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# THE STORY OF A PLOT.

Quay Republicans Get Sibley's Promise to Fight Charles W. Stone For Revenge.

## SIBLEY SAYS THEY WILL HELP.

Mr. Wanamaker on State Chairman Elkin's Record—The Champion of Pure Politics Speaks to Immense Throng—The Machine Again Assaulted in Its Stronghold—A Startling Array of Facts For the People.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Harrisburg, Sept. 20.—In my letter of last week there was told the story of how Senator Quay's friends in the Twenty-seventh congressional district were trying to defeat Congressman Charles W. Stone. A committee of silver Democrats and Quay Republicans waited on Hon. Joseph Sibley, the noted Greenbacker, Populist and free silverite at his home in Franklin, and asked him to run for congress against Mr. Stone. The free silver Democrats want to reduce the Republican majority in the house at Washington. The Quay Republicans want to defeat Charles W. Stone at any cost, to get him out of the road and at the same time "pay him up" for presuming to run for governor against a candidate slated by Senator Quay.

At the time my last letter was written Sibley had not replied to this mixed committee of Quayites and free silverites. On Friday last, however, he came out and declared that he would accede to their wishes and become a candidate. State Chairman Elkin has declared that the Quay Republicans had nothing to do in getting Sibley out against Stone. This is answered in the letter of acceptance sent out by Mr. Sibley, which fastens this political crime upon this brand of Republicans. His letter is as follows:

## SIBLEY ENCOURAGED BY QUAY REPUBLICANS.

To the Electors of the Twenty-seventh Congressional District:

"Having been selected without the expression of a desire on my part for such an honor, as their candidate for representative in congress, not only by friends of the same political faith, but also in the form of personal requests, a great number of letters and numerous signed petitions by those who in the past have been conspicuous for their devotion to the Republican party, and under whose leadership it has so often marched to victory, the nomination under those circumstances and conditions seems to come as a genuine and urgent call to service which no citizen may feel at liberty to refuse. In this spirit of deference to the wishes of the sovereign people I accept your call."

This effectually settles the question of political treason on the part of the bosses and the machine. They dare not deny it. Still more damaging evidence will be forthcoming in the future.

## WANAMAKER'S GREAT CAMPAIGN

Hon. John Wanamaker continues his campaign through the state, and is meeting with the most remarkable success. On last Friday night he spoke to an audience of 1,500 in the court house at Honesdale. The court room was packed to its capacity, and hundreds were turned away. He made one of the most vigorous speeches of his political career. He was cheered to the echo. What he said in part was in reply to the attacks of Chairman Elkin, of the state Republican committee. Mr. Wanamaker is not a candidate for office on any ticket before the people, but because Mr. Elkin sees in him an opponent of machine rule he has on several occasions denounced Mr. Wanamaker in public addresses. Mr. Wanamaker in discussing Chairman Elkin said:

I have been asked who Mr. Elkin is. I have but little personal acquaintance with him, but personally a pleasant one. I am unwilling to become engaged in any personal altercations in these political discussions. I am a citizen, a voter and an old time Republican, and claim the right to discuss in good spirit and temper candidates for office and the managers of campaigns who are in point of fact nearly always supported by public money gathered by subscription or assessments.

I am informed that Mr. Elkin was appointed state deputy attorney general by Governor Hastings in 1885, and soon after became a candidate for Republican state chairman. United States Senator Quay, fearing to allow Mr. Elkin's name to go to the front, became a candidate himself, and as soon as he was elected turned over the office to Mr. Elkin.

## CHAIRMAN ELKIN'S RECORD.

Thirteen months ago Mr. Elkin was obliged to resign from the office of deputy attorney general because of his confessed participation in unlawfully conspiring with others to get a large sum of money from the state treasury upon a padded payroll.

This, however, does not seem to have affected his standing or eligibility for state chairman. Notwithstanding, he was forced from the attorney general's office in disgrace, he has remained continually at the head of the Republican machine and the commander-in-chief of a committee representing every county in the state, to whom is committed under his direction the conduct of the election.

This state official, sworn to guard the public treasury, caught in the commission of an unlawful act, turned out of office, unblushingly attempts to justify his conduct upon the plea that the machine of which he is the sub-head has, by the same method, robbed the state for years.

Public opinion was so strong at the time the lading out of the money of the treasury was discovered that it drove him out of the attorney general's office with quick step, but he has evidently now determined to meet the issue with defiance and audaciously defends the right of use of the money of the state treasury without legislative authority.

## ELKIN'S IDEA OF THE PARTY.

This is the same man who claims to

be a law in himself for the treasury: this is the same who assumes to act as pope to the Republican party of Pennsylvania, and excommunicate those who do not take orders from his camp.

