

Ink Slings.

—Fortunately a tarified egg will take the Easter coloring as readily as one that comes untaxed from the hen.

—There would be more birds to sing on Easter morning if there weren't so many dead ones on Easter bonnets.

—We would say to Mr. HARRISON, who is contemplating an accidental journey, "Go west and the farther west the better."

—If ex-Speaker REED should extend his European visit to Russia, being a czar, he would feel as if he were on his native heath.

—Considering the adverse judgment which the people passed upon FORAKER, it is surprising to see him urging that the people should elect United States Senators.

—The Soldier's Orphans' plunder may be partially recovered, but how can the State efface the obloquy of having made her soldiers' children the prey of a set of vampires?

—The average citizen won't consent to like a tariff that raises the price of his necessities, even to please so distinguished a person as the President of the United States.

—An English writer predicts that the world will eventually dry up. But the vaporous authors of such predictions will have dried up long before the world shall have lost its moisture.

—Mrs. ELLEN PATTON, a Kansas poetess, dislocated her jaw the other day while yawning. This may have been a retribution for the production of verses that made her readers yawn.

—The Penobscot has an ice-jam, a mile long, that is packed from the bottom to ten feet above the surface. Such a frigid accumulation is enough to chill the enterprise of any ice trust.

—Ex-Mayor CARTER HARRISON, of Chicago, may not be able to see it, but nevertheless there is a general impression on the public mind that he is a back number, and very far back, too.

—If a heartless legislature should discontinue the publication of the *Legislative Record* it would be a great deprivation to those who have derived a pleasure from the perusal of its thrilling pages.

—Teaching hygiene to boys with their pockets full of cigarettes and girls with their mouths full of chewing gum, both of which are injurious to health, is one of the humbugs of our present common school education.

—The accident that recently befell the Galena may be a loss to the navy, but if her damaged hulk shall be judiciously worked at some navy yard in the campaign of 1892 it might be a considerable gain to the Republican party.

—Italian war ships that might visit our shores with hostile intent would profit by taking warning from the mishap that befell the Galena. The United States hasn't a formidable navy but its coast has some very dangerous shoals.

—VICTORIA in her recent trip to the south of France gave Paris the go-by. This was intended as a punishment to that city for its impolite treatment of her daughter; but the gay capital probably will lose none of its gaiety on account of this infliction.

—Colonel INGERSOLL is doing very little lecturing, his time being almost exclusively devoted to the practice of the law. He finds that there is more money in cross-examining a witness out of his senses than in misleading the senses of an audience by atheistic sophistry.

—The Ministers sent abroad by this high tariff administration, who clamorously urge European governments to remove the restrictions on articles of import from this country, are furnishing specimens of American cheek that can't fail to be interesting to the effete foreigners.

—Ex-Speaker REED has started on a trip to Europe. No doubt he will meet the Speaker of the House of Commons, but as that functionary presides over a free deliberative body it isn't likely that he will accept any pointers that the American czar may be disposed to give him on parliamentary despotism.

—The Maine Republican Legislature is greatly embarrassed on the ballot reform question. The people are angrily demanding it, but the reluctant leaders know that honest elections will be death to the Republican party. There was never a clearer case of location between the devil and the deep sea.

—A contemporary laments the defeat of ESTEE for the United States Senatorship in California, for the reason that "it deprives the Senate of one of the most brilliant neckties in the country." The magnitude of this deprivation is increased by the circumstance that ESTEE'S millions enable him to adorn that necktie with a diamond-pin that would have given additional brilliancy to the millionaire's club that holds its sessions in the senate chamber. But then, as to neckties and diamond pins, FELTON, the successful candidate, has equally simple means to indulge in independent reckless wear and jewelry.

Democratic Watchman

STATE RIGHTS AND FEDERAL UNION.

VOL. 36. BELLEFONTE, PA., MARCH 27, 1891. NO. 12.

Keeping the Door Open for Election Bribery.

In examining the so-called Reform Ballot Bill which has passed second reading in the House and will probably pass that body finally this week, we find it encumbered with many complicated details which would seem to be intended to prevent simplicity of operation and make it difficult to be understood and practiced by the less intelligent class of voters. A law that is designed to regulate public action in which every class of citizens will personally and directly participate, should be made as simple and intelligible as possible, so that it may be within the comprehension and capacity of all. But so unquestionable a requisite as this is overlooked or rejected by those who have assumed the duty of furnishing the voters of the State with an alleged reformed ballot law.

