

Ink Slings.

The brains of a woman are in inverse proportion to the height of the heels of her shoes.

We trust that Tyrone's new shoe manufactory won't be a sufferer because of the tax on hides.

The Legislature quit, they say, yesterday at noon; but the tax-payers will pay and pay and not quit so very soon.

The Senate has fixed a 20 per cent ad valorem duty on hides. This to please the great butchers of Chicago, but what of the New England shoe manufacturers?

Electoral reform acts have caused the fall of Holland's ministry. Probably it is fear of like fate that prompts the QUAY ministry in Pennsylvania to make no change in our present corrupt system.

It took Senators MAGEE and FLINX quite a while, on Tuesday, to tell their colleagues in the Senate that they have not bowed down to the QUAY hat. In such matters actions speak louder than words.

The blue Danube river, that STRAUSS has memorialized in one of the most exquisite waltzes ever composed, is just now making notoriety for itself by overflowing its banks and cutting high-jinks in general.

The end of the hundred-dollar bicycle came, on Wednesday, and now the fellow who laid down that amount for his '97 wheel will get a kind of pneumatic feeling when he sees others scorching off on the same machine for seventy-five.

The glorious Fourth of July is at hand and the fellow who does not paint things as red as the reddest shootin' cracker has no title to patriotism. It is not really necessary to get full, but then you might as well be that way, for you will be blamed for it all the same.

The Republican convention of Clearfield county has endorsed WILLIAM C. ARNOLD, of DuBois, for Governor. As qualifications do not seem to be requisite with Republican aspirants for gubernatorial honors ARNOLD might just as well have it as anyone else.

Former ambassador BAYARD is to be Philadelphia's Fourth of July orator. It will be interesting to see how the jingo sheets of that city, that were so quick to call "toady" at him, will act after he has given them a few shots on broad American citizenship.

The war with Cuba must be still in progress since WEYLER has decided that it will take 60,000 more Spanish soldiers to suppress the insurgents, whom he declared to have had in a state of subjugation months ago. The war in Cuba still goes on and WEYLER is having about the same success bringing its end about that McKinley is having ushering in prosperity.

The bituminous coal miners of Pennsylvania, Maryland, West Virginia and Ohio are said to be ready to go out on a great strike to-morrow. Scarcely fifty per cent of these men have been working during the past year and it is to be wondered what they hope to gain by such an inopportune strike. If the coal business were booming and operators anxious to mine things would be very different.

Inasmuch as the Legislature adjourned at noon yesterday a resume of the work it has done will possibly be expected as a part of the news matter in this issue of the WATCHMAN. The absence of such information can only be explained by the fact that the Legislature did nothing but abuse the privileges it enjoyed and waste the public money. The less heard about these things the better it will be for the poor tax-payers of the State.

For thirty years hides have been admitted to this country free of duty and a great shoe manufacturing business has sprung up. What is to become of it now that Republican wisdom (?)—meaning subservience to trusts—has put a duty on them. As most of our hides are imported from South American countries the business men of those Republics, now looking into our resources, might stop to think that the United States is a model at crippling her own.

The Senate is nothing more or less than a broker's office for trusts and monopolists. That is the language in which Representative CAROTHERS, of Philadelphia, expressed his opinion of the upper branch of our State Legislature on Wednesday. When the notorious gang that is at Harrisburg once gets to exchanging compliments the full knowledge of the character of the men Republicanism is represented by will come to the surface. No one knows them any better than they know one another, so such remarks as Mr. CAROTHERS has made can be considered more truthful than poetical.

The Rev. HOO-RA LINCOLN JACOBS, the Tyrone Methodist preacher, struck at our bait last week with all the verbiage of a Juniauta gadgdon. With that swelling of the gray matter that invariably follows when a two-cent man tumbles into a two thousand dollar job, he has written the editor of the WATCHMAN a letter freighted with the most dove-like expressions of admiration for our powers of misrepresentation. We are glad that we have pleased the Rev. HOO-RA, for truly we imagined him to be one of the kind who is pleased with nothing but himself. We will publish his letter some day, meanwhile the Methodist minister who seemingly seeks newspaper notoriety rather than the evangelization of the earth, will go on firing bouquets at himself to the great amusement of the Tyrone people.