It would seem that the deposed ex-deputy attorney general and state chairman has discovered that the Republican party in Pennsylvania is not strong enough to retain in its ranks those who hold opinions of their own; that it means to establish a kind of Salt Lake settlement from which shall be shut out all others than the ring consorts, the Republican valets, the lawbreakers, treasury looters, indemnity bond signers, padded payrollers, and such as will add, divide and be still.

The thousands and tens of thousands who follow the old flag of Lincoln Republicanism from principle are to be denied a place in the home they have built.

I am asked to notice that Chairman Elkin declares that he has made every effort to bring about harmony within the Republican party. The truth is it is the Elkin-Andrews-Saylor-Quay-Lytle, and even so genial and handsome a man as Harlanberg, who has always trained with this sort that has brought on this condition of affairs.

Only deaf ears have been turned to the people's appeals, for less machine and more principle, and setting the people aside by defeating such as Kauffman and striking out every man who has been independent enough to choose for himself his legislative course has caused the dissensions and widened the chasm between the people and the machine.

I grant that Mr. Elkin has followed the instinct of a machine made politician in endeavoring to bring about a basis of harmony upon barter and deal. The Quay substitute chairman, who after all is Quay himself, I believe, has been and still is perfectly willing to sit down and divide the people's offices among the politicians representing opposing factions upon the condition that they will agree to support Senator Quay for re-election.

## THE PEOPLE DISREGARDED.

I cannot tell how many men the machine has been willing to favor for nomination as members of the legislature and offered to discount candidate's notes based upon salaries unearned by which assessments might be paid providing some kind of a bond is given to go along, as they term it, with the machine and support its bills and its people for re-election.

Where do the people come in in these arrangements? What effort has he made to harmonize his machine with the people? What will he do to give back into the state treasury the thousands of dollars illegally taken from it?

Who will go security for the machine against indemnity bonds, padded payrolls, junketing jobs, appropriation bill steals in the future? Can anyone tell whether the machine in its efforts to harmonize with the people has favored the passage of just and equitable tax laws to lighten excess burdens now borne by rural lands?

Who has received any promise or guarantee that the state contracts in which certain prominent party officials are said to be secretly interested, will no longer continued?

Where is there any agreement that the machine will cease its raids upon the treasury through the state printer and other departments? What efforts have been made to satisfy the people that the machine will not cut down the public schools appropriations again?

Has the confident chairman harmonized with the farmers by promising protection to the pure butter interests? What guarantee shall the people have if they will harmonize that there will be no more Becker bills, electric light snakes, guarantors jobs, Andrews' banking bills, fire alarm bills, pool bills, brewery license bills; what hope has he thrown out to the people that the Republican organization is not to be longer used as an individual concern for individual benefit?

In the interest of harmony and good feeling within the party has the chairman ever offered to resign and relieve the party from the odium of having a head who was officially dismissed from office for crime against the law in connection with the state treasury?

## WHAT CHAIRMAN ELKIN KNOWS.

Who will say that it is true that Chairman Elkin has done all he could to bring about harmony within the Republican party unless he has made all these particular offers? Surely it cannot be possible that the state chairman is ignorant of the feeling among the rank and file of the party.

He must know that thousands of Republicans will not vote their party ticket this year, lest their votes should be considered an indorsement of the party chairman's connection with the treasury raid.

Chairman Elkin must know that many of the people will not follow his leadership because he openly advocated and tried strenuously to take a million of dollars away from the public schools.

Chairman Elkin must know that the farmers are not willing to follow the leading of any man who favors legalizing the sale of oleomargarine to the damage of the great interests of pure butter in this state.

Chairman Elkin must know that the people of Philadelphia have not forgotten his efforts to pass the Becker bills, and he must likewise know that the people of Pittsburgh remember his connection with the ripper bill.

Chairman Elkin must know that a man to be chairman of the Republican organization, justifying his signature to the notorious indemnity bond, must give some security to the people that when the W. A. Stone state is carried out and W. H. Andrews becomes the secretary of the commonwealth, and Chairman Elkin becomes attorney general he will not dip into the treasury again with more indemnity bonds.

## VOTERS WILL NOT BACK THE TICKET.

Chairman Elkin must know that the widespread belief that he is to be taken care of by some fat office when his party succeeds in the fall will drive hosts of voters away from supporting the Republican ticket.

Chairman Elkin must not forget that it is very much in the way of harmony so long as the people remember his connection with the defeat of the reform bills and the passage of counterfeits that permit electric frauds and crimes of the most flagrant character. Chairman Elkin must know that it would never be possible to harmonize

the Republican party by management of the state committee in the interests of a few favored office holders.