But the intricate character of the bill is not its most objectionable feature. There is reasonable suspicion that the Republican legislative managers, finding the unwelcome task of reforming the ballot thrust upon them by public demand, are not overzealous in a work the effect of which they have reason to believe would diminish their party majorities, and that they are exercising their ingenuity to frustrate the object of a law intended to secure honest elections. That such is their purpose is evident from the manner in which they are manipulating the bill that was drawn up by the Ballot Reform Association and which can be credited with being honest in its original intention.

One of the principal election abuses which a Reform Ballot Bill should correct is that of bribery. By the real Australian system this abuse is prevented through the enforced secrecy of the ballot. The election corruptionist will not invest his money in bribing a voter unless he has assurance that the vote will be cast according to contract, and he can not have that assurance when the ballot is entirely under the control of the voter in the secrecy of the election booth, with no means of any one knowing how it is made up. It is in this way that the Australian plan of voting effects a complete correction of the evil of election bribery.

That the political managers, who have the benefit of a large boodle fund drawn from various sources of corruption, are not willing to surrender the advantage of election bribery is shown by the manner in which they have manipulated the following section of the Ballot Bill as originally drawn by the Ballot Reform Association:

If any voter declares to the judge of the election that he can not read, or that by blindness or other physical disability he is unable to mark or otherwise prepare his ballot, the said officer shall require him to make such declaration of disability under oath or affirmation, and he is hereby qualified to administer the same, and the said officer shall then direct two officers belonging to different political parties to aid the said voter in the preparation of his ballot, such preparation being made in a voting compartment by the said officers who shall thereafter give no information concerning the same.

Nothing could be more proper, for the purpose of secrecy, than the provision that the incompetent voter should be assisted in the preparation of his ballot by sworn officers who would be disinterested in any object or purpose of fraud. But this did not suit the Republican legislative managers in charge of the bill, for we find them changing this section by striking out the provision that the judge of the election "shall direct two officers belonging to different political parties to aid the said voter in the preparation of his ballot," and substituting the amendment that the judge of the election shall "permit the voter to select a person" to aid him in such preparation.

There could be no other object in this alteration than to enable the briber to get in his work. The disreputable voter who may have sold his vote can claim that he is unable to prepare his ballot on account of inability to read, and needs assistance, and as the amendment allows him to select his assistant, the briber can be called in to the privacy of the booth and be given the ocular demonstration upon which the payment of the bribe shall depend.

It is not evident that in this way it is intended to defeat, to a considerable extent, one of the safe-guards of the Australian system? The man who is base enough to sell his vote will not

hesitate to swear that he is unable to prepare his ballot, requiring the assistance of some one whom he may select for the purpose, and when it is considered that there are thousands of such characters in the cities and large towns of the State, unknown to the election officers, and available for the operation of the election corruptionist, the extent to which bribery may be effected under the protection of this amendment is quite apparent.

That the Republican legislative managers made this amendment to the Ballot Reform Association's original bill for the purpose of keeping the door open for bribery, is susceptible of the following corroborative proof: The section providing the penalty for violations of this act originally said:

"A voter who shall allow his ballot to be seen by any person with an apparent intention of letting it be known how he is about to vote, or who shall make a false statement as to his inability to mark his ballot, or shall cast or attempt to cast any other than the official ballot," &c., &c., shall be guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by the penalty prescribed.

In amending this section the Republican "ballot reformers" have struck out entirely that part relating to the voter "who shall make a false statement as to his inability to mark his ballot." What other object could this erasure have than to protect the dishonest voter who swears that he is unable to prepare his ballot in order that he may call in his briber, in the guise of an assistant, to see that his ticket has been prepared in accordance with the corrupt bargain between them?

It is clearly evident that these changes in the original bill as prepared by the Ballot Reform Association, have been made by the Republican managers with the object of retaining the advantage of bribery at the elections. The large number of foreign voters who are unable to read and many of whom are purchasable, in addition to the criminal class of voters that are always ready to be bought, offers a field for such electoral dishonesty, the advantage of which the Republican politicians are determined not to be deprived of, as is plainly shown by the amendments to the bill that leave open a door for the operation of the briber.

