

—Only two more weeks until the election. What are you doing to stir up yourself and your neighbor?

—The sharper who is making a specialty of "working" undertakers is playing what might be called a stiff game.

—Hoy and WETZEL will expect you to help them along on election day. You nominated them, now elect.

—The hunting season having fairly opened all kinds of game have been bagged. The biggest liar and the man who didn't know it was loaded have not been heard from yet.

—Had the Cuban Junta been able to have drafted all the hunters who were on Nittany, Muncy and Tussey mountains, last Friday, the Spanish would stand no more show in Cuba than a spirit without wings in hades.

—The manhood of every reputable citizen of Pennsylvania demands that he be at the polls bright and early on the 2nd of November to work long and hard for the overthrow of the rotten government that is disgracing the State.

—Mrs. LANGTRY's act of sending her divorced, demented, deceased husband a bouquet was probably a spontaneous outburst of generosity begotten by an effervescence of good feeling over winning a quarter of a million on her racers.

—RITTER and BROWN are making a good impression wherever they appear. Both men have the cause of honest government behind them and in that enlist the interest, at once, of every citizen who feels the shame of the present administration of state affairs.

—English papers are beginning to squirm because American steel has not been content with beating their product out of neutral markets but is now actually audacious enough to plow right into England. The Pall Mall Gazette states that it is the cheapness of the American product and the inability of English makers to manufacture at such low figures that is doing it and that England will probably never regain the trade. There was a day when American manufacturers had to be protected against the pauper labor industrial outputs of England, but now that they have been pampered and enriched to enormous extent it will become the duty of the English manufacturers to cry for a protection against the Winchester-cooled labor of American mills.

—GEORGE M. PULLMAN, the palace car magnate, is dead. He has left an estate valued at twenty-five million dollars to his four children, a model town in Illinois and a motus operandi for a whole army of colored high-women who operate in the cars he devised for the public's comfort.

—The Detroit Tribune thinks that the Ohio Democrats are not making enough noise to keep the Republicans awake out there. Never fear, MARK HANNA and his cohorts will waken up on the morning of the third, all right enough, but with their coppers all hot and no prospects of MARK's having a further chance to cool his off with senatorial "tea."

—The election on Tuesday, November 2nd, may seem unimportant to you yet it involves issues that are really nearer and dearer to every citizen than the question of tariffs, moneys or civil service. At this election there will be an opportunity for every one to strike a blow at the fearful debauchery that has characterized our own state government within the past few years. It is a stretch in the nostrils of the whole nation and that it should emanate from the Keystone state makes it all the more unbearable.

—Republican chairman GRAY, being so very certain that Centre is a Republican county, we call on the voters of every precinct to get to work as they have never done before to show him how groundless his claims are. Of course if you remain inert and neglectful of your duty on election day the county will be Republican and his claim will be verified, but if every Democrat gets his shoulder to the wheel we will give them an old time beating. Everything conspires to that end. Help yourselves, Democrats, when everything else is helping you.

—The death of CHARLES ANDERSON DANA removes from the field of journalism the brightest star of the century. Unique in every field he occupied, daring in every cause he espoused and preserving his remarkable individuality to the last, he has "gone away," leaving behind him a memory that time will hardly efface. Aside from an originality that at times bordered on the grotesque and an acridity that proclaimed him a literary dyspeptic he was one of the most learned men of the age. His life was a constant search after learning, his death occurred in its fullest fruition.

—Ex-secretary of agriculture J. STERLING MORTON has just swung over to the Hon. WM. I. SWOOPES way of thinking and is advising young country men to stay on the farm. He says "that we are soon to have an outflow from the great cities to the western country. The condition of the farmers has improved steadily, until to-day it is far better than that of the masses in the cities." While the Hon. WILLIAM didn't say exactly this, because conditions were not the same when he took to reflecting at his own mistake, he has priority of claim to the discovery that boys oughtn't to leave the farms.

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More Damaging Figures.

