

Ink Stings.

—JONATHAN has a little rain, Its name is Kat-ah-din; It runs upon the waters blue And will make the Spaniards skin. It is a funny little ram And has no fleece of wool, It is a butter, so they say, Like the one that went to school.

Democratic Watchman

STATE RIGHTS AND FEDERAL UNION.

VOL. 43

BELLEFONTE, PA., MAY 13, 1898.

NO. 19.

The Most Equitable War Tax.

While there is no reason why incomes should not be taxed in time of peace, we claim that considerations of fairness and justice require the imposition of an income tax as a most fitting means of raising money for war purposes. There is no interest that is so anxious for protection from the threatening attack of a foreign enemy as the wealthy interest. No class would suffer more than the rich from the rayage of an invading foe. The material injury that would be inflicted by a bombardment of New York or any of our great commercial cities would fall most heavily on the wealthy owners of the property that would be destroyed, who, therefore, are most interested in a successful defence against such hostile demonstrations. Simple justice would demand that this class, which is so greatly in need of protection in time of war, should do its share, proportionate to its ability, in furnishing the funds needed for the public defence; but instead of this being the case, it has secured a decision of the supreme court that exempts it from rendering, according to its means, this just service to the country which protects it. The millionaire, whose income annually amounts to a fortune, pays no more war tax under existing tax laws than the poor man who not only helps to pay the tax but does the fighting.

The evident unfairness of such an arrangement strengthens the popular demand for legislation that will place an income tax beyond the question of constitutionality. The plutocratic influence that governs the Republican party has managed to exempt wealth from federal taxation, and has secured revenue laws that have imposed the tax burden chiefly upon the class who make up in numbers what they lack in means. It is the poor many that are made to pay for the exemption of the rich few. Republican statutes and judicial decisions have effected this unjust inequality, but it is to be hoped that exigencies of the present war may lead to its correction.

This is at least the purpose of the Democrats in Congress who are asserting the righteousness of a tax that will draw from the abundant incomes of the wealthy at least a part of the revenue needed for the defence of the country in which that class is, in a material sense, more interested than any other.

What We Should Do With the Philippines.

Already the desire is being expressed that the United States should retain possession of the Philippine Islands. In all probability the Spaniards will be expelled by our naval and military force, and the islands will be ours by right of conquest. So rich a prize will be a strong temptation, and it is having its effect on the sentiment of those who are indifferent to the difficulties and dangers that would be connected with such remote territorial possessions. In the present stage of the conflict with Spain it is proper that our operations against the enemy should be pushed wherever a blow may be aimed at them. To insure complete success in the hostilities that are being waged the Spaniards must be attacked in the Philippines, as well as in Cuba, but while it may be necessary to extend our conquest to those far East India Islands, it would not be wise for our government to retain permanent ownership of them. The extension of our dominion to remote quarters of the globe would be contrary to both the principles and the traditions of the Republic.

It would involve us in complications with other countries. It would bring more trouble and expense than profit or material advantage. Colonial empire conflicts with the design of those who founded our nation, and would bring in question the principles of the MONROE doctrine. We could not, with any reason, demand that European nations should keep hands off this continent when we should be seen encroaching upon the other continent by territorial conquest.

There are most substantial reasons why we should not retain possession of the Philippine Islands. They will be ours by right of conquest, but we would do better by selling them, than by holding them as conquered territory.

Lift the Blockade or Take Cuba.

Conducting a blockade on peace principles is proving to be a slow method of capturing Havana, and extending the relief we promised to the starving reconcentrados of Cuba.

It was in the name of mercy that we inaugurated this war. What mercy is there in the delay that prevents food and necessities being sent to the thousands who are dying of starvation in a country that our navy has closed to the world and to all supplies.

Either lift the blockade at Havana and let their people have bread, or be manly and take the island and feed the starving women and children, until nature repairs the desolation that Spanish cruelty has inflicted upon that fair country.

Raising Money for the War.