More Offices Projected.

There is a proposition before the Legislature to increase the number of State officers by the creation of a Department of Agriculture and Geology, over which shall be placed a Commissioner of Agriculture, who shall be elected by the people. Even if there were a necessity for such an officer there seems to be an incongruity in the combination of agriculture and geology.

The Commissioner is to receive \$3,000 a year; three clerks' salaries ranging from \$1,200 to \$1,500, and one messenger with a salary of \$1,000 annually. With the approval of the Governor experts for special investigation, whose expense to the State shall not exceed \$5,000 a year, are also authorized to be appointed. The Commissioner of Agriculture shall be the chief administrative officer of the Board of Agriculture and Geological Survey, and shall have the supervision of roads and highways so far as such supervision now is or may hereafter be required by any law having in view the appropriation of moneys of the State for the construction and improvement of roads and highways.

This has a nice appearance on paper and has a business-like look, but isn't it in the line of unnecessary multiplication of offices? Is the farming interest of the State in need of a Commissioner of Agriculture, and do the roads require a State supervisor?

—In the House on Tuesday the Revenue bill, known as the Granger's tax equalization bill, was passed finally by a vote of 128 to 41, after having been subjected to considerable amendment. It has been sent to the Senate committee where, it is feared, it will be robbed of the features which would make it of any account to those who suffer from unequal taxation. The corporations and money interests that are opposed to tax equalization have always found their strongest citadel in the Senate.

There Should Be No Let Up.

There was nothing new in the recent developments of the Soldier's Orphans School plundering, for the exposures made some years ago that were not attended by the needed correction left the impression on the public mind that the rottenness in the Orphan School system still went on. It was well, however, that the matter should again be brought to the attention of the people and the Legislature, and it is encouraging that the latter has acted with promptness in adopting measures for a full investigation of the management of these charitable institutions.

The charges against the men who have been amassing wealth at the expense of the wards of the State are specific and direct, and the committee that has been appointed to investigate the abuses practiced in the management of the schools have had the way clearly pointed out to them. There is no excuse for allowing sham patriotism or Grand Army claims to stand in the road. It was through such false pretense that the correction and punishment of this robbery was prevented when a previous investigation was set on foot, and it was through that infatuation that the greatest stigma that Pennsylvania has ever suffered has been allowed to be continued.

The patriotic gratitude of the State, as shown in its care for its soldiers' children, should no longer be allowed to serve as the cover under which jobbers and demagogues shall grow rich by a system of State robbery that is peculiarly infamous in that it victimizes the orphans whom the State would cherish and protect.

—At a large Democratic meeting at Bloomington, Ill., to ratify and rejoice over the election of General PALMER to the United States Senate, resolutions were passed declaring that the Illinois Democrats in 1892 would not make silver the issue, but that it would stand solid for CLEVELAND for President, with but one great issue, and that the tariff. The meeting was 'significant' in that it was a Cleveland as well as a Palmer demonstration.

A Question That Won't Settle.

President HARRISON is greatly disquieted by the criticism to which the McKinley tariff is being subjected. It is the pet measure of his administration and naturally it pains him to see it so roughly overhauled. He thinks that the people should patiently bear its exactions until they become use to them and then in time they may learn to like them. In his opinion it is almost wicked to continue agitating the tariff after the McKinley law has settled the question; but the St. Louis *Globe-Democrat*, the leading Republican paper of the Mississippi valley, does not agree with the President that the McKinley measure has settled the tariff question. It declares that it will "split the Republican party unless the Republicans themselves prepare a bill making a moderate and safe reduction in duties and push it through." And to this proposition it adds the following warning:

If it be neglected, at least half a dozen Republican senatorial votes in the Northwestern States will undoubtedly be lost. The sentiment of the Republican masses in the West is overwhelmingly in favor of a discriminating and reasonable reduction of customs duties on many of the leading articles of importation, and if the party desires to maintain its sway in the senate, to head off free trade and free silver, and to keep itself in shape to wage a successful canvass for the Presidency, it will give this sentiment the consideration which it demands.

Appearances are very favorable for the Republican Senate having the opportunity of acting upon a bill making "a moderate and safe reduction" of the McKinley duties, which in all probability the Democratic House will pass at its next session, with an equal probability that the Senate will concur with the House. And then it will be seen what the President will do.

