

SHEATZ FALSIFIES HIS RECORD ON MACHINE BILLS OF 1903 SESSION

He Voted for the Susquehanna Canal Bill Notwithstanding His Denial of the Fact.

A Bad Record Made Worse by Adding Falsehood to Recreancy.—Democratic Campaign in Full Sway and Lively Times Expected in the Near Future.

(Special Correspondence.)

Harrisburg, Pa., Oct. 16. Some days ago the Philadelphia Record copied from a leaflet issued by the Democratic State Committee a paragraph in reference to the bills introduced into the Legislature of the State "creating new water companies with vast powers and increasing the already dangerous powers of some of the old companies." The statement added that Mr. Sheatz, the machine Republican candidate for State Treasurer, had supported these bills and that "the most atrocious of all these iniquities was known as the Kingston bill. It was among those which were stricken from the calendar of the Senate on the last day of the session for the reason that Pennypacker, weak as he was, threatened to veto them if passed."

The Philadelphia Record of Tuesday, October 8th, contains this communication or denial: Under ordinary circumstances I would not reply to campaign literature, as the general public, from long experience, has little time for, and much less inclination to believe the extravagant writings, and in many cases absolutely false statements, of men employed for their ability in that line; but as you lay such stress on the so-called Water Snake bills, I feel that I must make reply to you, although knowing that the people have not forgotten.

You say in your news columns and editorially that I voted for the infamous Susquehanna Canal bill. Will you please look in "The Record" or any of the Philadelphia newspapers published under date of March 13, 1903, and note the vote—170 to 1—the "no" coming from Representative Sheatz, of West Philadelphia.

At that time all the leading newspapers throughout Pennsylvania commented most favorably on my stand. I not only voted against, but worked against the bills.

There is a proverb that a "guilty conscience needs no accuser" and it is completely exemplified in Mr. Sheatz's action. He had not been accused of voting for the Susquehanna Canal bill but specifically declares that he didn't. The denial of his vote for the Kingston bill is only inferential. That is, he says that he "not only voted against, but worked against the bills,"—note the plural. As a matter of fact he voted for both the Kingston water snake and the Susquehanna canal bill. The Canal Bill wasn't classed among the "water snakes" at any time. It was simply a repeal of the charter of the Susquehanna Canal, which had been abandoned years ago, and of that class of legislation which the late Mr. Joseph used to characterize as "a little thing for Poor Ped."

There wasn't even the suspicion of bribery in connection with its consideration, though a bitter opposition to the measure was developed in some way and for some purpose.

The Record Contradicts Sheatz. Mr. Sheatz having magnified a mole hill into a mountain, however, his denial becomes important and the funny incidents relating to it interesting. For example the atrocious North American butted into the affairs of the day after the publication of Sheatz's denial with this absurd editorial:

It should be stated further that Mr. Sheatz took special pains to vote right on the Susquehanna "snake." While in Philadelphia the day before the bill came up he inquired of The North American when it was to be called. Upon learning that the vote would be taken the following day, he canceled an important business engagement, and went to Harrisburg specially to do his duty and vote against the measure.

Now for the facts. The measure, House bill No. 279, was reported from the Committee on Municipal Corporations by Mr. Call of Philadelphia, March 4.—Legislative Record, 1903, page 1232. It passed first reading on March 5.—Legislative Record, 1903, page 1304. It was read the second time "and agreed to," on March 10.—Legislative Record, 1903, page 1370. It was taken up in its order for third reading on March 11 and defeated for final passage on the same day.—Legislative Record, 1903, page 1520. The yeas being 79 and the nays 40. Mr. Sheatz voted against the bill but not alone, as he states. There were 29 others on that occasion.

On March 17th Mr. Shern of Philadelphia moved to "reconsider the vote by which House bill No. 279, the folio 329, was defeated on final passage." The motion was seconded by Mr. Samuel Hipp of Philadelphia and prevailed.—Legislative Record, 1903, page 1690. Obviously the machine needed that bill

for every available vote had been summoned and it passed finally, the vote being ye 170 and nay 1. But Mr. Sheatz was not the solitary individual who cast the negative vote. That distinction belongs to Mr. John Francis of the Second district, Allegheny county. On the contrary Mr. Sheatz voted aye.—Legislative Record, 1903, page 1691, or Journal of the House of Representatives, 1903, page 1081. He may have intended to vote no when he left the preposterous editor of the North American who thinks he owns Sheatz and aspires to the control of the Republican machine. But when he reached Harrisburg and came under the hypnotic power of Iz, he yielded promptly and surrendered unconditionally. His denial, therefore, marks him as a falsifier as well as a recreant.

