

BELLEVILLE, PA., THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 1905.

ANOTHER LIFE SACRIFICED TO RAPACITY OF THE GANG

Cashier Clark, of Allegheny, Commits Suicide to
Escape Importunities of Treasury Looters.

Having Involved Him Hopelessly in the Toils of Frenzied Finance the
Gang Abandons Him to a Dishonored Grave—“The Bank Has
Been Robbed by a Lot of Politicians,” Was the Despairing Com-
ment of Its Deceived President.

A RECORD OF HORROR AND SHAME

The failure of the Enterprise National Bank, of Allegheny City, and the suicide of its cashier, T. Lee Clark, is a climax in the trail of “blood and boodle,” which has marked the control of the fiscal affairs of the commonwealth by the Republican machine during a third of a century.

Favored By the Gang.
The Enterprise National Bank, of Allegheny City, has been favored by the machine to a singular degree. As far back as 1900 it held one-tenth of the treasury surplus and that ratio has never been diminished, though increased at intervals. Its balance, moreover, has been regulated by its necessities. For example, according to the statement of the state treasurer a \$50,000 check was drawn against the balance on the last day of September. It didn't suit the bank to give up that amount at that time and the cashier notified State Treasurer Mathews of the fact, whereupon he drew a check for the amount in favor of the Enterprise Bank and mailed it at once.

The Enterprise National Bank, of Allegheny City, has a capital of \$200,000 and no prudent custodian of trust funds would put in its vaults on deposit more than the aggregate of its capital. But according to the records of the state treasury there was in 1892 \$417,600 of state money, general fund, on deposit in the institution. In 1903 this was increased to \$712,000, and in 1904 to \$767,000. At the time of the failure of the bank and suicide of the cashier the state deposit, including general and sinking fund, amounted to the prodigious total of \$1,020,000.

Business Men Curious About It.
Naturally business men are curious to know the influences which secured for that particular bank the favor of the machine in such prodigious proportions. They can't understand how business men can be hypnotized in that way. But a scrutiny of the records of the gang speculators and industrial operations makes the matter entirely clear. That is about the time that “Bull” Andrews and his associates in the New Mexican railroad enterprise began operations the first considerable increase in the state deposit of the Enterprise National Bank, of Allegheny City, occurred. The cashier of the bank, now in a suicide's grave, had undertaken to “finance” that operation with the funds of the state deposited in his bank. As the demands for money increased the state deposit was augmented, and finally when the bank had been ruined and exposure inevitable the cashier settled his troubles and cancelled his obligations by blowing his brains out, just as other victims of gang rapacity had done before him.

Cashier Victim of Gang Rapacity.
That the Enterprise National Bank, of Allegheny City, and its unfortunate cashier are victims of the machine admits of no doubt. When the crash came the unsuspecting president of the institution, Mr. Frederick Gwinner, was overwhelmed. Mr. Gwinner is an honest, industrious German-American whose reputation for probity and intelligence was the mainstay of the institution. He trusted the cashier implicitly and the information of the disaster came to him like a bolt of lightning from a clear sky. After he had recovered from his astonishment he made the following statement:

“The bank has been robbed by a lot of politicians. I know nothing of the affairs of the bank. I have never been paid a cent salary. For three years I have demanded of the directors that they accept my resignation, but they held to using my name. “I was not under salary, nor will I be held responsible for the doings of Clarke or anyone else connected with the bank. The only thing I will pay is about \$50,000 which my relatives put in there at my special request. They believed it safe, and put it there at my solicitation, and they must be protected. Further than that I will not go. I was crushed many years ago in the smash of the Bank of Manchester, which went down on the site of the present Enterprise Bank, and that was enough for me.”

President Gwinner Deceived.
Subsequently Mr. Gwinner was interviewed and said:

“Did you know that Clarke and ex-Senator Andrews had been carrying securities of about \$400,000 in the bank and the controller refused to accept this paper?” Mr. Gwinner was asked. “No, I did not know what this concern, the Pennsylvania Development Company, was. I tried to find out, and none of the directors could tell me anything about the company. But the Pennsylvania Development Company only had \$200,000 in securities in the bank. If there is any more paper from this company I don't know about it.”