—The Philadelphia *Telegraph*, which everybody knows is a Republican paper and an advocate of protection, and with a very able journal, says the McKinley tariff "has altogether failed in its alleged object of aiding the poor by raising their wages." This is very true, and is it not equally true that it aids in oppressing the poor by increasing the price of the necessities of their daily living?

There Can Be No Other Inference.

It is reported that some of the Republican machine politicians, headed by Collector of Customs COOPER and Collector of Internal Revenue MARTIN, held a conference in Philadelphia on Saturday and determined that it was not expedient for the Legislature to authorize the calling of a constitutional convention relative to ballot reform, and that they instructed Speaker THOMPSON and other Republican legislators to that effect.

So impudent and irregular a proceeding as Republican United States officers instructing the State Legislature what it shall do is not surprising, as it is in conformity with the machine rule that regulates the party, nor should it occasion surprise that a constitutional provision which would secure honest elections is not favorably regarded by the Republican managers. There is nothing that is so little desired by them as a constitutional safeguard thrown around the ballot that will thoroughly protect it against fraud, bribery and intimidation.

The purpose of a constitutional convention in relation to the ballot is to surround the voter with the protection of perfect secrecy in the exercise of the election franchise, which under present provisions of the constitution no election law can secure to him. When the question of strictly honest elections is up for consideration and action, as it is in this ballot reform movement, can there be any other motive for opposing a constitutional convention than the desire to maintain as far as possible the impurity of elections? Nothing else than this is to be inferred from the determination of the Republican leaders that there shall be no amendment of the constitution relative to the election laws.

Withholding the Supplies.

The money supplies which have been so liberally furnished in this country for the support of the Irish national cause have greatly diminished since PARNELL'S immoral escapade and the outbreak of the contention between the factions. When DILLON and O'BRIEN appeared in this country before the scandalous disclosures of the divorce court, and asked pecuniary assistance for the united Home Rule party, \$30,000 was raised at the first meeting to which they appealed. The other day the envoys of PARNELL made their appearance before a meeting in New York for the same purpose and it was with difficulty that only \$4,000 was raised. The Irish-Americans of Cincinnati have determined not to support or encourage either the Parnellites or the McCarthyites, and the American friends of Ireland are generally coming to the same conclusion. This is as it should be. The Irish national cause is one thing and a factional fight is another that is entirely different.

Fish Legislation.

A good deal of law has been enacted in this State for the protection of fish and fishermen's interests, and among the objects of hostility were the fish baskets which capture the finny prey by the wholesale. It was thought that the fish-basket question was pretty well settled, when Senator BROWN, of York county, bobbed up the other day with a bill restoring these objectionable appliances by which the rivers have been nearly depopulated. It provides that they may be used, but only between the 15th of August and the 15th of September, and shall be dismantled during the other months. This proposition is likely to be strenuously opposed by the Fish Commissioners, but it is no doubt intended to satisfy the fishermen who want to have a whack at the eels in the fall of the year.

—The *National Democrat* says: BENJAMIN HARRISON will be renominated in 1892 by the Republicans and be beaten out of sight. We make this prediction confidently, and with joy we shall await the fulfillment. We are not as confident of such a gratifying consummation as our Washington contemporary professes to be. The Republicans are as well assured as are the Democrats that HARRISON would be hopelessly beaten, and stupid as the old party is in many respects, we can hardly believe that it is stupid enough to deliberately commit suicide.

Spawls from the Keystone.

—Adolph L. Reinhard, a victim of dyspepsia, blew out his brains at Wilkesbarre.

—A 32-year-old dove belonging to Mrs. Joshua Yons, of Greencastle, died the other day.

—John Steiner, of Adamsburg, who lately received a patent for a splint bar, has an offer of \$10,000 for it.

—A marriage license was refused at Harrisburg to a woman because she had not paid the costs on her divorce.

—It is proposed that the Pennsylvania building at the World's Fair shall be a fac-simile of Independence Hall.

—The Commission to revise the Mining Laws has organized with William Connell, of Scranton, as President.

—William Moyer's three children died together of measles, at Sticklersville, Lebanon county, and another is dying.

—Diphtheria has carried off four of Bernard Conville's family at Coal Castle, and the remainder are prostrated by the disease.

—In refusing licenses for many places in Johnstown, Judge Barker was influenced by photographs of the shanties occupied by applicants.

