

BY P. GRAY MEEK.

Ink Slings.

Literally speaking Pennsylvania's Legislature was fired out.

Only three more cabinet places left and our Governor is not in yet.

The measles have broken out in the Carlisle Indian school, and now it will be quite a propos to say that the red man is himself again.

BRYAN made the first mistake, on Tuesday, that he has made since coming before the public notice.

The Phillipsburg Bituminous Record is authority for the announcement that Hon. P. E. WOMELSDORFF, of that place, is ambitious to succeed State Senator McQUOWN.

The Missouri negro, who was recently sentenced to ninety-nine years imprisonment for killing his sweetheart and three years additional for stealing a horse, need have little concern about where he is to roost for the rest of his days.

If there is to be a change in the location of the state capitol, now that a new one will have to be built, what is the matter with Centre county offering a site? Geographically and morally the best location is centered right here in Bellefonte.

Custodian of public grounds DELANEY, estimates the probable cost of repairing the old capitol building at a million dollars.

Numerous other experts think it wouldn't cost half that amount. Do you read anything between these lines?

CHARLEY MITCHELL, the English pug, is beginning to talk again. He wants to fight the winner of the CORBETT-FITZSIMMONS fight.

Ambassador BAYARD entertained the Prince of Wales at dinner, on Wednesday, and they drank to the health of the Queen of England and the President of the United States.

Hon. JAMES SCHOFIELD, Centre county's senior Member at Harrisburg, is not exactly the only round pebble on the shores of the Susquehanna, but he is in luck.

Such things as the blowing up of the defunct GARDNER, MORROW & Co., bank building, at Hollidaysburg, early Monday morning, are getting to be of entirely too common occurrence in the United States.

Let it be understood that this is a free country, but its freedom does not include the license to carry into effect every whim, no matter how much the rights of others are infringed upon.

And now it is announced that JOHN WANAMAKER will build a church in celebration of the escape of his big store from total destruction in the great fire, in Philadelphia, last week.

If JOHN hangs onto the political roost he has been perched on since his fight for Senator began all the churches in Christendom won't save him from a bigger fire than Philadelphia has ever seen, or any other city, for that matter, except Sodom and Gomorrah.

There is very great extenuation for the antique girl, whose old-maidhood is her own doing, in the fact that in New York city there are 15,000 husbands under bonds for the support of their wives.

Twenty per cent of their wives are under age and fifty per cent were in their teens when they were married. This would seem to prove that, after all, the kiln-dried, thoroughly seasoned timber is best to dicker in, even in the matrimonial market.

What a joke. The idea of the Pennsylvania Legislature meeting in a Methodist church. There ought not to be a humorous side to such a meeting place for that body, but when the morals of some of the political rascals who have been represented in it are known so well the State must laugh when it hears that some of those fellows have at last been gotten into a church.

Who can say but that the whole situation might not be providential and that the sacred atmosphere of that old Methodist meeting house, being breathed by those legislative sealwags, might not generate some good seed.

The objection to the appointment of a commission for the rebuilding of the capitol seems to be very ill founded, when it is asserted that it can be done more economically through the director of public buildings and works.

Let the Legislators, who are objecting to the appointment of a commission, look into the economy with which the Huntingdon reformatory was built and it will be seen that that method had far better be adopted than the one of letting one man have charge of the work.

Point a commission of honorable business men and their reputations will demand that the State be given the advantage of every penny that will have to be spent.

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The New Kansas Senator.

A change has taken place in the senatorial representation of the State of Kansas by the election of a Mr. HARRIS to the United States Senate in the place of Mr. PFEFFER.

The gentleman elected to take his place is also a Populist and, if we may judge from his expressions, Mr. HARRIS could easily pass for a good Democrat.

Among other things he says, "I want to see the income tax made a permanent feature of governmental policy, whether it be by amendment to the constitution or by some other method."

He also declares, "I want to see free silver restored to its former position as a full money metal without any limitations."

He makes further announcements of his principles as follows: "I am in favor of tariff legislation which, in conjunction with an income tax and internal revenues and other duties, will provide ample funds for all the purposes of government."

He further says: "I shall strenuously oppose the retirement of the greenbacks and treasury notes in any form."

On this point he will be found to shoulder with the Democrats who have arrayed themselves against the Wall street scheme of contraction and money-cornering that is designed to be carried out by the retirement of the best and safest paper money that this country has ever had.

