

CALEB CONOVER RAILROADER



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

BY ALBERT PAYSON TERHUNE. COPYRIGHT 1907 BY ALBERT PAYSON TERHUNE.

One big farmer slapped him on the back, crying: "You're all right, Mr. Standish! If you can carry out all you've promised, I guess Wills County'll stand by you, solid. But why on earth didn't you advertise you was comin' to Wayne to-night? If it hadn't been for your agent that passed through here yesterday and told some of the boys at the hotel and the postoffice, you wouldn't 'a' had anyone to hear you. If we'd known what was comin', this hall'd 'a' been packed."

"But surely you read my advertisements in your local papers!" exclaimed Clive. "I—"

"We sure didn't read anything of the kind," retorted a dairyman. "I read everything in the Wayne Clarion, from editorials to soap ads, an' there hasn't been a line printed about your meetin'."

"I sent my agent ahead to place paid advertisements with every paper along my route," said the puzzled Standish. "And you say he was in town here yesterday. So he couldn't have skipped Wayne. I'll drop in on the editor of the Clarion on my way to the station and ask him why the advertisement was overlooked."

Accordingly, a half-hour later, en route for the midnight train, Standish sought out the Clarion office and demanded an interview with its editor-in-chief.

"I guess that's me," observed a fat, shirt-sleeved man, who looked from his task of tinkering with a linotype machine's inner mysteries. "I'm Mr. Gerrett, editor-in-chief, managing editor, city editor, too. My repertorial staff's out to supper, this being pay day and he being hungry. Were you wanting to subscribe or—? Take a chair, anyhow," he broke off, sweeping a pile of proofs off a three-legged stool. "Now, what can I do for you?"

"My name is Standish," began Clive, "and I called to find out why—"

"Oh!"

The staecote monosyllabically served as clearing house for all Gerretts' geniality, for he froze—as much as a stout and perspiring man can—into editorial super-dignity. Aware that the atmosphere had congealed, but without understanding why, Clive continued:

"My agent called here, did he not? And left an advertisement of—"

"Yes," snapped Gerrett, "he did. I was out. He left it with my foreman with the cash for it. I mailed a check for the amount this morning to your League headquarters at Granite."

"But why? The advert—"

"The ad's in my waste-basket. Now, as this is my busy night, maybe you'll clear out and let—"

"Look here!" said Clive, sternly, and refusing to notice the opened door, "what does this mean?"

"It means we don't want your ads, nor your money."

"Were you too crowded for space and had to leave the advertisement out?"

"No, we weren't. We don't want any dealings with you or the alleged 'League' you're running. That's all. Ain't that plain enough?"

"No," answered Clive, trying to keep cool, "I want a reason."

"You'll keep on wanting it, then. I'm boss of this office, and—"

"The real boss? I doubt it. If you were, what reason would you have for turning away paid advertisements? I may do you an injustice, my friend but I think you're acting under orders."

"You're off!" shouted Gerrett, red-denning. "I run this paper as I choose. And I don't take orders from any man. I—"

"Nor passes? Nor freight rebates on paper rolls, and—"

"D'ye mean to insult me?"

"D'ye mean to insult me?" bellowed Gerrett, wallowing forward, threatening as a fat black thundercloud. "I'll have you know—"

"I don't think," replied Clive calmly, and receding not a step, "I don't think you could be insulted, Mr. Gerrett. You are making rather a pitiful

exhibition of yourself. Why not own up to it you are acting under orders of the 'Machine,' whose tool you are? The 'Machine' which is so afraid of the truth that it takes pains to muzzle the press. The 'Machine' that is so well aware of its own rottenness, it dare not let the people whom it is defrauding hear the other side of the case. Why not admit you are bought?"

Gerrett was spluttering unintelligible wrath.

"Get out of my office!" he roared at last.

"Certainly," assented Standish. "I've learned all I wanted to. You serve your masters well. I hope they pay you as adequately."

He turned to the door. Before he reached it a thin youth with ink-smears on his fingers swung in.

