgh, the best known independent Republican paper of the state, was already with him. On Oct. 29 the Leader said:

"The parade of city and county employees last night in honor of the Republican state ticket was necessarily great in numbers, for the payrolls are extensive, but it was curiously funereal in character. As the long lines of officeholders trooped down Fifth avenue the lack of enthusiasm not only among the onlooking crowd, but among the marchers themselves, was painfully apparent. No cheers, no campaign battle cries, no hearty greetings and sympathetic plaudits. Had the cortege been en route to a cemetery, it would have performed the same sad and somber performance. A few 'frosts' like that of last night ought to suffice to nip any boom beyond repair."

The trend of public sentiment on the gubernatorial question could not well be plainer. The result depends wholly upon the Democratic voters. If they are all dutiful to their principles, and come out to vote, Mr. Jenks and his colleagues are sure winners.

WHOSE CANDIDATE?

Senator Quay's candidate for governor put forward a singular claim on his own behalf at Mercer when he said: "I made a canvass of the state for the nomination, the first time such a thing was ever done, and got what I wanted, the nomination."

The Philadelphia Ledger, at first inclined to support Colonel Stone, but now, in the force of new conditions, veering from Swallow to Jenks, lets in the light on this claim of Colonel Stone that he won the nomination by his own canvass of the state. The Ledger says, on the contrary:

"I met it from Senator Quay, who at a meeting of his own and a half dozen of his retainers at an obscure seaside resort in New Jersey decided that it should be given to Mr. Stone, and to no one else. He was not nominated by the Republican party, nor by the Republican electors of the commonwealth; he was nominated by, and is today, as he has always been, the personally selected candidate of Senator Quay. His candidacy, as everyone, excepting only himself, apparently knows, represents the Quay machine, Quayism, and not the popular will and choice. Mr. Stone's misinformation on the subject of being himself the first and only gubernatorial aspirant who ever canvassed the state for a nomination is not less great than his declared belief that he is the candidate of the Republican party. Mr. Delamater, General Hastings and others before them canvassed the state to realize their ambition to be nominated for governor. Mr. Stone is only one of the many who did that, and in the case of Mr. Delamater he may find a precedent for his nomination, not by canvass, but by Mr. Quay."

It is part of the history of the Harrisburg convention that nominated Stone that his meager majority of the delegates over the opposing candidates was secured by Senator Quay's intercession. It was ground out of the machine on orders, precisely as Mr. Delamater's nomination was forced eight years ago.

In his own person—in his own individuality—in this campaign Mr. Stone is hardly thought of by any party as a candidate. He is accepted by friend and foe simply as Quay's man. That is what the people will vote on.—Pittsburg Post, Oct. 23.

SOME IFS.

If you disapprove the custom of selling and trading the public offices, from constable to congressman, for the maintenance of a political machine, you must, in consistency, vote for Mr. Jenks and his colleagues.

If your conscience revolts at the use of the state moneys for the upholding of a political machine, through unlawful loaning them to banks without interest, or at a small interest payable, not to the state, but to the machine, its leaders or its favorites, your duty is equally plain. If you are a Republican, you must vote for Mr. Jenks, and if you would wrest the pardon board, the new capital commission, the sinking fund and revenue commissions from Republican machine control, there is one and only one way of accomplishing your object, and that way is to vote the whole Democratic state ticket.

If you would have the schools, the charities and all other beneficiaries of the state receive the moneys lawfully voted them at the time when they are lawfully due, you can achieve your object by electing Mr. Jenks governor.

If you believe the people should dictate both the legislation of the state and the execution of the statutes when enacted, instead of allowing these great privileges to go, by your default and machine connivance, to a number of favored wealthy corporations and monopolies, then the path you should tread is, at least this once, the path of the Democratic party.

If, in short, you want clean state government in all its departments, the Democratic leaders are this year your only safe leaders.

A MONOPOLY OF LIGHT.

The Standard Oil company owns or controls the best paying gas plants in our cities and towns. The Standard Oil company controls absolutely the supply of oil and paraffine candles. This gives to one monopoly the power to fix the prices of gas, oil and candles, and leaves it with but one competitor in the market for the supplying of artificial light—and thereby hangs a tale.

The introduction of electric light in cities and towns has proved a veritable bonanza to the large stockholders as well as a benefit to everybody, burglars and policemen excepted. The one drawback in the way of future gain has been the growing fear upon the part of stockholders that, acting under the persuasion of intelligent, honest citizens, municipal authorities would see the wisdom of constructing electric light plants, and thus free their constituencies from the exactions of electric light companies.

To prevent the building of plants by municipalities a bill was passed in 1895 and again in 1897 prohibiting municipal authorities from engaging in the business of erecting electric light plants unless by purchase they would first obtain control over all the private plants in operation. The bill was twice vetoed.

WHAT IS A SOLDIER'S TICKET?

It is well to remember that William H. Sowden, Democratic candidate for lieutenant governor, was a corporal during the civil war, and was badly wounded at the battle of Antietam.

