

Ink Slings.

Active springs invariably make streams leave their beds. That old guerilla STEVE ELKINS is to be sent to the Senate from West Virginia.

A cleaner, better, more satisfactory government of the Commonwealth has never been known than that of the past four years.

The Democrats of Philadelphia have gotten together again, but it won't be long until some of the "Pennsylvania Democracy" sore heads will be yelling, "break away!"

Every one is subject to periodical spells of "the dumps," but there is no good reason why people thus afflicted should spill their ill humor over every one who comes within reach.

BOISE PENROSE, QUAY's candidate for mayor of Philadelphia, was turned down in the convention on Wednesday and WARWICK was selected to lead the shattered hosts of Philadelphia Republicanism.

General COXEY, with his entire family, little LEGAL TENDER COXEY and all, has taken up his residence in Philadelphia. Will New York look with envy on this acquisition of the Quaker city.

Noon Tuesday saw the last of the come-to-be famous Governor WAITE, of Colorado. He stepped out and his successor Governor McIntyre was sworn in. Most of the people swore WAITE out some time ago.

The combination of foreign powers to discriminate against the importation of American products, of Agriculture especially, is growing. If it keeps on it won't be long until we will not have any foreign markets at all.

A bill to prevent the collection of bar accounts was introduced in the Colorado Legislature on Tuesday. What a lot of head the father of that measure had. Why he'll simply become an idol for the rest of his colleagues.

Only a short time until Bellefonte people will be called upon to elect new men to councils. The experience of the past year has cost too much for the taxpayers to neglect seeing to it that the right men are placed in nomination.

Tuesday was JACKSON's day and Democratic organizations everywhere observed it in a fitting way. If old ANDY could only have sent back one or two of his vertebrae for the spreads what a stiffening up the party would have experienced.

The French people are not slow to punish traitors in their service. The arrest, public degradation and imprisonment for life of the young German, captain Dreyfus, for selling important war office documents to foreign powers, leaves no room to doubt the conception France has of a traitor's crime.

Pittsburg and Allegheny cities have each been bequeathed a condemned cannon by the government. Just what use they intend making of the crippled ordnance is not altogether known, but certain it is that as bombers they will be failures, though there would be little trouble in blowing things up with them.

The New York World suggests that inasmuch as Col. BRECKINRIDGE's lecture tour is a failure he should "eat forty quail in forty days." In the first place WILLIE's bank account isn't so plenteous as to stand such a diet and secondly his taste has been better cultivated for "chippies" than quail.

The Hottentot women, when they are about to get married, follow the custom of cutting off one of their fingers and presenting it to their prospective husband as a wedding gift. Some American brides to be, might promote future happiness by following this custom except that they should substitute the tongue for the finger.

The fact that Senator HILL recently dined with President CLEVELAND has set Washington political society agog with curiosity as to what it meant. Some say they buried the hatchet, but if this is true, we think they both could have done it to far better effect if the obsequies had been early last fall, when the ground wasn't frozen so hard and that November chill hadn't numbed the senses of good Democrats.

What good sense the Democratic House caucus displayed at Washington on Monday by adopting the resolution offered favoring the CARLISLE currency bill. Possibly it doesn't suit everyone's taste but it is a Democratic measure and the sooner it becomes a law the better. If our party would only realize that in our present condition it will be far more disastrous to do nothing than to pass some any measure that comes up, it would be better for it and the country at large. This idea that every bill that is introduced into Congress must needs be distorted until the original is not recognizable only obtains as far as Democrats are concerned.

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Proportional Representation.

Unequal legislative representation is certainly a great defect in a popular government, and it is an evil which in recent years has attained an alarming development through unfair partisan apportionment. If it is not corrected it will swamp the object of representative government, as it has already made a burlesque of it to a considerable extent. In Pennsylvania, for example, it is positively a broad farce.

As a means of correction proportional representation is proposed. This is not a new idea, the plan of representation being based on the proportional strength of existing political parties. It is said to work well in the republic of Switzerland. The principle upon which it operates is the division of representation in a legislative body among political parties in proportion to the number of their voters. Thus, if in Pennsylvania there should be 1,000,000 votes cast at an election for Representatives in the State Legislature, of which 500,000 were Republican, 300,000 Democratic, 100,000 Populist and 100,000 Prohibition, the Republicans would be entitled to one-half of the members of the Legislature, the Democrats to three-tenths, and the Populists and Prohibitionists each to one-tenth.