One of the most flagrant features of the mal-administration that prevails in Republican state government displays itself in the increase of expense imposed upon the tax-payers by the increase of official salaries and the cost of the new offices created in the different departments. We have, in recent issues of the WATCHMAN, given authentic figures showing the general increase of state expenses under Republican rule, and from the same source we will give the figures showing the extravagant increase of salaries in each department.

In the department of the secretary of the Commonwealth the salary expense per year in PATTISON's last term was \$65,800; in the HASTINGS term, \$74,800, a difference of \$9,000, part of which is explained by the Democratic secretary being able to perform his service without a type-writer, while the Republican incumbent made places for two party workers by employing a \$2,800 type-writer and an \$1,800 night watchman.

The salary expenses in the auditor general's office were increased from \$66,800, in 1893, to \$91,300, in 1897. There was no increase of service performed but the rise in salary expense was entirely due to the Republican Legislature being disposed to be liberal with the "boys" who had been given soft snaps in the different departments.

This "liberality" was more fully displayed in the internal affairs department, where the salary expense increased from \$79,000 to \$110,809. In the bank commissioner's department it ran up from \$26,600 to \$124,000. Public instruction made a jump from \$28,400 to \$37,400. In the adjutant general's office the advance was from \$37,600 to \$42,600. The state library increased its expense from \$33,900 to \$42,500, while the salaries connected with the grounds and buildings leaped, under DELANEY, from \$43,600 to \$64,400. The state reporters didn't report any more in 1897, under HASTINGS, than they did in 1893, under PATTISON, but they got \$4,000 more for it. In the factory inspection \$54,800 paid the salaries in PATTISON's last year, while \$80,000 was required, in 1896, under HASTINGS. The expenses connected with Philadelphia harbor, paid by the State, increased from \$83,900, in 1893, to \$102,200, last year.

All along the line of salary expense it is seen that there has been an extravagant increase, and what makes this the more censurable is the fact that increased expense was piled on the tax-payers at a time when prostrated business and hard times made them less able to bear an increase of the public burden.

We have given a detailed statement of the form in which Republican profligacy has manifested itself in the state government. Those who have read the details of these abuses will have to judge for themselves whether their duty calls upon them to assist in putting out of power the machine politicians, who are responsible for this corruption and misuse, or whether they shall be allowed to continue their disgraceful and ruinous state government.

Doubtful Republican Chances in Ohio.

The election in Ohio is not attracting the attention that might have been expected of a contest in which MARK HANNA is exerting his pernicious energy and expending the liberal remnant of last year's boodle fund. The Ohio boss is doing all that can be done with money and gall, but his campaign lags and does not present the flamboyant appearance of a torch light procession marching to victory.

There are several hitches in his program which even money cannot overcome. A revolt has broken out among the colored Republicans on account of their not receiving "recognition" from the white bosses, and so extensive is the defection of this important contingent that an entire state ticket consisting of colored candidates has been put into the field. As the colored vote in Ohio is about 30,000, this defection threatens to more than wipe-out the normal Republican plurality of about \$20,000.

Besides this, HANNA has other troubles which boodle is unable to allay. There is a strong independent Republican movement in Hamilton county, which includes Cincinnati, and the labor vote, which last year prevented MCKINLEY from getting as large a majority in Ohio as he got in other western States, is more bitter in its opposition to the Republican party than it was a year ago.

These conditions would convince the leaders that their chance of success in Ohio is very slim if they did not encourage themselves with the belief that the prosperity of the farmers will carry them through. But as there are but few farmers who are fools enough to credit dollar wheat to the Republican administration, it is but a poor reliance for HANNA to depend upon that influence for a Republican majority and his return to the United States Senate.

—Subscribe for the WATCHMAN.

Elkin's Assurance.

There is something really astonishing in the view which Republican chairman ELKIN takes of the state campaign. In the face of the self-evident fact that the Republican administration of the state government has been characterized by every form of mal-administration, and that the record made by the machine politicians who govern the State has been one of unparalleled corruption, the party chairman deliberately claims that this shameful misuse and blistering disgrace will receive a popular endorsement to the extent of 180,000 plurality.

