

# HOW POLITICIANS CORRUPTED MEMBERS OF LEGISLATURE

By ROBERT M. LA FOLLETTE

"MY OWN STORY" is an exclusive newspaper version of one of the great autobiographies of modern times. La Follette's own story of adventures in politics as written by himself in 1912, together with an authorized narrative of his experiences in the years since then.

## SYNOPSIS OF PREVIOUS INSTALLMENTS

After two defeats as Progressive candidate for Governor of Wisconsin, La Follette is overwhelmingly nominated and elected in 1900. The political bosses back the administration program at every turn. La Follette gives in person his message to the Legislature—advocating direct primaries and railroad taxation. The "machine" politicians attack the "political bible" of the State and the free use of money, the influence of the Federal office-holders, misrepresentation through the corporation newspapers, and the "lobby." Honest men begin to fall before these insidious forces.

How did the lobby get them? Various ways. There was Senator A. He was a poor fellow from a non-reliable district—a lawyer without much practice—rather a weak fellow. I can't remember on just what bill it was, but they got him. When he returned to his district, after the session, he built an expensive home, to the amazement of all his friends, and then came down to Washington to a Federal position.

We depended on Senator B. He made a statement that he could be relied upon to support the direct primary bill. We figured him on our list until about the time that Spooner visited Madison and he got away.

Senator C. was another man we had counted upon as one of the old reliable in the movement. He was an Irishman and a good talker and debater. They finally got him, too. I remember he came to me one night and said:

"Well, I don't know but what I'm going to disappoint you in my vote on the direct primary bill."

I could not at first think of a word to say—it was a staggering blow.

"Why, C.," I said finally, "if you were to go over to the other side on these measures it would seem to me like the end of everything. You couldn't do a thing like that. You have been one of the pillars of the movement."

I don't believe I tried to reason with him. It simply was not a case for argument. There was only one side to it, for he himself had been one of our ablest speakers on the stump in favor of the direct primary.

## Got Federal Office

Well, he voted against us, and it is significant that a few months after the Legislature adjourned he was appointed to a Federal office.

Another instance was that of Assemblyman D., who had been for some time quite an active supporter of the reform movement. He was a small business man and came to the Legislature from the county in which I was personally very strong.

He stood with us in the vote on direct primaries, but some little time after that Assemblyman E., who was one of our leaders in the Assembly, came into my office one morning. E. was a fine young fellow and regarded as thoroughly reliable. He was often in the executive office and I trusted him absolutely. Upon the occasion to which I refer he said:

"Governor, I have changed my boarding place—he had been boarding with some private family. I think—I have moved over to the Park Hotel."

The Park Hotel was the principal hotel in Madison, and the headquarters of all the lobbyists. I was



MRS. LA FOLLETTE IS AN IN- VETERATE READER.

somewhat surprised and asked him why he had moved.

"Well," he said, "I propose to be where I can watch the game that these lobbyists are playing. I am satisfied that they are working on some of our weak members, and I am going right into their camp to see what they are doing."

I have said that we trusted E. implicitly. He was one of the most enthusiastic men we had, and being a high-spirited, energetic young fellow, he was of great assistance in our fight.

Whenever we gathered a little group of the members in the executive office to talk over any critical situation in the Legislature, E. was always with us. He was an active young manufacturer. HE often talked with us about his business. I think he had some special machine which enabled him to make his product more cheaply than other manufacturers.

One day E. Ray Stevens came into my office and said, "Governor, I wish you would send up and ask E. to come down here. I don't just like the way he talks."

"Why," I said, "Ray, there can't be anything wrong with E."

Then I began to think that he had not been in to see me for three or four days. "Well," I said, "I will send up."

When he came through the door he did not meet me with his characteristic frankness. But I greeted him exactly as usual and said, "E, I want to have a little talk with you."

I moved my chair right up to his, placed my hands on his knees and looked him in the eye a moment before I spoke. Then I asked, "E, what's the matter?"

The tears started in his eyes and the response came at once.

"Governor, I can't help it. I've got to vote against the railroad taxation bill." After a moment he added, "I haven't slept any for two or three nights. I have walked the floor. I have thought of resigning and going home."

"Tell me all about it, E," I said.

"Well," he replied, "you know that

all I have in the world I have put into that factory of mine. I have told you about how proud I was of the thing.

## Faces Ruin

"Now," he said, "this railroad lobby tells me that if I vote for that railroad taxation bill they will ruin me in business. They can take away everything I've got. They have threatened to give my competitors advantages over me in railroad rates that will offset any advantages I have with my new machinery. Now, I can't beggar my family. I have a wife and babies."

I said, "E, you can't do this wrong. You can't violate your conscience." I talked to him quite a bit. He got up and walked the floor. He said he would always be for our measures, but he could not risk being driven to the wall. And then he left the office.

A few minutes before the roll call on the bill, E., who sat next to Lenroot, turned to him and said, "Lenroot, in five minutes I am going to violate my oath of office."