"Hard luck!" exclaimed the newcomer. "That Standish meeting's raised a lot of interest downtown. Pity we can't run anything on it! It'd make a dandy first-page spread."

"Shut up!" bellowed Gerrett. "You young—"

"Don't scold him," counselled Standish, walking out. "He didn't make any break. We're all three in the secret."

CHAPTER IX.

The Grafton Opera House List.

THE next five days witnessed practical repetitions of the foregoing experiences. In almost every town the local newspaper not only refused to report a line of Standish's speeches, but would not accept his advertisements. Nor, in most places, could he find a job office willing to print handbills for him. His agent had nearly everywhere been able to engage a hall; but as no adequate preliminary notice of the meeting had been published, audiences were pitifully slim. In one or two towns, where the papers did not belong to the "Machine," it was discovered that every hall, lodge-room or other available meeting-place had been engaged in advance by some mysterious competitor. Clive, at such settlements, was forced to speak in open air. Even then the police at one town dispersed the gathering under excuse of fearing a riot; at two others the mayor refused a license to hold an outdoor meeting, and at a fourth, a gang of toughs, at long range, pelted the audience with stones and elderly eggs, the police refusing to interfere.

At length Clive's advance agent returned to the candidate in abject despair.

"I've been doing this sort of work eight years," the man reported, "but this time I'm cleaned stumped. I can't make any headway. The papers, the city authorities, the opera-house-and-hall-proprietors and the police are all under Conover's thumb. It's got so that as soon as I reach a town I can find out right away who is and who isn't in the 'Machine's' pay. Where the papers aren't muzzled—and there are precious few such places—the halls are closed to us, and either the mayor or the police will stop the meeting. Where the papers are working for Conover, we can get all the halls we want, because the Boss knows the news of your speech can't circulate except by word of mouth."

"Oh, they've got us whipsawed in grand shape! I'm wondering what'll happen at Grafton Monday night. That's the biggest city next to Granite, and there's always been more or less of a kick there against Conover rule. They've got a square man for mayor, and one of their three newspapers is strong for you. I was able to get the opera house, too. It's your big chance of the campaign, and your last chance on this tour. The rest of the towns on your route I can't do anything with. I'm waiting to see what dirty game Conover will play at Grafton, now that he can't work his usual tricks there. He'll be sure to try something."

Billy Shevlin, who had also acted (unsuspectingly as unofficially) as advance agent of Clive Standish's tour, had in three respects excelled the authorized agent: In the first place, he had been as successful as the other had been a failure. In the second, he had not turned back. Third, and last, he was not in the very least discouraged. Nor had he need to be.

Yet even to him Grafton presented the first serious problem. And to it he devoted much of his time and more of his cleverness. At last he formed a plan and saw that his plan was good.

Clive reached Grafton at noon of the day he was scheduled to speak. This was the second largest city in the Mountain State. Here, next to Granite, must the chief battle of the campaign be waged. On the effect of his speech here hung a great percentage of Clive's hopes for the coming State convention as Grafton went, so would Matawan County, whose centre it was. And Grafton, wavering in fealty to Conover, might yet be won to the Standish ranks by the right sort of speech. So with the glow of approaching struggle upon him Clive awaited the night. All he asked was a fair hearing. This, pre-

sumably, was for once to be accorded him.

At the hotel on his arrival he found Karl Ansel waiting. The big, lean New Englander was in a state of white-hot wrath.

"You got my telegram and the notice of the caucuses, I suppose!" he growled as Clive met him.

"No. I ordered all mail forwarded here, and telegrams, too. I broke away from my route Saturday, when I found I couldn't get a hall at Smithfield. I cancelled my date there and went over to Deene, leaving word for everything to be sent on to Grafton. Then, yesterday—"

"Never mind that. We're done! Beat! Tricked!"

"What do you mean?"