That anyone should believe that the public demoralization implied in ELKIN's assumption is possible is hardly within the limit of rational conception. It requires but a glance at the situation to see the shamefulness of his claim. The people of the State are fully conscious of the delinquencies of Republican administration. It has been made evident to them that under the rule of a gang of rapacious ringsters the public interests have been sacrificed and the government of the State has been perverted to the political advantage and personal gain of the corrupt bosses who manage the controlling machine. There is no longer a doubt in the minds of the people that the revenues of the State have been pillaged; that the law-making power has been abused for the purpose of private plunder; that the executive functions have been prostituted to services inimical to public interests; that the management of the treasury has been of a character that requires concealment by those who have misused the funds, and that corrupt practices and reckless misuse prevail in every department of the state government. These are facts of which the public mind has become thoroughly convinced, and yet the Republican chairman assumes to confidently declare that such a shameful state of affairs will receive the endorsement of a plurality of the popular vote amounting to hundreds of thousands.

Such an assumption not only shows how recklessly confident the gang of machine plunderers have been made by the long continued encouragement of large majorities, but it also displays an assurance of the people's indifference to bad government that is an insult to public intelligence as well as a challenge to public virtue.

Bunko Politics in New York.

There is one thing which makes the election of HENRY GEORGE, as mayor of New York, particularly desirable to American freemen and of great importance to popular government. It is the effect which it would have in disproving false representations which are employed in maintaining the power of a corrupt and predatory party.

The political agents of the trusts, the bank syndicates, and other interests that are enriched by plundering the people, are directing against the candidacy of HENRY GEORGE the same system of bunko politics that was attended with such shameful success against WM. J. BRYAN last year. They are alarming the timid voters by representing that his election would subject the city to the rule of anarchists and disturbers of social order. The corrupt PLATT machine that has no other stake in the election than the spoils with the control of the city government furnishes the party workers, and the rapacious Wall street operators whose only interest in public affairs is excited by their desire to enlarge their wealth through the enforcement of favoring policies, and who, at this moment, are engaged in a scheme to rob the government out of its Pacific railroad property, have their organs and spellbinders at work in the New York canvass, alarming the voters with frightful pictures of the ruin and disorder that would follow the election of one of the most intelligent, benevolent and patriotic of American citizens as mayor of New York by a constituency upon whose industry and good character as working people the well being of the city largely depends.

This bunko game, that was played on a national scale last year, resulting in the defeat of WILLIAM J. BRYAN, is being attempted against HENRY GEORGE in the New York city election. As it will be disastrous to popular government and interests it is the rapacious rascals shall continue to be successful in effecting their predatory purpose by frightening the American people, it is of great importance to the cause of good government and honest public practices that their scare campaign in New York should fail, and the election of HENRY GEORGE should prove how false were their representations intended to create alarm for the good order and safety of society.

—The daily edition of the Phillipsburg Bituminous Record expired with its ninth number. Editor KINSLOE, in his valedictory, says:

"If so soon it was to be done for, We wonder what it was begun for."

And he doesn't have a corner on the wonderment either.

The Only Certain Relief.

That the public conscience is being aroused against the vicious political conditions existing in this State was nowhere more strikingly shown than at the public meeting that packed the academy of music in Philadelphia last week to protest against the city gas works being stolen by a combine of speculators under the cover of a lease. The speakers on the occasion were principally Republicans of such eminence as ex-mayor STUART, WM. PORTER, WAYNE MACVEAGH, FREDERICK FRALEY, HENRY C. LEA, and others of the same political persuasion, who, in their denunciation of the proposed theft of the gas works, classed that scheme with the other sacrifices of public interests that are being made in every department of the public service for the benefit of political ringsters and the promotion of private gain. The same purpose of plunder that inspires the project of cheating the people of Philadelphia out of their property in the gas works, for the enrichment of a combine of capitalists and politicians, has inspired and directed the policy of the machine managers who have converted the government of Pennsylvania into a source of private spoils. That this fact was recognized by the Republican speakers at the Philadelphia meeting was manifested in their denunciations of the corruptions that prevail in both city and state government.

