

Ink Slings.

The contents of Major MCKINLEY'S presidential cabinet one about as mysterious as are those of the average fakir's outfit.

If the State would only do something to make delinquent subscribers all pay up the editor would not care how large the fines that the new libel laws will impose in cases of guilt.

The Centre Hall Reporter is in favor of having the proposed new penitentiary located here at Bellefonte. What for, brother KURTZ, is there some hidden significance in your suggestion?

And now it is rumored that New Jersey is to have a marriage license law before long. If it comes to pass what will those Camden preachers do for a livelihood? Now, what will the do?

After having decided that the adulteration of whiskey is a violation of the pure food law of the State the Supreme court of Ohio ought to rule against the adulteration of the human system with whiskey.

All the policemen in New York can't be Irish or they would never have found enough to make the fifty-one thousand evictions that have been made in that city since MCKINLEY directed his prosperity America-ward.

The cold wave that has kept Bellefonte shivering, since last Sunday, isn't a circumstance to the frost that some of the fellows who are urging this contest will get from the people of Centre county the first time they come before them.

The Hungarian coke worker who wagged a keg of beer that he could walk from Hecla to Calumet in his bare feet will lose those useful members as a result of his foot hardness. They were both so badly frozen that amputation will be necessary. He won the bet, hands down, but his hands will have to be down for the balance of his life.

Some of the Republican papers are recording objections to LYMAN T. GAGE, of Chicago, as a possibility for Secretary of the Treasury because they deem him "too hot" on "so called sound money." That is strange, isn't it, that any one could be "too hot" on the delusion that gave MCKINLEY the Presidency and put the Republican party into power?

Down in Easton the people are up in arms in righteous indignation because a gentleman and lady were compelled to leave the opera house, during a performance, in order to escape the showers of tobacco spittle that fell on them from the gallery. It certainly couldn't have been pleasant for them, but then think of the good time the swine was having up above.

Senator DAVID B. HILL will publish an article in the February number of the Forum, on "The future of the Democratic organization." Of course the public hasn't seen DAVID'S theory in print yet, but the caption is enough of a prospectus to bring about a pretty general consensus of opinion that if he wants to treat of futures he had better look after his own. It is darker than that of the Democratic party.

Some of the signs of the good times that the advance agent is to bring along are beginning to be seen. At Rathmel, Jefferson county, last week, the picking miners met and decided to offer their services to operators at thirty cents per ton. This was ten cents less than the regular price, but the men had no work, could not get any and were driven to such ends with the hope of making enough to keep them from starving.

MCKINLEY has five fellows for his cabinet, so they say. SHERMAN, LYMAN T. GAGE, of Illinois; RUSSELL A. ALGER, of Michigan; JOSEPH MCKENNA, of California; and NATHAN GOFF, of West Virginia, are now set down as being next to certain in the make up of the next President's official family. Like lambs they are being to the sacrifice, for surely none of them will ever be heard of again after they get through what is sure to come in the next four years.

Governor PINGREE, of Michigan, in his inaugural address, urged the abolition of nominating conventions and the direct voting of the people for various political nominations. Of course it is his theory that the wish of the people would be better carried out under such a plan, but from the general corruption that is controlling elections, nowadays, it does not seem advisable that the nomination of a candidate should be on the same plan as the election. This would virtually be equal to the holding of two elections for every office to be filled and under the present system there is corruption enough in one, without making it possible to double it.

About the handsomest production we have ever seen in the form of an anniversary publication is the book that will commemorate the one hundredth birthday of the McKellar, Smiths and Jordan type foundry company which was attained last year. It is exquisitely bound in white and gold and contains many facts of interest concerning the growth of printing, besides a complete resume of the growth of the McKellar, Smiths and Jordan company which has lost its name identity in the trust. So far as its losing its reputation for the production of superb type faces, and durable ones, we are inclined to the belief that the great age of the corporation will make it too strong to fall into another position than that of leader, even while handicapped by the retarding influences of trust control.

Democratic Watchman

STATE RIGHTS AND FEDERAL UNION.

VOL. 42

BELLEFONTE, PA., JAN. 29, 1897.

NO. 4.

