

Ink Slings.

—See to it that the full party vote is polled next Tuesday.

—Vote for WETZEL, work for WETZEL, roll up a big majority for WETZEL. Do the same for HOY.

—The outlook in New York is for the election of Judge VAN WYCKE for mayor, with GEORGE, LOW and TRACY following in the order named.

—BRYAN has taken a hand in the Ohio campaign and MARK HANNA has begun to abuse everything and every person in sight. "A dying mule kicks in all directions."

—With a new supply of whiskey, a shotgun and three revolvers TOM COOPER has been located flying for his farm in West Virginia. This is not the "hopeful" scion of Delaware county, but the terror of southwestern Pennsylvania.

—These chainless bicycles are not such a new wrinkle after all. DARWIN has had a chainless theory of evolution for many years and is likely to retain the patent, without infringement, for some time to come unless he discovers the missing link.

—The Pawnee Indian squaw, ANNIE WHITEWING, is suing for a divorce, the cause not published. In thinking the matter over it is quite probable that the constant squalling of WHITEWINGS about the tepee was too much of a chestnut even for the poor Indian woman.

—Hon. M. E. BROWN, Democratic aspirant for state treasurer, has just written to Rev. Dr. SWALLOW assuring him that in the event of his election Dr. SWALLOW, as well as every other honest and reputable citizen of the State, will have access to every book and paper in his department at all times.

—In view of the fact that it will ultimately cost as much as either one of them why should Pennsylvania not adopt plans for state buildings that would compare with those at Albany and Denver. This unfinished dome and opportunities for "extension" are to be the bung leaks while a show of saving is being made at the spigot.

—Under the plan by which Spain hopes to hold Cuba as a colony she now offers the island a Legislature of her own and a viceroy as Governor. This is the form of autonomy that minister WOODFORD has cabled to the United States government that Spain is ready to grant if it will bring about the cessation of hostility on the island.

—Tyronne's new fire alarm, blowing its loudest, most discordant blast, went begin to cause the consternation up there, that the faintest little pipe from GABRIEL'S trumpet would do. The brimstone sound of the latter is what would throw consternation among the fellows who will lie in bed and let the new \$125 whistle blow its brasses out before they move.

—J. HENRY WETZEL, sturdy and reliable, is the Democratic nominee for county surveyor. Don't think that because the office is a small one within your gift that it doesn't matter much who gets it. It does matter; not only to Mr. WETZEL, but to the Democratic party as well. He expects your hearty support because you nominated him. Don't disappoint yourself by not helping to give him a nice majority.

—J. J. Hoy, of Marion township, has worked hard enough for other Democrats in Centre county to inspire every one to go to work for him. He is the nominee for jury commissioner and will be elected whether a full vote is out or not. But that is not what he wants. He is a Democrat and expects to do his duty, therefore he expects every other Democrat in Centre county to do his duty and work for the polling of every vote on next Tuesday.

—The idea of terming JOHN BULL'S decision against entering a monetary conference looking to the establishment of international bimetalism, "a black-eye for silver" is an insult to American independence. Never yet has England been able to give the free-men of this country a black-eye and it only remains for the contest of 1900 to show how little she figures when our masses decide that free silver is what they want.

—Democrats have no reason to vote for DR. SWALLOW for state treasurer. He is a good and fearless man, but he is not a candidate on personal principles. He is a candidate because he wants to uproot the rottenness that is known to exist in the treasury department. That being the very pledge of the Democratic platform every Democrat should vote for Mr. BROWN. He is just as good a man as DR. SWALLOW and his election would prove far more beneficial to the cause of good government.

—There is little use of making any bones about it Bellefonte is in a bad way industrially and the sooner the bell is taken square by the horns the sooner a beginning will have been made looking to a revival of some of the more important idle manufacturing. This condition has been kept hid away, like a skeleton in a closet, until it is impossible to hide it any longer. The dry bones of inertia are rattling on all sides, tenacious hoses are being left to tumble down and all our people have been so boastful and full of vain-glory, in the past, that they have been too proud to recognize or admit this condition. It confronts us now. Is Bellefonte to dry up and be wafed away on the trade winds of other centres or are her people going to make her once more the flourishing business place she once was?