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Quay's Sham Reform.

In no respect has the present Legislature been more of a failure than as a reform Legislature.

At the opening of this session it pleased the owner of that body of law-makers to pose as a reformer. He gave it out that he intended to have a number of bills passed for the reform of the civil service, the repression of the tax receipt abuse, and the prevention of the assessment of office holders for political purposes.

These were evils that tended to corrupt the politics of the State. They were largely responsible for the low condition of political morals that prevailed in every branch of the state government. They had, in fact, become so bad that even the corrupt party leaders could not shut their eyes to them, and it was for this reason that the Republican state conventions, of 1892 and 1896, made specific pledges that they should be reformed, and boss QUAY declared that the reforms should be carried out by this Legislature.

The reform bills were presented at the beginning of the session with great flourish of virtuous intention, but as there was no earnest purpose at the back of them they lingered along through the session, and, when passed near its close, they are found to be so altered as to have increased the evils for which they were claimed to have been intended as a remedy.

The fact is that the Legislature is of such a character that it was impossible for it to pass genuine reform bills, and its boss never intended that any such bills should be passed.

Representative KEATOR, a Republican Member from Philadelphia, denounced the bills as "shams," declaring that "they were the greatest samples of political chicanery and false pretense that had ever been seen in any Legislature.

Mr. KUNKLE, Republican Member from Dauphin, said there had never been any real intention on the part of Senator QUAY to give adequate reform, else the bills would not have been changed to make them worthless."

Speaking of these bills in detail, Mr. KUNKLE said further that "the bill regarding the purchase of poll tax, instead of preventing, legalized the present system of buying tax receipts by the thousands; that by the insertion of the word 'unduly' the whole intent and purpose of the coercion bill had been rendered non-effective, while as for the assessment bill it gave countenance to, rather than prevented, this objectionable system of raising funds for campaigns."

Thus it is seen that testimony is given by Republican Members as to the double-dealing and deceit which QUAY has practiced in the passage of these sham reform bills.

Denounced by Its Own Party Organs.

There is some encouragement in the fact that Republican newspapers are becoming severe in their condemnation of the state Legislature. Its worthlessness must be of a very pronounced character to excite the reprobation of journals that have habitually defended or excused the misconduct of their party leaders and officials.

Among the severest censurers of the Harrisburg law-makers is the Philadelphia Press, which uses no mild expressions in its strictures in their proceedings. Their failure to pass reform bills that were not only recommended by Republican conventions, but promised by the Republican boss; their fooling away in factional contention the time that should have been devoted to public business; their expensive investigating committees that have had no other object than to make the State pay for their fun in traveling through the State and to give them a claim to extra pay; their continued extravagance at a time when they are too imbecile to devise revenue measures for replenishment of the treasury; and their utter incapacity to do anything without directions from their boss—all of these combined evidences of this Legislature's general good-for-nothingness have been too much for even the Press to excuse or defend, and it pitches into these legislative reprobates in a manner that should convince its Republican readers that their party has good reason to be ashamed of the law-makers it has to Harrisburg.

Other Republican newspapers are equally free in giving their opinion of this Legislature; but it would have been better if they had commenced their condemnation some years earlier. There was abundant reason for denouncing the conduct of the law-makers whom their party has been sending to Harrisburg for a number of years past. The conduct of this one is no worse than was the behavior of the one that preceded it. But no matter how disgracefully QUAY's legislative henchmen behaved in the past their misdeeds were condoned and defended by the Republican papers, and the party, through their influence, was encouraged to send back to Harrisburg the same worthless class of law-makers. In fact they were sent back by increased majorities. The result has been that by a natural growth this demoralization has become so great that even Republican newspapers are at last compelled to denounce it.

The Investigation Abuse.

Of the many abuses connected with state legislation about the worst is the shameful expenditures caused by legislative investigations. Almost any object that may serve as an excuse for wasting the State's money is made the subject of investigation, this form of extravagance having become the favorite way of enabling Legislators to indulge in junkets at the public expense.

