

Ink Slings.

Without honest registration Ballot Reform is but a mockery and a delusion.

Notice of a birthday party at the White House the other day revived the drooping public interest in Baby McK.

Thanks to her bungling congressmen, the new Philadelphia will have to get along for awhile yet with the old Mint.

The summary treatment of the Mafia assassins at New Orleans was a sort of Sicilian Vespers in the American style.

The promising buds that are waiting to throw their pink mantle over the Delaware orchards at the first call of gentle spring, preclude the evil prophecy of the peach pessimist.

Treasurer HUSTON says that the government treasury vaults are insecure, but what difference does that make since the Billion Dollar Congress has left nothing in them that requires security?

The dispatch which Mr. BLAINE sent to the Governor of Louisiana on the Mafia lynching was a little too impetuous to be creditable to a first-class diplomatist, and may cause him to do some undignified hedging.

Ballot Reform that won't interfere too much with the registry-padder, the repeater and the personator, is the kind that the Republican legislators at Harrisburg prefer for prudential reasons involving party interests.

The maple sap winds its capillary way to the outward branches with accelerated flow this Spring, impelled by the encouragement it has received from MCKINLEY'S putting it among the protected products of the land.

A robin, a song-sparrow and a bluebird vocalizing on the same apple tree on Saint PATRICK'S day, gave Winter a gentle notice that he has no business to be lounging in the lap of Spring and should be ashamed of such unseemly dalliance.

Since we have had a Billion Dollar Congress the millionaire will be considered a common sort of pecuniary individual and will soon give place to the billionaire. The course of the money power in this great Republic is onward and upward.

Saint PATRICK'S day this year was unusually fine, and yet if there was ever a time when the good Saint had reason to be blusterous on his natal day it was this year in view of the ugly mess which the factious leaders have made of the Irish cause.

Queen VICTORIA is in mortal terror at the prospect of another visit from the Shah of Persia, that rare old oriental potentate whose personal habits are such that when he leaves a royal residence where he has lodged the service of a corps of house-cleaners is indispensable.

The California U. S. Senatorship, in place of Senator HEARST, deceased, is a question of a few hundred thousand dollars judiciously used where it will do the most good, which may be regarded as being quite cheap, considering that millionaires will compete for the prize.

The condemned murderer at Wilkesbarre says that he would go out of the world in a happier frame of mind if the Sheriff would allow him to assist in building the scaffold upon which he is to swing. There is no accounting for the sources of some people's happiness.

Last Monday completed the six weeks covered by the forecast of the ground-hog, and the wintry manner in which that period came to an end vindicated the weather-wisdom of the astute animal and rebuked the gibes of those who presumed to criticize its meteorological lore.

When Senator PEPPER, of Kansas saw how the Republicans were getting away with the surplus he prudently concluded to draw as much of his pay in advance as he could get hold of before the treasury became entirely swamped. The western granger is not the man that is going to be left.

It is unreasonable for Secretary RUSK to be angry with the Germans for not allowing the importation of American pork, for isn't it one of the cardinal doctrines of the party to which he belongs that it is a nation's duty to erect barriers that will keep out the productions of other nations?

Rev. McQUEARY, an Episcopal clergyman of Canton, Ohio, has been found guilty of heresy by an ecclesiastical court. If this offense were punishable by burning at the stake, as it was in the good old times, the heretical Ohio preacher wouldn't take the matter as coolly as he no doubt does.

ANDREW JACKSON was born in March, a month which, like Old Hickory, is distinguished for its force of character. The fact of March being his natal month may have had something to do with the way he marched his political enemies out of office, a Jacksonian example which should be followed by his Democratic presidential successors.

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Irregular Justice.

The lynching of eleven Italians who had rendered themselves obnoxious to an exasperated populace, which occurred last Saturday in New Orleans, was the most extraordinary case of irregular justice that this country has ever seen.

When at last an attempt was made to bring them to justice they murdered the chief of police of New Orleans who had assumed the duty of suppressing their lawlessness.

A number of them were arrested for this crime and upon their trial last week the jury acquitted them. It was generally believed that the jury had been bribed, and under the circumstances the outraged and indignant populace saw no other way of enforcing the demands of justice and protecting the community against organized assassination than by taking the law into their own hands.

