

Presidential Conventions.

Stephen B. Elkins Says They Seldom Nominate the Choice of the People.



STEPHEN B. ELKINS IN 1904. From a Photograph Secured for the Deseret News.

(Special Correspondence of the Deseret News by Frank G. Carpenter.)

WASHINGTON, D. C., June 19.—Do our national conventions represent the choice of the people? I asked this question of Senator Stephen B. Elkins...

HOW PRESIDENTS CHOSEN.—Do our presidential conventions represent the choice of the people? Senator Elkins repeated my question...



Your brain is tied pretty closely to your digestive machinery. Like a coal fire when it gets clinkered up, it's generally the fuel that's to blame.

When you buy coal you find some stones mixed with it. These stones cost as much as the coal. They also take up and waste more heat than the coal they displace would have developed.

strength going to Harrison, that made him the nominee, although this was greatly helped by the support of Tom Platt, John Sherman was also an element in that convention, and he might possibly have had the Blaine following had he shown more sympathy for Blaine in the conventions of 1856 and 1880.

WHAT CAMPAIGNS COST.—You have had much to do with the management of campaigns, Senator Elkins, said I. "What does it cost to run one?"

WHERE THE MONEY GOES.—But where do these vast sums go, senator? Are they used to buy votes? "No," replied Senator Elkins. "The man who will sell his vote to you will sell the same vote to the Democrats, and even if it were not dishonest it would not be good business to buy votes."

ALL POLITICIANS NOT HONEST.—But, senator, is not much of the money used dishonestly? "I think not," as the reply. "I don't think any of it is knowingly so used by the national committee."

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all such evils. We are our own masters and our expenses are our own creation and not those of one man or a half dozen men as in a monarchical government.

OFFICIAL MORALITY.—But does not our democracy tend to produce a nation of hoodlums? "No," replied Senator Elkins. "There is some official corruption, but the press exposes the most of it and there are an hundred honest men to every rascal."

EARNINGS OF A SENATOR.—How about official morality at Washington? How much can a United States senator legitimately make? "He can make just \$5,000 a year," said Senator Elkins.

THE SENATE AS A WALL STREET ANNEX.—But how about making money out of information as to probable legislation? Congress is supposed by some to be a kind of an annex to Wall street.

HOW PIERPONT MORGAN MADE A MILLION IN ONE DAY.—But, Senator Elkins, some men do make money out of the government sale of the Cleveland bond sale of \$2,000,000, whereby, according to the papers, Pierpont Morgan made \$1,000,000 in one day?

SUGAR-COATING THE PILL.—Do you think Cleveland was honest in this matter, Senator Elkins? "I don't think Cleveland was honest in this matter, Senator Elkins."

made without advertisement or by private contract. I believe that resolution saved Uncle Sam a great deal of money. When it was before the Senate Russell Sage wrote me that I had saved the government \$6,000,000 by it.

HOW CLEVELAND SOLD BONDS.—"Give me the story in a nutshell," said I. "Since Grover Cleveland has revived the subject I have no objection to doing so," replied Senator Elkins.

MIGHT HAVE MADE \$16,000,000.—How did the resolution take in the senate when it was offered? I asked. "I was warned that it would create a panic. Some of the senators thought it would throw the nation into bankruptcy and begged me to keep quiet."

"What do you think of Mr. Cleveland?" "I consider him the strongest man of the Democratic party. I shall never forget some of the things he has done for the country. He saved Chicago by sending the soldiers there at the time of the riots, thereby preventing a reign of anarchy which might have spread to other cities."

"I don't think the people are alarmed about it. You must remember that we have an enormous country—the richest and greatest on the face of the earth—and that it is just at the beginning of its development. It is a billion-dollar proposition and must be treated accordingly. In a situation like this you can't do things in the small. Our day of the little is past and the day of the big is at hand."

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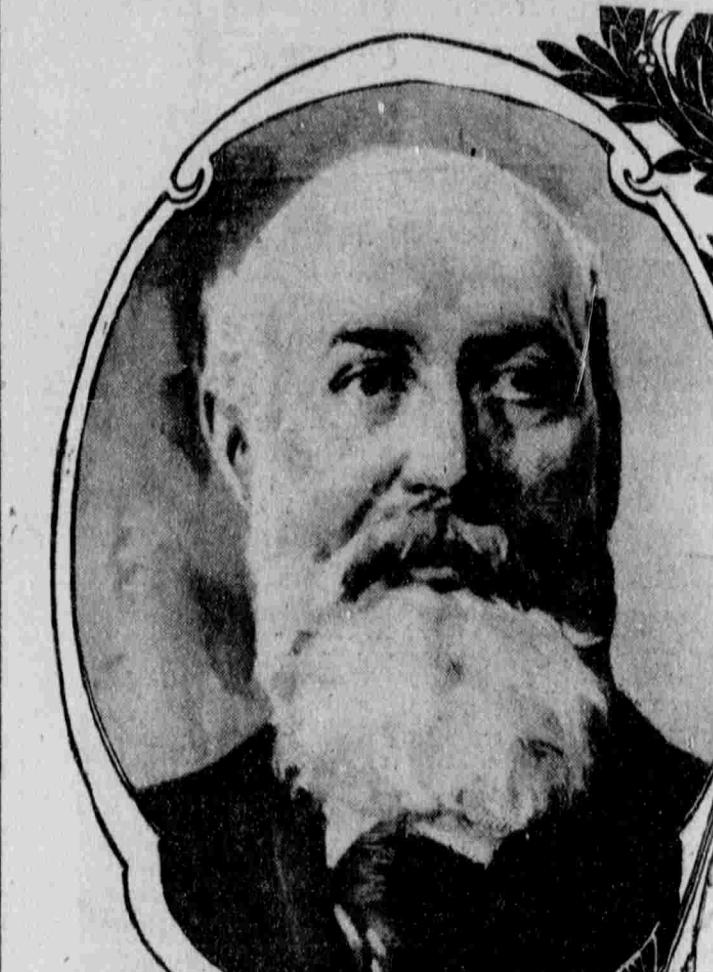
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"Yes, but the Wall street bankers frightened him. He did not understand the country, and they made him think we were in danger of bankruptcy. I have nothing to say against the bankers. It was their business to get the bonds as cheaply as they could."

"I was asked the other day if we were not appropriating too much for the navy? The senator continued. "I replied no, that I would rather see Uncle Sam build 50 big ships than five. We need the strongest navy on the face of the earth; it would enforce peace and would be cheapest in the end. This is all talk about the opposition of the people to large expenditures on the part of the government. If we can give them the results. What they want, and all they want, is to know that their money is honestly spent, and that they are getting the worth of it in the increased safety, prosperity and development of the country."

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