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157

## Governor Is Breaking Corrupt Practices Act He Aided to Pass

### James Wilkinson Shows Removal of Men For Not Supporting Parker in Primary a Direct Violation of Pleasant Law

"If an employer of labor discharges his men because they refuse to vote for his candidate for governor, is he not subject to fine and imprisonment under the provisions of the corrupt practice act?"

"Of course he is," declared James Wilkinson, to an enthusiastic audience in the Fifth Precinct of the Twelfth Ward, at St. Stephen's Hall, New Orleans, Wednesday night.

"If the governor of the state chops off the head of his appointees because they fail to line up for his candidate, is he not in direct violation of this same corrupt practice act," insisted Mr. Wilkinson, in substance.

"If the managers of the Parker campaign offer jobs to get votes for Parker, are they not contemptuously violating every provision of this act?" shouted Mr. Wilkinson.

#### Violators of Election Laws

Mr. Wilkinson drove home many and new sensational facts, not yet developed in this campaign. He held up the governor and the directors of the Parker candidacy, as direct violators of these acts placed on the statute books to insure political freedom in this state. He read to his audience in seriatim order, sections 27, 31, 34, 36, and 37 of Act 213 of 1912, and Section 37 of Act 35, of 1916, known as the primary election law.

## HOW THIS NERVOUS WOMAN GOT WELL

Told by Herself. Her Sincerity Should Convince Others.

Christopher, Ill.—"For four years I suffered from irregularities, weakness, nervousness, and was in a run down condition. Two of our best doctors failed to do me any good. I heard so much about what Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound had done for others, I tried it and was cured. I am no longer nervous, am regular, and in excellent health. I believe the Compound will cure any female trouble."—Mrs. ALICE HEILES, Christopher, Ill.



Nervousness is often a symptom of weakness or some functional derangement, which may be overcome by this famous root and herb remedy, Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound, as thousands of women have found by experience. If complications exist, write Lydia E. Pinkham Medicine Co., Lynn, Mass., for suggestions in regard to your ailment. The result of its long experience is at your service.

which I set forth with much detail an account of the horrible and depraved conditions which were permitted to exist by the police in the central parts of this city when Mr. John M. Parker was a commissioner of police exercising the most absolute powers over that force.

I showed that Tom Anderson, compared with Schoenhausen and other wretches that were allowed to openly flourish and do business here then, was as Hyperion to Satyr.

#### Parker Failed to Deny

I asserted that if the officers of a city are to be held responsible for all of its vice conditions that Judge Landry was a ministering angel of light alongside of that former Police Board.

I have waited a whole week for a denial. It has not been denied. It cannot be denied.

When the government here would not do its clear duty and abate these horrible nuisances then private citizens had in self-defense to bring a costly and long drawn out suit to remove this carrion stench from their nostrils.

I refer Mr. Bernard McCloskey, Mr. Parker's chairman here, a practitioner like myself in the Civil District Court, to the suit entitled A. Koehl et als., vs. Schoenhausen, No. 40,999 of the Civil District Court, filed while Mr. John M. Parker was Police Commissioner and over three years after his father had been holding continuously that powerful position.

#### Challenge to Mr. Parker

I dare him to publish the petition and the corroborating sworn testimony of a single witness of the many witnesses in that suit, omitting the descriptions of those conditions given by the witnesses which are so shocking that they cannot be printed at all, I particularly dare him to publish the sworn testimony of Capt. W. J. Barnett, police captain of that precinct under Mr. Parker, although that witness' evidence was perhaps somewhat milder than that of many, many others.

No one can read this repulsive narration of conditions then existing here without a shudder and a feeling of thankfulness that the city is now infinitely safer and better than it was then. When Mr. Parker preaches that he is going to do so much to reform our city, I answer him in words of Holy Writ, "Mene Mene Tekel Upharsin."

#### A Great Issue at Stake

A greater issue, however, is presented in this campaign than merely the nomination of Stubbs or Parker.

The fundamental basis of the government of this country in its final analysis is that it shall be an expression of the free will of a free people at the ballot box.

With the advent of our Democratic primary elections, which elections are in fact the actual elections, an insistent demand grew up in this state that neither bribery, fraud, force, coercion or intimidation should be allowed or practiced either before or at such elections. For without a free and fair election popular self-government is a delusion and a snare.

This will of the people found its expression in Act 213 of 1912, known as the "Corrupt Practices Act." This Act is No. 213 of 1912.

#### Prevents Political Removals

(Mr. Wilkinson here quoted Sections 27, 31, 34, 36 and 37 of this law; also Section 37 of Act 35 of 1916).

#### One Paragraph reads:

"To give, offer or promise any office, place or employment, or to promise to procure or to endeavor to procure any office or place of employment to or for any voter, or to or for any person in order to induce such voter to vote or refrain from at any election or to induce any voter to vote or refrain from voting at such election for any particular person or persons."

#### Violation by the Governor

The governor of the state is charged by Article 75 of the Constitution to see "That the laws of the state are faithfully executed." The governor moreover took an oath to support the Constitution and laws of the state. The people look to him, and have a right to look to him, as the exemplar and executor of the laws of his own states.

I, therefore, noted with much sorrow as surprise his declaration at Mr. Parker's first meeting in New Orleans that he would use all the great powers of his office to defeat Colonel Stubbs and elect Mr. Parker and that every office holder under his power would have to conform to his views or be removed from office.

I noted further with still greater surprise that his future appointments would have to have the imprimatur of Mr. Parker, one the candidates for his own seat, and that the latter repeatedly publicly stated he "jumped with glee" when his political godfather used the axe in accordance with his threats.