Upon due notice given an orderly crowd assembled at one of the most public places in the city, deliberately marched to the prison from which the acquitted criminals had not yet been released, and, after forcing their way into it, coolly proceeded to carry out their purpose by shooting and hanging the offenders whom the defective machinery of the law was about to liberate.

Under any other circumstances these proceedings would have been most reprehensible, but the situation in which the community of New Orleans found itself upon the acquittal of undoubted assassins took from this bloody enforcement of lynch law much that otherwise would have been indefensible. Assassination was vindicated in the courts. An association of murderers were assured, so far as the failure of justice could assure them, that they could continue their crimes without fear of punishment. There was no safety for any citizen who might be brought under the ban of their displeasure.

It was a terrible situation for a community to be in—a problem of danger and terror that could be solved only by action as violent, irregular and bloody as was the evil it proposed to suppress. The Mafia, rejoicing over their exemption from punishment, and believing themselves to be beyond the law's restraint, would have continued the perpetration of their murderous deeds. But the deadly process of Judge Lynch has taught them the salutary lesson that, although corrupted or terrorized juries may acquit them, they are not secure against the vengeance of an exasperated populace that will not hesitate in an extreme emergency to take the law into their own hands.

We do not believe that the jury which acquitted the Mafia assassins were bought. It is more reasonable to believe that fear of the vengeance of the murderous gang restrained them from rendering the verdict which the evident guilt of the offenders demanded. For the safety of the community the mob had to do the work of justice which an intimidated jury had not the nerve to do. It was a terrible expedient, but the fearful circumstance of organized assassination endangering the safety of the citizens and paralyzing the machinery of the law required the application of a remedy as dreadful as it was irregular, but which, no doubt, will be effective.

There is a sentimentality that inveighs against such proceedings. Regular justice stands aghast at the invocation of irregular violence for the treatment of offenders; but when law fails to secure public safety the court of Judge Lynch is the only tribunal that can furnish the protection which society has a right to claim.

The Grangers' Tax Bill was before the House this week and was made the subject of lively discussion. It is being cut and carved to such an extent that if it gets through at all it will be difficult for its originators to recognize it. It is to be hoped, however, that a bill of some kind will be passed that will secure a more just equalization of the tax burden.

Imperfect Ballot Reform.

The old Republican ring which so long has ruled and corrupted the politics of Maine, making the political condition in that State the synonym of political debauchery, are greatly rejoiced over the defeat of the ballot reform bill in the State Legislature. Congressman BOUTELLE'S Bangor Whig calls it "a grand victory," exultingly declaring that "this is the third time we have opposed the Kangaroo system and in each instance our position has been handsomely vindicated."

There is no other State in which Republicanism is so strongly entrenched as in the State of BLAINE and REED, and in no other State is the proposition to have fair and honest elections more openly condemned and opposed by the party leaders. In fact in the recent contest in the Legislature they grounded their opposition to Ballot Reform on the assertion that it would injure the Republican party.

It is not unjust to believe that the sentiment of the Republican leaders in Pennsylvania on this subject is similar to that of the Maine managers. We have evidence of this in the manner in which the ballot reform question was treated in the last Legislature. The proposition of the Australian system was denied a hearing and ignominiously rejected. Since the contemptuous treatment it then received the people have been heard from, and in consequence there is a show of zeal on the part of the present Republican Legislature for Ballot Reform, but as there is reason to believe that the Pennsylvania leaders are as fully assured as are those of Maine that fair and honest elections conducted under the Australian system would reduce Republican majorities, there is ground for the apprehension that the ballot reform bill which a Pennsylvania Republican Legislature would pass would be found defective in very essential features. It would be reform with the largest possible omission of the safe-guards against fraud. Without honest registration, which would be secured by a constitutional convention, much of the accustomed election rascality could go on under such an Australian ballot law as is now before the Legislature.

Local Self-Government.

The chief objection to the new Road law as proposed by the commission bill is the centralizing of authority in a county engineer. To many this seems like the creation of a needless office, involving expense that is not necessary, while others apprehend that it would become the subject of party scramble, and that road engineers would be elected more on account of their capacity for political engineering than for the reason of their scientific knowledge of road making. There probably is too much ground for such a fear. And yet it is impossible to get the kind of roads this age requires and the public interest demands without a more scientific system of road making than has obtained in the past.

