

Ink Slings.

-A cranberry trust would be a tart organization.
-If you don't wash your face how can you expect your friends to recognize you.
-The man who made the most New Year calls did not necessarily see the most people.

--A fellow usually gets along well in everything after he breaks the ice. This rule does not hold in skating.
-A call for a convention to organize a new party has been issued from Pittsburgh. Is this JOHN DALZELL's or CHRIS MCGEE's work?

-Pennsylvania is to have a "do nothing" U. S. Senator and it is altogether probable that the Empire state will follow: Philadelphia!
-This thing of paying one dollar for a Columbian half dollar which contains but thirty cents worth of silver seems like a little too much of a good thing.

-Poor old Pennsylvania, she is still in the toils. QUAY will be re-elected to the Senate and the Keystone state will have something to fill the chair in the chamber at least.
-It will be but a short time until the rosy dawn of another Democratic administration brightens the political horizon. Tariff reform will be promoted and the pension scandals wiped out.

-Hogs are taking their turn on the market now. Pork is higher than it has been since 1882. The government might replenish its depleted treasury by selling off a few of the biggest ones to be found in office now.

-Pennsylvania's display of piscatorial beauties at the World's Fair promises to be the finest of any State in the Union. There are no grounds for the inference that her quota of suckers in attendance will surpass the others however.

-Congressman JERRY SIMPSON has appeared in a new role out in Topeka, Kansas. He is there threatening to use force in behalf of the Populists in organizing the house of representatives. The sockless agitator had better go a little slow lest he strike a snag.

--The biennial report of Attorney General HENSEL which has just been presented to the Legislature, is the consummation of the work of a careful official. Mr. Hensel's tact and rare qualifications as an attorney are manifest in every one of his undertakings.

-The Panama canal scandal is still threatening the French government, but Americans have judiciously decided to keep quiet. It was lots of fun poking fingers at our neighbors until they asked about the \$2,500,000 that came over here to placate certain congressmen. We might take up the investigation work on our own hook.

-The Economites out in Beaver county, are beginning to find out that the serpent has at last crawled into their garden and the courts are petitioned to adjust their differences. It was only a few months ago that this peculiar sect was bragging of the great harmony which existed among its members, while to day it finds itself torn with internal dissension. Alas, man is only mortal after all.

-The courage which Uncle JOHN CESSNA, of Bedford, displays in even intimating an opposition to QUAY's reelection to the U. S. Senate is quite refreshing, but while allowing him a degree of credit for daring to dethrone the Boss, we are nevertheless cognizant of the fact that the veteran politician, from Bedford, has very little to lose by such a stroke. His days of political usefulness are fast waning and he has nothing to ask.

-The homely old adage, "hind sight is always better than foresight," finds much to substantiate its precept when we look back over the year which has just passed into history. Undertakings political, social, economical, mechanical, scientific, literary and otherwise that failed could have been successful had their originators known at the inception what they know now. While we see many things that have been done that might have been improved upon there is one, however, that stands pre-eminent as a finished and thoroughly satisfactory work--the election.

-Captain GEORGE W. SKINNER, whom the Fulton Democrats have returned to the Legislature, meets the suggestions of his friends that he announce himself a candidate for the office of Pension Commissioner, in a manner characteristic of such a liberal minded and true Democrat. Capt. SKINNER is quite right in thinking that such an office "should be given to a soldier of world wide reputation." If there is one department in our government where-in radical changes should be made it is the Pension department and Capt. SKINNER does well in advising the appointment of a statesman of national reputation.

Democratic Watchman

STATE RIGHTS AND FEDERAL UNION.

VOL. .38

BELLEFONTE, PA., JAN. 6, 1893.

NO. 1.

The Prospect of Pension Reform.

The national administration, which to the great relief of the country, is about drawing to a close, has been characterized by the practice of many abuses, but of all its sins of commission and omission, its management of the Pension Bureau has been pre-eminently bad. A system which, if properly regulated and judiciously limited, is a just and beneficent medium of relief to the worthy class of incapacitated veterans, has been prostituted to the purposes of party politics, and been made to include a class of pensioners whose names on the rolls are an insult to old soldiers entitled to the gratitude and bounty of their country.

It is true that the vitiation of the pension system did not begin with the HARRISON administration. The evil has been of long growth, progressing to its present alarming proportions through a succession of Republican administrations, and having its origin in the desire to make the Pension Bureau a political machine in the interest of the Republican party. But this outrageous abuse has reached its most shameful stage of development under the administration of BENJAMIN HARRISON.