This would certainly secure equal representation. It would give minorities a chance, but what would really be its practical effect in legislation? There is reason to believe that it would rather retard than promote the objects which legislative action is designed to attain. These minorities would be pretty sure to be found impeding legislative work. Unable to carry out any measures of their own, the tendency with them would be to combine and frustrate the measures of the party upon which, on account of its numerical superiority, the duty and responsibility of legislation should rest.

When there is not a positive party majority, a plurality in a Legislature is the only power from which definite work can be expected. A combination of minorities may prevent the action of a plurality, but such a combination is too incoherent to carry out a distinct policy, and too indefinite to be held responsible for results. The ends of legislation are best effected when the party having the most votes in a legislative body, though not a majority, is free to control its action and is held responsible for it. The people then know whom to call to account for deficiency.

That the object of popular representation is greatly impaired by unequal apportionment is an evident fact and a grave political offense; but we cannot see that the project of proportional representation, as it is called, will furnish a remedy that will not do more harm than good. The discontinuance of unfair partisan apportionment as practiced in gerrymandering will effect a far greater reform than any new fangled plan of representation.

The constitution of every State contemplates such a division of the State into representative districts as will secure the fairest possible average representation of the political sentiment of the people. In the case of Pennsylvania the persistent ignoring of this intention of the constitution by the Republicans has made the apportionment of the congressional and legislative districts a mockery of popular representation. Apportionment districts as the constitution designs them to be and this evil will be corrected.

The attendance of Senator HILL at a State dinner at the White House, as the invited guest of President CLEVELAND, has been the subject of much gossip and speculation among the politicians. To them it seemed almost impossible that these two antagonizing political personages, should do anything that looked like burying the hatchet. But should not the hatchet have been buried long ago? When it is seen that Democratic measures of the highest importance are being sacrificed because the big Indians of the party are brandishing that weapon against each other, it is high time indeed that it be put under the ground.

The Democratic chiefs, who have been warring in their own tribe, should get together in friendly council and smoke the pipe of peace.

Its Work Will be Limited.

The leaders who manage the Pennsylvania Legislature are not going to allow much legislation during the coming session. It is reported that they are disposed to make the session as short as possible, limiting the work to such matters as may be of political advantage to the party.

There are many subjects upon which the Legislature could act profitably for the people, for example, the equalization of taxes, the restraint of corporate privileges, the equitable treatment of labor in the matter of wages, and the enforcement of neglected provisions of the constitution; but in none of these can it be expected that the managers take any interest. They have not heretofore interested themselves in that direction, and it is not to be imagined that they now will, since their previous neglect of such subjects has received the endorsement of a vast popular majority.

If any legislation for the public interest is introduced it will be with no intention of carrying it through. It will be pretty sure to be hung up. Appropriations will of course be made, for a Republican Legislature is great on appropriations. Apportionment bills of an intensely partisan character may be expected. Legislation asked for by Philadelphia politicians, promotive of ring interests, will be attended to. There may be some labor bills passed, so constructed that they may be evaded, and there may be some abortive tinkering with the subject of taxation; but those who look for this Legislature to do much for the substantial interest of the people are going to be disappointed. A Republican Legislature doesn't get together for such a purpose. It has other fish to fry.

The pressure of the office seekers on the new State administration surpasses anything ever before known in the political annals of this old Commonwealth. HASTINGS was beset from the very moment the last ballot was counted on the night of the election, and Harrisburg hardly afforded room for the applicants who were after the offices in the gift of the State Legislature. There not being enough places to meet the demand, it is proposed to make new ones, and for that object there is a proposition to create two or three additional departments in the State government. More departments may not be needed, but there is no question that the unusual demand makes it necessary for the Republican politicians to have a new supply of offices. The "grand old party" is not the one to shrink the necessities of such an emergency.

The First to Be Caught.