But the strongest objection to taking the roads out of the control of the townships springs from a very natural feeling. It is founded upon the sentiment of local self-government, a sentiment that lies at the base of popular institutions. The people of the rural districts ever since Pennsylvania has been a commonwealth have been in the habit of making and repairing the roads through the agency of their own township authority, and whether they have done the work skillfully or not, whether it has been to their advantage or not, they would surrender that power very reluctantly.

But even the most conservative comprehend the necessity of better roads, and it will be for the wisdom of the Legislature to effect such compromises in the Road law as will improve the system of road making without too great a conflict with local authority and too great a shock to the sentiment of local self-government.

The last was the first "billion dollar congress" since the war; so called because it appropriated a billion dollars. The people will not forget the "billion dollar congress" very soon, and it will be some time before they again allow all branches of the government to pass into the hands of the "billion dollar party."

The Funeral Scandals.

Accounts from Washington represent that it took \$232,000 of the public money to bury three recently deceased United States Senators. This method of stealing should be stopped, but it seems impossible to stop such Republican practices. These funerals of Senators and Congressmen are little better than drunken, gambling orgies, alike disgraceful to the country and to the persons who take part in them.

The funeral of the late Senator HEARST is a good sample of the swindle perpetrated on the Government in this line. A long train of Pullman cars crossed the continent loaded with political dead-heads and other friends of the Senator, who were provided with wine, cards, and all other appliances that favored dead-heads require. In the Hearst funeral so much did Senator SANFORD, an old friend of the deceased, become shocked at the conduct of the alleged mourners the train was carrying at public expense, that he cut loose his car, refusing to travel with a party of poker-playing and wine drinking dead-heads, supposed to be mourning for a dead friend, but, instead, were only making a pleasure trip to California at the government expense.

Can not such disgraceful proceedings be stopped? If Senators and Members of Congress have not a sufficient sense of shame to put an end to it, the people will call them to account in tones that will not be misunderstood.

Governor PATTERSON'S lead in genuine ballot reform for Pennsylvania is well set forth in an article elsewhere printed from the New York World, which discloses a clear knowledge of the situation in the State. The Republicans are dealing in elaborate plans of humbug, just about as they did on prohibition. A constitutional convention, not next year, but this year, is the one way to secure ballot reform so that it may apply to the Presidential election of 1892.

A Fool Joke.

A protectionist paper, remarking on the abolition of sugar duties by the McKinley law, which will go into effect on the first of April, claims that then the price of sugar to the housekeeper will decline from two to two and a half cents a pound. It exultingly remarks: "There is no fool joke about this. Families who have been paying a dollar for fourteen to fifteen pounds, will get twenty to twenty-two pounds for the same money."

In view of the fact that the removal of the sugar duty will enable families to get their sugar at a cheaper price, what sort of a "fool joke" does this protection paper indulge in when it claims that a tariff isn't a tax?

It is the old story. The strikers in the Connellsville coke region, who some months ago resorted to a strike for the purpose of securing higher wages, realize that they are defeated and are willing to resume work at the old rates; but their victorious employers will not be satisfied with this and insist on a reduction. Even with the blessing and assistance of a "protection" tariff labor can't hold its own against the exactions of capital. Labor should not be in this plight with the McKinley tariff in full operation.

The bulletin of the population of Pennsylvania, by counties shows that in twelve counties the population fell off since 1880 from 12 in Fulton to 3,603 in Wayne, away up in the northeastern corner of the State. Crawford, in the northwestern corner, fell off 3,283 and Clarion 3,526. In six counties the increase was less than 1,000 in each. The increase in Pennsylvania was about a million, the largest percentage being in the anthracite and bituminous coal regions.

During the heat of the senatorial contest in the Illinois Legislature, which lasted through many weeks and happily ended in the election of General PALMER, it was suggested to him that a little money would smooth his election and make it certain and speedy. "I don't intend to go to hell by the way of the United States Senate," was the response of the grand old man.

The Test of Sincerity in Ballot Reform.

The Baker Ballot Bill is the only one that the Republican majority will allow to pass through the Legislature. They want it to be distinctly understood that it is a Republican ballot bill which will not admit of any Democratic amendment, and they have assumed a Czar Reed attitude in their determination to drive it through. It is offensively announced that the minority have no right to claim an interest in it and should keep hands off.