When TANNER, in anticipation of the reckless course he intended to pursue as Commissioner of Pensions, exclaimed, "God help the Surplus," it was a sufficient indication of the carnival of extravagance and plunder that was to mark the management of the pensions under this administration. The large surplus left in the Treasury by the preceding Democratic administration, amounting to more than a hundred millions, was soon obliterated, and the palatial mansions of the pension agents in Washington show where a large part of it has gone. After TANNER came RAUM, to whose management of the Pension Bureau scandals have attached which would have caused his removal by any administration that did not approve of and sympathize with the abusive methods which he has practiced.

Fortunately for the good of the country, as well as for the benefit of the truly worthy veterans, there will soon be a new order of things in regard to the pensions. Those who remember the clean, orderly, decent and honest management of Commissioner BLACK under the first CLEVELAND administration, and compare it with the scandalous records of TANNER and RAUM, have reason to expect a similar fulfillment of that trust during the next Presidential term, and they will not be disappointed.

It is said that Mr. CLEVELAND is anxious to have General CORSE take the position of Commissioner of Pensions in which a man of his force of character, purity of purpose and undoubted patriotism is so greatly needed to correct the evils which have grown to such formidable proportions in the pension system, constituting one of the greatest dangers of the republic. It is the coming of just such a man as he that is now needed to redeem the pension department from its present corrupt and degraded condition.

This noble specimen of a Democratic soldier is said to be averse to assuming the heavy responsibilities of the position offered him by the President elect. Should he positively decline, it is never-the-less certain that Mr. CLEVELAND will select a Pension Commissioner who will be worthy of and competent for the trust, and then, with such Democratic amendment of the pension laws as will remove the skulkers, deserters, coffee-coolers, bounty-jumpers, and all fraudulent pensioners from the rolls, rescue the pension system from the abuse by which it has been corrupted and disgraced, and restore it to its true purpose of being a benefit to the old soldiers, who have a real claim to the bounty of the government.

Pennsylvania's Political Redemption. With the beginning of a New Year it will not be out of place, nor out of time, for the Democrats of Pennsylvania to take the bearings of the situation and to judge from them the possibilities of the future. It has been a long while since the Democracy has had the upper house in the State that used to be the keystone of the Democratic

arch, but are there not existing conditions which justify the hope that a better state of affairs in this State can be made to respond to united and energetic Democratic action?

The result last fall showed that much more could have been accomplished in Pennsylvania by the Democrats, if they had realized the possibilities of the situation and made an exertion adequate to their opportunity. It cannot be said that they would have actually carried the State, but there was such a reduction of the Republican majority in the country districts that if it had been supplemented by an equally favorable result in Philadelphia, the Republican majority in the State would have been reduced to a rather insignificant quantity.

There are influences at work that are necessarily sapping the Republican strength in Pennsylvania. Much of that strength was due to the tariff delusion prevailing among the working people but since the workers are becoming convinced that their wages are not dependent upon tariff protection, and that in the cost of living it is more of a detriment than a benefit, an influence is reverting that told greatly in favor of Republican majorities. In addition to this, the dissatisfaction, with the hopeless bossism that dominates the Republican party of this State, is largely contributing to the decline of Pennsylvania Republicanism.

Giving due weight to these facts, and a proper recognition of the hopeful features of the situation, the Democrats are encouraged to make an exertion for the political redemption of the State. The result last fall demonstrated what the country districts can do towards so desirable an achievement. The short-coming was in Philadelphia where the factions sacrificed the party interest. If the factions of that city shall agree to stop their fighting and reconcile their differences, and shall present a united front to the enemy, the country Democrats will do their full share in restoring Pennsylvania to its former place as the keystone of the Democratic arch.

Should be Attended to Now.

As the township Auditors are made responsible, under the Baker ballot law, for printing and furnishing the tickets for the local elections, in February, it would be well for them to arrange for having them done at as early a day as possible.

The work of printing, perforating and binding for a District cannot be done in a few hours, and as but four days is the limit of time the work can be in the printers' hands, those that have their contracts in advance, and for whom the necessary paper has been secured and prepared, will be most certain of having their work done promptly.

