

William Sulzer the Eighth Governor to Be Impeached

But Seven State Executives Have Been on Trial In Years Past. Of These Only Two Were Found Guilty and Removed.

WHILE the activities of the New York state legislature to impeach Governor William Sulzer were at their height, his friends were loud in their denunciation of the methods and means employed by the Frawley investigating committee, upon whose findings the action of the legislature is based. Had Governor Sulzer consented to submit to the domination of Charles F. Murphy, leader of Tammany Hall, his friends assert, and had turned over the state to him and that organization to exploit as they saw fit, there would have been no hue and cry against him. On the other hand, it is pointed out, no question of the moral turpitude of Tammany Hall or its leader is now involved. Unbiased citizens are unanimous in declaring that whatever may be the guilt or innocence of those who oppose the governor, if the charges against him are true, his impeachment and his speedy withdrawal from the public life of the state are imperative. According to the findings of the joint legislative committee, headed by Senator James J. Frawley, upon which the impeachment proceedings are based, Governor Sulzer is declared guilty of swearing to a false report to the secretary of state as to the total campaign contributions received by him. At the same time the accusation is made that he converted these surplus contributions to his own private use, and that, while governor, during a period when he was vigorously pressing legislation against the New York Stock Exchange, he engaged in stock speculation upon that exchange.

To these statements Governor Sulzer has entered a general denial. What his real defense will be only the future developments of the impeachment proceedings will make clear.

Few Governors Impeached.

Not often has the chief executive of a sovereign state of the Union been impeached. In fact, only seven governors of states have been impeached since the adoption of the federal constitution, according to the information assembled by Roger Foster in his "Commentaries

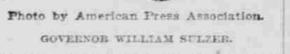


Photo by American Press Association. GOVERNOR WILLIAM SULZER.

on the Constitution of the United States." Of the seven only two were found guilty and removed—David Butler of Nebraska and William H. Holden of North Carolina. The latter was removed by a hostile senate following his activities in putting down the Ku Klux Klan in his state in the reconstruction days.

A third governor resigned on the understanding that the charges against him would be dropped. The term of a fourth expired before his trial was completed, and further proceedings were abandoned. The others were acquitted or the impeachment proceedings were abandoned before a vote was taken. The states represented in the list are Florida, Mississippi, Arkansas, Louisiana, Nebraska, North Carolina and Kansas.

The first American governor to be accused in any proceeding analogous to the present day impeachment was Governor Seth Sothell of the colony of North Carolina, who was suspended by the proprietors of the colony in a letter dated Dec. 2, 1689, on charges made by the inhabitants of the county of Albemarle and approved by the assembly. One charge was that he had seized and imprisoned two persons coming into the county from Barbadoes with proper credentials on the pretense that they were pirates. One of them died in prison, and the governor took his property and conveyed it to his own use. Other charges of withdrawing for a money consideration accusations against persons charged with felony and treason and of unlawfully selling land and cattle also were made against him.

Kansas Governor First.

The first impeachment of a governor of an American state was that of Charles Robinson, governor of Kansas, in 1862.

The first legislature of Kansas had authorized in 1861 an issue of \$150,000

bonds to defray current expenses. Governor Robinson, the secretary of state and the state auditor were authorized to negotiate for the sale of the bonds. The only probable customer at the time, the beginning of the civil war, was the federal government, which held money in trust for Indians and was authorized to invest these in "safe and profitable stocks."

The secretary of state and auditor employed Robert Stevens, a Kansas politician of some prominence, to conduct the negotiations. Stevens was chosen because of business relations existing between him and Caleb B. Smith, the secretary of the interior. Stevens failed to sell the bonds through Secretary Smith and finally got R. G. Corwin, a claim agent, who was connected by marriage with the secretary of the interior, to aid him. Corwin put through negotiations for the purchase of the bonds out of the Indian funds provided. The entire Kansas delegation at Washington approved of the purchase in writing. This approval was obtained except in the case of United States Senator Lane. He based his refusal on the ground of fear that if Stevens got his commission he would use the money to buy votes to elect himself in the place of Lane, who had a majority of only one in the state legislature.

Thereupon \$1,000 was paid to Lane's private secretary, who procured the senator's signature through misrepresentation.

The state house of representatives impeached the three officials who had been authorized to sell the bonds. The secretary of state and the auditor were convicted and removed from office. Governor Robinson was acquitted.

Florida Case Dropped.

On Nov. 6, 1868, the Florida house of representatives impeached Governor Harrison Reed on charges of falsehood and lying in official matters, of incompetency, of unlawfully declaring vacant many seats in the legislature, of embezzlement from the state treasury and of corruption and bribery in his appointments.

This formidable series of charges was presented for trial to eight senators, there being so many vacancies that eight was a majority. The impeachment had automatically suspended Reed from office until the conclusion of the trial. Lieutenant Governor William H. Gleason issued a proclamation announcing that he had taken possession of the office of governor, and the assembly adjourned to the first of the following January. When the senate refused to take the same adjournment Gleason adjourned it himself to the same day.