A Proposed New Road Law.

We have just received the copy of an act which the Legislature of Pennsylvania will be asked to make a law regulating the maintenance of township roads. The length of the document makes it impracticable for publication in this issue, but there are so many good features engrafted into it that it should interest everyone, particularly those who are forced to use the public highways in their everyday business trafficking.

The act provides that at the February election, 1898, three road supervisors be elected in every township in this Commonwealth to serve one, two and three years respectively, and at each succeeding election one officer is to be elected for a term of three years. No person shall be eligible except free holders and residents in the township in which they are elected and any person being elected and refusing to serve is liable to a fine of \$50 for the use of the road department.

In the organization of the supervisors they are required to select a treasurer, not of their number, and to meet regularly, once a month. For this service they receive \$1.50 per meeting attended. It will be their duty to levy a road tax not in excess of 10 mills on every dollar of assessed valuation for county purposes, but upon unanimous petition to court, showing due cause, the right to levy a tax, not in excess of 20 mills, may be granted. In addition every male of the age of 21 years or over is to be taxed \$1 a year for road purposes.

Under this act the supervisors would have entire control of purchasing implements for work, letting the road-making out by contract, contracting for bridges and would be responsible to the state department of agriculture for an annual report, showing the amount and nature of the work done and to the auditors of the township for an itemized statement of their accounts.

Taxables would be permitted to work out half the amount of their taxes under the direction of the road master of their district, provided they notify the supervisors prior to the 15th of April, in each year, of their desire to do so. The balance of the taxes would be payable in cash.

Each township would be divided into districts embracing not more than twelve miles of road and a master would have to be appointed for each district. It would be his duty to work on his roads at least seven months during the year and his wages would be fixed by the supervisors, as well as those of the taxables who would desire to work out half their taxes under the road master.

These are the principal features of the proposed act and when carefully viewed it looks as if, as a law, they would prove a boon to the country districts for it means nothing more nor less than a system of pikes all over the State and the suspension of the fruitless township system now in operation.

Under the present system the road taxes are practically thrown away, every year, by a plan of work that is much like the endless chain of our irredeemable greenbacks. The time has come when some legislation along this line must be enacted and this bill seems to be a very fair one, as it would not be burdensome on the country people, yet it would give them roads over which they could get to market with half the expense that is now expended on conveyances and repairs.

The bill introduced by Senator BROWN, last week, that calls for the appropriation of \$1,000,000, annually, for road purposes in the State would not prove half as beneficial as this measure and, in fact, might be an exceedingly unfortunate expenditure for the State. The trouble with state assistance is that so large a portion of it fails to reach the point to which it is designed to aid. Again the departments take their share and the jobbers get a whack at it there is very little left for the original plan. \$1,000,000, annually, would mean only about \$257 to each township in Centre county. This would be so small as to be scarcely appreciated, yet the \$1,000,000 from which it would have to be extracted would reduce the State's ability, still further, to properly look after her charitable and educational institutions.

If we are to have a road law let each township look out for itself. Don't tax the people and then hand the revenue back to them in the form of appropriations.

The Hon. STEWART L. WOODFORD, of New York, talked of as a possibility for secretary of the navy under President MCKINLEY, is the gentleman who made the address before the class of '90, when it was graduated from The Pennsylvania State College. He is one of the most brilliant men who has ever spoken at the College and those who heard him, on that occasion, will ever remember the remarkable retentiveness of his mind. Immediately after hearing GILBERT A. BEAVER'S oration he quoted paragraph after paragraph from it and practically made it the theme of a beautiful tribute to education and young manhood.

A Cause Very Worthy of Support.

It must be a matter of exceptional gratification to Prof. J. T. ROTHROCK, state forestry commissioner, to see the fruits that the labor he began years ago is beginning to bear. When he began declaring that it would only be only a few years until Pennsylvania would be compelled to do something to preserve or reforest her mountains no one paid much attention to him. There were a few, directly interested, who were in accord with Prof. ROTHROCK'S ideas, but the great masses of the people thought naught of the subject.

