

PRIMARY SCANDAL STIRS BOTH HOUSES

Neely in Senate Presses His Bill to Limit the Expenditures of Candidates.

REED ADMITS THE "STENCH"

Schafer in Lower Chamber Calls for an Inquiry Into Activities of Vare in Pennsylvania.

Special to The New York Times.

WASHINGTON, July 1.—The Pennsylvania campaign fund scandal broke out again today on the floor of the Senate and the House and demands were made that action be taken to stop the excessive expenditure of money in primary campaigns.

Senator Neely, Democrat, of West Virginia sought to get consideration of his resolution to limit expenditures of candidates for the Senate to \$10,000 and before the storm in the Senate passed Senator Borah, Senator Reed of Pennsylvania, Senator Robinson, the Democratic leader; Senator Caraway and Senator Shipstead got into the fray. Senator Reed going so far as to refer to the Pennsylvania disclosures as a "stench," but a stench, he believed, that could also be found in the other States if the "lid" were removed.

"I want to call the attention of the Senate," said Senator Neely, "to the fact that there is a very grave responsibility resting upon every Senator in this body at this time, when, in the light of these recent Pennsylvania revelations, many patriotic men think that free institutions and the fate of constitutional government are trembling in the balance. There is a grave responsibility on every member of this body and of the body at the other end of this Capitol to ascertain, and ascertain immediately, whether those holding high official positions were parties to these disgraceful expenditures, were parties to this assault on free and representative government, were knowingly acquainted with the fact that the very roots of the tree of Liberty were being cut, and that the temple of Liberty itself was being undermined by the plutocrats of the State of Pennsylvania.

"While no one in this body can go before me in having the greatest respect and an equal amount of love and admiration for the ability, the Christian character, the versatility and the innumerable accomplishments of one of these great men, I nevertheless say that if any one of these three men knew this money was being spent for the purposes that the press of this country and the Senate hearings show that it was spent for, regardless of a statute in the State of Pennsylvania that permits candidates and committees to debauch the electorate by paying \$10 a head for 'watchers'—which is simply another way of saying \$10 apiece to buy votes—if any man at either end of this Capitol has participated in that iniquity, he should be promptly scourged from public life and returned to the privacy of the State from which he came."

Reed Assails the System.

Senator Reed of Pennsylvania interrupted and referred to the primary system as an abomination which had closed public office to poor men in Pennsylvania.

"When the Senator says, 'The abominable system,' does he refer to the primary?" Senator Borah asked.

"I refer to the uniform primary law, which has been causing increasing amounts of expenditures year by year, and has brought us to the pass where a poor man has no chance at all," Senator Reed replied.

"If the Senator will compare the expenditures in Pennsylvania under the Quay system," replied Senator Borah, "before the primary law was enacted, with the expenditures now, he will find very little consolation in the fact that the primary is now the cause of the outpouring."

"I do not believe greater expenditures are required," said Senator Reed. "The lid is off in Pennsylvania, and we are being held up to the ridicule and scorn of the whole United States, but I venture to say you can take the lid off in pretty nearly any one of the other forty-seven States and you will find the same stench from it."

"I would like to ask a question," Senator Robinson interrupted. "Why does the Senator say that the primary system compels the expenditures of enormous sums of money?"

"We have 4,000,000 persons of voting age in Pennsylvania," replied Mr.

Reed. "You cannot send a letter to them for less than six cents per letter. There, in itself, is \$240,000."

Explains Cost of Letters.

"Does the Senator find that the expenditures complained of in Pennsylvania were due to the excessive use of the mails by the candidates?" asked Mr. Robinson.

"Yes, I do," replied Mr. Reed of Pennsylvania.

"As a matter of fact, that is comparatively a small item, is it not?"

"Let me tell the Senator about Mr. Vare's expenses," said Mr. Reed. "He spent \$71,400. Every cent of that was spent, he tells me, for sending out letters. He sent 250,000-letters to the farmers of the State."

"Saying he was a farmer?" Senator Caraway asked.

"Saying that he was a farmer, and giving a picture of the farm house in which he was born," replied Senator Reed.

Senator Neely, defending the primary, declared it was much easier to debauch a convention than a primary: It is much easier, he added, to corrupt a few hundred persons than several million voters in a State like Pennsylvania.

"There is another intolerable condition growing up in the country of groups of people associating themselves together, it makes no difference what their motive may be, and expending money in a nonpartisan way to elect candidates who advocate their particular view with reference to one question," interrupted Senator Caraway. "Here is the Anti-Saloon League, with whom I have no quarrel, because I happen to be one of that group, that feels that a man ought to be sober even if we have to make him that way, which has spent \$35,000,000. Here is another organization which wants him to be drunk whether he wants to be drunk or not, who have admitted they spent \$800,000. Neither of them proposes to care whether one is a Republican or a Democrat. One of them wants to know if he is dry and the other wants to know if he is wet.

"That situation threatens, I think, the integrity of the Government even more than the corrupt expenditure of the candidate himself, because we do not know who compose the organization, we do not know whether its influences lie. It expends its money in order to select a candidate who has a slant in accordance with their desire."

"The activities of these organizations of which the Senator from Arkansas speaks and very justly condemns," said Senator Borah, "if they were to stop with the selection of a candidate or the election of the candidate, would be bad enough, but they keep up the organization and keep up the propaganda for the purpose of controlling the candidate and the legislation after they have elected him."

Would Bar Entry in Senate.

"While the present Senate cannot control the next Senate, because each Senate is the judge of the election and qualification of its own members," said Senator Caraway, "I feel that every member who sits in this body who has some prospect of being a member of the next Senate feels in his own heart that he is going to deny a seat in this body to any man who is the beneficiary of an extravagant expenditure in his behalf."

"There are three objects that I hope to accomplish by the adoption of this resolution," said Senator Neely: "First, to give the Republicans, the honest Republicans, who are opposed to this debauchery in the State of Pennsylvania, an opportunity to nominate a candidate who is not disqualified from holding office in this body.

"Secondly, I hope that this resolution if adopted will at least in a small measure help to perpetuate the free institution of this country.

"I hope that it will help to prevent the alarming tendency that is ever growing in this country, to make public officers a matter of barter from the auction block instead of the result of a choice of a free people. If some one who can raise a million-dollar campaign fund with which to buy votes, whether under a State statute calling them watchers or spies or agents or assistants or what-not—if that tendency and that custom are to continue, the time is here, Mr. President, when there is no such thing as representative government."