

Ink Slings.

—As days glide by Cuban autonomy is getting to be public monotony.

—The Philadelphia Press still insists that QUAY's proposed reform legislation for Pennsylvania is only "so called."

—The attempt to burn the county court house seems not to have been so much of an attempt to try justice with fire as to bring about a new home for her.

—Such a thing as Centre county's being outdone by Pennsylvania is out of the question. If the latter burns her capitol it is not to be wondered at that the former should meet such a bid for notoriety.

—Why is it that no wall has gone up from Harrisburg over the loss of Legislature's cork screws? In the eyes of some of the law makers they are the most useful implements furnished by the State.

—The National Guard is not to go to McKINLEY's inauguration. The railroad companies will not provide free transportation and the State cannot afford to pay for it. What a pity, that the advance agent will have to do without this part of his show.

—Congressman MUDD, of Maryland, has set out to knock GORMAN out in that State. While it might do the Senator good to get a shaking up it is likely that MUDD's name will still be MUDD when he gets through with the able old Maryland leader.

—\$10,000 for a pig sty at the Norristown insane asylum will give the impression that they intend caring for their pigs better than they do their patients, especially since one of the keepers is now under arrest for the killing of WILLIAM McCUE, an insane convict.

—It would seem, from the fuss that is made and the worry about the navy department whenever any of our gun boats are put to sea, that they are not intended for use in water. About the only place where there is any assurance that they are safe is when they are in a dry dock.

—The plague in India is partially the result of the closing of her mints to the coinage of silver and in that gold gripped England is responsible for having brought it on. Had the currency not been so greatly contracted the people in India would have had something to ward off the destitution caused by the recent crop failures.

—The plan of selling county offices to the lowest bidder, that is being talked of out in Kansas, will be very apt to throw MARY ELLEN LEASE out of a job, if adopted. However we have enough faith in MARY ELLEN'S versatility to believe that if she is knocked off the stump she'll bob up serenely on the auctioneer's block.

—The number of pension disbursing agencies in the United States has just been reduced from eighteen to nine. This is not an indication, however that the number of pensioners is decreasing. The work of disbursement can be done just as satisfactorily with half the number of agencies and the general government saved an annual expense of \$160,000.

—Mexican burglars have given the lie to those who assert that the climate is so mild down there that very little, if any, clothing is needed. The other evening, at Monterey, they threw a hook and line into a sleeper's room and stole the covers from off the owner of the house. Such a clever trick proves the theory that there are more ways than one to uncover things.

—Rev. Dr. MOXROE, presiding elder of the Altoona district, is of the opinion that it was wrong for Grace Methodist church to rent their building to the State for legislative purposes and will bring the matter before the annual conference, next month, for investigation. The doctor is, no doubt, afraid that that building will be tainted by the occupancy of such a body, and he is about right.

—Judging from the decorations that ornamented (?) the halls of the state capitol before it was destroyed by fire it is little wonder that Philadelphia thinks she could provide better entertainment for the Members than Harrisburg. The spindle shanks of the bandiest legged Philadelphia ballet girl are Venus like in proportions, when compared with those red, pink and green nymphs (?) that formed so brazen a part in the ornamentation (?) of the remodelled House.

—Too many Kansas securities, that could not be used for more than half their face value, forced the Chester county Guaranty, Trust and Safe Deposit company to close its doors, on Tuesday. And now are the easterners beginning to feel the effects of a monetary system that has caused land to decrease one-half in value, during the past ten years. There is a large list of stock holders in the institution and many of them are farmers who will now be able to appreciate what the westerners have suffered by silver demonetization.

—The BRADLEY-MARTINS, of New York, might look to Reading for an example of the proper manner in which to expend their surplus cash during these trying times. In that city the Keystone hook and ladder company, instead of holding their customary anniversary banquet, distributed food among eighty-three poor families. The New York swells might emulate this example and find far greater pleasure in its doing than in giving the fancy dress ball on which a quarter of a million will be spent without doing another bit of good than making tired legs and dark brown tastes for the day after.

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An Intended Job.

