

# CALEB CONOVER



## RAILROADER

A STORY OF LOVE, POLITICS, INTRIGUE, OF A RICH & POWERFUL BOSS, AND AN INTREPID YOUNG REFORMER.

BY ALBERT PAYSON TERHUNE.  
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### CHAPTER V. In Two Camps.

IN the headquarters of the Civic League sat Clive Standish. With him were the committee chosen to conduct his campaign. Karl Ansel, a lean, hard-headed New England giant, their chairman, and incidentally, campaign manager, was going laboriously over a list of counties, towns and villages, corroborating certain notes he made from time to time, by referring to a big colored map of the Mountain State.

"I've checked off the places that are directly under the thumb of the C. G. & X.," Ansel was explaining as the rest of the group leaned over to watch the course of his pencil along the map. "I'm afraid they are as hopelessly in Conover's grip as Granite itself. It's in the rural districts, and in the towns that aren't dependent on the main line, that we must find our strength. It's an uphill fight at best, with—"

"With a million-and-a-half people who are paying enormous taxes for which they receive scant value, who have thrust on them a legislature and other officials they are forced to elect at the Boss's order!" finished Standish. "Surely, it's an uphill fight that's well worth while, if we can wake men to a sense of their own slavery, and the frauds they are forced to connive at. And that's what we're going to do."

The more experienced, if less enthusiastic, Ansel scratched his chin doubtfully.

"The people, as a mass, are slow to wake," he observed. "Often they just open one eye and growl at being bothered, and then roll over and go happily to sleep again while the Boss goes through their pockets. Don't start this campaign too optimistically, Mr. Standish. And don't get the idea the people are begging to be waked. If you wake them you've got to do it against their will. Not with any help of theirs. Maybe you can. Maybe you can't. As you say, it's perhaps worth a try. Even if—"

"But they've been waked before," insisted Standish. "And when they do awaken, there are no half-measures about it. Look how Jerome, on an independent fight, won out against the Machine in 1905. Why should the Mountain State—"

"The people are sleepy by nature," laughed Ansel. "They wake up with a roar, chase the Boss out of their house, smash the Machine and then go back to bed again with the idea they're heroes. As soon as their eyes are shut, back strolls the Boss, mends his machine and reopens business at the old stand. And that's what you have to look forward to. But we've been all over this sort of thing before. I'll have your 'speech-route' made out in an hour, and start a man over it this afternoon to arrange about the halls and the 'papering' and the press work. Speaking of press work, I had your candidature telegraphed to New York to the Associated Press early this morning. There'll be a perfect cloud of reporters up here before night. We must arrange to see them before the Conover crowd can get hold of them. Sympathy from out-of-State papers won't do us any harm. The country at large has a pretty fair idea of the way Conover runs the Mountain State. And the country likes to watch a good fight against long odds. There's lots of sympathy for the under dog—as long as the sympathizer has no money on the upper one."

"How about the sketch of the situation that you were having Craig write out, telling about the stolen franchises, the arbitrary tax-rate, the machine-made candidates, the railroad rule and all that? It ought to prove a good campaign document if he handles the subject well."

"Oh, he's handled it all right. I've read the rough draft. Takes Conover from the very start. Tells of his boyhood in the yards of the C. G. & X., and how he bullied and schemed until he got into the management's offices, the string of saloons he ran along the route and the drink-checks he made the men on his section cash in for liquor at his saloons, and all that. Then his career as Alderman, when he found out beforehand where the new reservoir lands and City Hall site were to be, and his buying them up, on mortgage, and clearing his first big pile. And that deal he worked in 'bearing' the C. G. & X. stock to \$1.10, and scaring everyone out and scooping the pot; that's brought in, too. And he's got the story of Conover's gradually working the railroad against the State and the State against the road, till he had a throat grip on both, and—"

"Wait a moment!" interrupted Standish. "Is all the sketch made up of that sort of thing?"

"Most of it. Good, red-hot—"

"It must be done all over, then. We are not digging up Conover's personal past, but his influence on the State and on the Democratic Party. I'm not swinging the muckrake or flinging dirt at my opponent. That sort of vituperation—"

"But it's hot stuff, I tell you, that sort of literature! It helps a lot. You can't hope to win if you wear kid gloves in a game like this."