—Pennsylvania Girl, the Williamsport weekly that has had a most phenomenal career, is still pushing onward. Since 1884 the paper has grown from a very unpretentious little sheet with a nominal circulation to a sixteen page, well executed newspaper, having a circulation of 80,000. The latest improvement made by the Girl has been the installing of a new Hoe perfecting press at a cost of \$30,000. Such advances are the best evidence of the success of a journal. Great expenditures cannot be made without great incomes and great incomes are only had by newspapers that have become popular.

Democratic Watchman

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Relief Through a Democratic Source.

The independent movement in the Republican organization against boss rule and machine corruption, a movement headed by WILLIAM R. THOMPSON, as a candidate for state treasurer against the spoilsmen's nominee for that office, may be credited with sincerity of purpose, but while it shows the existence of a Republican element whose conscience and patriotism have revolted against the abuses of the party machine, it does not furnish that creditable element with the best means of overthrowing the base combination of corruptionists who rule their party and the State.

Such a movement among Republicans is based upon reasons that appeal to all conscientious and decent citizens who have a feeling for the honor as well as an interest in the welfare of the State. It would be unnatural if the Republican party of Pennsylvania did not contain its proportion of such citizens, and therefore an honesty and earnestness of purpose must be ascribed to the 3,000 members of that party in Allegheny county who signed the call upon which was based the independent candidacy of Mr. THOMPSON for state treasurer, in opposition to the nominee of the party machine.

That both this independent candidate and his supporters are moved by a deep sense of the corruption and degradation of the party management cannot be doubted. There is abundant cause for the movement, and Mr. THOMPSON expressed the feeling of every Republican whose senses are not paralyzed by party prejudice when, in his address accepting the leadership of this Republican revolt against machine misrule, he portrayed the debased character of the dominant political power in State and nation in these words, among others of equal force and truth:

"Politics, instead of being statesmanship has become a matter of traffic, of buying and selling. Does anyone doubt this? Look at your last Legislature, openly charged with being the most servile and incompetent that ever sat in our legislative halls. Does any one question the situation, when two of the most prominent officials of the State have been dismissed for signing a bond to indemnify the state treasurer against loss by reason of payments made by him, against law, to men not on the authorized pay roll? Does any one doubt that politics is a matter of dicker and sale? Through a mistaken spirit of loyalty to party, as though some mysterious virtue attached to that, men have been led to support persons and measures, absolutely unworthy of confidence or respect, yea even to withstand through this fetish of party the things which make for the best interests of the country. Men are selected for positions in State, city and Legislature by a corrupt process called an election, their expenses paid by the boss, upon the express and implied condition that they are to carry out in every particular his orders? Pray what is meant by the phrase, 'The old man has given orders?' Will any member of Legislature please explain? Will any one please enlighten us as to how it is that certain men only are allowed to be nominated and selected as Senator, Governor, and so on down the list, and that in a 'free country' and among 'free men'?"

This true picture, drawn by an indignant Republican snarling under a sense of wrong that has been done the State by the corrupt machine politicians who have usurped the control of the party, justifies the opposition of which he has been made the leader; but as to the great body of Pennsylvania citizens relief from the ruinous misrule and debasing political oppression is more directly attainable, and has a better chance to succeed, through a party which can bring nearly half a million votes against the dominant machine, and needs but the assistance of the independent vote to insure the overthrow of that corrupt power.

The Democratic party can be safely entrusted with this great service to the State. Its record shows no instance in which this Commonwealth suffered harm from Democratic administration. Neither in its executive nor legislative action can it be charged with ever having sacrificed the public weal for the benefit of private or class interests, or extended its favors to capital in preference to the rightful claims of labor. It was never guilty of abusing executive or legislative power. It can justly point to the relief it afforded the misgoverned State in giving it, on two occasions, pure, honest and efficient executive administrations when the elections of PARTISON resulted from popular uprising against machine misrule.

The independent candidacy of Mr. THOMPSON is a natural manifestation of a deep-seated discontent of Republicans with the abuses committed by their party managers, but such a movement can be of no effectual account in ridding the State of that affliction except in so far as it may assist in electing the Democratic state candidates.

