

SHEATZ HELPED MACHINE

His Legislative Labor in the Interest of Vicious Legislation.

Voted for Press Muzzler, Kingston Water Snake and Other Iniquities During the Session of 1905.

Harrisburg, Pa., Sept. 3, '07. Special Correspondence.

In his Williams Grove speech last week the Machine Republican candidate for State Treasurer declared that he had endeavored to enact revenue measures, during the last session of the Legislature, so as to provide ample funds to pay the soldiers' pensions under the Cochran act, as amended in the House Committee on Appropriations. The records show that he never uttered a syllable in favor of any revenue bill during the session. During the sessions of 1903 and 1905 he voted against the revenue bills introduced by Mr. Croasby as well as most of the other reform measures, and his speech indicates that he proposes to make a campaign of false pretense.

The truth is that Mr. Sheatz has little foundation in his legislative record for the claim that he is a reformer. He represented a different constituency from that of his colleagues, Messrs. Ripp and Call, and was obliged to be more circumspect in some matters. But the difference was more imaginary than real. He dodged some votes when they had the courage to go on record and he voted with the minority on a few occasions when his support wasn't needed by the majority. But whenever the exigencies required it he was as certain for the machine as either of the others. "A little leaven leavens the lump," it is said, and Sheatz cut his reform leaven down to the minimum.

Press Muzzler the Worst. His first service in the Legislature was in the session of 1903. The floodgates were not raised as high to facilitate the flow of corruption during that session as in the session of 1905, but it was bad enough and the Republican candidate for State Treasurer supported all the very vicious bills. In fact it was during that session that legal means were provided for the atrocious work of the later session. If the vicious legislation of the session of 1903 had been defeated the most iniquitous work of the session of 1905 would never have been undertaken. Iniquity feeds and fattens on vice and the legislation of 1903 made that of 1905 possible.

Probably the most far-reaching iniquity of the session of 1903 was the Salus-Grady "press-muzzler." The prosecution of the late Senator Quay in the criminal courts of Philadelphia, inspired that evil measure. He escaped conviction by pleading the statute of limitation. If he had been convicted a sentence to the penitentiary would have been inevitable and likely he would have died there. Small wonder that he was appalled by the peril that confronted him. He blamed the newspapers for his troubles and his dangers. If they had been less honest, less enterprising and more amenable to "those mysterious influences" through which Quay controlled conventions, there would have been no criminal prosecution of Quay for violating the laws and the constitution.

When Quay emerged from the criminal court, with the shadow of the penitentiary hanging over him, he declared war on the newspapers. He publicly boasted that he would "clip the journalistic wings," so to speak, at any expense in money and trouble. The Salus-Grady libel law was the spawn of this mad passion. He and Pennypacker together evolved it from their brains, and Grady and Salus, shameless machine servitors, introduced it into the chambers in which they respectively served. It was the crowning infamy of legislative history. It was so atrocious that nobody believed it would pass. Legislators regarded it as froth from the mouth of a victim of rabies. Dragging Legislators for Muzzler.

But it was no joke, so far as the machine managers were concerned. It wasn't forced to immediate consideration. Time was allowed to recover from the shock which its first appearance caused to the public conscience. Then the screws were put on. Charitable appropriations were threatened. Private interests were menaced. Political hopes were blasted. Every conceivable agency was invoked to cajole and coerce Senators and Representatives to the support of the measure. Two Senators, themselves owners and editors of newspapers, made pitiable objects, as they cast their forced votes for the self-stultifying iniquity. Others blushed with shame as they obeyed the orders of the boss.

Nobody misunderstood the purpose and purport of the measure. The venerable Thomas V. Cooper, for years a trusted and safe leader of the party, in burning periods and impassioned eloquence implored the bosses to abandon their nefarious purpose. No more eloquent or impressive speech was ever delivered on the floor of the House than his protest against that iniquity. But the tide of mad passion was at flood and couldn't be stopped. Able lawyers argued with masterful logic against so wanton a violation of the constitution and the spirit of Amer-

icanism, all to no purpose. It was Quay's vengeance against civic virtue. It was the penalty which immorality puts upon morality.

Among the supporters of that atrocious piece of legislation was the present Republican candidate for State Treasurer, (Legislative Record, 1903, page 909.) When Mr. Cooper pleaded for obedience to that provision of the constitution that requires every bill to be read at length on three different days, and was declared out of order by the Speaker, Sheatz voted to sustain the Chair, though he knew, if he knew anything, that he was violating his oath of office, in so doing. But the machine required that sinister service from him, and he "threw conscience to the dogs." His vote put shame and disgrace upon the State. It pilloried Pennsylvania as an object of derision to the whole world. But it secured Sheatz a re-election.