There is no element in Congress that is opposed to furnishing the government all the money needed for carrying on the war. The difference in opinion is in regard to the manner in which the money shall be furnished. The Republicans want to raise it by means of loans, a method that increases the public indebtedness and involves expenses that could be avoided. The Democrats want the money to be secured in a different way. Their contention is that the wealth of the country, which has succeeded in evading its due share of government taxation, should contribute more liberally in furnishing the means of carrying on the war, and for this reason they favor such measures as an income tax, the taxation of corporations, and other methods of raising revenue that would throw more of the tax burden upon wealth; and as a further means of avoiding a loan they urge the coinage of more silver, and an additional issue of government legal tender notes.

In these opposite methods consists the difference in Congress on the question of raising money for the war. The Republicans want to secure it by a plan that will give the money dealers a chance to make profits in handling the government bonds, and will increase the public indebtedness upon which interest will have to be paid. The Democrats are opposed to favoring the interest of the bank syndicates by the issuing of a loan which would be sure to come under their management. Secretary GAGE has already expressed his opposition to making it a popular loan, it being the evident intention to allow it to be managed by Wall street operators.

The Democratic plan of raising the war revenue would avoid the scandals that have attended government bond sales. It would save to the people the exorbitant profits that have been enjoyed by MORGAN syndicates. It would prevent a heavy interest expense in the future. It would compel wealth to pay its share of the cost of war. It would put to use a large portion of the uncoined silver that is lying idle in the government vaults, and it would give the people the advantage of an additional issue of government legal tenders, the best and safest paper money that was ever circulated.

By comparing the two methods offered in Congress for supplying the war funds the people can judge for themselves which is designed to be most conducive to their interest, and which is intended to serve the interest of wealth and promote the profits of the bond dealers.

Too Serious to Be Trifled With.

The honest, well meaning men of this State, to whatever party they belong, should have a proper conception of the duty that is imposed upon them by the urgent necessity for governmental reform in this Commonwealth.

The majority are no doubt fully aware of the fact that a most vicious condition of public affairs exists in the State, and are sufficiently impressed by that knowledge, but it is to be feared that though they desire the betterment of these conditions there will not be such concerted action as is necessary to overcome the strongly entrenched machine that is responsible for our State being so badly governed. Its overthrow can be effected only by a union of the forces moving for reform.

A diversion that would carry off from the main purpose many thousand voters, as was the case last year, could have no other effect than the side-tracking of that many votes to the advantage of the politicians whose defeat is necessary for the reform of the state government. The leaders of such side movements may delude themselves with the belief that they are operating for reform, but they are in effect the most helpful allies of the corruptionists, being in a great measure responsible for the defeat of the object which they loudly profess to support.

This campaign presents to the people of the State too serious an issue to be trifled with. The government of the Commonwealth is in the hands of political thugs. The chief object of its managers is to secure the advantage of organized spoilsmen. Its Legislators sacrifice the public interest in their base service of a corrupt boss. The entire body politic of the State reels with the rottenness that is the natural consequence of machine politics and boss rule. No intelligent citizen can blind himself to the existence of such vicious public conditions in this State, and their correction is the duty which is presented to the voters in the approaching state campaign.

The disadvantage of a navy too small for the duty it has to perform is exhibited in the embarrassing situation of the Key West fleet. It must suspend its movement against Havana until it may be known whether the Spanish fleet that is coming across the ocean is steering for Porto Rico or for some point of attack on our Atlantic coast. The millions of money squandered by Republican billion dollar Congresses could have built a navy large enough to meet Spanish fleets at all points.

A Fatuous Movement.

An organization of well meaning but misguided people, who claim that their purpose is to introduce the ten commandments into state politics, have set to work to boom the election of Rev. S. C. SWALLOW to the Governorship of this State. With this object they are sending letters to clergymen throughout the State asking them to unite with the movement.

The men who are engaged in this project are no doubt excellent people. They are unquestionably desirous of having the state government conducted on the principles of the decalogue, but practical common sense is compelled to regard their movement as calculated to prolong the government of the State on the principles of boss management and machine rule. These good people ought to know that to overthrow the corrupt domination of a power as strongly entrenched as the QUAY machine will require the united efforts of all who are opposed to the rule of the corruptionists. How this good object can be promoted by Rev. SWALLOW drawing off a portion of the force that should be united for its attainment, is beyond ordinary comprehension.

The experience of last year should teach these persons the folly of moving against an enemy with a divided force. If the large vote which was polled for Dr. SWALLOW had been combined with the independent Republican and Democratic votes the QUAY state ticket would have been defeated last year, and the preliminary victory gained over the corruptionists.

