

# A SERIOUS CHARGE

The Story of Justice Potter's Remarkable Relationship With the Governor of the Commonwealth.

SCORED BY THE PAPERS OF ALL PARTIES

Severe Criticism From Sources Which Demand Attention. What Will Be the Outcome? Will the Court Order an Inquiry?

The Philadelphia Press has submitted to the people of Pennsylvania proof that Justice William P. Potter, Governor Stone's former law partner and appointee to the Supreme Court bench, has prostituted the office by betraying secrets of the court and attempting to smirch the integrity of his judicial colleagues.

When the legislature was in session there were "leaks" on questions affecting "machines" legislation pending before the Supreme Court, and it was an open suspicion that either one or the other of Governor Stone's appointees, Justice Brown or Justice Potter, was the betrayer of court secrets.

On May 1 the Press laid the grave charge directly at Justice Potter's door, declaring that he informed Governor Stone of the standing of the court upon the Pittsburg "Ripper" legislation prior to the announcement of the decision.

Although Stone and Potter made weak denials at the time, the justice took no steps to refute the charge or protect his sullied reputation, and the announcement of the decision confirmed the account of the betrayal, even the names of the justices voting affirmatively having been announced in advance.

The Press now gives in detail the long-distance telephone conversations between Potter and Stone when the justice "tipped" the governor in advance of the "Ripper" decision, and also the decision sustaining the governor's cut of the school appropriation.

These telephone talks revealed Potter in the attitude of a boasted "manipulator" of the remaining members of the Supreme Court; he assumed to be able to "control" certain justices, without hesitating to reflect upon their integrity; and Governor Stone commended him for "doing a good thing."

The papers of the state generally, except a few stalwart organs that would defend highway robbery if done by one of their candidates, condemn Justice Potter for his course. It shows that he acted more as a paid attorney determined to win his case than a member of the highest judicial body of the state. Following are some of the opinions of leading papers of the state:

**Philadelphia North American.**

No greater infamy could be charged against a judge. The offense alleged is not a mere impropriety. It is a crime punishable by impeachment and perpetual disqualification to hold any office of honor or profit. It is incredible that a reputable newspaper would make such an accusation without absolute certainty of the completeness of its evidence, and evidently The Press has not the least doubt of the accuracy of its reports of Justice Potter's conversations with Governor Stone.

**Philadelphia Times.**

The Press has published at length the alleged conversations by telephone between Governor Stone and Justice Potter, in which they discussed the attitude of the supreme court upon the "ripper" legislation and Justice Potter's successful efforts to bring about a decision in favor of the machine. This extraordinary exposure should make impossible the election to the supreme court of an appointed member who has not only betrayed its secrets but dishonored its integrity, if it does not make impossible his further presence in the court. It matters not how this conversation was overheard and recorded. The report is positively vouched for and its authenticity was practically admitted at Harrisburg by the passage of an act, under machine direction, making the betrayal of telephone messages a penal offense.

**Pittsburg Dispatch.**

The charges preferred against Justice Potter and Governor Stone by The Philadelphia Press, in connection with the Pittsburg charter bill, lack the element of freshness. They were published last winter, in a general way, and were promptly denied by both Governor Stone and Justice Potter. Now, after many conferences of insurgents and Democratic leaders, they are renewed shortly before the eleventh hour of a political campaign, without giving the name of the man who made them, but shrouded in even greater mystery of anonymity than ever—yet with a degree of circumstantial detail that most positively calls for an answer in more authoritative form than hitherto given. No affidavits accompany them and no proof is given whether they emanate from a responsible man or a professional campaign liar, yet they are published by The Philadelphia Press in its largest type, attended by declarations from that journal of its entire responsibility and a bold challenge to the governor or Justice Potter to deny them if they can.

**Philadelphia Record.**

In May last The Press started its readers by the publication of a Harrisburg dispatch accusing Justice Potter, of the supreme court, of having made improper disclosure to Governor Stone of the impending action of the court with reference to the contested constitutionality of the Pittsburg "ripper" legislation. The governor and Justice Potter both denied the truthfulness of the publication, but the charge was reiterated by The Press and its verity measurably confirmed by the subsequent decision of the court when announced.