That the words "solicit" and "select" differ widely in their meaning was demonstrated by a legislative incident that occurred at Harrisburg last week. It happened that a resolution was passed in the House relative to the securing of plans for the erection of a new structure to supply the place of the burnt capitol. As originally worded and passed by the House the resolution authorized the Governor to "solicit" architects to submit plans for the new building. When it got back to the House from the Senate it was discovered that the word "solicit" had been so tampered with that it appeared as "select," a word of entirely different meaning and intention. This transformation had been effected not by means of amendment openly made, but by a surreptitious clerical alteration which was intended to be sneaked through without detection. The intention of this underhanded scheme was obvious, its object being to avoid competition and thereby give the job to a favored party who might be "selected" by the authority invested with that power.

It is true that this fraudulent tampering with the wording of the resolution was detected when it came back to the chamber where it had originated, and the word "solicit" was reinserted but when it is seen that at the very inception of the proposition to build a new capitol such dishonest designs are manifested, there is reason to anticipate almost unlimited jobbery in the construction of a building upon which the state money is to be expended.

Unfortunately, by an accident greatly to be deplored, the old historic capitol building of this State has been destroyed, but the most unfortunate feature of this casualty is that the construction of a new edifice will devolve upon political managers who do not appear to be possessed of enough honesty and public virtue to prevent them from making a plundering job of it. In the rascally alteration of the resolution directing the Governor to "solicit" the offering of plans for the new structure we have premonition of the number of private fortunes that are intended to be made out of the job of building the new state capitol.

Reduction of School Appropriations.

An unusual expense is to be entailed upon the State by the erection of a new capitol building which no doubt will be made to be a very costly building, and to meet it without increasing state taxes it is suggested that there be a reduction of the annual state school appropriation, which has grown to the large amount of \$5,500,000, and which, it is thought, could be reduced to about \$3,000,000 without serious detriment to educational interests.

Such retrenchment may appear to be of a retrograde character to those who are in favor of liberally subsidizing the common schools and believe that no exigency would justify a reduction of the amounts that are lavished upon them by state appropriations; but when this liberality is carried to extremes does it not amount to a species of paternalism that in some respects is injurious in its effects? It is discovered that in many school districts the tax levy diminishes in proportion to the state contribution, until in some localities the state bounty has been used to relieve the tax payers of the duty of paying school tax to a large extent. Such a perversion of the object of the State's assistance, interferes with the benefit that is intended to be conferred by school appropriations, and is a striking example of the effect of paternalism which makes the State do that which should be incumbent upon the individual citizen.

There can be no question but that there has been a lavish disposition on the part of the Legislature to subsidize the public schools, and it need not be feared that if the necessities of the treasury should cause profuse appropriations the cause of education would suffer. Probably such a reduction would have a good effect in making the school districts more self-reliant and less disposed to look to the State for assistance, a disposition that is always accompanied by the enervating consequences of dependence.

—Stick to your party next Tuesday. Don't let any little personal matters stand in the way of your voting for a Democrat, because fights begun at what are considered unimportant elections always crop out, with disastrous effects, when there are more important offices to be filled. Promote harmony in the party, wherever it is possible and stand together for the fall. Centre county Democrats will have to get more ginger in them else the county will slip away without their knowing how the control has been lost.

—A vote for HUGH S. TAYLOR for tax collector is a vote for a young man who has been faithful in the discharge of his duty. His settlement of his duplicates has been prompt and he has done his collecting without oppressing the poor.

—FRANK NAGINEY would make a very desirable burgess.

The Offended Millionaires.

Those rude people, especially the newspaper men, who have been criticising the practices of those who consider themselves the higher order on account of their great wealth, had better be careful how they indulge in such impertinence, as the millionaires are getting mad about it and want it stopped.

There has been more of this impudent intrusion of late than suits their idea of how the lower class should behave themselves to their superiors. One of the instances of this vulgar intrusion is the fuss which the rude newspapers have been making about the BRADLEY-MARTIN ball, which came off, in New York, last evening at a reported expense of \$250,000, and which is represented by a low class of critics as heartless and ostentatious extravagance at a time when ten thousand people are on the point of starvation in that city.