But the Baker Bill is also devoid of some of the most essential features of true Ballot Reform. It doesn't provide for absolute secrecy, without which there can not be absolutely fair and honest elections, and no mere statute can provide for such secrecy without a constitutional provision that will dispense with the numbering of the ballots.

The Baker Bill is also defective in that it does not provide for the improvement of the present system of registration. It does not meet the evil of the tax-paying qualification which has developed a means of fraud in the large cities, even extending into the country, which would seriously counteract the benefit of an Australian law.

Ballot Reform, such as will thoroughly protect the elections against fraud, bribery and intimidation, can be secured only by a convention that will furnish the necessary constitutional safe-guards. A statute may answer as a temporary and partial expedient, and as such will no doubt be supported by the Democratic members and senators notwithstanding its inherent defects, but the vital measure in this question is presented in Mr. WHEAT'S bill for a constitutional convention, and it will be upon that point that the sincerity of the Republicans in regard to Ballot Reform will be tested.

They Raked It.

The total expenses of the four years' of CLEVELAND'S administration were \$1,039,565,000. When he went out of office there was a surplus of over a hundred million dollars in the treasury.

The two years' appropriations of the Reed congress amounted to \$1,006,270,471. It not only won the unenviable title of "the billion dollar congress," but it went out of power with the surplus used up and the treasury entirely empty.

The reckless extravagance of "the billion dollar congress" reminds a contemporary of a case that happened in the California Legislature some years ago. There was a bill before it relating to an increase of salaries and the question was raised whether the treasury was in a condition to stand the increased expense. In the midst of the discussion one of the members excused himself for a few minutes and when he returned said: "Mr. Speaker, I have just seen the Treasurer and he tells me there is \$475,654.49 in the State treasury and I move that we rake it."

The Reed congress found a large surplus left in the treasury by the Cleveland administration and they raked it. So completely did they rake it that there isn't a dollar left.

The New York Tribune is capable of deriving happiness from a most singular and remarkable source. It positively chuckles over the fact that the last congress so completely drained the treasury that the Democrats of the next congress will be embarrassed in carrying on the business of government. It actually says: "The recent Congress began its work with a large surplus to be distributed, and that exists no longer. There is not offered to the Democrats next Winter as pleasant an alternative as some of them now imagine." It is true, that large surplus exists no longer, but the party whose profligacy squandered it should be ashamed of their conduct instead of bragging about it and making merry over it.

It is likely that the Hearst funeral scandal will lead to a lively overhauling of the whole practice of congressional funerals, which are expensive as well as pretentious, and always accompanied by some disgraceful performance on the part of some one. In the private palace car of the congressional funeral train there is little more solemnity than is exhibited by a lot of sports off for a high-toned prize fight.

Spawls from the Keystone.

Lancaster county cattle have pleuro-pneumonia again.

Another Pittsburgh check-raiser has learned how to make \$25 look like \$500 in cash.

There were Hibernian banquets at Lancaster and Chester in honor of St. Patrick.

Miss Alice Francis of Reading, committed suicide by hanging while her mother was at church.

A Corry physician has retired on the strength of having received \$16,000 in back pensions.

Fred. Wier, a Lawrence county farmer, was frozen to death during the storm Saturday morning.

A new school-house at Bethlehem has been named after the late State Superintendent Higbee.

Samuel Cook, a resident of Centralia, while working in the Morris ridge colliery, was killed by a rush of coal.

The family of John Mayerman, of Morrisville, ate canned salmon the other day and was nearly poisoned.

Sick and unattended for four days in his miners' hut at Ashland, Isaac Jones, single, was found dying Saturday.

Rachel Price officiated at the funeral of Dr. Thomas L. Allen Monday in the Friends' meeting-house, Langhorne.

Simon Yeager, ex Clerk of the County Commissioners, has sued the County of Lycoming for \$829.10 for extra work done.

A switching engine at Thordale, near Coatesville, killed Milkman George Swisher and his horse on last Sunday.

Isaac Jones, Mine Inspector at Ashland, was locked in his room five days without food, and is likely to die from the results.

Pittsburg has 44,461 buildings, of which 29,913 are dwellings, valued at \$7,179,300, and 7518 business houses, worth \$24,135,975.

It is announced that Republicans in the State Senate have tacitly agreed to defeat the House amendments to the Brooks law.