Appreciating the assistance rendered him in last year's election no one is more interested in Dr. SWALLOW's gubernatorial candidacy than boss QUAY, and there is no question that he would be willing to contribute liberally if the doctor should be in want of funds to carry on his campaign.

The introduction of the ten commandments into politics is certainly desirable, but the employment of common sense in a campaign will do a good deal more in securing success for a good cause.

The Benefit of a Democratic Majority.

The Philadelphia Public Ledger is a Republican journal that severely denounces the machine politicians who have corrupted the politics of the State and debased its government. The misrule that prevails in our state affairs it ascribes to an overwhelming and unbridled majority, which is always conducive to political abuses. It was because the corrupt leaders, whatever their misconduct might be, could rely upon such great majorities, that there has been such flagrant disregard of public interests in recent Legislatures, such marked contempt of public opinion, such brazen repudiation of solemn pledges of reform.

The Ledger declares that these abuses would not be practiced if there existed a stronger minority that would keep the licentiousness of the machine leaders in check. This view of the situation must be taken by every intelligent and conscientious citizen who wants to see the State delivered from the gang who are so shamefully abusing its government. The Democrats are the minority, and the deliverance of the State can be effected only by making the Democratic party the majority, which can be done by honest citizens of other parties joining with it for the overthrow of the corrupt machine. Independent movements are ineffective for that object. They only distract the effort and divide the force by which the main object of the State's redemption may be accomplished.

The old Democratic organization furnishes the basis for a united and successful movement for better state government. It has proved its capacity for honest administration in the remote and the more recent past. If the Democrats go into the state contest with no other issue than clean and honest state government, it will receive a support that will assure the overthrow of the corrupt politicians who have so long been abusing the governing power in this State.

Not a Popular Loan.

When the House committee reported the war loan bill it was proposed to make it a popular loan. The people, it is said, would be allowed to subscribe and invest their money in the bonds. Secretary GAGE, however, was before the Senate committee and gave counsel as to the loan. He stated that only a limited proportion would be taken by popular subscription, and declared that "he believed that the banks would take any amount of bonds which might be required for carrying on the war." Of course the bank syndicates are ready to gobble up this loan, and it would be something unusual if a Republican administration would not allow some Wall street gang to monopolize the bond purchase and make millions out of it.

The truth is there is no necessity for a "loan" and any loan that may be decided upon should and will prove anything but "popular."

—Subscribe for the WATCHMAN.

Radically Corrupt.

There is scarcely a political iniquity or a governmental abuse that JOHN WANAMAKER does not charge against the dissolute ring of politicians who control the Republican organization in this State and use it as an instrument of misgovernment. Mr. WANAMAKER not only charges them with general misrule, but he is also specific in his charges and is able to prove them.

The campaign he is conducting should have its effect upon the conscience of Pennsylvania Republicanism. It should appeal to the intelligence as well as to the integrity of the party. Why should any Republican be willing to have these abuses continued? In what way is he interested in perpetuating a corrupt and debased power that is an injury as well as a scandal to the State? Its support can be to him no longer a matter of party pride, for it is something rather to be ashamed than proud of. Leaders whom a man of JOHN WANAMAKER'S standing in the party can truthfully charge as being no better than public thieves can claim no honest and respectable following. Decent Republicans, entertaining a proper respect for their State and for themselves, must prefer the defeat of their party rather than its success under such leaders.

The great defect with the Republican organization in this State is that it is radically corrupt. The organization is rotten at the core. It has grown to be such notwithstanding that the majority of the membership are honest and well meaning. They have been made the victims of a gang of political pirates in whom they have had confidence, but who have betrayed that confidence by the political and official misdemeanors which JOHN WANAMAKER so forcibly portrays in his speeches. The WANAMAKER movement is not sufficient to effect the purification of such corruption. But it is having a good effect in convincing the people that better government for the State can be secured only by turning that party out of power. Its disease is too deep seated to be cured by merely changing the leaders.

Democratic Amendment to the Loan Bill.

The work which Congress is engaged in for securing the necessary war funds is not yet completed and there is an encouraging indication that the Republicans will be headed off in their purpose to saddle the country with a heavy loan for the benefit of Wall street.