That large Philadelphia meeting, composed chiefly of Republicans, recognized the fact that the vices prevailing in city and state administration are of a similar character, and it was in response to that conviction that it gave a hearty assent to Mr. MACVEAGH's expression when he said:

"Two reputable and responsible gentlemen, actuated by the highest motives, are now asking our suffrages, not with the slightest hope of securing them, but simply to try to clear the murky air of Pennsylvania politics, simply as a protest against the loathsome and ghastly degradation into which we have fallen. Do you suppose Mr. THOMPSON would be traveling through Pennsylvania begging votes but that he feels called of God to show there is one honest politician left? Do you suppose Dr. SWALLOW would pursue a hopeless contest but that he feels he cannot breathe in the murky atmosphere in which we live? Each of them distinctly charges that the political corruption in which we now live is intolerable."

The Chainless Bicycle.

The unprecedented cut in the price of bicycles last season foretold some revolution in the construction of the machines and that manufacturers were anxious to clear their floors of old models in order to be ready for the competition that would arise from the introduction of new ones. It was hinted that a chainless wheel was to be the new thing, but public experiments with such mechanism as was necessary to displace the chain as a transmitter of force had been reported failures and all sorts of speculations were made.

It is a chainless wheel, however, that brought about the great drop in prices last season. Manufacturers are putting out their catalogues for 1898 and the chief feature is a wheel from which, the greasy, rattling, dusty chain has disappeared and in its stead there is a slender shaft with bevel gearing at each end. The shaft is geared to a bevel gear wheel at the crank, that corresponds with the front sprocket, and runs back through the lower fork of the frame to a bevel gearing on the axle of the rear wheel.

In doing away with the chain it is claimed that more efficiency has been procured in the mechanism and there is a truer transmission of the energy of the rider into motive power. The chainless wheel is certainly neater in appearance than the machine it will try to displace and has undeniable advantages over it, but it will hardly become popular until its price gets within the popular reach. All the large manufacturing will have chainless wheels on the market this season. It remains to be seen whether they will prove a success.

The Cause of the Gold Imports.

Gold is pouring into the country, and it is expected that the gold balance may reach \$20,000,000 before the end of the year. There is neither mystery nor politics about the movement. Instead of sending back bonds, or releasing American investments of other kinds, Europe finds it more to its profit to send gold. With an American balance of trade running up to \$300,000,000, as expected, for the calendar year, the \$20,000,000 of gold does not seem a very extraordinary movement. The gold imports began with the returns from our wheat harvest, and will be strengthened when cotton comes to be heard from. The cotton crop of this year is just commencing to move. So far as the gold imports are a sign of returning prosperity, and they are to a certain extent, they have their origin in the wheat and cotton fields, and McKinley has about as much to do with them as with the Klondyke gold fields.

Weyler's Success in Cuba.

It was Gen. Pando, the Spanish military critic appointed to serve on the staff of the new Captain-General of Cuba, who recently made the vehement attack upon Weyler which was published at Madrid in the army organ, *El Ejército Español*. Gen. Pando affirmed that Weyler had undermined the Spanish cause in Cuba, had brought demoralization upon Spain's army there, had been the cause of the loss of many thousands of Spanish soldiers, and had made it manifest that he was incompetent to deal with the rebellion. Gen. Pando argued that the government should send no more troops to Havana while Weyler held command there. "The sending of further reinforcements to Cuba would be a crime," he alleged that he had given this information to the Queen Regent.

It will not be a comfort for Weyler, at the time of his fall from power, to know that the severest of his military critics is to serve upon the staff of his successor at Havana.

Why Fred You Make Us Blush.