Lenroot was shocked and said,

"What do you mean?"

He replied: "It is a question between my honor and my bread and butter, and I propose to vote for my bread and butter." And he voted against the bill.

Assemblyman F. was nominated by a convention that was overwhelmingly for the direct primary. It adopted a platform specifically pledging the nominee to support the direct primary bill, and F., the candidate, formally accepted and agreed faithfully to carry out the instructions of the convention.

During the all-night session in the Assembly on the primary bill, F. was called from the floor into the clerk's room by a member of the Senate who offered him \$500 to vote against the bill.

F. told the lobbyist that he would not dare to go back to his constituents if he voted against the bill, as he had solemnly promised them when nominated to vote for it.

F. said he would like to do anything the Senator wanted him to do and he would like the \$500, but he did not dare to violate his pledge. After more of this talk they left the clerk's room. The room was not lighted.

At the time there was lying on a lounge in that room Assemblyman G., who was ill and had been brought from a sick room to attend upon this important session.

He recognized F.'s voice and also

the name of the Senator, which F. repeatedly used during the negotiations.

Assemblyman G. reported the whole matter to Lenroot, who informed me. We agreed that there was a case that we could take into court if G. would swear to the facts as reported to Lenroot. It was hoped that a successful prosecution might check the bribers in their raid on our legislation.

I sent for G. In Lenroot's presence he repeated the conversation between F. and the Senator just as he had given it to Lenroot.

I then called F. to the executive chamber. He admitted the conversation as detailed by G., but was slow about confirming G. as to the name of the Senator which he had used again and again in discussing the \$500 proposal while in the clerk's room.

Another interview was arranged, at which time he promised to tell everything. Before that interview the lobby did such effective work with both F. and G. that their memories utterly failed them as to every important detail of the whole event, and without these two witnesses the case was no case.

Such was the opposition we had to meet on all of our measures, the lobby standing together as one man against both the taxation and the direct primary bills.

It was about the middle of March,

after inconceivable delays, before the direct primary bill could be brought up in the Assembly for consideration, and it was then bitterly opposed.

When the debate was finally exhausted there was an all-night session so managed in a parliamentary way as to prevent a vote being taken.

## Members Drunk

In the meantime lobbyists were calling members of the Assembly outside of the chamber; liquor was brought into the Capitol and into the committee rooms. Members were made drunk and brought back in such a condition of intoxication that they had to be supported to their seats. And yet, in spite of all this, we retained the support of enough members to pass the bill.

When it reached the Senate, though the members were hostile to it, they dared not kill it outright. The sentiment in the State, they knew, was too strong. Accordingly, they pursued the usual indirect means of accomplishing the same end—by passing a substitute measure called the Hagemeyer bill, which defeated the real purpose of the reform.

The initial step was taken when one of the coins was placed in the pay envelope of each of 5,000 Treasury employees. Similar action will be suggested to other government bureaus.

## Silver Dollar Coming Back

By Times Special

WASHINGTON, Aug. 22.—The Treasury embarked today on a campaign to restore the silver dollar—the "cart wheel"—which was so widely used twenty years ago, to general circulation.

The initial step was taken when one of the coins was placed in the pay envelope of each of 5,000 Treasury employees. Similar action will be suggested to other government bureaus.

## Seven Million New Voters

By Times Special

WASHINGTON, Aug. 22.—Over 6,000,000 new voters, who have become of age since 1920, will be eligible to vote their first time for President in 1924, according to the statistical report of Simon Michelet, Washington lawyer and political writer.

The basis for this estimate is the census of 1920.

Eight of every ten children start life thoroughly healthy.

**FOR ONLY \$99**

you can buy one of the world's best washing machines—an

**A B C OSCILLATOR**

It will wash your clothes better in less time. Special Easy Terms.

**The Sanborn Electric Co.**

309 N. Illinois St. MA in 1017. Opp. Y. M. C. A.

Buy Electrical Goods From An Electrical Store

114 N. Penn. St. 53 S. Illinois St.

55 Virginia Ave. 27 S. Illinois St.

802 Mass. Ave. 103 W. Wash. St.

816 N. Ala. St. 156 N. Illinois St.

**HAAG'S**

**Cut Price Drugs**

**You Can Buy the BEST for LESS at HAAG'S**

Compare Haag's Prices With Other Prices

Mail Orders Filled—Add Postage Prices Subject to Change Without Notice

Not a One-Day Sale—Haag Every Day Prices

### FACE POWDERS

Ayer's Face Powder. 60c  
Armand's Cold Cream Powder. 60c  
50c Aurora Face Powder. 60c  
75c Bonella Face Powder. 60c  
50c Dier-Kiss Face Powder. 60c  
50c Dier-Kiss Face Powder. 60c  
50c Freeman's Face Powder. 60c  
50c Java Rice Face Powder. 60c  
50c Maria Face Powder. 60c  
50c Pompeian Face Powder. 60c  
50c Levy's LaBlache Face Powder. 60c  
50c Olden's L'Origen Face Powder. 60c  
50c Mary Garden Face Powder. 60c  
50c Princess Pat Face Powder. 60c  
50c Nadine Face Powder. 60c