The Kingston Iniquity. In view of these facts it is a matter of little consequence now Mr. Sheatz voted on any question or how he says he voted. The Legislative Record is badly indexed, probably, no doubt, and it is difficult to follow the work of a Representative for the purpose of review. The truth is however, that Sheatz voted for the vicious Kingston water snake. It was the worst of the lot and the measure upon which the gangsters depended. In protesting against it Mr. Creasy declared that it would give a corporation authority to "carry the whole body of a river around a city to change its course." But protests were unavailing. The machine wanted the authority to put the people under tribute and the bill passed finally, ayes 105, nays 64.—Legislative Record, 1903, page 2435.

On what it known as the Filtration bill Mr. Sheatz voted no the second time it was considered on final passage. This was another of the bills upon which machine managers depended. It came up on final passage for the first time on March 11 when Mr. Sheatz dodged.—Legislative Record, 1903, page 1524. On March 12 the vote was reconsidered, on motion of Mr. Plummer of Blair county, on March 17 it was again "called up" for final passage by Mr. Colville of Philadelphia, and agreed to, Mr. Sheatz voting in the negative. On all the other water bills he either dodged the vote or voted in the affirmative. His statement that he not only voted against but worked against the water bills is, therefore, a falsification of the facts.

The Grafters Have No Fear of Conviction.

"A wink is as good as a nod to a blind mule," and it requires little perspicacity to see that the lawyers of the capitol grafters are not in the least worried about the promised criminal proceedings. If each of the accused was convicted on each of the counts upon which he is indicted, they would all go to the penitentiary for life. That being the case it is not likely that the celebrated criminal lawyers who represent them would have voluntarily relinquished any advantages of delay or other technicalities unless they had obtained some sort of guarantees that their clients are in no danger of conviction.

The other day they were arraigned in court by proxy and all entered bail for appearance for trial on the 27th of January. The Attorney General wanted a speedy trial, the newspapers assure us, and the defendants tried for delay. They agreed that February 2 be filed as the day for the opening of proceedings. Finally the 27th of January was agreed upon and the prosecuting lawyers imagined that they had achieved a great victory. The defendants might have demanded preliminary hearings which would have involved delay and they might have done this or that to postpone the evil day, those hopefuls said. But they simply didn't do a thing but yield. Four or five days will not likely make much difference.

If there is to be no actual trial or in the event that the trial is to be made a farce like the trial of Salter who surrendered in much the same manner, it doesn't matter much whether it comes early or late. At best it is a difficult matter to prove a conspiracy when most of the conspirators are corporations as happens to be the case in the matter in point. But when the prosecution is more anxious to prove the accused innocent than guilty there is hardly a possibility of conviction. Everybody knows that from Governor Stuart down to the tipstaff of the court the authorities are anxious to vindicate the party rather than justice in the graft prosecutions.

The Campaign in Full Sway.

The Democratic campaign is now well under way and during the next three weeks there will be lively times throughout the State. Mr. Harman has ceased to expect a favorable reply to his challenge to discuss the issues of the campaign with Mr. Sheatz in joint meetings. The Republican managers don't want the issues of the campaign agitated much. There is danger in bringing the facts into view and a joint discussion would have had that result. But Mr. Harman and other Democratic speakers will address the people wherever it is possible to reach them and tell the facts as they exist.

The trial of the capitol grafters before the election would have settled the question of the election, just as a thorough exposure of the crimes would have defeated the Republican party last fall. Then every Republican speaker denied that there had been any grafting and now the press and orators of that faith insist that Republican officials will punish the grafters. Then the false statements were believed but I don't believe that the people are so credulous now. They know now that Mr. Berry told the truth then and they understand that he is equally accurate now when he declares that the election of John G. Harman is essential to the completion of the reforms which he has begun.

G. D. H.

Sheatz's Weak Plea.

From the Pittsburg Post. In his speech to the Grangers at Williams' Grove on Wednesday, John O. Sheatz, the Republican candidate for State treasurer, said much about the achievements of patriotic Pennsylvanians and of the high principles they had bequeathed to the present generation of citizens. His utterances serve to recall very similar ones frequently indulged in by one Samuel W. Pennypacker, who seemed to think that the good deeds performed by Revolutionary and other old-time patriots must suffice to prevent their descendants from being guilty of all wrongdoing.