On these great points of political principle there is not a true Democrat who can not shake hands with the Populist Senator HARRIS.

The Auditor's Statement.

The auditor's statement of the business condition of Centre county appeared this week in the Republican and will be given to the readers of the WATCHMAN next week.

The statement discloses a very gratifying condition of affairs about the court house and it is to be hoped that the new board of commissioners will have as creditable a showing to make when the auditor's report goes over their accounts next January.

A digest of the finances may be found in the following:

Table with financial data for ASSETS, JAN. 31, 1897. Includes items like Cash in hands of Treas. Jan., Dog tax, Claims in hands of Attorney for collection, Notes outstanding, etc.

The estimate of \$50,000 for current expenses, during 1897, will hardly obtain for the expenditures of the year unless the shrewdly contest is concluded with far less expense than is generally believed will be attached to it.

The Legislature might as well quit and come home, Pennsylvania would be better off by paying the members to stay away from Harrisburg. We have all the law we need now.

It has been definitely settled that the coming CORBETT-FITZSIMMONS prize fight will be pulled off in Nevada.

Death of a Great Railroad Officer.

In the death of GEORGE B. ROBERTS the country loses one of its most estimable and useful citizens, and the Pennsylvania railroad company is deprived of a chief officer whose services have contributed so much to the substantial success of that great corporation.

He was a worthy successor of such railway magnates as J. EDGAR THOMSON and THOMAS A. SCOTT, under whose earlier management the system of the Pennsylvania railroad company attained a development that made it the greatest corporation of the kind in the world.

Mr. ROBERTS' qualifications were of a kind that brought the work of his able predecessors to perfection. The foundation of the great system had been well laid, both in the construction of the main line and in attainment of those extensions and connections which made the West and the Lakes contribute to its traffic.

He had been accomplished, Mr. ROBERTS' remarkable ability as a practical railroad manager was displayed in perfecting the organization of the system, in directing its operations with the exactness of a thoroughly regulated machine, in supplying such links as were needed to ensure its completeness, in securing from its operations the largest possible measure of profit for its stockholders, and in exercising the extraordinary tact by which he maintained the efficiency and promoted the fidelity of the company's great army of employees.

In these respects he displayed the unsurpassed qualifications which enabled him to manage, with such signal success, the vast railroad system which had attained almost its full development before he assumed the duties of its chief officer.

The remarkable succession of presidents which the Pennsylvania company has been so fortunate as to have at the head of its management, has been mainly due to the fact that they were practical railroad men. Other railroad companies have been so unfortunate as to be wrecked by their management being placed in the hands of officers entirely unfamiliar with practical railroad knowledge and the most thorough experience has been possessed by the Pennsylvania's corps of officers, and particularly by its presidents. In this respect Mr. ROBERTS was unsurpassed, if equalled, by any of the other able men who have occupied its presidency.

To fill the vacancy occasioned by his death the succession rightly fell to Mr. FRANK THOMSON, who has so long and with such marked ability performed the duties of one of the vice presidents of the company, and who is recognized as among the ablest of railroad officers, whose practical qualities equal the brilliancy of his genius in the special line of his activity.

The Growth of Lawlessness.

That lawlessness is gaining preeminence in this country is a fact that is becoming too evident to be disguised. Its most conspicuous manifestation is seen in the violent demonstrations of those who take the law in their own hands in the punishment of alleged criminals by the lynching process; but this is not as dangerous in its tendency as the defiance of the law by those combinations that subject the public to the extortions of monopoly.

The spirit of lawlessness prevails as evidently in the operation of a trust as in the proceedings of a lynching mob, and more injuriously, because it is not as open in its flagrancy.

In a recent action before the United States circuit court for the eastern district of Pennsylvania against the so-called "National harrow company," of New York, it was decided by the presiding judge that every combination made for the purpose of controlling the market and enhancing prices is unlawful. This is the decision that has been made by every court before which the trusts have been arraigned. No court could do otherwise than to pronounce them unlawful. But of what avail have been such decisions? In every instance there has been a failure to enforce them, and the trusts continue their operations with perfect indifference to the restraints of the law.

They are absolutely lawless combinations, and the fact that they go on with their operations without restraint, and that new ones are being formed in every line of business, without the slightest regard for the illegality of their combinations, furnishes one of the most alarming evidences of the lawlessness into which the country has drifted.