Republican organs speak of the result of the LEXOW investigation as an exposure of corrupt Democratic municipal rule in New York city. Their object is to make partisan capital out of it, but this intention encounters an obstacle in the fact that the first police commissioner exposed by the committee was a Republican, and that a majority of that class of officers who were shown to have been smirched were of the same party. These organs are confronted by the further fact that the first police captain to be convicted and sentenced to the penitentiary for misdeeds exposed by the committee is a Republican.

When the inwardness of the municipal corruptions in New York is reached a large Republican element is found participating in it. Developments show that Republican participants were in collusion with Democratic bosses in sharing the plunder. PLATT had his representatives in the police force and it happened that some of them were the first to be hauled in by the LEXOW drag net.

Dr. PARKHURST appreciates the fact that the work of municipal reform in New York city has its chief obstacle in boss PLATT. The boss counted on taking the place of TAMMANY in running the municipal government, interpreting the result of the election as merely changing the machine managers, and because PARKHURST objects to that kind of municipal reform the boss charges him with having a swelled head. PLATT wants honest city government in New York about as much as QUAY wants it in Philadelphia.

Laws Made Purposely Ineffective.

Both Governor PATRISON, in his message, and Attorney General HENSEL, in his report, refer to the fact that the law against "pluck-me" stores is not enforced. There has been an appearance of legislation against this extortion, but there are no results. The company store goes on as usual oppressing the workmen.

The fact is that the laws prohibiting company stores and requiring semi-monthly wage-payments were passed with no intention that they should be effective. It was with great reluctance that the Republican Legislature of this State brought itself to legislate upon these subjects. Always prompt in passing laws demanded by corporations, and the obedient servant of capital, it displayed no zeal for the protection of the wage-earner, and when forced at last unwillingly to legislate against the company store and for the payment of wages semi-monthly, it ingeniously contrived to make those acts inoperative. If the poor oppressed workman is required to bring suit for the violation of these laws, it is likely that he will do it at the risk of losing his job, poor as it is? It was thus that a Republican Legislature, working in the interest of the oppressor, made this supposed relief to the oppressed a sham and a delusion. The requirement of the workingman to be the prosecutor is the defect that was intended to make these laws ineffective. Besides no provision is made to prevent a company store from being run by another party in collusion with the company, the robbery being merely disguised.

The "pluck-me" stores and the semi-monthly payment of wages were issues in the last State campaign. They were presented by the only party from which the working people can expect relief in those subjects. But from the vast Republican majority it appeared that the working people took no interest in those issues, so pertinent to their own welfare, and preferred being humbugged by tariff illusions, and misled by the Republican calamity howl. For the next four years they will have a Governor whose association with the employing interest in the coal business will hardly stimulate his zeal for measures that would protect the laborer against the cupidity of the employer, and a Legislature more thoroughly Republican than it ever was, cannot be expected to be less differential than it has heretofore been to the interest of capitalists and corporations as against the people who work for their living.

Statistics About Strikes.

There is nothing equal to statistics in establishing facts. Governor PATRISON, in his last message, resorted to them as a means of proving the futility of strikes, employing figures to show that such movements, as a rule, are useless as well as injurious.

To show how unprofitable labor strikes usually are, and how particularly disadvantageous to those who direct them, he needed but to refer to the statistics of the department of Internal Affairs by which it appears that in the fifty-three strikes, which occurred in this State in 1893, the loss of wages incurred by the striking employees amounted to \$1,395,423.75, while the estimated loss of the employees was but \$131,650.

By this comparison it is easily seen which of the antagonizing parties received most of the punishment. In these cases the instances were very rare in which this loss was made good by the subsequent increase of wages. It was almost invariably the case that work was resumed with no advance in the pay of the workmen. Nothing in the final result compensated the strikers for the privation and suffering they had to endure.

This is the lesson usually taught by strikes, and it is remarkable that it has not led to a less costly and harmful method of harmonizing the wage question between workmen and their employers.

Why is it that neither Clearfield, Clinton nor Centre county, all Democratic districts which have Republican Legislators at Harrisburg, have received any of the many plums handed out there by the Republicans on Tuesday.

The Action on the Currency Bill.

From the Philadelphia Times.

The caucus of Democratic Representatives at Washington decided, by a very significant vote, that it will not be the fault of the majority in the House if the pending currency bill fail of enactment.