“What is this Pennsylvania Development Company?” Mr. Gwinner asked. He was told for the first time that the development company had been fostered by William H. Andrews, T. Lee Clark, Francis J. Torrance, Arthur Kennedy and others.

“How much state deposit did the Enterprise Bank have?” Mr. Gwinner was asked.

“I don't know, but I think about \$600,000.”

“Don't you know that at the last report, October 1, the bank had \$582,000 of current state funds, and had previously been given \$300,000 of the sinking fund, which does not need to be published by the state treasurer or your bank?”

“Yes, I remember that it was something like that, but about two weeks ago the state treasurer withdrew \$150,000, and yesterday the bank received \$50,000 as a deposit from the state treasurer. I don't know the exact amount we have at present, but it is something such as you mention. This would make about \$782,000 the state has deposited in the Enterprise Bank. About a year ago the bank carried \$1,100,000 of state funds, and the bank is only capitalized at \$200,000.”

Donations For Campaign.

“How did you come to get this state deposit?” Mr. Gwinner was asked.

“That's what I asked Clarke,” he replied. “Clarke told me he had only to give the Republican Campaign Committee a donation each year, and this is how he got the money.”

“In insisted that he had to give something for the use of the money. I could not believe that the state treasurer would give us so much money unless we gave him something in return. But Clarke only insisted he had paid some money to the Campaign Committee.”

“Does the money you gave to the campaign show on the books?” I asked Clarke. He said no; there was nothing to indicate that he had given politicians any money.

“Then how do you account for the money if you don't put it on the books?” I said.

“Oh, you leave that to me,” Clarke said, and he waved me off. He always jollied me along when I wanted to know what was going on.”

**POLITICAL OBLIGATIONS
MYSTERIOUSLY ABSTRACTED
FROM BANK ASSETS**

The Frenzied Financiers of the “Gang” who were caught in the wreck of the Enterprise National Bank of Allegheny City are taking desperate chances in an effort to destroy the evidences of their responsibility for that disaster. In other words, they have stolen or had secreted the notes which represented their obligations to the bank for the state funds taken out for their individual uses.

Notes which the bank should hold for large loans to politicians and others are reported missing. Their face value is probably several hundred thousand dollars. The total of this loss is one of the secrets which Receiver Cunningham is keeping to himself. One report is that it will reach as high as \$600,000.

The most careful and repeated searching among the bank papers has failed to bring the notes to light, although the records of the institution show that they should be there.

They are believed to represent the loans which the directors of the broken concern saw were made by T. Lee Clark, the suicide cashier, without the knowledge of the board.

Clark, before he ended, with a pistol ball, the troubles which were heaped upon him by the Gang, may have destroyed or hidden them. There is evidence that for some months prior to the crash the bank papers were badly mixed.

Among the notes which the receiver has found are said to be some old ones, on which the time had expired, with nothing to indicate that they had been paid or renewed. The system by which operations were conducted is one of the deepest mysteries which the government's bank experts have ever been called upon to solve.

The possibility is suggested that the politicians who got the money on overdue and unrenewed notes, after pocketing the spoil obtained through Clark, left the cashier to his fate. Then, unable to make good the loss or explain, he killed himself.

If the missing notes are never found, it will be an immense relief to those politicians who got the money on them. The bank records are believed to be so imperfect as not to reveal their names.

Failure to find the notes which should be in the bank is said to be one of the things which is delaying the report of Receiver Cunningham. Secretive as he has been from the start of his investigations, the receiver would say neither yes nor no whether it were true that notes for large sums are missing.

**CASTLE DARES THE
GANG TO ARREST HIM**

Homer L. Castle, law partner of former Governor William A. Stone, of Pittsburgh, made a speech in New Castle, Pa., on Tuesday evening, October 24. It will be remembered that it was Mr. Castle who first called attention to the perilous condition of the Enterprise Bank, of Allegheny City, and forged the chain of evidence which convicted the gang politicians of manipulating the treasury balance and using the state funds for personal purposes.