"What's the use arguing?" said Standish pleasantly. "If the League was rash enough to choose me to represent it, then the League must put up with my peculiarities. And I don't intend to rise to the Capitol on any mud piles. If you can show me how Conover's early frauds and his general crookedness affect the issues of the campaign, then I'll give you leave to publish his whole biography. But till then let's run clean, shan't we?"



"But it's hot stuff, I tell you, that sort of literature!"

"Clean!" echoed Ansel aghast. "I've been in this business a matter of twenty-five years, and I never yet heard of a victory won by drawing-room methods. But have your own way. I suppose you know, though, that they'll rake up every lie and slur against you they can get their hands on?"

"I suppose so. But that won't affect the general issue either. You don't seem to realize, Ansel, that this isn't the ordinary routine campaign. It's an effort to throw off Boss rule and to free a State. Politics and personalities don't enter into it at all. I'd as soon have run on the Republican as the Democratic ticket if it weren't that the Republican Party in this State is virtually dead. The Democratic nominee for governor in the Mountain State is practically the governor-elect. That is why I—"

"Excuse me, Mr. Standish," said a clerk, entering from the outer office. "Mr. Conover would like a word with you."

The committee stared at one another, unbelieving.

"Hm!" remarked Ansel, breaking the silence of surprise. "I guess the campaign's on in earnest, all right. Shall you see him?"

"Yes. Show him in, please, Gardner."

"He says, sir, he wants to speak with you alone," added the clerk.

"Tell him the League's committee are in session, and that he must say whatever he has to say in their presence."

The clerk retired and reappeared a few moments later, ushering in—Gerald Conover.

A grunt of disappointment from Ansel was the first sound that greeted the long youth as he paused irresolute just inside the committee-room door.

"Good-morning, Gerald," said Standish, rising to greet the unexpected visitor; "we thought it was your father who—"

"No. And he didn't send me here, either," blurted out Gerald. His pasty face was still twitching, and his usually immaculate collar awry from the recent paternal interview.

"I came here on my own account," he went on, with the peevish wrath of a child. "I came here to tell you I swing over a hundred votes. Maybe a hundred more. My father says so himself. And I've come to join your League."

A gasp of amazement ran around the table. Then, with a crowd of delight, Ansel sprang up.

"Great!" he shouted. "His son! It's good for more votes than you know, Standish! Why, man, it's a bonanza! When even a man's own son can't—"

Standish cut him short.

"Are you drunk, Gerald?" he asked.

"No, I'm not!" vociferated the lad. "I'm dead cold sober, and I'm doing this with my eyes open. I want to join your League, and I'll work like a dog for your election."

"But why? You and I have never been especially good friends. You've never shown any interest in politics or ref—"

"Well, I will now, you bet! I'll make the old man wish he'd packed me off to New York by the first train. He'll sweat for the way he treated me before he's done. I suppose I've got to work secretly for you, so he won't suspect. But I'll do none the less work for that; and I can keep

you posted on the other side's moves, too. If I'm to be tied to this damned one-horse town by Father's orders till after election, I'll make him sorry he ever—"

"Good for you!" cried Ansel. "You've got the spirit of a man, after all. Here's a bunch of our membership blanks. Fill this one out, and give the rest to your club friends. We—why, Standish!" he broke off, furious and dumfounded; for Clive had calmly stepped between the two, taken the membership blank from Gerald's shaky hand and torn it across.

"We don't care for members of your sort, Gerald," he said, with a cold contempt that was worse than a kick. "This League was formed to help our City and State, not to gratify private grudges; for white men, not for curs who want to betray their own flesh and blood. Get out of here!"

"Standish!" protested the horrified Ansel, "you're crazy! You're throwing away our best chance. You are—"

"If this apology for a human being is our best chance, I'll throw him out bodily, unless he goes at once," retorted Clive, advancing on the cowering and utterly astonished boy.

"Why!" sputtered Gerald, as he backed down, before the menacing approach of the Leaguer, "I thought you'd want me—Oh, I'll go, then, if you've no more sense than that! But I'll find a way of downing the old man in spite of you! Maybe you'll be glad enough to get my help when the time comes! I—"

His heels hit against the threshold in his retrograde march. Still declaiming, he stepped over the sill into the outer office, and Clive Standish slammed the door upon him, breaking off his threats in the middle of their fretful outpouring.