"The county conventions—the caucuses! In every—nearly every one of the eight counties Conover worked some blackguardism. To some he sent telegrams that you backed out. In others his chairman tried the 'back door' act. And I wrote you how they'd 'snapped' the dates and caught us unready. Then—"

Clive recalled the anonymous letter which later events had driven from his memory. If only he had been able to lower himself to his opponent's level and take advantage of it—of the treachery in the Conover ranks! If—

But Ansel was still pouring out the flood of his ill-temper.

"Whipsawed us, right and left," he declared. "Beat us at every point as easy as taking candy from a baby. What are we doing in politics? We're a lot of silly amateurs against—"

"We're a lot of honest men against a gang of crooks. And in the long run we'll win. We—"

"The long run, eh? Well, the run has begun, and they've got us on it. We're beat!"

"Poor old Ansel," laughed Clive, "how many times during the past fortnight have I heard you say that? And every time you pick yourself up again and go on with the fight. Just as you'll do now."

"Not on your life! I—oh, well, I suppose I will, if it comes to that! But it's a burning, blazing shame."

"If it wasn't for just such 'burning, blazing shames,' there'd be no need for our campaign. It's to crush such 'shames' that we're working. Cheer up! I've great hopes for to-night's meeting."

Terse he described his trip, the drawbacks he had encountered, and the better chances that seemed to attend the Grafton rally, Ansel interspersing the tale with a volley of queries and expletives.

"I'd heard of this press-muzzling," said he as Standish ended, "and I have one way of blocking it. I've arranged for your speeches and 'ads,' and advance notices to be printed in the biggest paper in the next State, and scattered all through the Mountain State as campaign documents. I don't think even Conover can block that move."

"Splendid!" cried Standish. "Old man, you're a genius!"

"No, I'm not," contradicted Ansel, rather ruefully, "but someone else is. I don't know who."

"I don't understand."

"Why, the idea was sent to me three days ago, anonymously. Typewritten on foolscap. No signature. What d'you think of that?"

"Anonymously?"

"Yes, I wonder why. The idea's so good, one would think the originator'd claim it. Unless—"

"Unless it came from the Conover camp?"

"Just what occurred to me. Anyhow I've adopted the suggestion. I suppose you'd have refused to accept anonymous help, eh?"

"Every man to his own folly. It's done now."

"It sure is. And with a few more such tips, Conover would be 'done,' too. He's carried matters high-handedly for years, but now maybe someone he's ridden rough-shod over has turned on him."

The great night had come. Clive and Ansel, arriving at the Opera House, found that gaudy, gayly-lighted auditorium full to the doors. On the stage sat the mayor, the proprietor of one of the papers, a half dozen clergymen and a score of civic dignitaries. The boxes were filled with well-dressed women. Evening suits blended with the less conspicuous costumes of the spectators who stretched from stage to entrance, from orchestra to roof. A band below the stage played popular and national airs.

(To Be Continued.)

The Flirting Widow. Jock Anderson was industriously wooing a wealthy widow, who was fair, fat, and forty, with every prospect of a successful issue, for his affections were abundantly returned. But in an evil moment one of Jock's chums mentioned that a gentle hint, suggesting flirtation on the part of the lady, would constitute a piece of irresistible flattery. This idea Jock put immediately into practice by writing a long amorous letter which, no doubt, would have captured both the widow and her money had he punctuated properly.

This is the sentence that settled poor Jock's chance:

"I consider you brutal and jealous though you may fancy me a little addicted to flirting."

On perusing the above sentence the widow immediately visited Jock; she stormed at him, swore at him, and eventually swooned. Jock explained, and punctuated the objectionable sentence with tadpoles, making it read:

"I consider you, brutal and jealous though you may fancy me, a little addicted to flirting."

But nothing could induce the widow to see aught but a slight on herself and her stoutness, punctuate as he would.

The widow is no longer a widow, but, alas! Jock is not her husband.

TEDDY TURNED DOWN BERRY MEN

Keystone Political Game That Failed to Work.

ROOSEVELT JOLTED BOLTERS

Former President, Instead of Aiding Insurgents, Lauded Administration by Pennsylvania Republicans.