There is also an offensive disposition on the part of the common people to complain about the trusts and other monopolistic means of accumulation, by which the higher order have secured so unequal a share of the good things of this world, but which that superior class think rightfully belong to them. And there is also a meddlesome disposition on the part of the common set to find fault with the arrangement that enables their superiors to evade paying an income tax on their vast accumulations, just as if they should be compelled to contribute to the support of the government, which should be exclusively the duty of the common people.

The millionaires are taking the impertinence as a great affront, and some of them are beginning to threaten that if it is persisted in they will follow the example of ASTOR by taking their wealth to Europe and becoming members of the foreign nobility.

Next Tuesday's Election.

On Tuesday, Feb. 16th, the regular spring election will be held in the various precincts of this county and a number of men will be chosen to fill offices of importance to the tax payers of the localities in which they will have jurisdiction. It is the duty of every eligible voter to visit the polls and cast a ballot for the candidates he prefers, for upon the right of franchise the very institutions, of which we boast so much under our Republican form of government, depend for their preservation. It is a bad habit to stay at home. It encourages a lagging interest in elections and brings about dissatisfaction with the results. Suppose everyone was to stay at home, what would become of the government in such a crisis?

We want to call particular attention to the duty that every professing Democrat owes his party in the contest of next Tuesday. It is almost obligatory upon you to attend the election and vote for your party's nominees. Remember that the primaries should have been the place for personal feeling to find expression. If there is a man on your local ticket whom you do not admire it is still your duty to vote for him, as an opportunity was had, at the primaries, to nominate another.

Don't fight this spring, the condition of the party in the county makes it urgent that everything be done that will tend to unite and harmonize it. The little differences that begin over the election of a road supervisor or school director might bear fruit in the defeat of a county officer. Try to keep the party in good shape. The time is coming when every vote will be needed.

Why They Opposed the Treaty.

Those who are important about the delay of the Senate in ratifying the arbitration treaty, find in the silver Senators, as they are called, especial objects of condemnation for the reason that all of them are arrayed against the ratification of that treaty.

There must be some particular reason for their assuming so generally the position they have taken in this matter. It can not be supposed that it is a mere accident that makes a particular set of Senators entertain a feeling towards England different from that of a majority of their colleagues. The explanation is to be found in their aversion of England's monetary policy by which, for her own selfish gains, she maintains the gold standard of value, and by the force of her financial and commercial supremacy coerces other nations into its adoption, greatly to their injury.

England, to-day, is the great obstacle to the remonetization of silver in this country. She not only profits by the restriction which her influence has put upon the monetary status of silver in other countries, but it is a matter of satisfaction to her that the United States, a debtor country, is made tributary to her through the medium of the gold standard, and is thus held in monetary vassalage.

This is the reason why the so-called silver Senators are in no hurry to ratify a treaty with a nation that is chiefly responsible for the evils that have resulted from the gold standard.

Postponed Reforms.

The burning of the state capitol came at a very unfortunate time. Both factions of the ruling party in the Legislature had declared that the reform of various abuses in the state government was the dearest wish of their hearts, and were making great promises as to what they intended to do in that line, when the fire fiend came along and burnt them out.

It is to be feared that this unfortunate casualty will direct their attention from the reformatory work which they had cut out for this session, and which was to be the introduction of a millennium of good government under the auspices of the political bosses.

It is now being proposed that in consequence of the loss of the capitol, and the inconvenience of doing the work of legislation in so unaccustomed a place as a church, in which the average law-maker feels out of place, it will be expedient to make the session as short as possible. If such a conclusion should be carried out it would not allow sufficient time for the reforms which the two factions have cut out as the chief object of the present session. There would be no over-hauling of the treasury by which the MARTIN-WANAMAKER faction proposed to show how the QUAY gang have been misusing the state funds, and no reformation of the abuses in the state government which even QUAY has been forced to recognize as needing amendment.

In all probability the intervention of the fire will cause the fulfillment of these good intentions to be postponed. There won't be time enough in an abridged session to do the work of reform with that completeness which would satisfy two such great reformers as boss QUAY of the one faction, and DAVE MARTIN and JOHN WANAMAKER of the other.