Habeas Corpus Suspended.

Governor Reed meanwhile refused to surrender his office and asked the state supreme court to pass on the legality of the proceedings. The court upheld Reed's position and removed the lieutenant governor from office on the ground of ineligibility. The United States supreme court then upset the removal of Gleason as lieutenant governor, and with the incoming of the newly elected legislators on the 1st of January both houses, with vacancies filled, recognized Governor Reed, and the impeachment proceedings were dropped.

One of the most interesting impeachment cases historically was that of Governor William W. Holden of North Carolina in December, 1870. The Ku Klux Klan had committed a number of whippings and murders in Alamance and Caswell counties, and the local authorities had taken no action. Governor Holden, under act of the legislature, declared the two counties to be in a state of insurrection and sent militia to enforce order. The officer in command, Colonel George W. Kirk, arrested and imprisoned many civilians and refused to obey writs of habeas corpus obtained from the chief justice of the state on behalf of some of these military prisoners.

Proceedings Dropped.

Before the trial was concluded the governor's term of office had expired, and the senate asked the advice of the chief justice regarding continuing the trial. "I question the policy of kicking a dead lion," Chief Justice Leland said in his opinion, and the senate agreed with him and dropped the proceedings.

Habeas Corpus Suspended.

In 1870 Adelbert Ames, governor of Mississippi, was impeached and tried by the state senate, but resigned before a verdict was rendered. Ames, a Republican governor of a southern state in the days of reconstruction, was charged with a long list of offenses, including the defrauding of the state of \$33,750 by giving contracts for prison labor to personal friends without public letting, conspiring to stamp out a political opponent, unlawful removal of various officers and the unlawful retention in office of others. He also was charged with inciting race riots by inflammatory speeches and granting a pardon to a felon upon the payment of \$3,000 to a third person.

Before the trial was concluded the governor wrote a letter to the house saying that on account of the embarrassment caused by the election of a hostile legislature he desired to resign, but that he would not do so while the proceedings were pending against him. So the house adopted a resolution, basing the preamble on this letter, withdrawing the impeachment, the senate approved, and Ames resigned.

on charges of causing unlawful arrests, bringing troops in from another state and violating the writ of habeas corpus. He was removed and disqualified from holding office again under the state.

Minute "Movies" of the News Right Off the Reel

A brand new dance, the "pussy squeak," comes from Onset, Mass.

Statistics show that the United States is the greatest meat eating nation in the world.

The Balkan government has advertised in the German newspapers for 3,000 artificial legs.

A lumberman in Wisconsin, eighty-three years old, just married, has a bride of the same age, and they have courted fifty years.

A prisoner serving a life sentence in Jefferson City, Mo., applies for a pardon, and witnesses swear the man he was convicted of murdering is still alive.

In the spring of 1841, when William T. Osborne of Newburg, N. Y., was twenty-nine years old, four doctors told him he had consumption and could not live long. Recently he celebrated his one hundred and first birthday. The four doctors are dead and have been many years.

MAKE PETS OF SNAKES NEW JAPANESE HOBBY.

Slant Eyed Belles Now Carry Striped and Spotted Serpents.

To make pets of snakes is the latest hobby of Japanese society, according to recent dispatches from Tokyo.

Fashionable women are cultivating a fancy for small live serpents. They have about them the harmless spotted keel backs and striped snakes, which are easily tamed.

The man who has done more than anybody else to establish this hobby is Kikuro Nakamura, who has been engaged in the snake business for more than twenty years and who has a wonderful assortment of reptiles.

The most productive districts for snakes in Japan are certain mountain sections near Tokyo and Nikko. Here they are caught in large numbers, Japanese snake catchers drink sake before starting out to hunt large serpents, so that they will not be stupefied by the "poisonous breath" of the reptile.

A real combat occurred recently between three men and a serpent twenty feet long. The snake poised its head about six feet above ground, knocked two men down with its tail, reared another uncomely with its "poisonous breath" and then escaped.

But Mr. Nakamura has found other uses for snakes. He says they are popular as tonics for the digestive organs and that some are used successfully as a remedy for pulmonary consumption. There is the food question too. Nakamura says that the Japanese viper is splendid as a stimulant either in powdered form or eaten with Japanese soy. In the districts around Nikko rice with snake fritter is considered a most royal dish. The viper is also good as a cure for stomach trouble if taken soaked in Japanese sake.

INDIAN TRIBES GROWING.

Mixed Blood Apparently Responsible For Increase in Numbers.

Indian statistics, just made public by the census bureau, show that the red men are not decreasing in number, but the halfbreeds are responsible for the growth in the Indian population. They have larger and more vigorous families than the pure bloods, and the statisticians conclude that the pure bloods are destined to disappear.