The Post Office at New Millford, Susquehanna county, was broken into and \$30 worth of stamps and a sum of money carried away.

A farmer of the Bethlehem Iron Works, at Bethlehem, has been discharged for demanding money from workmen whom he engaged.

As a baseball bat is not a deadly weapon, Boyd Gilmore, who killed his uncle Stewart near Altoona, has been set free by Judge Dean.

Through trains from Philadelphia and Pittsburg to Bedford, will be put on this summer to revive interest in Bedford as a summer resort.

G. Martin Blot, a wealthy farmer, was arrested on Tuesday at Ebensburg for mailing a letter addressed to the Louisiana Lottery Company.

About 100 young men of Pottstown have organized a World's fair club, the object of which is to secure to each member a trip to the fair in 1893.

Miss John Meyer, of Freyertown, caught rides on shifting Lehigh Valley trains at Allentown, fell, was run over, had both legs cut off and died.

A farm at Pithole which was bought some years ago during the oil excitement by Chicago speculators for \$1,500,000, was sold recently at a tax sale for \$100.

Several carloads of telegrams, papers and records were shipped from the Lehigh Valley Railroad office to a paper-mill Saturday. It was the decennial clearing out.

Little 4-year-old Sallie Jennings, of Bushkill, Monroe county, caught fire, at her mother's kitchen stove, and burned to death while her mother hung out clothes.

Edward Kinney, of Girardville, clerk at the County Almshouse, Pottsville, has left for Seattle. His accounts are all right, but friends believe him to be deranged.

Isaac Stover, aged 70, of Ephrata township, was found dead in a bed by the side of his wife. He had retired in excellent health, but died in his sleep from heart disease.

Robert Kane, who was in jail at Atlantic City charged with stealing from Mrs. Anna Burns Hogan, of Norristown, died in the jail from an attack of delirium tremens.

The 12 and 13-year-old sons of Frank Price, a Barren Hill, Bucks county man, read dime novels and started West the other day. The father caught them at Hellertown.

Ira W. Moe and J. C. Stagg, an Eastoll lamp firm, left that town suddenly and nothing of their whereabouts. A number of persons are out of pocket in consequence.

Conspiracy and false pretense are alleged against Forest & Greenlee, Titusville oil producers, who sold for \$25,000 a well with cracked casing to the Midland Oil Company.

The 16-year-old daughter of Daniel Slopp, of Shamokin, was abducted last Wednesday night, and it is believed she was carried off in order to secure money from her father.

Within the past ten days Mrs. Jerry Copelin, of Decatur township, Clearfield county, gave birth to four children at once, and Mrs. Snyder of New Washington, gave birth to triplets.

George W. Moss, the Wilkesbarre wife murderer, asked the Sheriff to allow him to assist in the erection of the scaffold on which he is to be hung. His wishes were refused.

James McDullough, a farmer of Collins, Lancaster county, was killed Friday morning in his woods by a tree falling on him. He was 73 years old, and leaves a wife and five children.

Conductor Fiekerson, of the Eftsburg and Western Railroad, confesses that he embezzled many thousand dollars worth of freight berries near Foxburg, Pa. Seven accomplices have been arrested, and others have fled.

J. Wright Gregory, convicted in this State of breaking into a post office, has been pardoned by the President, and John Emma, Jr., of Maryland, fined \$100 for violating postal laws, has had his fine remitted at the same hand.

A committee of the local organization of the Junior Order of United American Mechanics called on the Mayor of Pittsburg and tried to induce him to issue an order prohibiting the carrying of the flag of Ireland in the St. Patrick's day parade.

John Leahy, who was suspected of being the man who, with a companion, attempted to rob the residence of Samuel Kreider, at Lebanon, by passing themselves off as census takers, and who shot Mrs. Kreider, was arrested and lodged in jail. His companion is still at large.

John and Joseph Rothgaber, brothers, convicted of robbing the St. Charles hotel, Lebanon, were sentenced by Judge McPherson to eight years each in the Eastern penitentiary. Jacob Schall, convicted of robbing the Annapolis depot and breaking jail, was sentenced to ten years.

A Lancaster Herman Peters, an electric light man, was stopped on the street early in the morning by three strangers, who knocked him down and gave him a bad beating, no provocation whatever having been given. During the last few weeks a number of similar outrages have been committed there.