"There," said Clive, returning to the gaping, frowning committee, "that's off our hands. Now let's get down to business."

"Mr. Standish," remarked Ansel, after a moment's battle with words he found hard to check, "you're the most Quixotic, impractical idealist that ever got hold of the foolish idea he had a ghost of a chance for success in politics. And," he added after a pause, "I'm blest if I don't think I'd rather lose with a leader like you than win with any other man in the Mountain State."

Meanwhile, at the head of the great study table in his Pompton Avenue "Mausoleum" sat Caleb Conover, Railroader. And about him, on either side of the board, like feudal retainers of old, were grouped the pick of his lieutenants and henchmen. A rare coterie they were, these Knights of Graft. Separated by ten thousand varying interests, social strata and aspirations, they were as one on the main issue—their blind adherence to the Boss and to the lightest of his orders.

This impelling force was difficult of defining. Love, fear, trust, desire for spoils? Perhaps a little of all four; perhaps much; perhaps an indefinable something apart from these.

Yet, whatever the reason of Caleb Conover's dominance, none could for a moment doubt its presence. So ever-present was it that it had long since choked down all opposition from within his own ranks.

At the Boss's right in to-day's conclave sat Billy Shevlin, most trusted and adoring of all his followers. At his left was Guy Bourke, Alderman and the Boss's jackal. Next to Billy was Bonham, Mayor of Granite, and next Giacomo Baltazzi, who held the whole Italian section force of the C. G. & X. and the Sicilian quarter of Granite in the hollow of his unwashed hand. Beyond was Nicholas Caine, proprietor of the Star, and to his right Beiser, the Democratic State Chairman. Between a second newspaper editor and the President of the Board of Aldermen lounged Kerrigan, the Ghetto saloon-keeper. A sprinkling of railroad men, heelers and district leaders made up the remainder. Conover was speaking:

"And that's the layout," said he. "And that's why I'm not content for this to be just a plain 'win.' Two years ago I thought Shearn would be our best man for governor. So I gave the word, and Shearn got in with a landslide this time, and not a trick's to be overlooked in the whole haul. Nick, you know the line of editorial policy to start in to-morrow's Star. And be on the lookout for the first break in any of the League's speeches. It's easier to think of a fool thing than not to say it, and those Reform Jays are always putting their feet in their mouths when they try to preach politics. And, knowing nothing about the game, they're sure to talk a heap. They never seem to realize that the man who really practices politics hasn't time to preach it."

(To Be Continued.)

How's This for Mud?  
Of all the yarns that ever came down the line regarding deep mud, the following should be entitled to the blue ribbon. It happened in the place where mud originated.

A man was walking along the roadside one summer day and noticed a fairly good looking hat out in the road. Reaching out with his cane, he gave it a cut and was startled to hear a voice exclaim: "Here, what the deuce are you doing?"

Then he made the astonishing discovery that the owner of the headpiece was under the hat, up to his ears in mud.

"Great heavens!" exclaimed the man who had hit the hat. "Is that mud as deep as that?"

"Deep!" cried the victim. "Why, man alive, I'm standing on a load of hay!"

**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION SUBMITTED TO THE CITIZENS OF THIS COMMONWEALTH FOR THEIR APPROVAL OR REJECTION, BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, AND PUBLISHED BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH, IN PURSUANCE OF ARTICLE XVIIII OF THE CONSTITUTION.**

Number One.

**A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**  
Proposing an amendment to section twenty-six of article five of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Resolved (if the Senate concur), That the following amendment to section twenty-six of article five of the Constitution of Pennsylvania be, and the same is hereby proposed, in accordance with the eighteenth article thereof:

That section 26 of Article V, which reads as follows: "Section 26. All laws relating to courts shall be general and of uniform operation, and the organization, jurisdiction, and powers of all courts of the same class shall be regulated by law, and the force and effect of the process and judgments of such courts, shall be uniform; and the General Assembly is hereby prohibited from creating other courts to exercise the powers vested by this constitution in the judges of the Courts of Common Pleas and Orphans Courts," be amended so that the same shall read as follows:—

Section 26. All laws relating to courts shall be general and of uniform operation, and the organization, jurisdiction, and powers of all courts of the same class shall be regulated by law, and the force and effect of the process and judgments of such courts, shall be uniform; but, notwithstanding any provisions of this Constitution, the General Assembly shall have full power to establish new courts, of the same class as the same may be needed in any city or county, and to prescribe the powers and jurisdiction thereof, and to increase the number of judges in any courts now existing or hereafter created, or to reorganize the same, or to vest in other courts the jurisdiction theretofore exercised by courts not of record, and to abolish the same wherever it may be deemed necessary for the orderly and efficient administration of justice.