Mr. Pennypacker five years ago was presented to the people of the State as a most estimable and patriotic citizen, in whose keeping as governor the interests of the State would be entirely safe. He was the candidate of the same machine that has placed Mr. Sheatz in nomination for State treasurer, and every surviving member of the machine as it was constituted in 1902 is working hard for him and declaring that the interests of the people of the State will be safe if he is given the custody of their funds.

Mr. Sheatz is no more respectable or honest or patriotic or independent than Mr. Pennypacker was represented to be five years ago. And yet as governor the latter permitted the State to be robbed of millions of dollars by the capitol grafters. Every one of the latter is now supporting Mr. Sheatz and hoping for his election.

Mr. Sheatz protested that the Republican party ought not to be held responsible for the capitol steal. The men who perpetrated that steal, or connived at and made it possible, however, owed their opportunity to do evil to the machine which has for years dominated the affairs of the Republican party. That party is responsible for keeping that machine in power, and it therefore must bear the blame for the misdeeds of the creatures of the machine. Mr. Sheatz himself was selected as a candidate by that machine. His success will be the success of the machine and of its creatures, the capitol grafters.

What the People Would Do to Grafters.

From the Eastern Argus. If the people of the state had a voice in the matter the court trials would be attached before the date of the fall election. This is the contingency the Republican machine of the state is fighting hard to prevent. Its reasons in reality ought to react as an incentive to the officers in whose hands the matter rests to speed the action in order that the voters of the state may be made acquainted with all the features of the capitol steal that they might apply the information when they go to the polls in November to make their selection of a state treasurer to succeed W. H. Berry—the man who started the ball rolling.

Sheatz a Gang Man.

From the Johnstown Democrat. Sheatz, the Republican candidate for state treasurer, is a Gang man. If he were not he would not be the Gang nominee. Sheatz's record clearly shows that he will go right along with the Machine. During the legislative session of 1903 as the Democratic leaders point out, Representative Sheatz "went along" with the Organization for what it wanted at Harrisburg. Probably Sheatz's most notable offense in that session was his vote for the Pennypacker-Salus-Grady "Press Muzzler." None but Gang men voted for that bastard.

The Voters Know Now.

From the Reading Telegram. It is mainly in McNichol to put up the Penrose flag early in the game, so that voters may know what is coming. Every citizen who wants more of Penrose now knows he must vote for Sheatz.

Not Asking Too Much.

From the Norristown Register. Surely the five hundred thousand Democrats in Pennsylvania are really not asking for very much when they seek to have only one representative in the state's government at Harrisburg. Give Harman a lift.

The Democratic State Committee is doing splendid work at the headquarters in Philadelphia and Democrats throughout the State ought to show their appreciation by giving it moral and material support. A mite from every voter who can afford to give it would create a potent agency for good and the improvement in the administration of the State government would be a generous recompense for the might.

The false impression is being widely diffused that John O. Sheatz voted for William H. Berry for State Treasurer two years ago. As a matter of fact he did nothing of the kind. He voted and worked for Plummer at that election as he voted and worked with Plummer on nearly every machine measure considered during the legislative session of 1905.

There will be no prosecution of the capitol looters until after the election and if Sheatz is elected the trials will be postponed until the end of time. The Republican machine can't stand the exposure which will follow a court trial.

Vote for John G. Harman for State Treasurer in the interest administrative honesty. It is not a political office and the election of either candidate will be without political significance.

Britain's Debt to France.

One of the chief debts to France is that she nourishes our ideas, transforms them, makes them her own, just as she transplanted and transmuted the flower of the renaissance in an earlier day. With all our national vanity we never dispute the percentage. It is only territory and diplomatic prestige and commerce about which we quarrel with our "sweet enemy."—London Academy.

Dumas and His Money.

Dumas the elder was not in the habit of counting his money, but did once, leaving it on the mantel while he left the room for a few minutes. When he returned and was giving some instructions to a servant he mechanically counted the pieces over again and found a louis missing. "Well," he said, with a sigh, "considering that I never counted my money before, I can't say it pays."

An Opportunity Slighted.

"Why don't you buy stock in that company?" "It doesn't seem to me that the men running it have good business judgment. They say that in a month the price of the stock will be double what it is selling at now." "Yes?" "Well, then, why don't they wait a month before selling it to me?"—Washington Star.

Many are the variants of the famous warning to the stealers of books. Here is a very old one that comes from Scotland: "He yat stells yis Buik fra Me, god gif he be hangit one ane tre. Amen for me, amen for the (thee), amen for all good company. Teste manu propria."

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CENTRAL RAILROAD OF PENNA.—Consolidated time table effective June 17, 1907.

READ DOWN			READ UP		
No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.	P.M.	A.M.
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