Captain DeLacy, Democratic nominee for secretary of internal affairs, was so distinguished a soldier that he was awarded a special medal of honor for conspicuous gallantry in battle.

George A. Jenks was not a soldier, but he was one of the sturdiest friends the soldiers ever had in congress. To his eloquent utterances in their behalf, publicly made on the floor of the house, they principally owe the fact that a pension is now legally regarded as the soldier's right, and not as a charity.

We hear a good deal about soldiers' tickets. What is the matter with the ticket composed of the three gentlemen above named as a soldiers' ticket?

INCIDENTS OF THE CIVIL WAR

THAT TELL WHY P. DE LACY, NOW A NOMINEE FOR SECRETARY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS, CARRIES A MEDAL OF HONOR.

Let all real friends of the soldier take heed of the following story that came into our possession accidentally, and that is a very interesting story of itself:

Nautillus Slutter was a member of Company A, One Hundred and Forty-third Pennsylvania volunteers. He now resides in Lehigh township, Lackawanna county, Pa.; postoffice address, Thornhurst, Pa. He says: "I enlisted in Company A, One Hundred and Forty-third Pennsylvania volunteers, on the 18th of August, 1862. I was personally acquainted with P. DeLacy, who was in the same company at the time I joined it. I served under him as drill sergeant, and his influence and wonderful control of the men made him a remarkably conspicuous figure. In the battle of Gettysburg I was one of the sharpshooters on the first day, and was shot through the right arm, near the McPherson barn, and the regiment was hotly engaged along the Chambersburg pike. I went into the barn about the time that the rebels drove a part of our force back, and the One Hundred and Forty-third changed front to the left and rear, to meet the attack on their left, and I witnessed the color sergeant and colors of the One Hundred and Forty-third go down. At the moment I saw and heard Sergeant DeLacy call out to Major Conyngham to rally the regiment on the colors, which was done, and the colors were saved. At the time I fired with my left arm my last shot at a rebel who was rushing at Lieutenant Nicholson with his uplifted saber to strike the wounded officer as he lay on the field mortally wounded. After my wound was well I again returned to the company down in Virginia.

"The fall and winter campaigns were severe; not much fighting, but much exposure and hardships, hard marching, almost continually moving, and during all this time Comrade DeLacy was ever with us, always cheerful and happy, and by his example he kept the boys' spirits up and in good cheer. We entered the Wilderness on the 4th of May, 1864, and on the morning of the 5th of May the battle commenced. My company, A, was deployed on the skirmish line, and we opened the Wilderness fight. The woods were so dense that it was impossible to preserve our alignment, and the regiment, soon after it became engaged was compelled to fall back, owing to its flanks being turned on the hill in the rear of the first position. Comrade DeLacy rallied the regiment, or that portion of it that fell back, across the swale. Soon after that time the regiment all fell back to the field, where we reformed, and the brigade soon after made a charge to the left of the first position, where the regiment became hotly engaged, and fought until dark. Just before dark Sergeant Hub Nogie was shot through the right breast. Comrade DeLacy rushed to him, picked him up and carried him off the field. On the morning of the 6th of May the battle was renewed with terrible impetuosity, and DeLacy was with us, urging the boys on, and holding them steady under the terrible fire. On the afternoon of the 6th we fought at the cross roads, where DeLacy led the charge that recaptured the works that the enemy had taken from the Union soldiers of another command. DeLacy here captured a rebel flag, for which act he was presented with a medal of honor by congress, which greatly pleased the boys of the One Hundred and Forty-third. At North Ann he saved the colors of the regiment, and he could rally the company as no other man could at Cold Harbor, Laurel Hill, Bethesda's church, To Ta Potamy, Spottsylvania, Petersburg, Weldon Railroad, Vaughan Road, Hatcher's Run, Southside Road and Second Hatcher's Run. He had command of the company two-thirds of the time, and was considered by all the boys as their leader, and the company relied more upon him in time of battle than upon any other officer. The rest of the officers were either killed, sick or wounded, and at all times Comrade DeLacy was kind, and looked after the interests of the company, and for his great gallantry was admired by all the comrades of the entire regiment, and he so conducted himself through the entire service of the regiment that up to this day the members of the old One Hundred and Forty-third hold him in the highest esteem for the meritorious service he rendered his country and flag."

A Strange Inconsistency.

Mr. Jenks is not running on a platform embracing national questions. "Oh! but," says some thin skinned opponent of Quayism, "Mr. Jenks supported Bryan for president in 1896, therefore I prefer to vote for Dr. Swallow." Ah! is that so? Then you will vote for the nominee of the Populist party, which favors not only free silver, but unlimited issue of government paper money. Meanwhile please remember that if the anti-Quay vote be divided between two anti-Quay candidates for governor the Quay candidate will certainly be elected. You might as well support Mr. Stone and be done with it as to vote so as to split up the opposition to that candidate.—Hon. B. F. Meyers, in the Harrisburg Star-Independent.

Shaking the Plum Tree.