The steady, but sure, extermination of the game and fish has started the sportsman to reflection; the drying up of heretofore "never failing" springs and streams has put the farmer and utilizer of water powers to searching for a cause; and the depletion of the vast wooded areas has gradually sluffed away the once great lumbering industry of the State and now hundreds of thousands of woodsmen, raftsmen, millmen and laborers are at a loss to understand why they are not employed as they were ten years ago; climatic conditions, everywhere, are changed and we have sudden floods and long periods of drought. These, more than anything else, have awakened the people to a consciousness that something is wrong and that that something is exactly what Prof. ROTHROCK has been declaring for a number of years.

He was merely in advance of the people, but he persevered until there has been a pretty general realization of the urgent needs of forestry preservation. The Governor, in his last message to the Legislature, urged that something be done along this line and the day is not far distant when Dr. ROTHROCK will find Pennsylvania gladly taking up the course he has already pointed out.

In a lecture, delivered in Philadelphia recently, he showed upon a screen mile after mile of naked hills in the counties of Mifflin, Centre, Clearfield, Cameron, Clinton, Lycoming, Luzerne and Sullivan and stated that the partial returns in the office of the commissioner of forestry showed (so far as reported) for the year 1896, that there were burned over 178,982 acres of woodland; that 121,752,322 feet of standing timber, and 7,391,080 feet of manufactured lumber, along with 30,764 cords of bark, were destroyed by fire. It cost, so far as reported, \$31,269 to suppress the flames, and before it was done the reported money loss aggregated \$567,056. Furthermore, he added, it is absolutely certain that there remains almost if not quite as much which is unreported.

"Even here," he continued, "we have not reached the extent of the possible evil. Had timber restoration, or what is the same thing, protection against forest fires, been commenced half a century ago, our lumbering industries might have had material for the indefinite future. Instead of this we stand in full sight of the time when they will have, in great part, vanished from our State, and with them will have gone the \$30,000,000 or more which hitherto have annually been distributed among the wage earners. It has also become clear to observing business men that removal of large bodies of forest means loss of water power, and recently the Hon. T. J. COOLIDGE, treasurer of the Amoskeag manufacturing company, after a careful study of the facts, stated that unless the forests were restored to the head waters of the Merrimac river, his company would be obliged to resort to steam power, and hence be unable to compete on equal terms with those who still had constant, regular water power."

John Sherman's Backdown.

It is remembered how vigorously and almost belligerently JOHN SHERMAN, as the chairman of the senate committee on foreign relations, spoke on the Cuban question at the beginning of the present session. There was no other gungo on that committee or in the Senate who was louder in expressing sympathy for the cause of Cuban liberty. That being his attitude, so recently, the country was not prepared to hear him say, now that he is to become Secretary of State under MCKINLEY, that he does not believe that the United States should interfere in the Cuban trouble.

If the Ohio statesman is already owing the white feather, before he gets to the position in which he will have the Cuban question on his shoulders, what will be his attitude after he is confronted by that trouble in an official capacity? With his backbone weakening at so early a stage of the game, those who expect that Spanish atrocities will meet with proof from the MCKINLEY administration will look in vain for Secretary SHERMAN to call the Spaniards to account. JOHN has shuffled in his position on the silver question, but there is every appearance of his backing out completely on the Cuban question.

The passing of DAVID B. HILL should be a forcible reminder to politicians that to disregard the will of the majority is to give one's own death blow.

Who is Liable for the Costs?

Ever since ABRAM MILLER made up his mind that he would have himself made sheriff, if lawyers and unfounded charges could aid him in doing so, there has been a contention as to who will be liable for the costs that are being piled up by his contest for the office that sheriff CRONISTER was regularly elected to fill. It is but natural that MILLER and his advisers should try to make it appear that the costs will be trifling. That is the only way in which they can satisfy the people who are already over-taxed with taxation, but those who have been following the proceedings through what has been merely the opening can see that the expense of this contest is going to be far larger than those who brought it are willing to admit or that the public should know.