The total Indian population of the United States in 1910 was given as 265,683 and of Alaska as 25,331. More than one-half are full bloods, 35 per cent are of mixed blood, and for 8 per cent information was not obtainable. There is little intermingling of Indian and negro blood, more than nine-tenths of the half caste being of white parentage. Only 2,235 were of mixed negro blood, and only 1,793 had all three strains.

Oklahoma has the largest Indian population of any state and also the largest percentage of mixed bloods. There are many "squaw men" in the state who have married Indian women to be enrolled as sharers in the tribal estates. Utah, New Mexico, Arizona and Colorado show more than 85 per cent of full bloods, and Iowa and Mississippi have a large percentage of pure bloods in the Fox and Choctaw tribes. In the whole country there are 280 Indian tribes, speaking fifty-six languages.

"HEART EATERS" APPEAR.

Society Similar to Black Hand Appears in Pittsburgh.

A rival of the Black Hand society lately made its appearance in Pittsburgh in the form of the "Society of Heart Eaters." The following letter was received by Vincent Pacifico:

Read and pay attention. We ask for \$1,000. If you don't execute our command we will kill you and your family. We will blow up your house and will take your life and children. We will cut off your head and set your heart if you don't deposit \$1,000 near the Braddock avenue bridge. Open or prepare to have your heart eaten.

SOCIETY OF HEART EATERS.

Relict of slain Mexican President Could Give Many Facts to Administration Which Would Aid It in Dealing With Present Situation—Woman of Great Moral Strength.

As a possible means of aiding the administration in dealing with the Mexican situation, Mrs. Madero, widow of the slain president of the warring republic, may testify before the senate committee on foreign relations at Washington.

Friends of the Maderos hope that Mrs. Madero will appear before the committee. They say she has a great amount of first hand information concerning the betrayal of her husband and the participation of the former American ambassador in events leading up to the resignation of Madero. These friends say she will make an excellent witness, that she speaks English fluently and is dramatic.

She is beloved by all of the little band of revolutionists in the United States. They regard her as an extraordinary woman. One enthusiast said recently that the physical and moral strength of Mrs. Madero is wonderful. During the turbulent scenes in the City of Mexico on Feb. 18 Mrs. Madero never once lost her poise nor a full comprehension of her position, her admirers say.

Huerta Clouds Situation.

Washington officials read with interest the recent declaration of Aureliano Urrutia, the Mexican minister of the interior, that President Huerta would not resign and, moreover, would brook no interference on the part of foreigners in his administration.

While no plan that the American government has had under serious consideration involved any direct interference in Mexican affairs, the admitted attitude of the administration is one of unalterable opposition to the recognition of the Huerta regime.

Without the recognition of the United States, leading Mexicans have declared that Mexico would not be able to extricate itself from its financial difficulties. On this account it had been believed in Washington that pressure would be brought to bear to persuade Huerta to resign.

The announcement that he has determined not to do so has beclouded the situation somewhat and has spurred the Constitutionalists to further activity to obtain the repeal of the embargo on arms. They claim that if they do not get arms the revolution will be a protracted struggle. With munitions of war they say they can quickly bring matters to a crisis.

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Mediation Not Abandoned.

Despite these conditions, the administration has not altogether abandoned the hope that mediation may prevail.

It is believed that, in view of the depleted condition of the Mexican treasury and the long and hard campaign which is bound to result if the present status is maintained, Huerta may be influenced to suspend hostilities and hold an election. Carranza, it is thought, could be induced to suspend fighting if Huerta would eliminate himself from the elections and abide by the vote. Carranza will not agree to anything which includes the participation of Huerta. He has said so directly and through his junta in Washington. Members of the latter have declared that, while they did not believe there would be any mediation, Carranza would agree to anything reasonable. These members added that Carranza does not seek the presidency; that all he desires is the punishment of Huerta for his treachery to Madero.

ANOTHER PARCEL POST USE.

C. O. D. Plan Aids Merchant to Collect From Unwary Debtors.

A Kansas merchant has found a new use for the parcel post. When the C. O. D. feature went into effect on July 1 he hit upon an idea to collect a number of small accounts which he had been carrying for some time and which had caused considerable loss during a period of several years.

A number of small boxes were obtained and filled with waste paper and on the top was placed a receipted bill for the proper amount. A five cent stamp was required for each box, and the C. O. D. fee was 10 cents for each package. The next day the returns began to come in, and in nearly every case the debtor paid the amount, supposing that the package contained something of value, but, of course, not being permitted to confirm this suspicion before opening it.

Snake Half Cooked In Oven.

When Mrs. Guy Keine of Valencia, Kan., started to make cookies one day recently she got the portable oven for her gasoline stove off the back porch and placed it on the stove without opening the door. A few minutes later, as the oven grew hotter, she heard a rattle on the stove. She waited until the noise ceased. Then she opened the door and found a half baked rattlesnake three feet long.

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