The cartoon references Governor Samuel Pennypacker's anti-cartoon bill. After Pennypacker won the gubernatorial election in 1902, he and Representative Frederick Taylor Pusey tried to pass an anti-cartoon law which would prohibit cartoonists from depicting politicians in any non-human form. Pusey's bill did not pass, but in May 1903 Pennypacker signed a similar bill into legislation. Cartoonists across the nation criticized the law. Because of public outrage, the law was never enforced and was later repealed in 1907. In the image, Pennypacker sits in a chair labeled "Governor's chair" and is surrounded by caricatures of himself. The drawings depict Pennypacker as a lion, rabbit, parrot, and various other animals. The cartoon was originally published in The Washington Post on May 16, 1903 and was re-printed by the North American.