Aaron Thomas has a rat trap that, while effective in results, is not likely to prove popular among the gentler sex in its mode of operation. A short time ago he was putting up a stable and disturbed a nest of the rodents. There was a scampering for other holes, and one of the largest made a dive for Aaron's feet and up the pants' leg it went. Aaron did not let out a shriek and faint dead away, as would have happened had this little incident happened to a woman. He calmly waited until the rat reached that part of his anatomy that supports him when sitting on a chair, when he grasped it and squeezed the life out of it before it could crawl any higher. Then he gave himself a shake and out rolled the dead rat.

What Might Have Prevented the Lattimer Shooting.

The impression prevails now in Hazleton that the unfortunate strikers had carried banners emblazoned "Honest Money." "Vote for the Advance Agent of Prosperity." "Three Dollars a Day and Roast Beef," as they did last fall, instead of their green branches, they would not have been fired upon by the Republican understrappers who last year led them in parade, hustled them to the polls and marked their tickets for them in the booth.

Yes, We'll All Help to Grease the Slide.

Wm. I. Thompson, the independent Republican candidate for state treasurer says he has no hesitancy in stating that Republicanism in Pennsylvania and New York is going to destruction and that the "Independents," alone, can save it from perdition. We say, let her go. What the commonwealth of Pennsylvania wants is M. E. Brown for state treasurer.

In the Field Early.

W. H. Walker, son of ex-county auditor Samuel Walker, of Lamar township, now located at Bellefonte, was in the city to-day. The young attorney will be a Democratic candidate for district attorney in Centre county when the term of the present incumbent expires.

Kittanning Er' hustastic.

KITTANNING, Pa., Oct. 18.—Five thousand voters attended the Democratic rally held here to-night. The meeting was presided over by R. A. McCollough in the absence of Chairman J. W. King. Walter E. Ritter, nominee for auditor general, and State Chairman John M. Garman delivered vigorous addresses on the issues of the State campaign, and were loudly applauded by their enthusiastic hearers.

The coming of the distinguished personages was not generally known until noon, but the news spread rapidly and on their arrival a crowd of 3,000 people awaited them at the station. The Hotel Alexander, from which the speeches were delivered, was elegantly decorated with flags. The party left for Franklin on the midnight train.

G. A. R. Officers Named.

HARRISBURG, Oct. 21.—General J. P. S. Gobin, commander-in-chief of the G. A. R., announces the appointment of Alonza Williams, of Providence, R. I., as inspector general; Eli Torrence, of Minneapolis, as judge advocate general, and Milton Gherst, of Lebanon, as senior aide de camp. The following executive committee of the national council of administration is also announced: E. R. Monfort, Ohio; F. M. Stettin, Missouri; Wm. H. Armstrong, Indiana; Robert Whill, New York; Thomas W. Scott, Illinois; Luman L. Caldwell, Iowa; Ellwood Craig, Delaware.

Spawls from the Keystone.

—Two coal trains collided and caused a destructive wreck near Glenburn, Lackawanna county.

—John Reese, a miner employed at Silver Brook, near Hazleton, was instantly killed by a fall of coal.

—An otherwise inexplicable rumbling at Reading late Sunday night was attributed by many to an earthquake.

—The Pennsylvania steel works, near Harrisburg, have nearly 1000 more men at work than they had a year ago.

—Thieves broke into and ransacked the home of Thomas Webb, at Bloomsburg, three times in three consecutive days.

—All of Northampton county's public schools are closed this week to enable the teachers to attend the institute at Easton.

—Peter Subreski unwittingly walked into a dynamite blast in a quarry near Clearfield, and his body was blown to fragments.

—John Pitrosh is in the Schuylkill county prison awaiting the result of injuries sustained by Albert Krasulock in a brawl at Pottsville.

—Horses owned by Dr. George Gleim, of Cornwall; Irwin Horst, of Schaeferstown, and Israel Bowman, of South Lebanon, were stolen Sunday night.

—The corner stone of the new Masonic temple at Williamsport was laid with regulation ceremonies yesterday. The officers of the grand lodge were present.

—Dr. F. L. Sallade, of Womelsdorf, has leased large tracts of land on South mountain, which he still believes contain gold bearing quartz that will pay.