The Press has republished its dispatch of May 1, with further confirma-

tory particulars of a most damning character. It is apparent to the dullest apprehension that such collusion between the executive and judicial departments of the state government could only exist as a result of the betrayal of the most sacred trust. If the allegations of The Press be true, Governor Stone and Justice Potter are unfit for the high offices they hold. Were the organization of the Republican party in the control of honorable and self-respecting men they would insist upon immediate disproof, or, failing that, upon the immediate withdrawal of Justice Potter from his place on the Republican state ticket.

It is to the last degree infamous that the executive, legislative and judicial authorities of the state should all have been dragged into the mire in order to minister to the ambition of a discredited leadership and to the greed of political harpies and adventurers who override alike the laws of God and man to compass their ends. Unless the people of Pennsylvania have themselves gone mad they will take their November opportunity to revenge themselves upon their coarse and impudent betrayers.

**Pittsburg Post.**

The extraordinary disclosures of The Philadelphia Press, owned and controlled by one of the great Republican manufacturers of Pennsylvania, and edited by a member of President Roosevelt's cabinet, in reference to Justice Potter's betrayal to interested parties of the confidential discussion in the supreme court of the state of its integrity as a judicial tribunal, and of its decision on an important case, before it was authoritatively made public, presents a state of facts that must have a profound effect on the people of Pennsylvania, and more especially on the members of the bar. This is not "partisan claptrap." It emanates from those high in authority in the Republican party, whose political duty and inclination would be to support Justice Potter for election were he an admissible candidate, on any standard of official and judicial conduct known to men. We can recall no such judicial misconduct in the history of any state of the Union, save in South Carolina and Louisiana, in the worst stages of the carpet-bag regime, when judges were made a matter of barter and sale, and political caucuses or private interests determined their action. This is the low condition to which the highest judiciary of Pennsylvania has sunk, through the criminal misconduct of one of its members.

We reprint the disclosures of The Philadelphia Press, not because of their probable political effect, but as the most startling bit of news, important to all the people, in regard to judicial degradation that has been made public for years. The judiciary should not only be free of just reproach, but of even the suspicion of misconduct, let alone criminal violation of its recognized duties and responsibilities. That has become the gospel of our politics and the judgment of our citizens.

**Pan-American Exposition.**

Low fares via the Lehigh Valley Railroad to the Pan-American Exposition. Five-day tickets, good only in day coaches, will be sold on Tuesdays and Saturdays, May 1 to October 31, from Freeland at the rate of \$7 for the round trip.

Ten-day tickets will be sold from Freeland every day, May 1 to October 31, good on any train, except the Black Diamond express, at the rate of \$10 for the round trip.

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### Things Have Changed.

From the Ashland News.

Unless the state administration leaders can agree on either I. P. Pardee or Samuel B. Price for appointment as trustee of the Miners' hospital at Hazleton, Fred E. Zerby, superintendent of the collieries of the Lehigh Valley Coal Company in that region, will probably be made the compromise candidate. Mr. Pardee is being supported by James E. Roderick, chief of the bureau of mines, and Mr. Price has had his claims presented by Senator Penrose. The vacancy has existed nearly a year.

We do not know what salary if any is attached to the above position to create such a scramble for it. When the Miners' hospitals were first opened, miners used to serve on the board of trustees, but things have changed, and now bosses, coal operators and merchants fill the positions.

Thomas Fogarty, 16 years old, of Shenandoah, was playing with a loose rope in No. 4 Packer colliery, today. In some unaccountable manner the rope became entwined about him, and he was pulled into the shakers, the constant see-sawing of which cut his left leg off. He died from the loss of blood and shock.

### RAILROAD TIMETABLES

#### LEHIGH VALLEY RAILROAD.

June 2, 1901.

ARRANGEMENT OF PASSENGER TRAINS. LEAVE FREELAND.

6 12 a m for Weatherly, Mauch Chunk, Allentown, Bethlehem, Easton, Philadelphia and New York.

7 34 a m for Sandy Run, White Haven, Wilkes-Barre, Pittston and Scranton.

8 15 a m for Hazleton, Weatherly, Mauch Chunk, Allentown, Bethlehem, Easton, Philadelphia, New York, Delano and Pottsville.

9 30 a m for Hazleton, Delano, Mahanoy City, Shenandoah and Mt. Carmel.

11 42 a m for Weatherly, Mauch Chunk, Allentown, Bethlehem, Easton, Philadelphia, New York, Delano, Mahanoy City, Shenandoah and Mt. Carmel.

11 51 a m for White Haven, Wilkes-Barre, Scranton and the West.