During the prolonged session whose disgraceful proceedings have just drawn to a close, more than the usual number of investigating committees have wasted the time that should have been devoted to honest legislation, and squandered the money of the people in worse than useless expense. As an example of this vicious practice, we need but refer to the investigation of the eastern penitentiary. The committee that attended to that job made no pretension of getting at the facts connected with alleged abuses in the management of that institution. This object seemed to be to embarrass the efforts of those whose purpose was to correct glaring abuses in the treatment of prisoners. The investigation was a farce, but the alleged expenses of each Member of the committee bordered closely on a thousand dollars. In a city where these sham investigations had an opportunity of having a good time, they felt no restraint in running up extravagant bills for car fare, hotel expenses, and other charges incurred by law-makers who were disposed to enjoy themselves at the State's expense.

This is a simple case, but it is only one of a number of investigating picnics in which the time of our law-makers was wasted during the present session and the people's money squandered. The cost in this case will be about \$10,000, but this is a trifle in comparison to the expense of the ANDREWS investigation, which didn't pretend to investigate anything but a dirty squabble between two corrupt Republican factions, and hadn't the remotest connection with any interest in which the State was concerned.

This investigation abuse gave a further example of its extravagant development in the two committees that went through the coal regions for the ostensible purpose of inquiring into the condition of the mine laborers. One of these junketing parties directed its attention to the bituminous, and the other to the anthracite region, as by this arrangement two sets of law-makers could be given the opportunity of having an outing.

They have spent a large part of the session in discovering facts connected with the condition of the mine workers which almost everybody was acquainted with, and which are not likely to be corrected by any Legislature that the Republican party may send to Harrisburg. In a question between the mine owners and mine laborers a Republican Legislature is sure to lean to the side that exerts a pecuniary pull on the law-makers.

The investigation abuse is indeed one of the greatest of the many evils connected with state legislation in these times. It has attained a scandalous development under Republican supremacy, and it will continue its baneful growth as long as that corrupt party has control of the state Legislature.

The Working People are Not in It.

The members of the Amalgamated association of iron workers are greeted by a rather surprising situation just on the eve of the passage of the tariff bill which is claimed to be intended to promote their prosperity. They find a general shut down of the iron works. This is represented as being preparatory to a re-adjustment of the scale of wages, but it will most likely be found to end in a reduction, and a strike if the workmen shall not be willing to submit to it.

But should there be any question as to wages at this time when the manufacturers are about to be favored with even a higher tariff than that which was furnished by the old McKINLEY bill?

It seems, however, that the more protection that is given these industrial sharks, the lower they screw down the pay of their working people. Wages never sustained such severe cuts, nor were there ever so many strikes as occurred under the McKINLEY tariff. Some of them almost assumed the character of civil war, as was the case at Homestead.

The country can prepare to see a repetition of this greed under the new tariff that is being prepared for the benefit of the trusts, the millionaire manufacturers and combined monopolies. The workmen won't be in it.

From all quarters are heard reports of the reduction of wages. Mill owners, who rallied their workmen last year for McKINLEY, upon the assurance that their prosperity would be secured by his election, are now coolly cutting their wages. They don't blush to do it in the face of the fact that there isn't one of them that has not been favored with an increase of duty on his line of manufacture.

It would seem that so far as the working people are concerned, the kind of prosperity which McKINLEY was the advance agent is less pay for their labor.

The Conflict in Mark Hanna's State.

Ohio is, politically, the most corrupt State in the Union. We do not except Pennsylvania, which, although extremely low in political morality, owes its demoralization largely to the influence of a few bosses, while in Ohio the depravity of the party is indicated as much by the sentiments of its rank and file as by the purposes of its leaders. Ohio Republicanism is as rotten at the bottom as it is at the top.