—The students of Franklin and Marshall College have come to blows over the publication of a new paper by a number of the students.

L. E. Angell, the popular coke shipping agent and Fayette county politician, died at his home at New Haven from hemorrhage of the lungs.

—New Castle parties are leasing coal lands along Twpick creek, Indian county, with the intention of opening a new coal field in that district.

—The report of the children's aid society of Greensburg shows 150 children cared for in the past five years, and sixty-seven inmates at present.

—A petition for a license for a new house, presented to the court from Altoona by J. Hesser contained the signatures of a great many women.

—While shaving himself at his home at Upland, Delaware county, Edward Morris, an old and prominent citizen, dropped dead from heart disease.

—In court at Reading Judge Endlich rebuked some of the Aldermen and Constables for bringing cases with no other object than to increase their fees.

—Mrs. Gabriel Kepner, of Marsh Hill, near Williamsport, went to the house of a debtor of her husband and demanded the money at the point of a pistol.

—G. E. Rich, of Mansfield, O., a horse dealer left his pocket-book containing \$600, in a hotel water closet on Saturday at Reading, and he hasn't seen it since.

—Aaron Kern, an 8-year-old farmer, of Chapman's, Lehigh county, was buried last week from the house in which he was born, married and died.

—Natives in and around Mount Carmel amuse themselves by mercilessly beating Polanders and other foreigners who are not wanted in their country.

—John Wilt, of Oil City, charged with perjury by H. H. Wilson, of Towrville, Crawford county, has disappeared and is believed to have gone to Virginia.

—The Lehigh Iron Company, at Aineyville, Lehigh county, have announced a reduction of 10 per cent in the wages of their hands on account of the dullness of trade.

—Saturday morning the dead body of William M. Stricker was found floating in the Tulpehoeken creek, near Reading. He had been missing since February 7.

—Superintendent Baker, of the Pittsburgh Board of Health, has discovered the existence of five cases of spotted fever in the Laurensville section of the city.

—The School Directors' Association of Montgomery County met at Pottstown, and a vote taken showed the majority to be opposed to free text-books in the public schools.

—Jeremiah Zimmerman and Charles Faust were fatally, and E. Lindenmuth severely, burned by an explosion in the dry-house of the Brandonville Powder Mill, near Pottsville.

—Three letter carriers of Wilkesbarre were dismissed, charged with collecting money on letters with "dime" stamps attached and falling to turn it over to the proper authorities.

—Near Apollo lives a family named Hill, of whom five generations of the females are now living. The great-great-grandmother is 80½ years old and the baby is 2½ years old.

—The Trustees of the Evangelical Church at Shoemakerville, have welcomed pastors appointed by Bishops of both factions, while in Reading churches the congregation will divide.

—John Dorrer, a prisoner with fifteen days yet to serve, has been taken in custody from the jail at Sunbury to see his dying wife whose twin children had died before he could be notified.

—Sixteen horses, driven by A. B. Sutton, of Philadelphia, stampeded on the road between Hazleton and Nanticoke, causing his team to run away and injure him and kill one of the horses.

—The citizens of Runlock Township, near Wilkesbarre, took offense at Frank M. Price's uncleanness, and going to his room took him out to the yard and scrubbed him with horse brushes.

—A woman lecturer was stranded in Lanesboro, and the police had to help her out of town. Only ten tickets for her lecture on "Infidelity" were sold, and none of the persons appeared at the hall to listen to the discourse.

—Charles Stubbs, a porter at the National House, York, an Englishman by birth and about 21 years of age, was on Monday held in \$1000 bail on a charge of feloniously assaulting the 8-year-old daughter of P. L. Strine.

—La grippe has taken a strong hold on the inhabitants of Pittsburgh and Allegheny. The police and fire companies have been badly crippled by the prevalence of the disease, and a number of mills and works have been compelled to close down.

—The Bormanters have concluded not to make any further attempts to gain possession of the four Evangelical churches of Allentown but will hold services in another hall, beginning next Sunday, until the meeting of the General Conference in October.

—The employes of the Pennsylvania construction shops at Uniontown, received two weeks of their back pay Monday. Two weeks' pay is still due and the men say they will not strike a tick until paid in full. The trouble is said to be that the Columbia iron and steel works owe the construction company \$70,000 for work and are slow in paying it.