### MOUTH WASHES

50c Listerine. 74c  
50c Listerine. 74c  
50c Listerine. 74c  
50c Listerine. 74c  
50c Listerine. 74c  
50c Listerine. 74c  
50c Listerine. 74c  
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50c Listerine. 74c  
50c Listerine. 74c

### DEODORIZERS

50c Amolin. 30c  
50c Amolin. 30c  
50c Amolin. 30c  
50c Amolin. 30c  
50c Amolin. 30c  
50c Amolin. 30c  
50c Amolin. 30c  
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50c Amolin. 30c  
50c Amolin. 30c

### SOAPS

50c Palmolive Soap. 3 for 74c  
50c Palmolive Soap. 3 for 74c  
50c Palmolive Soap. 3 for 74c  
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50c Palmolive Soap. 3 for 74c

### FACE LOTIONS

50c Hind's Honor and Al. Cr. 74c  
50c Hind's Honor and Al. Cr. 74c  
50c Hind's Honor and Al. Cr. 74c  
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### DEPILATORIES

50c Frank's Depilatory. 30c  
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### FACE CREAMS

50c Berry's Face Cream. 40c  
50c Berry's Face Cream. 40c  
50c Berry's Face Cream. 40c  
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50c Berry's Face Cream. 40c

### TOOTH PASTES

50c Benzoyl Tooth Paste. 34c  
50c Benzoyl Tooth Paste. 34c  
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50c Benzoyl Tooth Paste. 34c  
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50c Benzoyl Tooth Paste. 34c

### TALCUM POWDERS

50c Aurora Talcum Powder. 22c  
50c Aurora Talcum Powder. 22c  
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50c Aurora Talcum Powder. 22c  
50c Aurora Talcum Powder. 22c  
50c Aurora Talcum Powder. 22c

### BLOOD REMEDIES

50c S. S. S. 1.25  
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## AUGUST REDUCTION SALE

This is proving the greatest sale we ever had. Because it is a real value-giving sale. 20% to 331-3% reductions throughout practically our entire store.

### French Walnut Bedroom Suite

Four pieces—bow-end bed, generous sized dresser, roomy chiffonette, and the always wanted stylish vanity. Our price ..... \$269.00

**August Reduction Price ..... \$199**

Easy Payments

### Would You Trade Your Old Stove for a New One?

IF SO, COME AND SEE US

We Will Give You \$5.00 for Your Old Heater, Cook Stove or Coal Range as Part Payment on a New Hotblast or Coal Range.

If it's a heater, don't fail to see the Palace Hotblast. The heater with the all-cast body. One look will convince you, and you get \$5.00 for the old stove.

Easy Payments

### Long Evenings Are Coming

Home entertainment is needed. Buy the GENUINE REGAL RECORDS Saturday only, for 35c, or three for ..... \$1.00

August Reduction Sale

**National**

OUT OF THE HIGH RENT DISTRICT

FURNITURE CO. 335-343 W. WASHINGTON ST.

Pay as You Get Paid

## MEN!

### Sale of Men's Shoes and Oxfords

Black and browns. A new shipment just received and included

**AT A BIG SAVING**

Several Styles to Choose From

**\$2.45**

**Men's Work Shoes**

Genuine Uskide Soles \$1.85

## Economy

SHOE STORE

316 W. Washington Street

## Is Your Back Giving Out?

DOES August find you lame, stiff and achy—worried day after day with nagging backache and sharp, torturing pains? Do you feel tired, nervous and utterly worn-out?

Then you should be giving some attention to your kidneys. These wonderful little sponges filter every drop of blood in the body. But once the kidneys slow up in the whole system. Then comes daily backache, sharp, stabbing pains, headaches, dizziness and annoying kidney irregularities.

Don't risk neglect! Help your weakened kidneys with Doan's Pills. Doan's have helped thousands. Ask your neighbors.

"Use Doan's," Say These Indianapolis Folks:

**JAMES W. TOLSON,** painter, 1416 W. Ray St. says:

"My back felt as though it had been clubbed and the knife-like twinges were so severe, I could hardly bend. My kidneys were disordered. I was so dizzy, that everything seemed to be spinning around. I got Doan's Pills at Carney's Drug Store, and they cured me."

**MRS. M. D. DAVIS,** 1642 W. Market St. says:

"My back ached from morning until night. I had such pains across my kidneys I had to send my washing out. I was nervous and had awful headaches and dizzy spells, too. My kidneys were disordered. I got Doan's Pills at Hook's Drug Store, and they cured me."

## Doan's Pills

Stimulant Diuretic to the Kidneys

At all dealers, 60c box. Foster-Milburn Co., Mfg. Chemists, Buffalo, N.Y.