Chairman Elkin may have forgotten, but the people do not forget, that when McKinley was before them for the presidency, and sound money was the supreme object all over, that he and his satraps industriously endeavored to destroy Republican meetings in various parts of the state because the speakers were not of the ring stripe.

Chairman Elkin must remember that he absolutely refused to allow meetings to be arranged in various parts of the state to assist McKinley's election, because he objected to Mr. Wanamaker making the speeches, though he never alluded to other than tariff and sound money questions.

Mr. Chairman Elkin, who is now widely screaming for regularity, is upon the record for refusing to support a man for nomination for governor within the party lines because he was not a ring man.

## MR. ELKIN'S REPUBLICANISM.

Chairman Elkin may forget that there are in existence quite a number of letters where in the fall election of 1896, as chairman of the state committee, without solicitation, he distributed checks of the committees' money ranging from \$200 to \$500 each, to be paid out of the subscriptions of good Republicans all over the state, but to do duty for Senator Quay as though given out of the senator's money and with the senator's compliments.

Fine Republicanism this—to mass the state's contributions and the collections from state banks, such as Mr. Darling, will refer to in his testimony, and devote to the interests of one man to give him a mortgage upon the candidates thus helped by the chairman's checks.

Mr. Chairman Elkin in his efforts for harmony in the whole party cannot be expected to bring it about by going into counties and openly interfering with primaries against Republicans who always stood loyal to the party, and using his official position to direct the campaign for the chairman's godfather's reelection to the United States senate.

The fact that he has, as chairman, been busy in announcing Senator Quay's candidacy and paying assessments in the various counties as though the state committee was organized solely for the benefit of one man is not likely to promote harmony in the party.

## MACHINE WAYS ILLUSTRATED.

For illustration: Mr. Elkin will understand, if he will remember, that a check was sent to a central county for \$500 by his committee to a candidate to oppose the renomination to the legislature of a member of the 76 who was known to be against the Quay machine.

The people are not blind or dumb, at least not all of them, and if the men have had their eyes closed to the peculiar antics of the audacious Quay machine and the wives and mothers of Pennsylvania have clearer vision and are doing a good deal of thinking and talking these days to relieve themselves of unnecessary burdens of taxation from wasteful legislation.

Any party, no matter how many Republican flags it carries, that continues to do business under false pretense, must perish from the earth. Truth long imprisoned is on its way through the state, and the ballots of voters are being charged with an electricity that will electrocute the party that settles down more and more firmly in the chair of corrupt politics.

It would seem as though the time was at hand for a new beginning. What a funeral of shattered fortunes, broken political banks and trust companies has passed along before the taxpayers during the past year.

One after the other the favored concerns of the machine have dropped dead and the crash of their fall still echoes in the public ears. On the 1st of April last upwards of a million of dollars of the people's money were deposited in insolvent institutions. Little by little the story is asked out of how the Quay machine enforced interest for the use of public money.

Small morsels of truth have been tossed to the people by the Chester County Trust company's president. The simple bricks from the Quay machine kiln are in sight of the people.

## PEOPLE LEARNING THE TRUTH.

That machine of which Mr. Darlington confesses he was a part and acknowledges his dictation of where deposits should be made, and how long they should stay, and what should be done with the interest they earn, is still on the witness stand.

The curt refusal to disclose the names of the receivers of unlawful interest will not suffice the money were deposited in insolvent institutions. Little by little the story is asked out of how the Quay machine enforced interest for the use of public money.

It is the unknown quantity that has become the study of thousands of voters of this state during the last few months. The useful men are examining the ruins of the People's Bank, Guarantors' company, the State Insurance company and plying serious questions that still remain unanswered.

The Reader-Loper-Boyer-Darlington presidents still walk the streets, though the grass of summer has grown rank and tall on the poor suicide's grave, whose wall is still in the city air.

If it be true that no hope for better politics in Pennsylvania could be expected until the political control and uses of state moneys through the state institutions changed, it is of the first necessity that the law officers of the state should give to the people the conditions that have brought about the moneys, lost the stockholders' funds, disgraced the state and involved the Republican party in dishonor and shame.

The wrecks upon the shore need some life saving station for the future of the Republican party, and it is to the attorney general and the banking and insurance officers of the state that the people must look for deliverance.

It is only by the experiences of the past that we can learn safe steps for the future. Let no banking officer be driven to suicide through the mysteries of politically protected state organizations. Neither let it be said that Pennsylvania law officers are tardy in administering justice.

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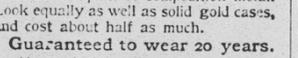
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