Other Work for the Machine. But that wasn't the only service which the Republican candidate for State Treasurer performed for the machine during the legislative session of 1903. The reformers of Philadelphia in their up-hill fight against electoral frauds encountered many difficulties. One which was particularly perplexing was the fact that in certain election districts they couldn't get watchers who would be faithful. To remedy this evil they appointed watchers from other districts under the sanction of one of the judges. During the session of 1903 a bill was introduced to stop this source of trouble to the machine. It provided that "watchers must be residents of the districts or divisions in which they act." The reformers protested against it with vehemence. But the machine needed it and it was passed, Mr. Sheatz voting in the affirmative.—Legislative Record, 1903, page 1030.

Mr. Sheatz was always liberal with the State's money and voted for every measure during the session of 1903 which contemplated the multiplication of offices. He voted for the bill to increase the number of Factory Inspectors, Legislative Record, 1903, page 1689; for an additional Law Judge in Cambria county, though a vast majority of the people of that county protested against it, Legislative Record, 1903, page 1982; appropriating \$1,070 for badges for a legislative junket to Philadelphia, Legislative Record, 1903, page 2685. His bitter partisanship was revealed in his vote for the infamous Pocht ballot bill, Legislative Record, 1903, page 3438; for unseating Representative Blumie which present Speaker of the House Frank B. McClain denounced as a "partisan outrage," Legislative Record, 1903 page 3725. He also voted to unseat B. J. Ferry, Democrat, of Luzerne county, Legislative Record, page 2940.

The Iniquitous Water Snakes. The session of 1903 was known as the "Water Snake" session of the Legislature. That is to say during that session a number of bills were introduced chartering water companies, giving corporations authority to dam rivers and streams, authorizing the incorporation of filtering companies and seizing water power, water privileges and water sheds in every direction. These measures became such a menace that Governor Pennypacker, servile as he was, couldn't stand for them and notified the machine managers that they must not be sent to him for approval.

Harry Kingdon of Philadelphia was the author of probably the worst of this bunch of iniquities. He was a shrewd lawyer in Philadelphia, free from the burden of conscience or scruples, and had himself sent to the Legislature for the express purpose of exploiting legislation. His water bill was a "cookoo." It gave the corporation which it created power to dam any stream in the State, change the bed of any water-course and do anything else that cupidity and avarice might suggest. It was among those against which Pennypacker protested and which he supported at every stage by John O. Sheatz.—Legislative Record, 1903, page 2435.

As a matter of fact Mr. Sheatz didn't even pretend to be a reformer during his first session in the legislature. He didn't dare to be as open in political immoralities as Stubb, Ripp, Puhl and others. His constituents wouldn't stand for that. The Twenty-fourth ward is a pretty independent neighborhood and though the machine could nominate anybody it liked, there was no certainty of the election of a notoriously unfit man. But it can be confidently said that Sheatz went as far in the service of the machine, during the session of 1903, as he dared and that he voted with the gang whenever his vote was necessary.

The System Rather Than the Man. But after all it is less the individual than the system which is to be considered in estimating political conditions at present. If Mr. Sheatz were as worthy of public confidence as he imagines himself to be putting him into the office of State Treasurer would be a dangerous experiment. If Harry had not been in that office a year ago the public never would have known of the graft in the construction and furnishing of the capitol and the looting would be going on with increased vigor now. The plans contemplated an aggregate loot of \$25,000,000 and the full amount would have been taken. Minority representation on the Board of Public Grounds and Buildings prevented that result.

No stream is purer than its source.

No man is stronger than his party. John O. Sheatz is neither morally nor morally stronger than Pennypacker, Snyder and Mathews. They were not influenced either by cupidity or dishonesty to consent to the looting. They were told that the operation was a party necessity—that the money was needed for campaign purposes and yielded. Sheatz would have done the same and as his election will restore the partisan unanimity of the board it will be a public calamity. Good or bad, personally, his membership in the Board of Public Grounds and Buildings will work harm for the public.

Moreover his election will strengthen the Penrose machine, which is an undesirable result. Sheatz is the Penrose candidate. He was promised the office at the organization of the Legislature as Plummer was similarly slated two years ago. A few years ago the Chairman of the House Committee on Appropriations had immense pecuniary possibilities. The Chairman got a "rake-off" from every appropriation and it is said that one Chairman a few years ago took home "a roll as thick as his thigh." Now the Chairman foregoes all claim on the "rake-off," and gets the nomination for State Treasurer in lieu thereof.

Penrose Plays Foxy Politics. Penrose didn't dare announce Sheatz as his candidate, however. On the contrary to conceal his purpose he declared a preference for another, having first ascertained that the other wouldn't consent. Then he allowed the country delegates to put forward his city candidate and with apparent reluctance, yielded. But he controlled the convention absolutely. He named the presiding officer, prepared the platform and even selected the Chairman of the State Committee who will conduct the campaign and control the organization. If he had been opposed to Sheatz another candidate would have been chosen. But he favored Sheatz and he holds a mortgage on Sheatz's official action in the event of his election. G. D. H.

