

SENATORIAL SEAT PRICE IS \$107,793

Stephenson, 82, of Wisconsin,
Admits Spending Vast
Sum for Toga.

PROBE WILL BE THOROUGH

Senator Heyburn, of Idaho, Chair-
man of Senate Committee on Elec-
tions Inquiring Into Case.
Now on at Milwaukee.

MILWAUKEE, Wis., Oct. 2.—On the witness stand before the Senatorial investigating committee to answer charges that corrupt use of money had contributed to his election, United States Senator Isaac Stephenson testified today that, although he spent \$107,793 in his campaign, he had little knowledge as to just how it was spent, except that it was not used in violation of the law.

"The details, he said, he had left to his campaign managers. As an instance of his ignorance of just where the money went, he cited an item of \$11,000 for postage."

No Sleep Lost in 1908.

"Just so when my campaign for the nomination when the primaries in 1908 came up, I could not lay awake nights trying to figure how I was going to win. I had given money to my managers and told them to carry on a vigorous campaign and do everything to elect me except that they must keep within the law. I cautioned them not to violate the law in any particular. So far as I know, they obeyed me."

Citing large expenses for advertising buttons, lithographs, advertising in newspapers and traveling expenses, the witness testified that he frequently asked where so much money was going, but on each occasion he was told that the state had to be systematically canvassed, he questioned the matter no further. Mr. Stephenson said he had given money for campaign purposes to men who afterward became candidates for the Legislature, and some of them were elected, but he was not aware of their candidacy when he gave them money.

"I paid \$250 to H. L. Bancroft for getting names of persons to whom to send campaign literature," he said. "The afterward ran for the Legislature, but I did not know of his candidacy. I took little interest in the primaries, leaving them to my managers."

Money Paid Without Knowledge.

"I understand money was paid to A. C. Wellensard, who afterward was elected to the Assembly, but this money was paid to him without my knowledge. My managers were A. E. Edwards, of Appleton; J. H. Puetzler, of Milwaukee; and J. A. Van Cleave, of Marinette."

"The record shows that you paid to your managers one day \$1000, and a short time after gave them \$15,000 more," said Senator Heyburn (Idaho), chairman. "Didn't you ever ask them what they were doing with all that money?"

"No, only in a general way."

"Did you pay three Democratic members, or say one, for absconding with money from the Legislature in 1908, so that you could have a majority?"

"No, I never knew of any member having absconded himself except as I read it in the newspapers."

Mr. Edwards testified he knew of no money having been illegally used in connection with the Legislature, but he was verifying, he said, amounted to \$40,000.

Charges Are Specific.

The charges preferred by the Wisconsin Legislature are:

That Senator Stephenson kept secret many of his disbursements in the primary campaign for the nomination in 1908; that whereas he admitted having expended \$117,793, his campaign managers accounted for only \$107,793, and that a large part of his fund was improperly used; that fraud connected with his primary campaign contributed directly to his election.

That he distributed money to state officials to further his campaign.

That he spent money in legislative districts to strengthen his support in the Legislature.

That he was elected only after a two-month deadlock, and then only after three Democratic Assemblymen, Thomas F. Ramsey, now dead, John T. Farrell and Elias A. Towne, absented themselves and so insured his election.

Senator W. B. Heyburn (Republican), of Idaho, is chairman of the present investigation. Charles E. Littlefield, of Maine, with W. E. Black, of Milwaukee, will act as counsel for the defense. The other members of the committee here are Senator George Sutherland (Republican), of Utah, and Alton Pomeroy (Democrat), of Ohio.

Many Witnesses to Be Heard.

About five witnesses are to be examined daily and as some of the 75 men who have been subpoenaed, have announced they would be unable to come to Milwaukee, Chairman Heyburn said the committee probably would hold sessions in other parts of the state.

Senator Stephenson, a Republican, 82 years old, a banker, lumberman and capitalist, is the junior Senator from Wisconsin, and although of the same party, is regarded in this state as Senator La Follette's political opponent.