But the most discouraging feature of this situation is that these law-breaking and law-defying combinations, which should be put down by the strong arm of legal authority, are invited to come to Washington and dictate to a Republican Ways and Means committee the kind of tariff that will be the most effective in protecting their monopolies and reimbursing the contributions they made to the boodle fund that exerted so powerful an influence in electing McKINLEY.

What are the people going to do for the correction of so demoralized and dangerous a situation?

Sham Treasury Reform.

Even the two corrupt factions that are fighting for supremacy in the Republican party in this State are forced to recognize the fact that the state treasury is being scandalously managed, and that something must be done that will have at least the appearance of reforming the abuses in the treasury department.

With both factions recognizing this fact there ought to be some improvement, but it is not likely that there will be any. The MARTIN-WANAMAKER crowd are clamoring for an overhauling of the treasury by which it may be shown how the QUAY gang have been managing the state funds for their political and personal advantage.

It is not to benefit the State, but to put their opponents in a hole, that DAVE MARTIN and his pals want to show up the corrupt manner in which the other gang has been using the state money.

The faction controlled by QUAY also pose as reformers and profess to be willing to include treasury reform in that extensive reformatory scheme by which the boss is going to make the general administration of public affairs in this State a perfect model of good government.

They won't be bluffed by the other faction, when it comes to a question of reform, and are willing to meet them more than half way in professing a desire to correct any abuses that may be practiced in the administration of the state finances, but they want to be assured as to whether there is anything wrong in that quarter, and for this reason they propose to appoint a commission to determine that point.

There is something ridiculous enough to excite general laughter at the idea that a commission is necessary to discover the irregularities that pervade the management of the state treasury, which actually amount to criminal mismanagement. Those irregularities are exposed to public recognition by surface indications that leave no question as to their existence, as, for example, there being no doubt that somebody is using the state money for their own personal profit when amounts due from the State are withheld, notwithstanding a reported surplus of \$3,000,000 in the treasury.

Nevertheless, the appointment of a commission will look like blazing the way for reform, although no intention of the kind is entertained, and will serve the purpose of the boss in heading off the other faction. What it will amount to may be judged from what QUAY's senatorial investigating committee has accomplished.

There is not the slightest probability that treasury reform will result from the fight between the two corrupt Republican factions. It can only be effected by the people turning down both those factions and running the Republican party out of power in this State.

The Inevitable Consequence.

Those who are disposed to wish that the McKINLEY administration shall fail in restoring prosperity to the country, and will derive pleasure in seeing the Republican party involved in difficulty before the close of the next four years, will be gratified to hear that Mr. GAGE, whom McKINLEY has selected to manage the Treasury, will adhere to the strict gold policy and will carry out, to the letter, the requirements of the currency contractionists.

This necessarily implies a continuance of the financial contraction and business depression that have followed the demonetization of silver, and accompanied the gold standard, growing worse year by year.

For ourselves, we could derive no satisfaction from such a public calamity, even though it should bring disaster to a political party to which we are opposed. We would prefer the country's prosperity, regardless of what party is in power, but we will not shut our eyes to the result which must inevitably follow the policy which Secretary GAGE proposes to enforce.

When he declares his determination to carry out the gold-bug programme, with-out substantial change from the monetary measures which have enabled the money changers and bond dealers to corner the currency, depreciating the prices of everything by appreciating the standard of value, and when it is also his intention to increase the contraction by using his official influence for the retirement of the legal tender notes, silver certificates, and other forms of government paper money, for the redemption of which large amounts of gold are to be procured by the sale of bonds—when, in short, his policy embraces such propositions, with the probability of their being carried out by a Republican Congress, no other result can be expected than that the business depression and financial trouble will be made even greater than they now are.

If the Republicans are bent upon this policy they will have themselves to blame for producing conditions that will ensure the most overwhelming defeat that ever overtook a political party. This, taken by itself, will be fortunate for the country, but it is to be regretted that the country will have to suffer before so desirable a consummation shall be effected.

RIGOR MORTIS.

If I were dead and any doubt should be That some faint, vital spark remained in me: Just let a hand file gaily down the street And, as they march, intently watch my feet.

If rigid, still, they point 'tward Heaven's arch Nor move, responsive to the rhythmic march, Then, let the solemn funeral proceed, I'm surely dead, no further proof you need.