In no other State could there be seen such a sight as was presented in the Ohio Republican convention last week, before which MARK HANNA appeared and set it howling by the mere shake of his money bags. The rule of a leader who had no other qualification than his money was accepted with boisterous enthusiasm. With ready acquiescence the convention acknowledged plutocracy's supremacy by its obedience to the will of a plutocrat who can put millions into political campaigns. Even the preacher who opened the convention with prayer, gave the Lord some points on the beauty of a protective system that increases the profits of the class which HANNA represents. His petition that the Almighty should bless the policy that is plundering the people and increasing the wealth of the millionaires excited the howling approval of the delegates. Such a demonstration could be made only by a party that has sunk to the low moral plane to which Ohio Republicanism has descended.

There surely must be enough public conscience and political morality surviving in that State to check such demoralization, and overthrow a party which thus shamelessly proclaims its alliance with the monopolies that are plundering the people, and acknowledges its subservience to the plutocracy that is absorbing the country's wealth.

The predominance of that party in the State of Ohio will be challenged at the polls by the combination of those political elements which under the leadership of WILLIAM J. BRYAN made a heroic stand last year against the party of trusts and bank-syndicates that won its victory through the assistance of MARK HANNA's corruption fund and the deceptive promise of better times.

The Democratic party in Ohio will go in this year's contest on the same platform of principles upon which it made its fight last year. Its ranks will be increased by thousands to whom promised prosperity has failed to come, and who will be convinced by the continued business depression that no relief can be expected until the money of the constitution shall be restored.

Philadelphia's Indignation.

They seem to be greatly disgruntled down in the Quaker City. The course of legislation at Harrisburg has taken a direction that is exasperating to a majority of Philadelphians. And the most aggravating part of it is that Philadelphia Representatives are responsible for it.

The facts of the case are about as follows: The gang of machine politicians who compose the new combine want to manipulate the official appointments in the city government, so that they may secure the spoils of office for themselves. The BULLITT bill, which is the basis of Philadelphia's municipal system, gives the appointing power to the mayor, who needs no more than a third of members of select council to confirm his selections, and in some grades of appointments even this is not required. This makes the mayor practically master of the situation.

The combine ringsters who want a better show in the deal, and in fact would like to have all the trump cards, got up the BECKER bill which won't allow the mayor to make an appointment of any kind without the approval of three-fifths of select council. This would make the combine practically masters of the situation, as it rules the councils.

The BECKER bill excited great opposition from the city, as its effect would be to serve the interest of a corrupt gang of political ringsters, but it had strong backing in the Philadelphia delegation. It could not be passed, however, without the assistance of country Members.

The chance for a dieker appeared in the MERRICK bill, which makes a change in the distribution of the state school appropriation. The basis upon which it provides for the distribution gives the country districts a larger share than heretofore at the expense of the cities, the loss to Philadelphia being about \$180,000.

Here was presented the opportunity of the Philadelphia "roosters" who wanted to pass the BECKER bill. An arrangement was made with country Representatives that if they would vote for that bill, Philadelphia support would be given the MERRICK school appropriation bill by which the city is cut short some \$180,000 in the distribution of the school fund. The thing was done and both bills were passed.

Is it any wonder that the Philadelphia papers are howling at the traitors who have thus doubly betrayed their constitu-

ents? The country Members are entitled to credit for looking after the interest of those whom they represented, but what is to be thought of the scallwags from the city who, in order to pass a bill for the benefit of a gang of corrupt local politicians who want to control the city offices, were willing to sacrifice the interest of the Philadelphia schools.

The average of the Pennsylvania Legislators is very low, but those sixteen Philadelphia renegades are far below the average.

"SHIPS THAT PASS IN THE NIGHT."

As destinies seem to have been arranged; Many a friend has become estranged, And the course of many a life been changed By "ships that pass in the night."

As softly as darkness follows the day, We can hear the swish of the paddle-wheel, On the breasts of the waves, that follow the spray, From "ships that pass in the night."

As the years go by, again and again, We misjudge the deeds of our fellowmen, Who've received some message beyond our ken, By "ships that pass in the night."

Even as ships that pass by day; They bear some part of our lives away Sometimes the bonds that would bind us for aye, These "ships that pass in the night."