Besides, the attention of the legislative managers will be so taken up with the jobbery afforded by the building of a new capitol that the chief thing they will think of for the balance of the session will be the spoils that may be secured out of such a job as that. The parade of reform that was made at the beginning of the session is likely to terminate in legislation that will arrange for a big steal in the construction of a new capitol.

Defying Public Opinion.

There is a general agreement among decent people who are acquainted with the circumstances, that Gov. BLACK has disgraced New York State and defied the moral sentiment of its people, by appointing to a responsible state office so corrupt a character as the notorious lobbyist LEON PAXN. The selection of this most objectionable character was not made without deliberation, coolly acted upon, despite the protests and warning that poured in upon the Governor from every reputable quarter in the State. Not only political opponents, but party friends and supporters of the Governor, protested against his putting such a man into the office of superintendent of insurance, a post that should require the highest order of integrity in its incumbent. But PAXN had a claim on the Governor for dirty work done in his behalf in the last New York campaign, and besides, boss PLATT, who owns Governors in New York as QUAY owns them in Pennsylvania, required PAXN's appointment. A state Senate, also the property of the New York boss, promptly confirmed the disreputable selection.

The people of the State at large regard this appointment as a great outrage, but the Governor's defiant indifference to public opinion would indicate that he coincides with the expressions of the late Mr. VANDERBILT that "the public be d—d."

—The Gazette is woefully hard up for arguments to use against HUGH S. TAYLOR's candidacy for tax collector when it must resort to calling him a BRYAN-ite in order to arouse a sentiment against him. Why don't it look into his record for the past three years? Simply because it knows that that would reveal the fact that he has been the promptest and one of the most careful tax collectors the borough has ever had. The Gazette's cry of "BRYAN-ite" will do Mr. TAYLOR no harm. No man is disgraced by the support nor admiration of such an honorable character as WILLIAM JENNING'S BRYAN and there are McKINLEY-ites who are even now of the opinion that they made a mistake themselves.

—In making up your borough ticket bear in mind that J. WILL CONLEY, an energetic young merchant, and a thorough gentleman, is a candidate for treasurer of the borough. A vote for Mr. CONLEY would be the right thing to cast. As custodian of the borough funds he would watch them with that diligence that is required, yet so seldom practiced, to make ends meet.

—Who precipitated this costly contest for sheriff? Who wants to be made burgess of Bellefonte?

DEFIANCE.

Come on, ill visaged demons: "Foreboding and Despair
Come on! I hurl defiance; and will face you any where;
I am armed for battle royal and will bravely fight ye both,
My weapons: Good digestion and a liver never sick in the rig.

When I scent a fight impending, with antagonists like these
I avoid hot, sordid biscuits, nor bolt rich pie and cheese;
I don't "load up" with coffee, mix acid fruits with cream,
And then, awake, lie wondering why life's paths so hopeless seem.

I just go into training, and exercise a bit,
I dine upon such wholesome meats as common sense deems fit,
And when I toss my castor and jump lightly
I'll knock foreboding "silly," put Despair's eye "in a sling."

The Baker Ballot Law Growing Obnoxious.

From the Philadelphia Times.
It is not the fault of the court, but it is the fault of the law, that the people of Philadelphia will be put to great inconvenience in voting at the next municipal election. That the Judges have interpreted the law as liberally as they could will not be doubted. They cannot make law, and they cannot violate the letter of the law when called upon to interpret it judicially. While all laws relating to the ballot should aim to give the greatest freedom to the citizen in voting, if the Legislature fails to make liberal provisions for the freedom of the ballot, the courts can only obey the law as they find it.

The decision of Common Pleas Court, No. 2, delivered by Judge Pennypacker yesterday morning, will be accepted as conclusive that the present ballot law is a monstrous perversion of the freedom of the ballot that should be extended to every citizen, and the Legislature should take prompt action in revising our election law to assure the largest possible freedom of the ballot to every citizen in the State. Any election law that can be used by political leaders to complicate the duty of voting is a wrong to the entire people of the State, and should be thoroughly remedied by the legislative authority.