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An Insult to the Veterans.

Parties connected with the Pennsylvania associations of war veterans are giving the old soldiers some very bad advice. With a political intent, which in no way comports with the public welfare, the veterans are urged to support the Republican state nominees, BEACON and McCAULEY. The reason assigned for such support is that the "best interests of our State and nation are conserved by maintaining the supremacy of the Republican party."

The falsity of this claim, particularly as regards the interests of this State, is shown by the deplorably corrupt condition to which its public affairs have been brought by the Republican machine politicians who manage its government. When it is becoming a matter of almost general conviction that machine rule in this State is thoroughly bad, designed entirely for purposes of political and personal plunder, and that public interest as well as the reputation of the State demands that it should be stopped, it is an insult both to the intelligence and their patriotism to call on the old soldiers to give their support to a gang of party spoilsmen whose control of the state government is as disgraceful as it is injurious.

What is there in the disposition and character of old soldiers that should encourage their party corruptionists to look to them for support? When the better sentiment of the Republican party is revolting against the rule of the bosses who run the party machine, and has become convinced that their control is ruinous and disgraceful to the State, what reason is there that men who have fought for their country should rally to the support of political ruffians whose corrupt management of public affairs is harmful to the whole country, as well as to the State?

The veterans endured hardships amid the scenes of warfare and risked their lives on the field of battle that the life of the nation might be saved and that the government of the people by the people should not perish from the earth. What an insult to them that they should be called upon to devote the service of their declining years to the service of a combination of dissolute politicians that has brought State and nation under the rule of party bosses and is converting the government of the people into a government of political machines.

The Taxpayers Interest in the State Capitol.

After a long and suspicious delay in getting down to business the state capitol commission has determined upon a plan of construction and authorized its architect to go ahead with the work, but in the activity it is now displaying there is an evident intention of laying out the building on lines that will be far beyond the limit of the appropriation.

The purpose seems to be to exhaust the appropriation on an incomplete building. With \$550,000, the amount allowed so far, a substructure may be built that may admit of the expenditure of millions on the superstructure. This plan can be adopted with a dependence upon the liberality of future Legislatures to furnish the money required to build a capitol that will enrich everybody connected with its construction. The fact that the commission proposes to expend the appropriation on an incomplete building would indicate a scheme of this kind.

No kind of work furnishes such a chance for plunder as the construction of public buildings. The invariable design is to prolong their construction, to enlarge upon the original plan, and to make the expense as great as possible for the advantage of those conducting the job. In this way the city hall, in Philadelphia, has been made a Klondyke from which a ring of politicians and contractors have extracted about eighteen millions of dollars and the building is not yet finished. The New York state capitol has cost over twenty millions and as it is a very profitable job nobody ever expects to see the work on it brought to completion.

While the people of Pennsylvania desire that their State should have a respectable capitol they don't want to be robbed in its construction. There is an appearance of an intention to spend too much money on it. Prudence requires that this work should not be left entirely in the hands of the ring that now has it in control. By the election of the Democratic candidates for auditor general and state treasurer they would become members of the capitol building commission, ex-officio, and the introduction of such an element into that body would be a protection to the interest of the tax-payers.

Importance of Reform This Year.

Those who believe that the public affairs of Pennsylvania need reforming make a mistake if they think that next year will be the proper time for it and that so important a matter can be put off until that time.

It is true that next year a Governor and Legislature are to be elected in place of the

present incumbents of those departments of the state service who have so unfaithfully performed their trust. There will then be a larger scope for the action of those citizens who feel it their duty to break up the wretchedly rotten ring of machine politicians who are misruling the State, but that work which is to be done next year on a larger scale will be rendered the easier by preparing the way for it by defeating the state ticket which the machine has now in the field.