A true copy of Resolution No. 1.  
ROBERT McAFEE,  
Secretary of the Commonwealth.

Number Two.

**RESOLUTION**  
Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, so as to eliminate the requirement of payment of taxes as a qualification of the right to vote.

Resolved (if the House of Representatives concur), That the following amendment to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania be, and the same is hereby proposed, in accordance with the eighteenth article thereof:

That section one of article eight be amended, by striking out the fourth numbered paragraph thereof, so that the said section shall read as follows:

Section 1. Every male citizen twenty-one years of age, possessing the following qualifications, shall be entitled to vote at all elections held hereunder by such laws requiring and regulating the registration of electors as the General Assembly may enact.

First. He shall have been a citizen of the United States at least one month.

Second. He shall have resided in the State one year next preceding the election, and he shall have been a qualified elector of a native-born citizen of the State, he shall have removed therefrom and returned, then six months, immediately preceding the election.

Third. He shall have resided in the election district where he shall vote at least two months immediately preceding the election.

A true copy of Resolution No. 2.  
ROBERT McAFEE,  
Secretary of the Commonwealth.

Number Three.

**A JOINT RESOLUTION**  
Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, so as to consolidate the courts of common pleas of Allegheny County.

Section 1. Be it resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in General Assembly met, That the following amendment to the Constitution of Pennsylvania be, and the same is hereby proposed, in accordance with the eighteenth article thereof:—

That section six of article five be amended, by striking out the said section, and inserting in place thereof the following:

Section 6. In the county of Philadelphia all the jurisdiction and powers now vested in the courts and courts of common pleas, subject to such changes as may be made by this Constitution or by law, shall be in Philadelphia vested in five distinct and separate courts of equal and co-ordinate jurisdiction, composed of three judges each. The said courts in Philadelphia shall be designated, respectively as the court of common pleas, number one, number two, number three, number four, and number five, but the number of said courts may be by law increased, from time to time, and shall be in like manner designated by successive numbers. The number of judges in any of said courts, or in any county where the establishment of an additional court may be authorized by law, may be increased, from time to time, and whenever such increase shall amount in the whole to three, such three judges shall compose a distinct and separate court as aforesaid, which shall be numbered as aforesaid. In Philadelphia all suits shall be instituted in the said courts of common pleas without designating the number of the said court, and the several courts shall be and are to be in the business among them in such manner as shall be provided by rules of court, and each court, to which any suit shall be thus assigned, shall have exclusive jurisdiction thereof, subject to change of venue, as shall be provided by law.

In the county of Allegheny all the jurisdiction and powers now vested in the several numbered courts of common pleas shall be vested in one court of common pleas, composed of all the judges in said courts. Such jurisdiction and powers shall extend to all proceedings at law and in equity which shall have been instituted in the several numbered courts, and shall be subject to such changes as may be made by law, and subject to change of venue as provided by law. The president judge of said court shall be selected as provided by law. The number of judges in said court may be by law increased from time to time. This amendment shall take effect on the first day of January succeeding its adoption.

A true copy of Resolution No. 3.  
ROBERT McAFEE,  
Secretary of the Commonwealth.

Number Four.

**A JOINT RESOLUTION**  
Proposing an amendment to section eight, article nine, of the Constitution of Pennsylvania.

Section 1. Be it resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in General Assembly met, That the following is proposed as an amendment to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, in accordance with the provisions of the eighteenth article thereof:—

Amendment to Article Nine, Section Eight.