These ships that sometimes seem so real, We can hear the swish of the paddle-wheel, As into our lives come woe or weal, On "ships that pass in the night."

And now, as it was in the days of yore, Many a heart-ache is borne to life's shore, Heart-aches that linger for evermore, By "ships that pass in the night."

Even as the past, the future will be And still will the billows of life's great sea Bear on their bosoms, so wild and free, "Ships that pass in the night."

He Has Done Nothing of the Sort, Nor Is Free Silver a Dead Issue.

From the Philadelphia Times.

Horace Boies, ex-Governor of Iowa and ex-presidential candidate, is one of the few free coinage advocates who know when they are whipped. He has notified the country in general and the Democratic party in particular, that the free coinage of silver at the ratio of 16 to 1 is a dead issue and advises a modification of the Democratic position on the currency question.

The only persons who can revive free coinage and give its advocates a chance to win in the future are President McKinley and the Republican party leaders. If they advise Congress to place the currency of the country on a sound basis and Congress follows their advice free coinage is doubtless as dead as Julius Cesar. If they do nothing but wait for an international bimetallic agreement, which will never be agreed upon, the prediction of ex-Governor Boies may turn out to be false prophecy. Under normal and ordinary conditions, however, Boies is right and his advice to the Democratic party sound. The free coinage battle was fought and lost last fall, and unless Republican folly revives this issue it cannot be revived at all.

Those Rascals at Harrisburg.

From the Pittsburg Post.

Stealing at Harrisburg seems to have reached its climax in the padding of the pay roll of the House and Senate. Mr. Coray, of Luzerne, charges the pay roll of the House has been enlarged to the extent of \$35,000 without warrant of law, and that of the Senate by \$15,000. The grabs included in the general appropriation bill, and after the exposure the House voted the bill all right, rejecting a motion to eliminate the grabs. It appears, according to statements made by Mr. Coray, after investigation, that senator Quay has a way of sending down men from Washington, Pennsylvania, whom he cannot induce President McKinley to "take care of," to be provided with places at the expense of the State and the only way to do it was to add them to the House or Senate employes. "The pay roll of the House," said Mr. Coray, "has been padded by adding to it political bummers from all parts of the State." No attempt was made to prune the rolls, but the Quayites and the combiners united in putting the jobs through. The vote stood 109 for the grabs and 66 against. There is a remote possibility that in this way a combine of the combiners was arranged that even reached so far as to effect the Pittsburg reform bills.

The Economy of Poor Farms.

From the Williamsport Sun.

The county of Clearfield saved \$29,000 in the cost of maintaining her poor last year, through the almshouse plan, in comparison with the old system of farming out the paupers to individuals. A large farm was purchased, a commodious building constructed, and the poor have a home and such comforts they never enjoyed before. In a few years the almshouse will be self-supporting and the poor of the county as well as the taxpayers will have reason to thank the county commissioners for having decided to adopt the plan. What is true of Clearfield county is also true of other counties of the State in which the almshouse system has been conducted honestly and successfully, and the same satisfactory results would undoubtedly follow the adoption of the scheme for Lycoming county.

Unanswerable Arguments.

From the Doylestown Democrat.

The West Chester Village Record says: "The Republicans in the Senate are so anxious for the prompt passage of the tariff bill that they are omitting all discussion, and even allowing attacks of the Democrats upon the bill and upon party records to pass unanswered, in order to make as brief a session of the bill." This is a plausible excuse. It would not do for Republican papers to give the real reason and say that the arguments of the Democrats are unanswerable.

Spawls from the Keystone.

The Woodward colliery, at Kingston, started yesterday.

Michael Michler was fatally squeezed by a car at Reading.

For burglary at Harrisburg, Henry Fessel was arrested at Lebanon.

It will require 22 miles of wires to reconstruct Reading's police telegraph system.

Too many cigarettes killed Walter House, aged 22 years, at Landisburg, Perry county.

After 76 fruitless ballots the Belle-Vernon school board adjourned without electing a principal.

At Norristown there was a rush recently among allists to take out naturalization papers.