—Attacked by a mob that resisted the arrest of John Basska at Springfield, near Shamokin, constable Michael O'Leary shot Anthony Basley in the hip.

—Poulterer & Co., of Philadelphia, who have bought the Bethlehem iron company's old and idle Bingen furnace are dismantling it and selling the old iron as junk.

—Judge Stewart, of Franklin county, refused to remove the school directors of Lehman's school district, Peters township, for lack of the best school accommodations.

—John Farrell and John Maughan, of New Castle township, Schuylkill county, both died from the injuries received at the railroad crossing in St. Clair, where a train hit them.

—Owing to a boy's disturbance during services in a synagogue, at Reading, and his father's vigorous defense of the lad, Wolf Paer, the parent, was arrested and held under \$500 bail.

—So many incendiary fires have destroyed or damaged buildings on the farm of John K. Light, in Swatara, Lebanon county, that he sold the place for \$3000, though it had cost him \$10,000.

—General W. E. Doster, of Bethlehem, was Monday substituted for district attorney Fox, to try the conspiracy cases against Reeder and others before the Northampton court, in November.

—Franklin county court has decided that the poor directors must pay constable John Myers 15 cents a mile for taking a woman to the almshouse, instead of half this rate, which they allowed.

—While going to church at Williamsport Sunday, Mrs. Joseph Gann was thrown, to the street by a careless wheelman who ran against the lady. Her face and mouth were badly contused. Her daughter was also knocked down, but she escaped injury, although her dress was torn.

—At Williamsport Monday evening Miss Carrie Hoffman, 645 Maple street, while riding a bicycle in company with a young gentleman, was thrown to the ground by her front wheel twisting around. Both bones in her left leg below the knee were broken. She was taken to her home, where the necessary surgical service was rendered.

—Simon B. Brown instituted proceedings in the Leebing county court some time ago and was given a verdict for \$5,000 for damages to his land, which damage was caused by alleged improper constructions of the Fall Brook railway. The case was appealed to the supreme court, and that body affirmed the judgment of the lower court.

H. Loeb, of DuBois, received a telephone message from Caledonia Sunday evening advising him that fire had destroyed 300,000 feet of his logs in the woods on Cherry Run. Some bee hunter found a bee tree and attempting to smoke the bees out set the woods on fire and that burned the logs. The woods are so dry that the fire is liable to cause much destruction unless it should rain soon.

—Joseph Peifer, of Jersey Shore has received a letter from his daughter Kate, who, it will be remembered, answered the advertisement of a young man seeking a wife, which appeared in a matrimonial journal. In her letter Miss Peifer told of the marriage ceremony and of her new home, which is on a farm near Syracuse, N. Y. She also expresses her love for the groom whom she met in such a singular manner, and gives her father the assurance that her future will be one of happiness.

—A man giving his name as Daniel Ritter, entered undertaker Calvert's establishment at Jersey Shore Saturday night and ordered a casket costing thirty-five dollars for a woman, whom he stated was the wife of his brother, and who resided at Larry's Creek. He tendered a check for thirty-eight dollars, which check was signed by W. D. Brown, Williamsport, Mr. Calvert gave the man three dollars in change. The next day Mr. Calvert started with the casket for Larry's Creek, but could not locate the corpse. He presented the check to a Williamsport bank and learned that it was worthless. The undertaker of course is minus the three dollars he gave the scamp.

—In its account of the disastrous fire at Austin last week, the *Autograph* says 89 families were rendered homeless in four hours. The loss will amount to fully \$900,000. Of this sum \$50,000 will probably be a total loss as the property destroyed was insured for less than \$150,000. The *Autograph* adds that offers of assistance was received from many sources. A Chicago type foundry thinking the *Autograph* had been burned out, offered the paper a new outfit through its Pittsburg agency. Cross Fork offered to send a car load of groceries. In concluding its report of the fire the *Autograph* says the town must provide itself with adequate protection against fire, or go with out insurance in the future.