Probably the most disappointing incident of the state campaign to the managers of the Keystone Party was the failure of Roosevelt to comply with their request and make some reference in his Pittsburgh speech to Pennsylvania political conditions that would aid the Berry candidacy for governor.

A special committee of Keystoneers was delegated to get in touch with the ex-president as soon as he arrived and urge him to directly or indirectly help their cause in his speech. The committee got a complete turn down.

They quickly learned that Roosevelt was not going to be a party in any way to help along the campaign of a Democrat for governor of the stalwart Republican Keystone State.

He was perfectly familiar with Berry's free silver and Bryanite record before the Keystone committee-men broached the subject, and not only did they get absolutely no encouragement from Teddy, but he gave them a body blow when he did make his speech by lauding the record of the Republican party in this state.

Mayor William A. Magee, who is at the head of the Republican organization of Allegheny, and upon whom devolved the duty of making the speech of presentation to the great Pittsburgh audience, was, with other stalwart Republicans upon the platform, greatly elated over the utterances of Roosevelt upon that occasion.

In touching upon Pennsylvania conditions, the former president in part said:

"And now, friends, in closing, I want to call your attention to the fact that there is not anything at all to be depressed about in present conditions in America. We have got lots of good to our credit."

"You have some admirable laws on the statute books here in Pennsylvania. Take the way that you care for your schools—your compulsory law—your appropriations for the schools—your appropriations for school books, so that every boy and girl in Pennsylvania can get an education. And now, you are administering that law so that their parents and nobody else can cheat them out of the education. You have on the statute books the eight-hour law as regards the employes of the government. You have laws prohibiting child labor and minimizing the number of hours and regulating the labor of women—laws that have not in the past been always executed as they should be, but which I think are steadily being better executed, from all that I can hear."

"You have made excellent forestry laws, excellent conservation laws, in connection with your forests and waters. It is a great sum of positive achievement of which you should be proud. But it is better not to be proud of it than to feel that, because you have done pretty well, you are therefore to be excused from doing anything more. Do not forget that you won't stand still. If you do not go forward you will slip backward. Now, so it is about America as a whole."

These words of recognition of the splendid administration of the affairs of the commonwealth under Republican officials were sincerely and earnestly spoken.

"There is no reason whatever why Mr. Berry should receive a single Republican vote in this campaign," says the Scranton Truth. "He was an eager seeker for the Democratic nomination and is now a candidate because he didn't get it. In the dispute between William J. Bryan and Colonel Guffey, when the Nebraskan tried to eliminate the latter from Pennsylvania control, Berry sided with Bryan and showed himself an enthusiastic supporter of the Bryan brand of national Democratic politics, although it is now well known that he should have stood by Guffey in that contest."

"At no time has Mr. Berry manifested any friendship for Republican principles or policies in state or nation, and he is not, therefore, entitled to Republican support, however zealously he may masquerade as an 'independent.' He must not be permitted to sail under false colors. He is a Democratic bolter from the Allentown convention and a candidate because he failed to secure the nomination of that convention for governor."

"Mr. Berry's presence in the field can have no other result than the election of John K. Tener by the largest majority ever received by a Republican candidate for governor of Pennsylvania."

Citizens of Pennsylvania with a knowledge of what has been done by the Republican party and with the pledges of John K. Tener, the Republican nominee for governor, that he will seek to follow the policies and the methods of Edwin S. Stuart, it is predicted, are going to show their confidence and faith in the Republican party and its standard bearer by rolling up a great Republican majority at the election on Nov. 8.

NEWS PLEASES BERRY. (From page one.)

corner of the Keystone State were safeguarded by the two Republican United States senators and all of the Republican members of the lower house from Pennsylvania.

Berry's admission at a public meeting here "that there was not a dollar in the treasury of the Keystone Party" simply emphasized the fact that substantial men, men of affairs, property owners and business men, to whom the importance of electing a safe and sane man to the governorship appeals most strongly, will have nothing to do with his candidacy or the hybrid combination of disappointed and cast-off politicians back of the Keystone Party.