On the morning of the day of the New Castle speech the Pittsburgh Gazette, the gang organ of Western Pennsylvania, owned and directed by George W. Oliver, denounced Mr. Castle vehemently. “He ought to be arrested,” the gang organ shrieked. Replying to this in his New Castle speech Mr. Castle said:

“This paper says I should be arrested for these things,” said Castle. “Of course I should. I should be arrested and dragged before the court and made to prove the charges that I have made. I am a lawyer and at least should have some knowledge of law.”

“I admit I should be arrested for making these charges, and made to prove them. But I have not been

rested. I am as free today as you are. And why? Because they do not dare place me on the stand. It would be to their disadvantage.

“If I were arrested and put on trial there would be a great many other things, some of them worse, perhaps, to come out. If I were arrested I would prove everything I have said, and more too.”

“I certainly agree with the statements made by this Pittsburgh newspaper. I should be arrested. But I won't be. I am not worrying about that, and I hope the newspaper is not. Nothing would give me greater satisfaction than to have this matter come to a court trial. But there's no such good news.”

“We have these people where we want them now. Everything they say helps along our cause, and everything they do helps us. Now it is up to you. If you want to help us out, after we have showed you the way, just drop in your ballot for William H. Berry. That will help some.”

**PLUMMER WANTONLY
INSULTED THE BEE
KEEPERS OF THE STATE**

Refused to Consider a Proposition to
Fight a Fatal Disease
Among Bees.

The Pennsylvania State Bee Keepers' Association is nursing a grievance against J. Lee Plummer for unceremoniously turning down their committee and a proposed measure of legislation providing for legal means of getting rid of destructive bee diseases in this state.

Pennsylvania has 30,000 persons engaged in greater or lesser extent in the industry of bee culture. These persons are scattered all over the state, but primarily in the northern counties. The value of the product of the hives of the state is variously estimated, but it is believed that \$2,000,000 is a conservative statement of the aggregate. The records of the association, less than two years old, is of a product of 1,000,000 pounds, and only a few persons are enrolled in the organization, though in the matter of the legislation the committee represented the total number.

For some years the bees have been suffering from the ravages of some insidious disease, not only in Pennsylvania, but in other states in which the industry receives attention. The nature of the malady has not yet been discovered, but it is malignant and fatal.

In other states legislation was enacted to fight the disease, and the Pennsylvania association was formed with the view of inaugurating a similar defensive movement in this state. It had proved helpful elsewhere, and those concerned in the industry believed that good results would follow here.

With this object in view, a bill was drafted at the instance of this state society and put into the hands of a prominent representative in the legislature during the last session, and a committee appointed to urge its passage. The measure was referred first to the committee on Agriculture of the house, properly, but inasmuch as it carried a small appropriation it was necessary to send it ultimately to the committee, of which J. Lee Plummer was chairman, though the agricultural committee strongly recommended its passage.

Mr. Plummer constantly refused to give the state society's committee or representatives a hearing, and as they chanced to see him one day and asked for a hearing to explain the object of the bill he remarked with a vile oath, “What in the h— do you fellows want, anyway? It is nothing but money, money, money.” The members of the committee reminded him that if he did not want to talk about the expenditure of the state's money for the citizens he should not have accepted the chairmanship of the state committee.

They thereupon decided that regardless of politics they would not officially but individually for those who chose let their fellow bee keepers and other agriculturists in this state know of the vile and insolent manner in which they were received by one who now appeals to them for election to a high and important office in the state.

Shoots Burglar in the Dark.
“If you don't speak I'll shoot!” declared Mrs. M. J. Farrell, of Altoona, who had been awakened early in the morning by a noise in her bedroom. The silence was broken by the crack of her 38-calibre revolver, and a grunt was followed by a heavy object tumbling downstairs. Neighbors made a hunt for the burglar, but he escaped. A trail of blood showed the brave woman had hit the mark. She was alone in the house.

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