To make sure that this work is done promptly and on time, auditors should give their orders at once to the printing office, at which they expect to secure their printing, so that the necessary paper can be ordered and on hand, by the time the ticket is completed and ready to be handed in. If the order for this work is left until after the ticket is made and the time for filing objections closes, many of the districts may be left without tickets on the day of the election.

This is an important matter and auditors will save themselves trouble and expense, by attending to it at once.

A Senatorial Question.

A good deal of unnecessary fuss, pro and con, is being made about the proposition to elect Mr. EDWARD MURPHY to the United States Senate from New York. While some object to President-elect CLEVELAND's expressing an opinion on the subject, viewing it as an unwarranted interference, others represent Mr. MURPHY as incompetent, and unworthy of such a position as that of United States Senator.

It should be observed that Mr. CLEVELAND did not present his views on this subject in the form of a dictum, but that they were drawn out of him by an interviewer. Active interference of a President elect in such a matter would be objectionable, but it can hardly be held that because a man has been elected to the Presiden-

cy it is improper for him to express an opinion in regard to the election of a United States Senator from his own State. He would go beyond the line of propriety only by taking a part for a particular candidate.

On the other hand it ought to be conceded that the Democrats of the New York Legislature have the right to elect the next United States Senator from that State, and are likely to exercise it with discretion. It is to be believed that they understand the capacity of Mr. MURPHY. He has been prominent in the politics of the State for many years. He has been active in the affairs of the Democratic party in many a campaign. We trust that it can be safely left to the majority in the New York Legislature to determine whether he is the right kind of a man for United States Senator, or not.

The State Law Makers.

The Legislature of Pennsylvania convened at noon, on Tuesday, and organized both branches by electing the Republican officers who had been slated at the caucus the night before. The house characterized its first assembling by trying to unseat a lawfully elected Democratic member, Mr. HENRY, of Crawford county. This move is on the direct line of Republican political methods in the State. Not satisfied with the worst gerrymanders known to any of our State governments the party of the bosses uses its unfair majority to increase its hold by trying to unseat regularly elected Democrats.

It is a little early to undertake a forecast of the work which will come up and be acted upon at the present session, but it is certain that several measures of vital interest to every citizen of the State will be introduced. As well as a goodly number praying for local laws.

The Baker ballot bill will come in for its share of abuse and from the management, that will undoubtedly be offered, it is to be hoped that its few vulnerable points will be armored. It is not probable that any one will have the audacity to move its repeal, though many amendments, both from the political knave, who aims to defeat its secrecy, and the statesman, who labors to promote the purity of the ballot, may be expected.

Many counties throughout the State will doubtless ask for local option laws, as a number have voted that way, and the hence question will be a matter of much consideration for some of them.

A new apportionment should be made by this Legislature. It is needed about as badly as anything could be. The present senatorial apportionment is based on the census of 1870 and is out of all bounds of reason. Nearly every District has its disproportion of votes when compared with its representation. A number of counties are entitled to more representation than they have. The Legislature will surely not pass over this question.

The Road question is going to bother the State law makers during the session far more than they have any idea of and it is not premature either. The farming classes are beginning to awaken to a realization that bad roads are the greatest obstacle in their way to prosperity. They are beginning to become cognizant of the fact that all of the work they have put on country roads since the State was first a State has been thrown away. This system of working out taxes on the roads is pernicious and unfruitful. The Legislature will be called upon to remedy it. In what way it is now too early to say, but a number of good bills are in preparation one of which will perhaps meet all the requirements.

These are a few of the more important measures which will come up for consideration, but the whole work will be carefully watched by the people of the State. And each representative held to account for his vote on the measures which affect his constituents. Partisan excuse has given way to the voice of the liberal minded masses whose interests know no party and whose ballot will be the weapon which legislators need fear.

The WATCHMAN office is turning out better work than ever. Bring in your printing and let us make an estimate on it for you.

Neering the End.

From the Philadelphia Times. Wheat struck 69 cents in Chicago within the last week. This is the lowest price it has reached since December, 1884, and only once in the last quarter of a century has wheat been lower in any month of the year.

This lowest price of wheat recorded but once before in more than twenty-five years comes to the farmer under the highest tariff taxes on everything he buys ever levied by the government in time of peace; and it clearly teaches the farmer the studied mockery of pretended tariff protection by increased taxes on grain, wool, etc. With the highest taxes imposed avowedly to protect the farmer, his wheat, corn, wool, etc., now sell close to the lowest prices ever reached.