The contestants justify their course by taking the high moral ground that nothing is too expensive if it tends to the purifying of our governmental system. Nor is it, yet what the people of Centre county want to know is what super-human faculty is possessed by the contestants to scent fraud through the wooden coverings of ballot boxes that are miles away and in which competent election boards have made oath that there is nothing irregular? If there has been fraud why are the contestants not required to furnish more positive proof of it before the county is burdened with expense? Since when have they become such sleuths for morality that they are able to scent dishonesty so far off, and whence cometh so great a reputation for it that their unproved statements are taken as of more worth than the oaths of election boards?

These are questions that the tax payer studies over as he wonders who is to foot the bills. Such wonderment is likely to bring little comfort for there can be but one conclusion: The county must pay the costs. Though the following ruling of Judge ARCHIBALD, of Scranton, might lead some to believe otherwise there is no question in the minds of most of the people as to who will be liable.

Judge Archibald to-day handed down an opinion which establishes a precedent the effect of which will be to discourage trifling election contests, which have been for years a source of expense to this county. The opinion is in the case of John J. Ruddy, who at the last election was elected to the office of alderman of the Twentieth ward. He received 333 votes, John E. O'Malley received 319 and Michael McGarry received 172. Mr. O'Malley instituted the contest, but, instead of the costs being on him, they were put on the men who signed his petition. The petition set forth that, instead of Mr. Ruddy receiving 333 votes, he received only 298, and that illegal votes were cast to the number of 128. The petition was not sworn to, Judge Archibald decides that the thirty men who signed the petition should pay the costs.

A Vicious Method and Its Remedy.

Congressman TUCKER, of Virginia, is among the prominent public men who discern the demoralization that prevails in the existing method of election of United States Senators and are of the opinion that these elections should be taken from the state Legislatures and handed over to the people.

Mr. DANIEL bases his objection to legislative elections on the ground that as the Senators do not owe their official positions to a popular source, they do not appreciate their responsibility to the popular will. The character of the method by which they are chosen places them at too great a distance from the people, and renders them careless of the good opinion of those to whom their service is due. This is certainly a defect in the system, but it is not such a defect as would thoroughly condemn it. In the earlier period of the Republic, and in a purer condition of politics, Senators were elected by state Legislatures, but they recognized the will of the people, kept themselves in touch with public sentiment, and were such representatives of the States as truly belonged to a democratically representative form of government.

But things are different now. The vicious feature of the present plan of electing United States Senators is now displayed in the opportunity it affords wealthy men to influence Legislatures to invest them with the high power of the senatorial office. This is carried on to such an extent that millionaires have increased in the United States Senate to such a number, and the influence of wealth has become so predominant in that body, as to be able to block any legislation that may not suit the interest of the plutocratic class. Furthermore, state Legislatures have, become so servile, as well as venal, that if they are not bought up by millionaires, in contests for the United States Senate, they are controlled by party bosses, who manage to have either themselves or their henchmen chosen for the senatorial position.

These are the really vicious features of the method of electing United States Senators by state Legislatures, and they are defects that can be remedied only by entrusting such elections to the people.

Be Merciful Unto the Unfortunate.

From the Philadelphia Times.

These are gala days for those who have every comfort in life, and who, securely robed against the frigid weather, can enjoy the toboggan slide, the merry sleigh bells and the skating frolic, and when sated with these pleasures have a comfortable fireside around which to gather and tell the story of their enjoyment; but there are others.

Winter is a hard time at best for the children of want, and when an excessive winter season comes upon us they are wholly unprepared for comfort by day or night. Men, women and children are denied the rest that the coal or the blankets they have not the need for all because to ordinarily comfortable. Not only are their sufferings unusual, but the scant earnings of many are cut off by the severity of the weather.

It should be remembered that there is a much larger proportion than is common of unemployed not only in this city, but throughout the country, and many more than the usual number have suffered from the want of bread and other necessities of life. Indeed, many who have ordinarily been in comparatively comfortable circumstances are now, by no will of their own, in actual want, and we can recall no winter since 1877-78 when there was wider distress amongst the poor than there was at this time.

These facts appeal, to those who are blest with plenty. Many of them are suffering from embarrassment, but all who have enough and to spare should remember that the poor are always with us, and that it should be a pleasant duty for each and all to contribute liberally to temper the sorrows of our citizens who are without bread and fuel, and let it be remembered, also, that they give doubly who give quickly.