The election laws of the State should not be the plaything of unscrupulous political leaders to hinder the freedom of the ballot by legal technicalities. It was only an accident that gave the McKinley Citizens party a separate column on the ballot of November last, and the Combine leaders, under the direction of Lobbyist Martin, made their chief battle before the courts to embarrass the people in their efforts to vote for political reform. Any election law that gives such opportunities for corrupt party leaders to hinder the freedom of the ballot is a wrong to the people and an abridgement of the dearest rights of the citizen.

The committees on elections at Harrisburg should take up this question at the earliest day possible, carefully consider the imperfections of the present ballot law and provide methods for making nominations so simple that none can err in their efforts to attain the largest freedom in voting. There should be no separate columns in the official ballot. Each candidate for any office, however nominated, should be placed under the head of the office to be filled, with the name of the party the candidate represents, and every reasonable opportunity should be given to citizens to have candidates thus placed upon the ticket.

There could be no complications in exercising the right of franchise, as any citizen who can read in any language could understand, the party name whose candidate he wished to vote for, and it would be a very simple thing to mark the candidate for each office. This is the true Australian ballot law, and every departure from it has simply created complications and offered technical advantages to desperate party leaders to embarrass the people in the right of suffrage. Let us have an honest, square ballot law, under which the people can do their own voting.

Let the Watch Dogs Loose.

From the Pittsburgh Post.
The people of the State would do well to scrutinize closely every movement made at Harrisburg in connection with the construction of the capitol building, or they will find Pennsylvania saddled with a job that will rival the ones at Albany and Philadelphia. It is only by starting right that this can be prevented; and we do not think it is starting right to place in the hands of the governor or any other man the right to solicit plans and select an architect without open and free competition. Under various disguises this looks like what is being attempted. It is even said at Harrisburg that the architect and plans have already been determined on by those manipulating the capitol enterprise.

No better plan could be adopted at Harrisburg in a preliminary way, than the one carried out in Allegheny county in connection with the construction of the county buildings. Plans were invited from different architects, with specifications of cost. We believe four or five of these plans of the greatest merit were liberally paid for, and become the property of the county. Thus, after a selection was made of the one of the greatest general merit, it could be still further improved by hints from other plans in special matters. In this way we got the Richardson plans for the county building, and very fortunately the contractor, as well as the architect, were residents of other states. No favoritism was shown. The local contractors naturally kept a sharp lookout on the work, and as a result the buildings were completed within the stipulated time and at the contract price. This was such a novelty in a building so costly, and for the public, that it attracted wide attention. It was an object lesson of what could be done with good management. If legislators will study the methods adopted in this county in relation to plans and construction of the county buildings, they will be better enabled to act intelligently in the matter of a new state capitol.

Spawls from the Keystone.

—Applications for 340 liquor licenses have been filed at Lancaster.

—Rosa Stiffler, of York, found her infant child dead in bed Monday morning.

—By the slipping of a fork, Mrs. Edward Brown, of Hazleton gouged out her left eye.

—Everett's night school now has an enrollment of 43 pupils, with an average attendance of 40.

—A landslide near Frackville blocked both the Reading and Pennsylvania railroads for about twelve hours.

—Rev. S. J. Blum, pastor of the York Moravian church, has been appointed principal of the military school at Nazareth.

—By the collision of their wagons in a runaway Monday, Conrad Sacks, of Butler valley, and Patrick McCarron, of Hazleton, were seriously injured.

—Seventeen-year-old Ida Klick threw oil on the furnace fire in Harrison Kalbach's house, Lebanon, and was badly burned about the head and arms.

—Charles DeLong, music teacher, was found dead in bed at West Bethlehem, with the gas partially turned on. It is believed to have been an accident.

—The high wind of Saturday night blew James Marley, a Jersey Central brakeman, from his car near Leemine. He was found in a ditch with three ribs broken.

—Judge Reed at Brookville Monday, charged the grand jury to investigate the escape of the convicted murderer, Joseph Aileo, who was recaptured on Sunday.

—Hollidaysburg's borough council has offered a reward of \$500 for the arrest and conviction of the persons who dynamited the Gardner, Morrow & Co.'s bank building.