GENERAL MORTEZA KHAN.

Persian Minister Is a Giant and Ten Times a Millionaire.

One of the most interesting members of the diplomatic corps at Washington is General Morteza Khan, the Persian minister. In personal appearance he is quite striking, being six feet four inches tall. His height is emphasized by his tall, pot-shaped hat or fez. The minister is said to be worth \$10,000,000. He is a bachelor and is forty-two years old. With the exception of the shah he is perhaps the greatest landowner in Persia. His particular hobby is irrigation, and since coming to



GENERAL MORTEZA KHAN.

the United States, two and a half years ago he has made a considerable study of American methods.

Minister Morteza has passed his life in official posts. He began as a page in the royal palace. He was sent to Paris by the shah to be educated, and upon his return in 1882 he was made chamberlain to his majesty and dragoon in the state department. In that department he served many years, having charge of matters relative to America even before his appointment as minister at Washington.

The title of khan, which he bears, is equivalent to a patent of nobility. It was conferred upon the minister by the shah. Minister Morteza brought from his beautiful home in Persia a large collection of house furnishings of distinctive Persian style with which he furnished the Washington legation.

According to Prescott, the money of the Arabs and the kindred nations consisted of quills filled with gold dust and bags of chocolate grains.

First Filipino Legislature.

THE first political campaign in the Philippines has passed, and the time is approaching when the first national assembly will be opened. Secretary William H. Taft, who is so popular among the Filipinos, is planning to visit the orient with the view of taking part in the inauguration of this experiment in the training of these new wards of the United States for self government. The elections for the national assembly passed off quietly, but the vote was small. It was about 90,000 out of a total Christian population of nearly 7,000,000. The Moros, who are Mohammedans and more or less barbaric in their customs and mode of life, were not given the privilege of voting. The proportion of those who were entitled to vote who registered and cast their ballots for members of the national assembly was small. Various reasons are assigned as the cause of this. The mass of the people, it is said, take little interest in politics and are chiefly interested in the daily problem of getting enough to eat. Many conservatives and representative merchants did not vote, being satisfied with the present condition of affairs. A large proportion of those who did vote belonged to the barely qualified class. The Nationalists, the party demanding immediate independence, cast the most votes. Next in number were the Progressives, who in their platform said, "We will willingly wait until Uncle Sam is ready to grant independence."

Among those elected to the assembly was Dr. Dominador Gomez, the rabid agitator and alleged chief of ladrones.

Secretary Taft before his departure from Washington said that he was by no means downcast over the result of the elections for the first Filipino assembly and that while the radical element seemed to have the advantage



WATER CARRIER IN THE PHILIPPINES.

many of the Nationalist delegates were to his knowledge men of good judgment.

American control has accomplished in the Philippines one thing that it also accomplished in Cuba—that is, better sanitation. As a result of this the records of the Manila board of health show that for the preceding six months not a single contagious disease has been conspicuously in evidence. This is the first time in the history of the American occupation, or, for that matter, in the history of the islands, that such a statement could be made. There were fewer deaths in the city of Manila during June than ever before under American control.

Forty-five of the 100 young Filipino students sent to the United States by their native government four years ago to be educated in American colleges have returned to the Philippine Islands with diplomas in their pockets prepared to aid their countrymen in solving the problem of self government. The others have decided to remain for the present at least on the continent of America. Every one of them carried off some kind of honor or prize in the colleges in which they studied. The only trouble with them was that they studied too hard and could with difficulty be restrained from overwork. Every one seemed to be thinking of the day when he would be assisting in the conduct of the Filipino government. The anxiety of the "new Filipino" for education is one of the things chiefly to be noted about him.

In a large number of municipalities the inhabitants have contributed freely of their money and labor to the erec-

tion of public schools. The municipalities are clamoring for authority to use their funds for school purposes. There are at present about 800 American teachers on the payroll in the public schools and about 500 Filipinos of considerable intelligence and education. All these are paid by the Philippine government. In addition there are perhaps 4,000 native Filipino teachers in provincial schools, paid from provincial treasuries, who have but little education and speak very poor English.

The Filipino is becoming somewhat accustomed now to the use of tools. The American or European style of dress is coming more into vogue, and toilet articles like the toothbrush are growing in favor, especially among those natives who desire to be elegant and up to date.

Bridget Whist. "Plawere hov yez been this aven't?" asked O'Tunder of O'Toole. "Sure, I've been playing Bridget whist. 'Tis a foine game, it is." "Bridget whist? An' how do yez play that?" "O' sit in the kitchen wid Bridget and ate ple an' cke an' chicken, and when Bridget hears the mistress comin' she says 'Whist,' an' O' hide in the pantry."—Short Stories.

The managing director of a London cab firm with 1,300 horses told a county court judge they worked their horses seven days a week in the London streets. The average life of a cab horse in London was about six years, but some would go only three months. Some would last twelve years.

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