Section 2. Amend section eight, article nine of the Constitution of Pennsylvania, which reads as follows:—

"Section 8. The debt of any county

city, borough, township, school district, or other municipality or incorporated district, except as herein provided, shall never exceed seven per centum upon the assessed value of the taxable property therein, nor shall any such municipality or district incur any new debt, or increase its indebtedness to an amount exceeding two per centum upon such assessed valuation of property, without the assent of the electors thereof at a public election in such manner as shall be provided by law; but any city, the debt of which now exceeds seven per centum of such assessed valuation, may be authorized by law to increase the same three per centum, in the aggregate, at any one time, upon such valuation," so as to read as follows:—

Section 8. The debt of any county, city, borough, township, school district, or other municipality or incorporated district, except as herein provided, shall never exceed seven per centum upon the assessed value of the taxable property therein, nor shall any such municipality or district incur any new debt, or increase its indebtedness to an amount exceeding two per centum upon such assessed valuation of property, without the assent of the electors thereof at a public election in such manner as shall be provided by law; but any city, the debt of which now exceeds seven per centum of such assessed valuation, may be authorized by law to increase the same three per centum, in the aggregate, at any one time, upon such valuation, except that any debt or debts hereinafter incurred by the city and county of Philadelphia for the construction and development of subways for transit purposes, or for the construction of wharves and docks, or the reclamation of land to be used in the construction of a system of wharves and docks, as public improvements, owned or to be owned by said city and county of Philadelphia, and which shall yield to the city and county of Philadelphia current net revenue in excess of the interest on said debt or debts and of the annual installments necessary for the cancellation of said debt or debts, may be excluded in ascertaining the power of the city and county of Philadelphia to become otherwise indebted: Provided, That a sinking fund for their cancellation shall be established and maintained.

A true copy of Joint Resolution No. 4.  
ROBERT McAFEE,  
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nights ago, when that organization went out of business for this campaign, members of the committee very frankly admitted that a large percentage of the citizens who have been voting the Penn ticket are Republicans in national and state affairs, while voting independently in municipal contests. It was acknowledged that they intend to support John K. Tener and all of his colleagues on the Republican state ticket, and leading reformers of the type of Theodore Justice, John C. Winston and others who have been among the heaviest contributors to local independent movements are out in public declarations of their purpose to stand by the Republican state nominees.

Cannot Stand a Bryanite.

Not only will Mr. Tener and his associates receive the support of this element, but they will also have the votes of thousands of Philadelphia independents who might under certain conditions back an Independent Republican for governor, but who under no circumstances would support a radical Bryanite Democrat like Berry.

The loss of these two elements of the reform forces has completely demoralized the soldiers of fortune who are behind the Berry movement, following the attacks of Democratic politicians upon whom they confidently counted to stand by Berry.

The aggressive campaign waged for Senator Grim, the Democratic nominee for governor, has resulted in a lining up of the Democratic workers in the regular Democratic organization. Democratic leaders who were expected to be for Berry have come out for Grim, in order to retain their standing with the Democracy. Where they have failed to do so they have been asked to resign or been expelled from Democratic committees.

Eugene C. Bonnell, Berry's campaign manager, threatened with expulsion, has resigned from the chairmanship of the Delaware county Democratic committee.

While the Berry Democrats and the Grim Democrats are fighting among themselves reports from all over the state indicate harmony among the Republicans. Chairman Henry F. Walton and Secretary W. Harry Baker of the Republican state committee, have the preliminary work up to date and have their plans matured for an aggressive campaign.

Gubernatorial Candidate Tener and his colleagues, Messrs. Reynolds, Wright and Houck, will address a meeting at Charleroi on Saturday, Sept. 3, when Mr. Tener's neighbors propose to make a great demonstration in his honor.

They will be in Pittsburg on Labor Day, Sept. 5; in Philadelphia, Sept. 10; at the State League of Republican Clubs, Pottsville, Sept. 15, and in Lehigh county on Sept. 17.

Boy Fisherman Caught Body of Baby.

Samuel avis, six years old, while fishing in the Miami and Erie canal at Tippecanoe City, O., hooked the body of a baby.

## REFORMERS REFUSE TO SUPPORT BERRY

Leading Men in William Penn Party For Republican State Ticket.

[Special Correspondence.]

Philadelphia, Aug. 30.

The most significant and important development of the state campaign thus far is found in the refusal of prominent and potential men in the William Penn Party in this city to support the Berry-Casey Democratic combination on the Keystone Party ticket.

The fact that thousands of voters who have been allied with reform movements intend to support the full Republican state ticket, including the nominees for congress, has necessitated the withdrawal of the William Penn Party from the field, and the men who are behind the Berry candidacy are now seeking to marshal their Falstaffian outfit under the banner of the hybrid Keystone Party.

At a meeting of the city committee of the William Penn Party a few

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