One thing should be borne well in mind by the people, particularly by those, if there are any, who may believe that next year is the proper time for the reform so greatly needed in our state government, and this one thing is the fact that if a year hence both the legislative and executive power should be taken from the hands of the profligate politicians who now control them, but the state treasury and auditor general offices should continue to be in their charge, in consequence of the election of their state ticket this year, the reform that can be effected only by overhauling the accounts in the auditor general's office and uncovering the crooked business management in the treasury would remain unaccomplished. A machine auditor general and state treasurer could stand in the way of that thorough exposure of machine misrule and corruption that is necessary for the restoration of honest state government.

In fact the most important step as a preliminary measure of reform is the cleaning out of the auditor general and state treasury departments.

A Chance for Better State Government.

Evidence in every quarter of the State shows that the Republican party in Pennsylvania is divided by factional quarrels and distracted by personal feuds unprecedented in its history. Their leaders are flourishing knives which they are more disposed to use against each other than against their Democratic enemies. The bosses who were united in running the party machinery are now operating opposition machines, and the allegiance of the henchmen is divided between the conflicting bosses.

This situation is the natural result of political conditions in which obedience to the party boss was made of more account than fidelity to the people's interest, and private gain was the chief object of public service. Rival bosses were sure to set up conflicting standards, and a collision between them was as unavoidable as the falling out of thieves over their plunder.

Such a disturbance among the leaders and consequent division of the henchmen never occurred before in the Republican organization in Pennsylvania, and it should help the Democrats to carry the State election in the interest of better government. They should not be deterred from taking advantage of this opportunity by the idea that it is an off year in which the election is of but little importance, and consequently neglect to vote. An election of officers such as auditor general and state treasurer, who will assist in uncovering the crooked management of the treasury, is of very great importance. Even if the corrupt machine should be defeated next year in the election of Governor and Legislature the retention of its tools in the auditor general's and state treasurer's offices would interfere with those disclosures in the treasury accounts which are necessary for the complete correction of machine misrule in the State. Therefore no Democrat or Republican who desires better state government should neglect to vote next Tuesday.

What is "Needed."

The Republican Philadelphia Bulletin makes a damaging comparison which, coming from that source, reflects but little credit upon the Republican capitol building commission. The Bulletin says that on the 26th of last January a fire broke out at Thirteenth and Market streets, Philadelphia, and destroyed nearly a block of stores and dwelling houses. Only a week later, or on the 2nd of February, the state capitol was destroyed by fire. Commenting upon these contemporaneous occurrences, the Bulletin says: "Eight months have passed, and the burned block at Thirteenth and Market streets has been replaced with a dozen various structures. At Harrisburg not a thing has yet been done toward replacing the capitol, not even a plan has been accepted, and yet all that is needed is a \$550,000 building!"

The Bulletin may not be correct as to what is "needed" in this case. It is possible that what is needed by those who would like to make a bigger job of it is a building that would cost a good deal more than \$550,000, and it is possible that this need is what is delaying the commencement of the construction.

The people are not in favor of a capitol structure that will cost millions and furnish an opportunity for contractors and commissioners to become rich at the expense of the State. They can most effectually prevent this by placing a Democratic auditor general and state treasurer in the capitol building commission, as ex-officio members, who would curb the Republican inclination to squander the public money.

Signs of Public Wrath.

The prospect of electing the Democratic state ticket is very encouraging. Of course in a State which has habitually given such large Republican majorities there can be no certainty in anticipating the defeat of that party, but it is certain that it never before so thoroughly deserved defeat. There was never before such good reason why the Democrats should be successful.

The people have abundant cause for overthrowing a political supremacy in the State which has misused every function of government and abused every trust committed to it. In the Legislature, in the executive department and in the management of the treasury it has been faithless to the public interests. Extravagance and corruption have characterized its policy and directed its action, and where it has not plundered for the benefit of its bosses and party workers it has assisted the corporations in despoiling the people.

This has become so plainly evident to all classes of citizens that even Republicans can no longer allow party prejudice to blind them to the shameful fact. The records made by recent Legislatures of their party, and the misrule in every department in the state government, have created dissatisfaction and disgust in the ranks of the Pennsylvania Republicans to an unprecedented degree. This feeling manifests itself in the large Republican support that is being given to the independent candidacy of Mr. THOMPSON and to Dr. SWALLOW, the Prohibition candidate for state treasurer. These are indications that a large percentage of the Republican voters will not stop at half way measures in reproving their corrupt machine leaders, but will cast their ballots directly for both of the Democratic state candidates.