As a citizen and law officer of agencies respect for the office of governor, but respect for the office of governor, but I am a law-abiding citizen and I cannot condone the invasion of the rights and liberties of the people. I see no difference between openly offering to give, or giving to a man, an office conditioned on his support and vote for a certain person and giving him money to do the same thing, and I see no difference between forcing an officer to prostitute his conscience to the governor's will by the threat that his official head will be bulged or severed and made to fall in the basket, than I see in any other threat which the Corrupt Practices Act

makes in a crime to use before or at an election against a voter.

Certainly, an employer of labor who threatens his laborers with discharge if they do not vote for one candidate and against another would be subject to prosecution under the Corrupt Practices Act. I cannot see how a governor of the state, a trustee of the people's rights, can employ his great power to do that same thing without incurring the same penalties in a greater degree.

#### Greatest Mockery of All—Parker

The greatest mockery of it all is that the candidate in whose favor and criminal acts are being committed assumes an attitude of high civic and political morality, and all the time preaches "Reform" from the house-tops.

Both turkey buzzards and alligators like their food somewhat tainted, but the peculiar brand of reform that Mr. Pleasant and Mr. Parker put before the people would turn the stomach of a turkey buzzard and make an alligator vomit.

Mr. John M. Parker may "jump with glee"—when each head falls in the basket; he may rejoice as those innocent victims are decapitated whose only offense is that they loved their party to well to betray it, yet he will remember that it was Madam Roland who exclaimed as she ascended the steps of the guillotine: "O, Liberty, in thy name how many crimes are committed!"

And he will later realize his offense against the rights and liberties of a free people will be avenged by his relegation to political oblivion on the Isles of next January.

#### Pleasant Outdoes Blanchard

History records that President Roosevelt named his own "successor" and it was only on the refusal of Mr. Taft to return that office, that the Bastard Progeny of the Republican party was born. Such progeny could have been properly described in a stud book as, "Progressive," sired by Theodore Roosevelt, out of Dam Fraud."

It is an extraordinary fact that another governor is now trying to duplicate Governor Blanchard's past performance on a fifty times larger scale with an elder brother of the same Parker family to duplicate that performance against the people themselves, in a far bolder manner in a primary election, and this in the teeth of a recent statute, the Corrupt Practices Act, making all attempts of that character a crime. Mr. John M. Parker approved Blanchard's action then as he approves Pleasant's action today.

#### Appeals to Home Rulers of '04

Today the organized Democracy here are standing firm; standing up like men and refusing to bare their backs to the governor's lash and I appeal to you, 'O, Home Rulers of 1904.' I appeal to the lovers of liberty throughout the entire state to stand with us today in opposition to Kaiserism in Louisiana.

Governor Blanchard is now endorsing a similar assumption of power in 1919 to that which he had no right to use in 1904. Mr. Montgomery and O'Malley and the Item, the same crowd that endorsed Blanchard's usurpation of power, are with John M. Parker, as they were then with his brother.

It is, therefore, not surprising that Governor Blanchard should now side with Governor Pleasant and Mr. Parker as he former succeeded in parting over the same raw deal which Governor Pleasant is trying to put over as to a far more powerful and important office.

#### Governor's False Charge

It is also a remarkable fact that when the New Orleans Democracy are supporting what they believe is the choice of country Democrats for governor that Governor Pleasant should charge them with trying to rule the state of Louisiana and this merely because

cause they will not support a New Orleans man that he, Pleasant, has chosen and who the latter knows cannot carry a single ward in his own home city.

New Orleans only represents about one-third of the electorate of the state. The regular Democracy here did not claim the governorship in 1916, nor will they do so in 1920. They are willing for the country to have it and to also name the lieutenant governor, registrar of the state land office, superintendent of education and other officials with the exception of auditor.

#### Not Democrat at Heart

To argue that the Regular organization wants to Prussianize the country because they will not support a New Orleans man for governor who headed a committee to the legislature in 1912 and proposed a law to destroy white primaries in New Orleans; who tried to destroy the entire Democratic party of city and country at the last election and who only registered as a Democrat fourteen months ago, seems to me the height of audacity.

Danton cried "Laudace, Laudace, toujours Laudace," but fellow citizens, John M. Parker has got Danton skinned a mile.

John M. Parker is not a Democrat at heart. But just now he can't be anything else in Louisiana. The Democratic party licked him to a frazzle in 1916; licked him too badly in the last campaign for him to love it very much now. If that great man now sleeping in the State of New York should rise from his grave and blow a rallying blast on his bugle, I feel sure that John M. would shout back, "I am coming, Marster Ted, I am coming!"

And he would drop this campaign and almost break his neck to get to Oyster Bay.

#### Dethrone Executive Tyranny

In conclusion, I appeal to you, not as Stubbs men, not as Parker men, but as freemen, to stand with us in this campaign. The Constitution of this state forbids an hereditary form of government. It forbids the bestowal of office by last will and testament. It expressly forbids the governor from succeeding himself and makes it a crime for him to use the powers of his office to force the nomination of his successor. I appeal to you, O former Home Rulers of New Orleans! I appeal to you as lovers of law and liberty throughout the entire state, to rebuke now, and to forever afterwards prevent, the usurpations and encroachments of executive tyranny and power over the rights and liberties of the people.

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"Did you ever run into a telegraph pole?" inquired a lady of a taxi driver. "Yes, ma'am; I've bumped into telegraph poles several times." "Brings you to a sudden stop, doesn't it?" "No, ma'am; the machine stops all right, but I and my fare always keep on going ahead, mostly in the air. Must go somewhere, you know, ma'am!"

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