Reading's school board has not yet decided the principalship of its girls' high school.

Washington county's Republican committee re-elected Alexander M. Templeton chairman.

James Clark told Reading policemen he had been held up and robbed of \$20 and a gold watch.

Blair county's Democratic primaries will be held August 12th, and the county convention August 14.

Four breech-loading mortars were shipped to Sandy Hook by the Bethlehem iron company.

Mrs. A. M. Diehl became dizzy and fell off a tandem at Stroudsburg, sustaining severe injuries.

The extraction of a tooth gave Lillie M. Terman, of Harrisburg, lockjaw, and she died in great agony.

Isaac Hipple had his hand caught in an ice cream freezer at Columbia, and will die from lockjaw.

Charged with deserting a wife and five children at Easton, Theodore Snyder was arrested at Reading.

The state league of Republican clubs will hold their convention at Williamsport on September 8th.

Agel Jacob Koons was trampled by a frightened horse at Columbia, and sustained probably fatal injuries.

St. Joseph's Catholic church at Renovo was dedicated Sunday in the presence of an immense throng.

In a wreck on the Reading road at Blandon, brakeman Henry Spouhneimer, of South Allentown, lost his life.

Striking ironworkers at Hollidaysburg decided to resume work on the basis of \$2.75 per ton for puddling.

John Burd, arrested for assaulting a 6 year child at Sandy Hollow, narrowly escaped lynching at Brownsville.

William Wilson, aged 16 years, was captured after a chase at Altoona, charged with stealing a horse and buggy.

John Colerio, employed in the Luke Fidler mines, near Shamokin, had an arm almost blown off by an explosion.

Over 300 children were confirmed Sunday at St. Gabriel's church, Hazleton, the largest number in three years.

No news has yet been received by relatives of the whereabouts of Reading's missing minister, Rev. H. B. Strodach.

Convicted of the murder of a fellow-countryman, Fausto de Paola was sentenced to 14 years' imprisonment at Easton.

Rev. D. A. Medlar, of Allentown, preached the baccalaureate sermon at Albright College Institute, Myerstown, Sunday.

Edward Welsh was found unconscious near Beaver Falls with a wound in the side of his head. It is thought he tried suicide.

Antonio Lowrey died at Pittsburg from the effects of wounds received in a stabbing affray. His assailant has not been captured.

The annual bible conference of the Young Men's Christian Associations of Pennsylvania will be held at Bloomsburg, July 13th.

Children of George Swenley, of Iron Ridge, York county, have been lost in the Pigeon Hills. They had not been found up to Sunday.

Judge Brubaker scored Lancaster city officials for favoring the Pennsylvania railroad company in the matter of cheap water rates.

Thomas J. Strausser, a Reading husband, has been missing since Wednesday, having told his wife that day he was going to attend court.

Walter Woodward, a carpenter, fell off the roof of a barn near Medina. He broke his leg in two places and badly fractured his thigh.

A Reading alderman stood at his bedroom window and saw a thief rob J. Peter Koch's hardware store. He was too late giving an alarm.

Luzerne borough recently dispensed with night policemen. As a result burglars broke into the Burgess' barber shop and stole many razors.

The degree of doctor of philosophy has been conferred on Milton F. Schack, a Lebanon man, by the Strassburg University, Germany.

Rev. Henry B. Strodach, about whom relatives in Reading were worried, has sent word that he is safe and sound with friends and will return.

With stolen goods in their possession John Miller and Joseph Yeshar are in jail in Lancaster, charged with robbing Lancaster county residents.

York county tobacco raisers have considerably increased their acreage this year, due to good prices for Pennsylvania broad leaf last winter.

To answer the charge of changing the signals of the Union traction company, near Reading, 12-year-old Leroy Hilbertson is under heavy bail for a hearing.

At Kipple, Blair county, the coroner went to the house of Mrs. J. C. Harvey to notify her of her husband's death on the rail. He was met at the door by the supposed dead man.

There is much dissatisfaction among the Schuylkill miners because the collieries at Shamokin and Brookside colliery work from two to three days per week more than in the Schuylkill region.