Desertions on Every Side.

Berry talks and acts like a man who knows he has not got a chance to win the governorship. He admitted in his West Philadelphia speech last week that when he accepted the nomination he had no idea of being elected.

Developments since the Keystone ticket was put in the field all show that his candidacy has been constantly getting weaker rather than stronger.

Desertions of independent Republicans and Democrats from the Berry movement are noted every day. Resignations from Keystone Party committees are being announced on every hand, and newspapers which gave encouragement to his cause at the outset have since either turned in for Tener, the Republican, or Grim, the regular Democratic nominee.

While Berry still declares he is a Democrat, there are not a half dozen Democratic newspapers in the state now favoring his election, and there are about a like number of so-called independent newspapers.

FOUND DEAD IN CHURCH

Wilkes-Barre Lawyer Expired in Edifice He Went to Inspect.

Thomas J. Chase, a lawyer of Wilkes-Barre, Pa., was found dead in a pew at the Universalist church.

He had been missing all night, and evidently had gone into the church of which he was a trustee, to inspect some repair work, and fell dead. Heart disease was probably the cause.

Infantile Paralysis Spreads.

The case of little Howard Bradshaw, Jr., of Cambridge, Md., who was recently stricken with infantile paralysis, is attracting much attention among the physicians all over the lower peninsula. Two more cases have developed in the vicinity of the Bradshaw home, and residents of that section of the city are becoming more and more alarmed over the conditions.

Methodist Preacher a Suicide.

Rev. Dr. Lundy H. Harris, husband of Mrs. Cora Harris, who wrote the story of "A Circuit Rider's Wife," recently published in the Saturday Evening Post, committed suicide at Pine Log, a health resort near Cartersville, Ga. Dr. Harris, who held a responsible position with the Southern Methodist Publishing house, at Nashville, Tenn., was at Pine Log for his health.

Cat's Bite Poisons Young Girl.

Miss Elizabeth Wright, of New Castle, Del., who was bitten on the leg ankle by a pet cat, has developed blood poisoning. The young woman has suffered great agony and serious results are feared. The cat has been killed.

Five Shot Down From Ambush.

Five persons, three whites and two negroes, were shot from ambush while driving on the Sweet Home pike, four miles south of Little Rock, Ark. One of them, an unidentified negro, was killed. Mrs. Charles Diehl, of Little Rock, was seriously wounded.

Were Drifting to Sea in Disabled Boat.

Harry Brant and Miss Margaret Eckhart, believed to have been drowned during a gale, were picked up a mile and a half out at sea off Kennebecport, Me., drifting in their disabled craft.

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 XVIII OF THE CONSTITUTION.

Number One.

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 or grade, so far as 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 or grade, so far as 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, from time to time, 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 the 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. 4.

ROBERT MCAFEE, Secretary of the Commonwealth.

A true copy of Resolution No. 1.

ROBERT MCAFEE, Secretary of the Commonwealth.

Number Two.

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, subject however to 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 (or if, having previously been a qualified elector or native-born citizen of the State, that the following moved therefrom and returned, then six months), immediately preceding the election.

Third. He shall have resided in the election district where he shall offer to vote at least three 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 district 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 there shall be instituted in the said courts of common pleas without designating the number of the said court, and the several courts shall distribute and apportion the business among them in such manner as shall be provided by rules of court, and each court to which any suit shall be 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 courts and courts of common pleas shall be vested in one court of common pleas, composed of all the judges in commission 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 such jurisdiction shall be vested in one court of common pleas, composed of all the judges in commission 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 such jurisdiction shall be vested in one court of common pleas, composed of all the judges in commission 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 such jurisdiction shall be vested in one court of common pleas, composed of all the judges in commission in said courts.

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 1.

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 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, or any county, city, borough, township, school district, or other municipality, 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 bridges 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 and permanent 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, Secretary of the Commonwealth.