"There is a movement among independent Republicans," says the Philadelphia Record of Oct. 13, "to better the state government in Pennsylvania by taking Senator Quay out of reach of the plum tree. That is the idea of Mr. Wanamaker and of Dr. Swallow.

"The Democrats of Pennsylvania have a better intent. They propose to take the plum tree out of the reach of Senator Quay and of all others who might be tempted to shake it to gather illicit fruit. They insist upon a return to the letter of the constitution, and that the state shall be governed accordingly."

ILLEGAL LUXURIES.

True it is that to ride in a palace car entails an additional expense, even to members who travel on free passes; and true it is that meat and drink cost money on a buffet car; but there is no law wherein provision has been made whereby members of the legislature shall have their board and luxuries charged to the state. Every member of the legislature knows this, and there comes with a bad grace from him the unbecoming and absurd apology that I believed it was an "honest assumption" on the part of junketing committees that the state was indebted to each member of said committees in the sum of twenty cents for each and every mile traveled.

In his veto of mileage expense items in the matter of the pretended investigation of the office of the dairy and food commissioner, Governor Hastings made no apologies to treasury looters. In that veto he quoted the law, and that law does not travel on parallel lines with his after uncalled for and mistaken apology in the matter of the contested election case of Saunders vs. Roberts.

BRIBERY AND PERJURY.

CAN LEGISLATORS WHO TRAVEL ON FREE PASSES "HONESTLY ASSUME" THAT THE STATE OWES THEM TWENTY CENTS FOR EACH MILE TRAVELED?—GOVERNOR HASTINGS' APOLOGY FOR A VETO CONSIDERED.

In the contested election case, Saunders vs. Roberts, Governor Hastings, after disapproving of the items for reimbursing members of the elections committee for sums alleged to have been expended in railway fares, uses the following language: "The items are disapproved, but in withholding my approval I deem it only fair to say that the appropriations made to the members of the committee were made upon what I believe to have been the honest assumption that they were legally entitled to mileage."

This is a lame and most impotent conclusion on the part of Governor Hastings. It is a weak and base apology, beneath the dignity of a chief executive, whose duty it is at all times to guard the interests of the people from attacks of legislative despoilers.

Governor Hastings knows that it is patent to all who frequent the halls of legislation, that the members of the Pennsylvania legislature are furnished passes upon all railroads within, and on some railroads without the state.

He knows that at every session of the legislature the first to appear are the railroad lobbyists, some of whom pose as newspaper correspondents. He knows, too, that these lobbyists are on hand for the express purpose of catering to the impetuous members who want passes for themselves, their families and their friends. He knows that in the pockets of each and every member of the legislature is a pass on nearly all the railroads traveled by members, and that these free passes are good for every day the legislature is in session, and for many days afterwards.

THE CONSTITUTION.

It may be that since the adoption of the constitution of 1873 a legislator or perhaps two legislators have found their way to the halls of legislation at Harrisburg, sat out the entire session, and returned home without having traveled on a free railroad pass. It is not impossible that a few sterling legislators have sat at Harrisburg deploring the legislation and refusing free passes, but the rule is, as aptly stated by a lawmaker—"take all the passes you can get and ask for more."

It is provided in Section 8, Article XVII, of the state constitution, that "No railroad, railway or other transportation company shall grant free passes, or passes at a discount to any person except officers or employees of the company." The language of the constitution herein quoted is too emphatic and plain to be misunderstood by any member of the legislature who does not regard himself as an officer or an employee of a railroad corporation, rather than a servant of the people for whose protection and benefit the constitution was framed and adopted.

Section 29 of Article 3 of the state constitution expressly provides against corrupt solicitation on the part of legislators as follows: "A member of the general assembly who shall solicit, demand or receive, or consent to receive, directly or indirectly, for himself or for another, from any company, corporation or person, any money, office, appointment, employment, testimonial, reward, thing of value, or enjoyment, or of personal advantage, or promise thereof, for his vote or official influence, etc., shall be held guilty of bribery within the meaning of this constitution, etc."

Language cannot be more explicit than this, and yet, in the very teeth of such unmistakable declarations, railroad passes are solicited, given and taken by members of the general assembly, who have solemnly sworn or affirmed to obey and uphold that very constitution whose provisions they immediately set at defiance.

Bribery and perjury conjoined is of so common and notorious a part of Pennsylvania legislation that he who would openly declare to the contrary in or about the state capital would be set down as a credulous fool, fresh from the woods. To solemnly swear or affirm to obey and uphold the constitution, with a railroad pass snugly stowed away in the pocket of the swearing or affirming legislator, has grown to that extent as to compel railroad lobbyists to believe the corrupt exudation of corrupt minds, that all men have their price, and that some men can be bought cheap.

Under the laws of Pennsylvania railroad corporations can not charge their passengers at a rate per mile in excess of three cents, and yet there are legislators so bold as shameless as to charge the state at the rate of 20 cents per mile, an excess of 17 cents per mile, allowing for the unallowable, that they actually paid any railroad fare.

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