The formal charges against Senator Stephenson were presented in a declaration by John J. Blaine, of Boswell, Wis., who as State Senator, made the original charges.

In his declaration Mr. Blaine charged Senator Stephenson with having paid to E. A. Edmunds \$107,793 to be used in Senator Stephenson's primary contest for nomination, and that the money was used corruptly. He asserted that "various sums were paid to electors of the state corruptly and unlawfully."

Senator Stephenson, on taking the stand, said he was legally elected to the Senate on January 26, 1909, by a separate vote of the two houses of the Legislature.

In his campaign, he said, he spent \$107,793, giving it to E. A. Edmunds, his campaign manager, in various sums in 1908; to J. A. Van Cleave, a banker of Marinette, to conduct the campaign; to newspapers; to J. H. Puetzler, a Milwaukee banker, and to others, all for carrying on the campaign for the nomination in the primaries.

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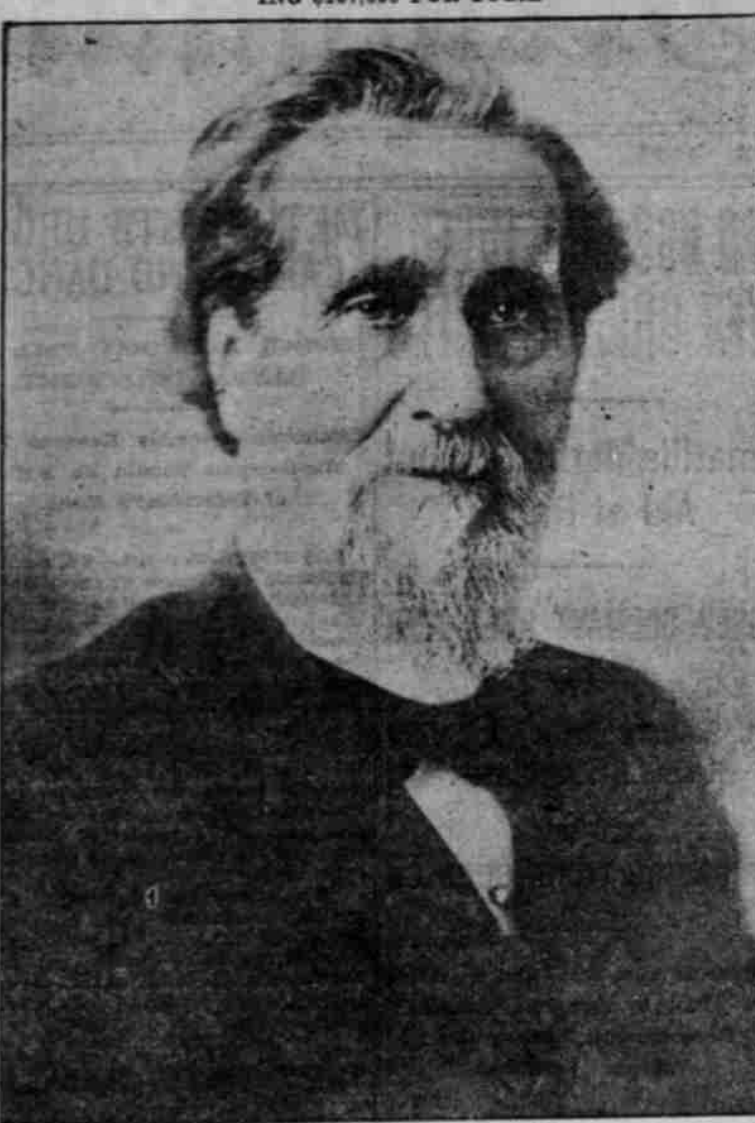
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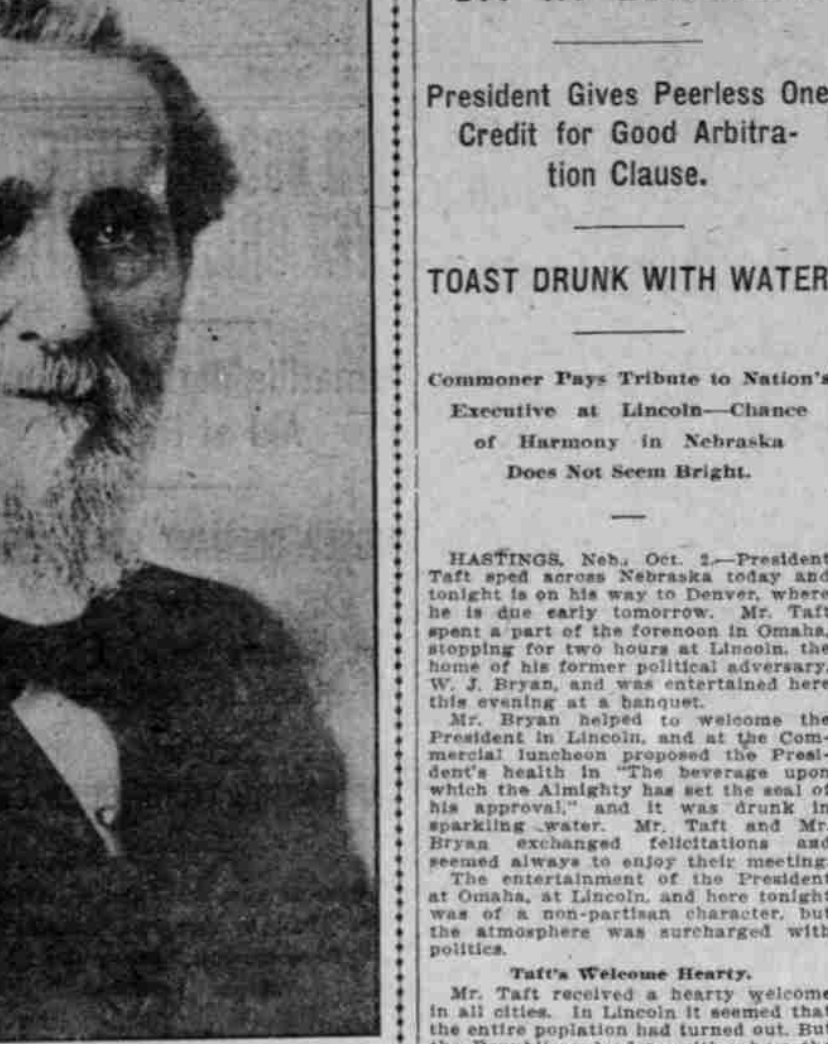
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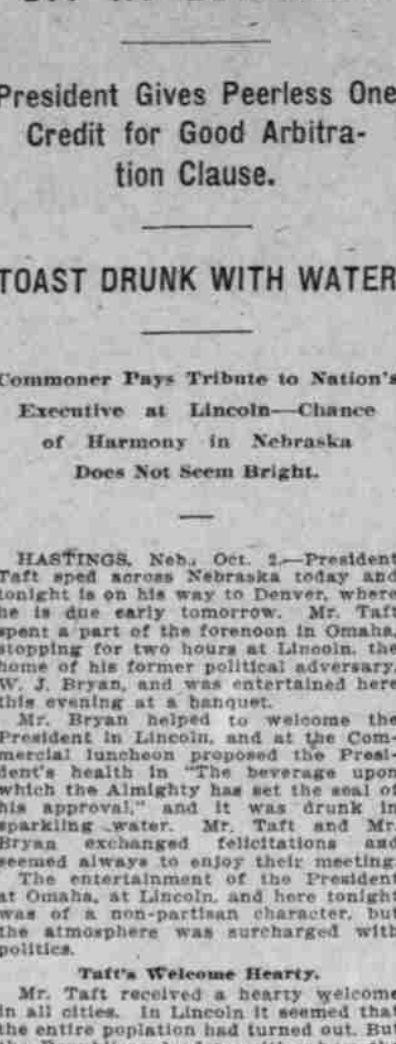
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