—An accident to the Shenandoah electric light plant left the town in darkness, and thieves broke into three grocery stores, four restaurants and two saloons. They got little booty.

—At a meeting of Group No. 6, of the state bankers' association, at Altoona, on Saturday S. R. Shumaker, of Huntingdon was elected president, and D. S. Kloss, of Tyrone, secretary.

—Arguments on the motion to quash the indictment against E. Van Valkenburg, charged with attempting to bribe Representative Weiss, was again postponed for a week, at Pottsville, Monday.

—While intoxicated John Redding, a painter, of Lebanon, cut his throat at his home Monday. The knife was dull and he only succeeded in inflicting a painful wound. He was arrested and sent to jail for thirty days.

—Anna Jeanes, of the Abington Meeting, has given \$10,000 for the Friends' Boarding Home of Norristown. Of that amount \$5000 is for the committee in charge of the project, to do with as they think best, while \$5000 is to go to the endowment fund.

—As a reward for genius, C. D. Sawtelle, formerly of Phillipsburg, and now pastor of the Christian Alliance, of Coalport, received recently from the publishers of the National Record a silver medal, it being their second prize for inventions of a simple but valuable nature. Mr. Sawtelle has invested an attachment for harness that will do away with getting out of vehicles to unrein a horse.

—A recent investigation has shown that Blair county has already paid to the Barrington and McSweny Detective Agency at Scranton the sum of \$22,796.22. With the Commonwealth expends the whole amount expended to convict Frank Wilson and James Farrell of the murder of Henry Bonnecke will reach \$30,000. Indications point that both men will get a new trial, in which case the expense may be doubled.

—A dispatch from New Bloomfield Thursday says: whether Dr. Thomas L. Johnston, the convicted murderer of druggist Henry, is practicing a shrewd trick for effect upon the arguments for a new trial for him, or has actually gone wild, is not known as he is exhibiting many symptoms of mania in his cell in the jail here. He rushes back and forth cursing, as conspirators, all who had anything to do with his conviction although at first he seemed to be glad it was only a second degree verdict and his neck was saved.

—Mahaffey and McGhee have been pushing their log job at Bower with great energy. Ex-Sheriff Mahaffey is there nearly all the time superintending the work. They have already this season put about 8,000,000 feet on the river's bank, nearly all hemlock. They use sleds for much of the lumber, but about 3,000,000 feet was put in on the slide. Thirty teams have been employed on the job lately. The snow is beginning to wear out and unless more falls soon the remainder of the logs will be put in under difficulties. Next season there will be over 10,000,000 feet of hemlock cut on that tract and a couple of million feet of other timber. That assures a lively year in that section.

—Colonel William Jack, a member of the late banking firm of Gardner, Morrow & Co., was arrested on Friday by officer John L. Roe, of Altoona, on the charge of embezzlement in receiving deposits, knowing the bank to be insolvent. The information was made before Alderman Huff, of Altoona, on last Wednesday, by Messrs. John Vipond and Lynn A. Brea, of Hollidaysburg, who claim that deposits were so taken from them aggregating \$10,000. Mr. Jack entered bail before Justice Lowery in the sum of \$5,000. A. S. Morrow, also a member of the said bank, was embraced in the information, but, by reason of the serious illness of Mr. Morrow, the serving of the warrant was deferred.

—Charles C. Gibson, a well known young gentleman of Williamsport, has been given \$30,000 under singular circumstances. About ten years ago Mr. Gibson spent some time at a sanitarium in Clifton Springs, N. Y., and there met a Mr. Sibley of Rochester. A warm friendship sprang up between them, and before leaving Mr. Sibley gave Gibson an envelope, at the same time telling him not to open it until after his (Sibley's) death. Sibley died about a month ago and Gibson opened the envelope and found in it a will bequeathing to him one-third interest in an estate valued at \$150,000. A Rochester lawyer came to Williamsport to see Gibson and demanded the document, which the latter refused to give up. Gibson went to Rochester and the Sibley relatives offered him \$30,000. Rather than have a contest Gibson accepted the offer.