These are the political conditions that foreshadow Republican defeat in this State. They are plainly evident and it is entirely natural that they should exist. It would be a miracle if all this political prostitution, dissolute administration and general misrule should have gone on without exciting an outburst of public wrath.

—The Clearfield Daily Mirror has suspended publication. Editor WATTS has decided to have a live weekly rather than a half-weekly daily and has shown good sense in his determination.

Is This a Government for Monopoly Only?

The commissioners of Luzerne county, under advice of counsel, have decided not to pay the deputy sheriffs who did the recent shooting of the miners at Lattimer. Doubtless they felt that it was bad enough to have the citizens of the county thus mercilessly shot down, without being called upon to deplete the county treasury for the payment of rewards to the perpetrators of the cruel deed. But the deputies are not to go without their blood money. The coal operators have come promptly to the rescue. They have agreed that the deputies' fees shall be paid out of their own pockets.

This whole business has been, in fact, an exercise of the powers, duties and other functions of government by the people and their regularly constituted authorities, and an assumption thereof by the coal magnates. When it was deemed necessary that a force of deputies should be enlisted, these magnates furnished the men, enlist for the clerks, superintendents, power agents, etc., for the service. What was determined that they should be armed there was no wasting of time waiting on slow moving state officials. The magnates provided the Winchesters. When the deputies were arrested and held for trial on the charge of murder the magnates furnished the bail, arranging with one Philadelphia fiscal institution to go on the bonds. When the strike continued in spite of the Lattimer butcheries, they came forward with the reasons which the Governor deemed sufficient excuse for calling in to the field a whole brigade of the National Guard, at a cost of about a quarter of a million of dollars to the State (unless the coal barons should volunteer to pay this bill also) and of whose achievements at Hazelton the "poet" might have written—

And there was General Gobin,
Who had three thousand men
And marched them up the hill
And marched them down again;
And when they were up the hill they were up,
And when they were down they were down,
But when they were in the middle, they were
neither up nor down.

Government by injunction having been tolerated and even applauded, it is not surprising that government by the coal magnates should follow. Indeed there is reason for believing that these magnates regard themselves as being the government, or at least the backbone of the government, or the coterie for whose exclusive benefit the government exists. Nothing less would sufficiently account for the readiness with which they dictate its policies and moves, arrogate to themselves its functions and stand ready, as in the matter of the provision of the Winchesters and payment of the deputies, to make good its delinquencies. It is a singular situation that is thus presented, but one that grows naturally out of the fact that Hanna, with the millions contributed by the banks and monopolies, can make a President, and that Quay, fortified with means from the same sources or with moneys pilfered from the public coffers, can run a great State according to his own sweet and unfettered will. Happily the working-men are at last beginning to take cognizance of the somewhat remarkable situation and are very generally preparing to render a foretaste of their opinion thereupon by votes for the Democratic platform and candidates next month.

Spawls from the Keystone.

—Howard Wizner was probably fatally shot by Frank Byers while hunting near Sharon.

—Margaret Davis, a child, fell into a tub of hot water in Scranton and was scalded to death.

—Safe-crackers got several hundred dollars from the Lancaster store of Watt & Shand on Sunday night.

—Miss Jeannette Deavors accidentally rode her bicycle into a canal at Milton, but was rescued by Winfield Wilson.

—William Johnson, charged with trying to murder Ernest Reynolds, returned to Oliver to see his sweetheart and was locked up.

—Scranton's city solicitor has rendered an opinion that the city's and assembly's transient dealers' laws are unconstitutional.

—The store of Clay W. Evans, at St. Clair, was entered at night and silk goods and other valuable merchandise stolen.

—Three farmers near Minersville have each sued the Lytle coal company for \$5000 damages for culm deposits on their lands.

—The Allegheny Valley railroad company objects to running as slow as six miles an hour through Verona, and wants the limit changed.

—By a fall of coal at Paeker colliery No. 5, at Mahanoy City, Anthony Matichus was instantly killed and Frank Rolesky badly injured.