For were I living, and that band should play, While sparkling jig time floated in the air; I'd rise up from my casket long, and then— Responsive dance, though I dropped dead again.

The Broken Bank at Hollidaysburg Dynamited.

By the use of dynamite or nitro-glycerine an attempt, partially successful, was made to blow up the building occupied by the defunct Gardner, Morrow & Co. bank at Hollidaysburg about three o'clock Monday morning.

The big front door was blown from its hinges to the centre of the large room, the floor was torn up, windows blown out, and the building was otherwise splintered and damaged. Adjoining buildings suffered considerably, also glass being broken and the large structures themselves being more or less shattered.

The general impression is that some unknown depositor, crazed by his losses by reason of the bank's failure, conceived the idea of destroying the institution as an act of revenge. It created a tremendous excitement for awhile, the Diamond of the town, where the bank building is located, filling up with people as if by magic. It seems that the country capital will not accept the inevitable and quiet down, but those who suffered loss by the suspension of that banking institution are determined to follow those responsible for the failure to the last ditch, the more desperate violating the law of order and peace, even at the risk of taking life.

This condition of things is to be regretted, but it is hoped no further attempt will be made to commit such depredation as that of Monday morning.

What is the Use in Making Laws if People are Not to Know Them.

The newspapers of the State of New York are protesting against the "barn door" methods of advertising legal notices relating to borough and township matters. Their complaint is well founded.

But what shall we say of the manner in which the great State of Pennsylvania advertises her laws? The Legislature is liberal enough in enacting them, but when it comes to making them known to the people not even "barn door" methods are employed; in fact, no means are provided.

The people are left in absolute ignorance save what general information they are able to gather from newspaper reports of legislative proceedings. Yet they are expected to obey the law. It is an ancient and legal maxim that "ignorance of the law excuseth no man."

It is very natural that the New York press should object to "barn door" methods. The laws of that State are published in the newspapers, as they ought to be in Pennsylvania.

It is an outrage that the laws are not properly advertised in the State of Pennsylvania, and the outrage is not upon the newspapers, but upon the people.

Too Much for His Brain and Stomach.

A West Clearfield young man ate half a bushel of "peppermint apples" Monday evening and then sat up and read about the thrilling escapades of the greatest detective in the world—Nick Carter—until 2 o'clock Tuesday morning, when he retired to dream of apples, detectives and "sich" until day-break. He arose about nine o'clock and went down stairs to the kitchen and keeled over, hearing a racket went out to investigate and discovered the feet and legs of the pride of the household protruding from the flour barrel. A doctor was sent for and after fishing him out and working with him for sometime he was brought around alright but the man of medicine warned him never to do it again and said the mess he had eaten was enough to kill a "billy goat."

No, But There are Independent Democratic Papers in the State.

A contemporary somewhat amusingly says the best examples of independent journalism are found in Republican newspapers. The more you think of this the funnier it becomes.

Republican newspapers occasionally berate a prominent man of their party, but it will always be found upon investigation, that the prominent man is a member of the faction to which the papers are opposed. The so-called "independent" paper never criticises the party, never advocates the election of a good Democrat in preference to a bad Republican. There are no "independent" Republican papers in this state.

Newspaper Men Disqualified for Jurors Because They Think.

Busy newspaper men, who often find it inconvenient to serve on juries, are greatly obliged to four of the seven Superior court judges of this State for a decision which in effect disqualifies editors for jury service. As newspaper men are obliged to think, they must form opinions or at least impressions, and hence are ineligible to sit on important cases. Blank minds are greatly to be preferred in such cases. If the juror is unable to read so much the better.

Subscribe for the WATCHMAN.

Spawls from the Keystone.

Clerks in Shenandoah stores are agitating an early closing movement.

Over 2000 people attended a rally of the Y. M. C. A. at Danville.

With carbolic acid Bernard McDonald committed suicide at Braddock.

A mass meeting of Williamsport citizens will be held to protest against the rates charged by the water company.

The Indian school at Carlisle has been quarantined because of an epidemic of the measles.

While Frank Reed and family were away from home thieves entered their residence at Weissport and secured \$300 in gold.

The Himmelstein Ideal comedy company gave a concert at Pottsville Sunday for the benefit of the sufferers by Thursday night's fire.