Wait Until 1900 and See if It is On Its Last Legs.

From the Philadelphia Record.

It is very cold comfort that the international bimetalists get from Mr. Balfour, First Lord of the British Treasury. He says there is no probability that the English Government will take the initiative in any movement toward bimetalism, and there is so little prospect of an international conference that it would be premature to discuss the probable composition of its membership. When it is remembered that Mr. Balfour is himself a bimetalist the iciness of his candid parliamentary declarations can be better understood. Evidently international bimetalism is on its last legs. Hereafter it will be considered an available "platform" delusion.

Cuban Patriots in New York.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 25.—The most important news that we have yet received from Cuba, said Mr. Du Bose, the first secretary of the Spanish legation, "reached us by cable from Madrid last night. It is a telegram from the minister of foreign affairs, the duke of Tetuan, embodying the material points of a dispatch sent to him by the captain general at Havana. The dispatch reads as follows: 'General Weyler, at the head of fourteen battalions, has traversed the provinces of Havana and Matanzas, compelling the principal rebel chiefs to fly to Las Villas, abandoning their horses in the river Hanahama, many of the fugitives perishing in Maritimas. General Weyler considers that in Havana and Matanzas there are no longer any great organized bands to disperse and that both provinces may be considered almost entirely pacified. The sugar properties in the grid of the troops have already begun to grind.'

"The information the minister, Mr. Dupuy De Lome, authorizes me to give to the United Associated Press," said Mr. Du Bose. "Aside from the fact that it comes from the minister of foreign affairs, it has been confirmed from other sources, and may be relied upon as being entirely correct. The legation is very particular not to give out news officially that cannot be fully substantiated. This is the second dispatch that the legation has made public in two months. The other was the announcement of Maceo's death, which was at first denied here and in New York, and afterwards, when it could be no longer denied, his death was imputed to treachery.

"I should explain," Mr. Du Bose, went on, "that General Weyler went on his present trip about eight days ago. The province of Pinar Del Rio has been under practical subjection ever since the death of Maceo; the only revolutionists now there are a few scattered guerrilla bands. The province of Santa Clara can hardly be said to have ever been in revolt and as a result we now have four provinces in which there is little if any disturbance. When the new reforms for Cuba are promulgated they probably will be, within the next fortnight, they will be put into effect in all the six provinces in Cuba as soon as the machinery for taking the census, which is a condition precedent to the reforms, can be established. You ask if the Cubans are ready for these new measures. I have no hesitancy in replying in the affirmative. The only people who oppose the reforms and desire a continuation of the revolution are the patriots in New York. The rebels in Cuba are anxious for peace. In my opinion the days of the insurrection are numbered."

About the only fellow who will get much satisfaction out of the statement that there was no vacancy for county surveyor last fall, and that Jesse Cleaver is not elected to that office, is Mr. Wetzel, the Democratic aspirant, who was defeated. It appears that 'squire J. H. Reissnyder, of Millheim, is still the officer, as his term does not expire until next year.

A man who will have his horse clipped this kind of weather and then tie his head back with an over-check rein lacks every sense of humanity and deserves to be treated in a like manner, which he surely will, if not in this life, in the life to come.

Subscribe for the WATCHMAN.

Spawls from the Keystone.

The November election cost Luzerne county \$19,326.16.

Luzerne county has 1327 liquor license applicants, an increase of 100.

An unknown man was frozen to death near Tomhickon on Sunday night.

A freight train crashed into a coal train on the Reading railroad, at Snyderport, and smashed six cars.

The Plymouth coal company's store at Plymouth was robbed and John McLoughlin arrested on suspicion.

Judge Scott, at Easton, Monday heard fifty-nine applications for liquor licenses, and granted all but nine.

Sallie Sullivan, 14 years old, was fatally burned trying to kindle a fire with kerosene at her home near Hazleton.

P. F. McMahon, assistant post-master at South Bethlehem, was stricken with paralysis, and is in a critical condition.

The county commissioners of Luzerne offer a reward of \$250 for the capture of Wm. Shafer, who broke jail three weeks ago.

An addition to the Cambria county poor house is to be built next spring. The accommodations at present are too limited.