—John Taylor, chief of police of the town of Parsons and employed as a mine contractor in the Allegheny mines, was instantly killed by a premature explosion.

—The Tamaqua & Lansford electric street railway, connecting Tamaqua and Summit Hill with all towns in the Panther Creek valley, has begun operations.

—Dr. S. H. Willard, of Allegheny, has been appointed a member of the state board of Homoeopathic medical examiners, vice Dr. Hugh Piteairn, resigned.

—Beginning Monday the employes in the Philadelphia & Reading car shops, Reading, worked nine hours a day instead of ten, because of the shortening days.

—Following conviction at York of an attempt to kill William H. Miller, his son-in-law, Adam Patterson, shot himself in the head, at Winterstown, but will recover.

—Christ Lutheran congregation, of Easton, Monday night elected Rev. Douglass Spæth, of Philadelphia, to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Rev. J. W. Mayne.

—Directors of Independent school district, Lebanon county, have decided to prosecute John Pity unless he sends to school again his son Oscar, who was suspended as a punishment.

—As Northampton county has more than its proportion of inmates in lunatic asylums, Judge Scott will require more rigid examinations hereafter before declaring persons insane.

—A plea of voluntary manslaughter was accepted at Lancaster in the case of Armstead Sanders, charged with the murder of Rev. William Wyatt, colored, of Charlestown, W. Va.

—Taking the ground that defendants had properly withdrawn from a voluntary arbitration of the matter, court at Pottsville struck from the legal records the arbitrators' judgment for \$18,000 in David Zeher's long-litigated case against the Lehigh coal and navigation company for its culm deposits.

—While examining his shotgun at his home, near Coalmont, Huntingdon county, Tuesday evening, Edmund Brewer accidentally shot his 2-year-old daughter the entire charge passing through her body and killing her instantly. Some mischievous boys are said to have placed a load of shot in the gun unknown to Mr. Brewer.

—Patent number 642, 462 has just been granted to F. A. Harris, A. M. Cupples and M. McCann, of Tyronne, for their new Patent Drop Car Fender for trolley cars. The patentees have offered the right to use this fender to the Altoona traction company free of charge forever. It is hoped that the fender may receive its initial demonstration of practicability in Blair county. All who have seen the device pronounce it an excellent safeguard for street railway cars.

—The identity of the dead boy who was found in the box car at Williamsport last week still remains a mystery. Several parents from other towns have come to Williamsport, only to leave with the conviction that the deceased was not their son. The body was exhumed last Friday to permit a Mrs. Holmes, of Baltimore, to view it to see if it was her runaway son. She left relieved to know that he bore no resemblance to her lost boy.

—Thursday, at Jersey Shore, George Thomas, a colored lad, was assisting in shingling the roof of Mrs. Harriet Gamble's residence. The rain had made the roof slippery, and Thomas had great difficulty in walking over the roof, as it is very steep. Suddenly he began sliding, but as he was going over the edge he grasped the eaves trough, where he hung by his hands and called for help. W. A. Wilt, hearing his cries, rushed up stairs, and opening the window, caught hold of Thomas by the ankles and assisted in holding him up until the men on the street procured a ladder and placed it on the side of the building. Thomas then descended, but his nerves were so badly shattered that he was unable to do anything the remainder of the day. Thomas hung fully five minutes from his perilous position, a distance of at least thirty feet from the ground.

—Cassidy Brothers, who have been engaged in lumbering on Nelson Run Potter county, during the peeling season, finished their job a few days ago, and proceeded to Austin, where they received their pay in full. Instead of returning to the woods and paying their men as they promised, they attempted to get away with their ill-gotten gains. They were overtaken at Bradford, arrested and returned to Austin, where they were placed in the lockup to await a hearing, which was to have been held yesterday, but the rascals had outside friends, who built a fire in a pile of slabs, and started a cry of fire. Whistles and fire bells took up the alarm and people rushed from their homes, supposing that their old enemy—the fire fiend—had returned to complete the work of devastation. During the excitement attendant upon the location of the blaze, the friends of the Cassidy's beat down the door of the lockup, and the entire party made their escape and are still at large.