There were 364 deaths and 586 births in York during the last year, and of the 179 cases of diphtheria in that time, nearly half occurred near garbage dumps.

Twelve thousand acres of excellent coke making coal land have been leased by New York capitalists adjacent to the Allegheny river in Allegheny and Westmoreland county.

Lutheran clergymen of York are preparing to properly celebrate the 400th anniversary of the birth of Dr. Philip Melancthon, the co-laborer of Martin Luther, on February 16.

As a result of charges and counter charges between superintendent Housé and the physician of the West Penn hospital, at Pittsburg, the trustees have dismissed the entire force.

Typhoid fever is raging in the Cumberland valley, Bedford county. The recent death of a young woman named Lethe Slizer makes the tenth to die in her family of typhoid fever within a year.

The foundry and machine shop of F. B. Stein, of Osceola, was destroyed by fire on Friday morning. It employed about twenty five men and was one of the most important industrial establishments in the borough.

The Clearfield county commissioners have fixed the compensation of Treasurer at one per cent. for disbursing county funds. Under this ruling the office will pay about \$1,700 instead of \$6,000 or \$7,000 per year as formerly.

At Galeton, Potter county, Sunday, Charles Leach, aged 14 years, was driving a blind horse. When the horse reached the bridge on Main street, he in some manner jumped the railing on the bridge and fell eighteen feet. The horse was instantly killed and the boy lived only a few minutes.

Suit has been entered in the Blair county court by twenty-nine Blair county constables against the county commissioners as a test to determine whether or not the officers are each entitled to a fee of \$1.50 and mileage for making their returns to court. The legal question for the court to decide is whether the constable's fee law of 1893 repeals all other statutes on the same subject. A case stated will be submitted to Judge Bell at argument.

The Central Pennsylvania conference of the M. E. church will meet in Clearfield in March and at that time committees will be appointed on the establishment of the Deaconesses' homes. The first matter in this connection will be the selection of a place for the home and the choice now rests between Altoona, Harrisburg and Williamsport. When first established the home will have but three deaconesses, who will visit the sick, care for the poor and encourage the fallen to lead better lives.

Albert Shoff, of Madera, Pa., who has purchased the square timber on the T. M. Sheehan tract in Clearfield township, east of Patton, took out the largest and finest specimen that has ever been cut in Cambria county. It measures 72 feet long, 22x23 inches square and contains 253 cubic feet. The specimen is oak and will, with the other square timber cut on that tract, be hauled to Clearfield creek where it will be made into huge rafts and taken to the eastern market.

The Pennsylvania superior court decided that tree owners have some rights. The employes of the telegraph company which had a line crossing the land of Dr. John Marshall, in Bucks county, entered upon that land to add new cross bars and wires to the poles. To facilitate such additions they cut down a number of fine shade trees growing on Dr. Marshall's place. The men were arrested, and for this wanton destruction were fined \$50 each, and in default of pay, to imprisonment for fifty days. The superior court affirmed the sentence.

For half an hour last Friday Mrs. Rebecca Withey, of Marsh Hill, was compelled to sit in a sleigh along a lonely road and hold in her arms the body of Jacob Metzger, who, while riding with her expired from heart disease, superinduced by the intense cold Mrs. Withey had engaged to do Mr. Metzger's housework, and they were on their way to the latter's home, when he fell over against the woman's shoulder and expired without an exclamation. Mrs. Withey could not drive and hold the corpse in the sleigh, too, so she sat and held the rigid form in the seat until a farmer came along.

Wednesday morning Simon Kreider, aged about twenty years, who lives with his parents at Farrantsville, a Clinton county village, shouldered his gun and proceeded to the woods hoping to win a rabbit or two, and possibly a pheasant. He had proceeded but about a mile when he came across a mother bear and three cubs. They were in a hole under a ledge of rocks. With the courage of a frontiersman the young man drew the gun to his shoulder and with steady nerve drew a fine bead on the parent brute. She fell dead almost at his feet. It was the work then of a few minutes to reload and put a permanent claim upon the babies. The old bear weighed 150 pounds and the young ones about 50 pounds each. The young hero, after killing the bears ran home, where he found plenty of ready help to return with him and "fetch" the dead carcasses to town. Of course the whole village turned out to see the game upon the arrival home of the party, and Simon was awarded the champion's belt for being the most whole sale slaughterer in all Clinton county.