Another feature of the MCKINLEY tariff is pointedly illustrated in the present exceptionally high price of potatoes. To delude the farmer with the hollowest mockery of protection, a tax of 25 cents per bushel was levied on potatoes, and now, with the potato crop a failure, our farmers have few if any to sell, and many farmers, along with the great mass of people, must pay 25 cents extra for every bushel of potatoes they consume.

The farmers, as a class, receive no benefit from the tariff taxes on wheat, rye, corn, oats, hops, barley, potatoes, butter, cheese, eggs or wool. With the exception of wool and potatoes we export vastly more than we import and must seek foreign markets for our products while few of like foreign products are consumed here. Our high taxes on wool have lessened the use of wool in our so-called woolen fabrics, and lessened demand has lessened the price.

The tariff on potatoes is a studied mockery of protection to the farmer. When we have an ordinary crop at home, our importations do not exceed two per cent of the consumption, and do not affect the price; but the potato crop fails but once in five years, and when it fails more than half the farmers of the country are buyers and not sellers of potatoes. Instead of protecting the farmer, the tariff on potatoes becomes a tax on him when it affects him at all, and to-day it is a fearful tax upon forty-nine fiftieths of the whole people of the country.

Thus is the farmer doubly assessed, double robbed, by the high taxes of the McKinley tariff.

Republicans Hunting Their Holes.

From the Pittsburg Post. The fact that the Western penitentiary is filling up so rapidly does not indicate a lower condition of morality, as might be supposed at first thought. It must be remembered that the population of this end of the State is increasing by rapid strides, and that a certain percentage of every community is criminal. It is a simple explanation of Warden WRIGHT's report that will no doubt be accepted by him or any other experienced man in criminal matters.

You Are Sure to Get Burned.

From the Altoona Times. The frequent accidents that result from carelessness with fire should teach prudence to all, but such does not seem to be an effect. In our houses there are many inflammable articles that require but the touch of fire to ignite them and start a disastrous conflagration. Constant familiarity with the dangerous element of fire should not blind us to the fact that it must always be carefully handled or there may be dreadful consequences.

A Satisfactory Appointment.

From the Philadelphia Inquirer. Governor Pattison appears to have made a good selection in appointing Augustus S. Landis to the Common Pleas Judgeship of Blair county, made vacant by the promotion of Judge Dean to the Supreme Court. Judge Landis has been a teacher, an editor and a lawyer. He was a member of the Constitutional Convention of 1873, and has had an experience of practical affairs which is always so valuable on the bench.

The Big Country Town is Growing.

From the Philadelphia Record. The "Ledger" announced yesterday the probable establishment of a new steamship line between Philadelphia, Antwerp and Bremen. It is proposed to begin business by semi-monthly service, to be increased with increased freight offerings. Philadelphia's new railway facilities offer large encouragement to foreign trade. It is a pleasure to note that this fact is arousing the attention of the owners of shipping.

The Desired Cold Wave Came.

PITTSBURG, January 2.--The predicted cold wave reached here this morning and prevented a break-up in the rivers. The ice is still solid at all up-river points and no danger is apprehended, unless the temperature rises.

Unmitigated Disgrace.

From the St. Louis Post-Dispatch. If nature abhors a vacuum what must be her feelings toward the Treasury of the United States as it has been managed by the party which is about to retire from its control?

The Pith of It.

From the Galveston News. The citizens who did most to secure Mr. Cleveland's renomination have only one thing to ask of him--good, economical, Democratic government.

Spawls from the Keystone.

-Nine Allegheny County breweries have formed a trust.
-The Edgar Thompson Steel Works re opened work Monday.
-A Birdsboro furnace idle for two years resumed work Tuesday.
-Nearly all anthracite coal mines were idle Monday and Tuesday.
-Five horses dropped dead from some strange disease in Pittsburg.
-Blast furnaces at Leespport, Robesonia and Sheridan will go into blast shortly.
-Three children of Mr. and Mrs. Albert S. Heinie, were buried Wednesday.
-While skating on the Susquehanna, Martin Marion, of Pittston, was drowned.
-John Morgan, an old man, lost his way in the storm at Freehold and died of exposure.
-Great culm banks are on fire at Potsville and threaten valuable property in that vicinity.
-Injuries inflicted by falling down stairs ended the life of Mrs. Julia Riley, of Lancaster.
-The destructive fire on Blue Mountain, Berks county, was put out Sunday by the rain.
-The case involving the title to Father Mollinger's relics, at Pittsburg, is far from settled.