4 44 p m for Weatherly, Mauch Chunk, Allentown, Bethlehem, Easton, Philadelphia, New York, Hazleton, Delano, Mahanoy City, Shenandoah, Mt. Carmel and Pottsville.

6 35 p m for Sandy Run, White Haven, Wilkes-Barre, Scranton and all points West.

7 29 p m for Hazleton.

ARRIVE AT FREELAND.

7 34 a m from Pottsville, Delano and Hazleton.

9 12 a m from New York, Philadelphia, Easton, Bethlehem, Allentown, Mauch Chunk, Weatherly, Hazleton, Mahanoy City, Shenandoah and Mt. Carmel.

9 30 a m from Scranton, Wilkes-Barre and White Haven.

11 51 a m from Pottsville, Mt. Carmel, Shenandoah, Mahanoy City, Delano and Hazleton.

12 4 p m from New York, Philadelphia, Easton, Bethlehem, Allentown, Mauch Chunk and Weatherly.

4 44 p m from Scranton, Wilkes-Barre and White Haven.

6 35 p m from New York, Philadelphia, Easton, Bethlehem, Allentown, Mauch Chunk, Weatherly, Mt. Carmel, Shenandoah, Mahanoy City, Delano and Hazleton.

7 29 p m from Scranton, Wilkes-Barre and White Haven.

For further information inquire of Ticket Agents.

ROLLIN H. WILBUR, General Superintendent  
30 Cortlandt Street, New York City.

CHAS. S. LEE, General Passenger Agent,  
30 Cortlandt Street, New York City.

G. J. GILDROY, Division Superintendent,  
Hazleton, Pa.

### THE DELAWARE, SUEDELIANA & SCHUYLKILL RAILROAD.

Time table in effect March 10, 1901.

Trains leave Drifton for Jeddo, Eckley, Hazleton, Stockton, Beaver Meadow, Keok, Hazleton and Scranton at 6:00 a. m., daily, except Sunday; and 7:07 a. m., Sunday.

Trains leave Drifton for Harwood, Cranberry, Tomhicken and Deringer at 6:00 a. m., daily, except Sunday; and 7:07 a. m., Sun. 30.

Trains leave Drifton for Oneida Junction, Harwood Road, Humboldt Road, Oneida and Shepton at 6:00 a. m., daily, except Sunday; and 7:07 a. m., 2:38 p. m., Sunday.

Trains leave Hazleton Junction for Harwood, Cranberry, Tomhicken and Deringer at 6:35 a. m., daily, except Sunday; and 8:53 a. m., 4:22 p. m., Sunday.

Trains leave Hazleton Junction for Oneida Junction, Harwood Road, Humboldt Road, Oneida and Shepton at 6:32, 11:10 a. m., 4:41 p. m., daily, except Sunday; and 7:37 a. m., 3:11 p. m., Sunday.

Trains leave Deringer for Tomhicken, Cranberry, Harwood, Hazleton Junction and Oneida Junction at 5:20 p. m., daily, except Sunday; and 5:3 a. m., 5:07 p. m., Sunday.

Trains leave Shepton for Oneida, Humboldt Road, Harwood Road, Hazleton, Keok, Jeddo and Drifton at 7:11 a. m., 12:40, 5:2 p. m., daily, except Sunday; and 8:11 a. m., 3:4 p. m., Sunday.

Trains leave Shepton for Beaver Meadow Road, Stockton, Hazle Brook, Eckley, Jeddo and Drifton at 5:49 p. m., daily, except Sunday; and 10:10 a. m., 5:40 p. m., Sunday.

All trains connect at Hazleton Junction with electric cars for Hazleton, Jeannette, Audenried and other points on the Traction Company's line.

Train leaving Drifton at 6:00 a. m. makes connection at Deringer with P. & R. trains for Wilkes-Barre, Sunbury, Harrisburg and points West.

LUTHER C. SMITH, Superintendent

NOTICE TO CANDIDATES FOR THE Office of State Mine Inspector.

Notice is hereby given that an examination of candidates for the office of Inspector of Mines for the Fifth Anthracite District will be held in Schwartz's hall, East Broad street, Hazleton, Pa., on October 25, 29, 30 and 31, 1901, beginning at 10 o'clock a. m., when and where all candidates are requested to present themselves for examination. No previous notice of intention to apply is required.

A. C. Leisenring,  
Morris Williams,  
John Ross,  
John D. Reynolds,  
John Gilhooly,  
Board of Examiners.

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