The Crisp resolution was opposed by some who, liked Bland, want free silver coinage as the only panacea for the monetary evils now affecting the business of the country, and by others who, like Bourke Cockran, believe the Carlisle bill to provide inadequate security for the banking currency. The majority of the House Democrats, however, accepted the view advanced by Mr. Springer, who has the bill in charge, which was that the bill came as near to average Democratic sentiment on the currency question as it was possible to get.

This was the sensible view undoubtedly and it may be presumed that the caucus having adopted it by a decisive majority the house will coincide and pass the bill within the present week. It can fail only by a union of the Republican with the silver advocates.

If the bill pass the House, there will be ample time for the Senate to concur before the close of the session, provided a few Senators do not set out to talk the bill to death. Unfortunately the Senate contains plenty of members with the will to do the talking and a plentiful command of the necessary language, and is provided with no rule to shut off the chronic talkers. The early passage of the bill through the House, therefore, will afford no guarantee that it will become a law.

A Better Dressed People.

From the Easton Argus.

On January 11 the wool schedule of the new tariff bill went into effect. On the following day heavy withdrawals from the custom houses began and the poor can expect to reap the benefits of the reduction in the price of woolen goods so necessary to their well being. While the price of manufactured woolen goods must necessarily come down it does not follow that any ill effects to American manufacturers need result by reason of foreign competition. Raw wool has been put on the free list. The manufacturer is able to buy his raw material cheaper and can sell the manufactured article at lower price without any reduction in his margin of profits.

Free raw material will do much more for the American manufacturer. By setting free raw wool, he is able to compete with woolen manufacturers outside of the United States. It does not take a remarkable degree of foresight to tell where the change in the wool schedule of the new tariff act will place American woolen mills, and the great good done by lowering the price of woolen goods to the poor consumer will soon become evident.

How to Make Better Times.

From the Easton Sentinel.

Everybody would be pleased if the times were better, that is if business were booming, work were plenty and bills easy to collect. It can be done, easily. The way to begin is for every one who has any cash to use the same in paying his or her debts. Just as soon as business men are able to collect what is due them they will take heart and increase their purchases. This necessitates the employment by the producer of more hands. These in turn then carry their earnings back to the merchant, the grocer, the shoe dealer, the milliner, and all others in trade. Even the printers get their share. You must see how important, then, it is to pay what you owe. The plan is easily carried out. No one can lose thereby. Try it, and if it don't prove what we promise never believe another word you see in the Sentinel.

What Democracy is Doing.

From the New York Mercury.

The announcement that the largest steel rail works in the country will shortly be established at Alexandria, Ind., must be disheartening news to the professional calamity howlers whose pet hobby is incessant denunciation of the new tariff.

Another announcement of similar character is to the effect that the plant of the Depauw plate glass works, which has been idle for several years, may possibly be removed from New Albany, Ind., to Alexandria, and work resumed upon a large scale. This concern was at one time the most extensive in this country. Its founder was originally a Democrat and one of the most prominent and active in southern Indiana.

A Strong Report But a Bad Idea.

From the Pittsburg Post.

Referring to the report of the postmaster general, "Harper's Weekly" says its discussion of the spoils system makes it "the strongest civil service tract that has ever been issued from any department of the government."

Postmaster General Bissel believes every officer and employe of the postal service, big and little, should be under the civil service rules, and has a plan for appointing fourth class postmasters, of which there are about 70,000 in this way.

Spawls from the Keystone.

Wednesday's cold wave saved many floods in the State.

Master Housepainters and Decorators are in convention at Allentown.

Pittsburg Capitalists have in contemplation the erection of a \$100,000 hotel in Erie.

Governor Pattison and family will vacate the Executive Mansion on Monday.

The South Central Homeopathic Medical Association is in convention at Harrisburg.

York horse thieves, Henry Humerand Charles Smith, have been arrested at Baltimore.

The Dubistes have bought up all the Escherite Evangelical churches in and near Williamsport.

A Lehigh Valley locomotive jumped the track at Tunkhannock Sunday and blocked traffic for five hours.

Congressman-elect William C. Arnold is suffering from physical and mental prostration at his home in Dubois.