-An arc light dropping on a young girl in a sleigh at Butler caused injuries that may prove fatal.
-Rev. Edgar Miller, of Philadelphia, was elected pastor of St. John's Lutheran Church, Easton.
-A man supposed to be P. A. Horn, residence unknown, was killed by a train near Christiansburg.
-A stallion that cost a stock company of farmers near Beraville \$2800 was sold at auction for \$90.
-A rich vein of coal was struck at Middleport, Schuylkill county, and will be worked by L. Lorenz.
-The Berne Creamery Company, at Berne, Berks county, one of the oldest in the State, has disbanded.

-Lockjaw caused by an injury received while coasting will end the life of Willie Zweifal, of Bethlehem.
-Dormantites began suit at Lancaster to oust the Dubs preacher from the Evangelical Church at Terre Hill.
-A bullet was fired through the store window of David F. Wise, Lebanon, and just missed a customer.
-Eleven-year-old Walter Jones had his legs badly crushed while playing on a railroad turn-table at York.
-Lancaster county Golden Eagles met to arrange for the conclave of the Knights in Lancaster City, May 9.

-Gullfoyle and Coleman, arrested in Cincinnati for complicity in the Homestead poisoning, will be released.
-Father Duss, of Economy, says Dr. Teed doesn't run him and he doesn't run Dr. Teed nor care to ally with him.
-Standing before the mirror, Edward Fisher, a Potsville jeweler, fired five bullets into his body and may die.
-John Parkison, a Honeybrook m mner, was buried under coal in a chute for an hour and pulled out nearly dead.
-Warrants were issued in secret against three men at Pittsburg accused of being in the non-union poison plot.

-Three Pittsburg houses are looking for "Adonis" Dixey and his players with guns. A week's board bill is unsettled.
-The King's Daughters of Easton, gave an entertainment Monday night for the benefit of the carriers of the local papers.
-While getting a pail of water, Michael Bareri fell through the ice on the Delaware River at Easton and was drowned.
-The body of an unknown suicide, with a handkerchief tied tightly around the neck, was found in a cave near Reading.

-While asleep, George W. Netz, of Philadelphia, jumped from a train as it stopped in Reading, but was only slightly hurt.
-N. C. Barclay & Sons retired Monday from the Altoona Gazette publishing company, and the Bell brothers assumed full control.
-There is a firm in Reading that makes a business of cashing checks for outside workmen every week, amounting to \$15,000.
-The Philadelphia Gas Company purchased franchises comprising 15,000 acres of territory in two townships of Allegheny county.

-The north branch of the Susquehanna River is covered with ice a foot thick from Towanda to Nanticoke--a distance of 60 miles.
-A train struck the wagon in which Jacob Lerch and a boy were driving, at Hazelton, injured both severely and killed the horse.
-At the twenty-eighth annual meeting of the Turbot Horse Protection Association, at Watsonstown, John P. Deuther was made president.
-Burgess McLuckie and Messrs. Ross and Diebold were released from Allegheny County Jail under bail ranging from \$23,000 to \$28,000 each.

-On the ground that skilled supervision was lacking, Antonio Ringo, injured at Homestead, has sued the company for \$5000 damages.
-Once convicted of torturing and robbing "Larry" Reynolds, a hermit, Samuel and Joseph Lewis were granted a new trial at Lancaster.
-J. C. Blakoney, who forsook the principalship of the Solebury school to dig in the mines for his health, was instantly killed by a fall of coal.
-Dismissed from his school by the directors on the ground of incompetency, M. P. Miller, of Lancaster county, has sued the board for \$5000 damages.

-To prevent cutting of prices the plate glass manufacturers of the United States appointed S. E. Wheeler, of Butler, agent to handle the product of all factories.
-Wesley Christman, formerly assistant manager of the Prudential Insurance Company, was arrested at Mt. Carmel Monday on charges of embezzlement.
-A distillery, with \$1,000,000 capital, opposed to the Whiskey Trust, is to be established at St. Louis, with Cliff Richardson, of the Chemical National Bank, at the helm.

-John Fritz, for 32 years Superintendent of the Bethlehem Iron Works gave up that office Monday and will become a consulting engineer. Owen Seibert is his successor.
-E. J. Adams, Jr., colored, who claimed to be the son of a Philadelphia clergyman and was thought to have committed suicide in Pittsburg, has turned up and threatens to sue the police for false arrest.