It took the public safety committee of Pittsburg's city council just ten minutes to kill the anti-theatre bill ordinance.

John Bailey, of Shamokin, fell from a Reading freight train onto the ice in crossing the river at Sunbury and was seriously hurt.

While trying to rescue her two children Mrs. William Croyle perished with them in their burning home at Bedford, on Saturday.

A special committee yesterday reported to the Lebanon court that twenty-three doctors were defectively or illegally registered in the county.

The waterback in the kitchen of Robert Warnick, South Bethlehem, exploded Monday and Mrs. Warnick and her baby were badly burned by flying coals.

The entire board of school controllers of Hazleton is said to hold office illegally, having been elected under an act which has been declared unconstitutional.

Theodore W. Johnson, of Baltimore, a civilian inspector of armor for the government at the Bethlehem iron works, is critically ill at his hotel with paralysis of the jaw.

Steward Weiland, aged about 15-years, while skating with some companions at a mill dam on the Quenamahoning one mile south of Jenners, in Somerset county, broke through the ice and was drowned.

Forged assignment of contractors' estimates on city work have been discovered in Pittsburg, on which \$19,500 was raised. Contractor W. J. Dunn places the blame on a confidential clerk, whose relatives will probably make the loss good.

Mrs. Margaret Kunkle, aged 87 years, living with her daughter in Indiana county, was burned to death while alone in her room. She was attacked by heart disease and fell into the grate. When the daughter went into the room she found her mother dead.

David M. Steyer, editor of the New Haven Herald, is in jail at Uniontown, Pa., on the charge of entering the prothonotary's office and making the docket "satisfied" upon judgments against him. The penalty for the offense is \$2,000 fine and seven years in the penitentiary.

A few years ago Thomas Truby, of Clearfield, was a forty pound boy running around DuBois. At the present time he weighs 263 pounds and is "agroin." Tommy is a pretty good chunk of a fellow but he is not near as large a man physically as his father, Hon. Jake Truby is politically.

George Stewart, a young man employed on a portable saw mill on the farm of W. B. George, near Homer City, slipped on the running platform. Before the machinery could be stopped, his head was brought into contact with the saw and one half of it cut off. The trunk then returned to the saw and cut off his right arm. Death was instantaneous.

Munroe H. Kulp and Co., have bought of the Beck estate, of Lewisburg, some 1,800 acres of timber tract, that will cut the coming season and shipped to the coal regions. This acreage is about 9 miles from West Milton and it is said a railroad from the latter point to the place of purchase will be laid connecting with the P. & E. R. R. for quick shipment.

It is now certain that the First National bank of Hollidaysburg will re-open its doors on Wednesday, January 27th, after having been closed and in charge of a United States bank examiner for forty-three days. No lists of officers and directors of the re-organized institution have yet been given out. It is good news to the depositors of the institution that the bank is to open without a cent of loss to them.

Stanley Bernski was frozen to death within ten yards of a house at Eleanora, near DuBois, Monday morning. With a companion he had been on Punsunatunney. They started to walk home, nine miles, but separated. Bernski was found by Farmer Muth and driven within one block of home. He walked a short distance, but fell, and was unable to rise. Friends are searching for the dead man's companion, as it is believed he was overcome by cold in an unfrequented place.

Near Houtzdale there resides a family who have a little child 7 years of age that is no larger than an ordinary five month baby. The child is indeed a pitiable sight to behold, as it sits in a little box and wildly stares at the ceiling. When the poor unfortunate tot was but a few month old its parents had it vaccinated and shortly after blood poisoning set in, from which time it has never grown a particle. The child is an imbecile and has never shown a particle of reason, or uttered a sound all on account of the vile practice of vaccination.

The building of the Altoona Evening Gazette was badly damaged by fire Tuesday morning. While a press was being cleaned with benzine the can containing the fluid exploded, setting fire to the combustible material in the vicinity. Before the flames were extinguished, the press room furniture and presses were slightly damaged. A large amount of Pennsylvania railroad work and other job work ready to be delivered was destroyed. The composing room was not disturbed by the fire, and the paper came out as usual Tuesday having been run off at the Tribune office.