Reading clergymen opposed the publication of marriage licenses, on the ground that it injures their business.

Norristown Masons have offered \$15,000 for the James Hoover mansion to erect a Masonic temple in that place.

President E. P. Wilbur, of the Lehigh Valley Railroad, is confined to his home in South Bethlehem with a sprained ankle.

Mrs. David Weaver, after an illness of one year from consumption, died Saturday evening at her home in Tyrone, aged 22 years.

John Harley has sued the borough of Mahanoy City for \$10,000 damages because his wife fell and was badly injured on an uneven sidewalk.

Charged with conducting an illicit distillery in the mountains near Hobbie Luzerne county, George Hess was lodged in jail at Hazleton.

Harrisburgers have a pure water plan for that city. With a loan of about \$20,000, they say they can filter all the culms and dirt out of the water.

Cashier Edmund S. Doty, of the First National bank at Bedford, was married to Miss Etta M., daughter of the late Hon. John Cessna, a few days ago.

Professor John B. Denver, of the University of Pennsylvania, addressed the Schuylkill Medical Society at its annual meeting in Pottsville Tuesday.

Police Sergeant E. M. Quackenbos was fined at Reading for arresting as a corner-loafer Keim Stauffer, a Yale student, who refused to "move on."

A Bradford man has quit chewing tobacco simply because on biting into a plug the other day he found on examination a portion of a human finger.

The Johnstown police officials are making a crusade against the disreputable houses in that city. A number of arrests have been made within the past few days.

James R. Patton, who was associated with the history of Hollidaysburg for more than seventy years, died at his home in that place Monday morning at the advanced age of 83 years.

Pittsburg Councils will, on Monday next, authorize the issue of \$1,000,000 in city bonds, instead of only the \$1,500,000 involved in the Supreme Court decision legalizing such an issue.

Rev. H. F. Fischer, of Easton, distinguished himself Saturday night by fighting his way through smoke and flames in a burning dwelling and putting out the fire with an extinguisher before the firemen arrived.

Win. H. Miller, of Tyrone, and J. M. Bollinger, brakeman, were severely burned about the head and neck Saturday night between Longfellow and McVegetown, by the bursting of the lubricator bottle of the engine.

Joseph Boyer, aged 82 years, whose home was at Huntington, where he has resided for 59 years, died on Saturday at the residence of his daughter, Mrs. Elizabeth Decker, Tyrone, with whom he had been spending a couple weeks.

Snow slides along the Philadelphia and Erie railroad caused considerable delay to trains for the part of the week at Williamsport. Near Farrisandville a freight was caught between two slides. Another slide almost buried several cars.

Lewis J. Harold probably one of the oldest bank officers in the state, died, in Reading, Wednesday, evening, aged about 80 years. He had been connected with the Farmers' National bank for a period of forty-five years and was tetter for many years.

Relatives of missing Cyclist Frank C. Lenz, of Pittsburg, who started out some months ago to repeat the feat of Messrs. Sachtjen and Allen, of Alton, Ill., of wheeling around the world, have asked Mr. Sachtjen to go over the course again in the hope of finding Lenz.

The company store of the Bell, Lewis & Yates company at DuBois was burned to the ground early yesterday morning. The loss is \$40,000, covered by insurance. General Manager Breck and Clerk Evans, who slept on the second floor, escaped in their night clothing, saved nothing. The fire is thought to be of an incendiary origin.

Hon. J. D. Hicks says the public building for Altoona is almost an assured thing during the present session of Congress. The bill provides for an appropriation for \$100,000 and has an early place on the calendar. Altoona people are beginning to think about looking up a location for the new building.

Charles Buchanan, a freight conductor on the Huntingdon and Broad Top division of the Pennsylvania railroad slipped on the icy steps of a car on Sunday falling between two cars of a fast moving train. The wheels passed over him severing both legs, one out of above and one below the knee, thus fatally wounding the unfortunate man.

Thomas Albert, a member of company C, Sixteenth regiment, National Guard of Pennsylvania, was found Wednesday morning near the rifle range on Bennett brook with a bullet in his heart. It is not known whether it was an accident or not. Albert was one of the best marksmen in the National Guard and had a reputation throughout the state.