The prospect is that the Senate will not agree to the loan project, the anti-gold majority in that body being favorable to a plan for raising war revenue that will be less profitable to the bank syndicates and more to the advantage of the people. The Democratic amendment to the bill provides for a tax on corporations, and the issue of \$150,000,000 non-interest bearing treasury notes, together with the coinage of the silver seigniorage in the treasury amounting to some \$65,000,000, upon which silver notes to that amount may be issued. By these means the money for the immediate expenses of the war could be secured. There appears to be one of a majority in the Senate by which these measures may be passed.

There would be reason to congratulate the country if the Republican scheme of increasing the bonded and interest-bearing indebtedness of the country should be prevented. And there would be further cause for congratulations in so large an increase of the circulation of government notes as \$150,000,000, and the addition of \$65,000,000 to the silver currency. These would be legitimate and efficient means of providing money for war expenses, and if the Republican House should reject them it would have to shoulder the responsibility of refusing to concur in measures for the raising of war revenue because the interest of bankers and bond dealers was not served.

The "Glory" is Not for Him.

In one of candidate WANAMAKER'S speeches this week the hot shot he fires into the QUAY ranks was interlarded with commendations of President McKINLEY. Alluding to Commodore DEWEY'S victory in the Philippines he claimed that the man in the White House was entitled to a share of the glory. The people, however, know how much praise is due McKINLEY for any glory that may come of this war. If he and HANNA could have had their way they would still be adhering to the policy of "peace at any price" even to the extent of refusing to recognize the Cuban belligerents, fearing the effect it might have on "stocks." McKINLEY'S delay in recognizing the righteousness of some effort to end Spanish cruelty in Cuba will never be forgotten. The war would never have been but for his refusal to allow assistance to be furnished the struggling patriots, when such assistance was offered and would have secured them independence, and it is too late a day now for his adherents to appropriate any "glory," that may grow out of it, to him.

Spawls from the Keystone.

—From injuries received by falling over a stool, Mrs. Frank Zimmerman died at Tamaqua.

—The Carbon county game and fish protective association appointed Conrad Lauth game warden.

—Ex-city treasurer Frank F. Bell banqueted a large number of his friends at the Red Lion hotel, Bristol.

—John Welch, who lived near Uniontown, during a family feud on Saturday night, was killed by his nephew.

—Tramps found begging in Hellertown will be compelled to work on the reservoir being constructed there.

—Copper ore has been found at Guava, Columbia county, and a mining company will soon begin operations there.

—The Fifth Massachusetts regiment veterans' association will hold a reunion at Gettysburg on June 5th and 6th.

—One hundred recruits leaving William sport for Mount Gettysburg pledged themselves to abstain from spirituous drink.

—Attempting to board a freight train at Shamokin, James Burns, aged 15 years, fell under the wheels and was killed.

—William Jones, while hunting near Bristol, shot an American eagle, which measured six feet from tip to tip of its wings.

—The First national bank, of Ford City, Armstrong county, has been authorized to begin business, with a capital of \$50,000.

—Seventeen young women took the white veil at Mallinckrodt convent, Wilkesbarre, Tuesday, and eleven took the final vows.

—After dressing in his best clothes, Wm. Gruver went to the barn on his farm, near Allentown, and hanged himself from a rafter.

—Herbert Griffith, engineer of the steel mills, of Bristol, scaled the big smoke-stack, 130 feet high, and flung to the breeze an American flag.

—The German society, Allemania Verein, of Bristol, will raise a 100-foot flag pole, with appropriate ceremonies, over their club house in a few days.

—At Bloomsburg the Danville district women's foreign missionary society of the Methodist Episcopal church is holding a two-days session.

—In the Luzerne county court, Anthony Bendrift, of Plymouth, was acquitted of embezzling the funds of miners, for whom he acted as banker.

—The grand commandery of the Knights of Malta are in session at York four days this week, winding up the conclave with a trip to Gettysburg.

—For killing William Mack in a quarrel, James Mack was on Saturday sentenced, at Shamokin to seven years' imprisonment, and to pay a fine of \$1,000.

—Ten new mines are being opened in the anthracite region, in spite of the fact that most of the old collieries are only worked ten days a month.

—General Roy Stone, commander of the famous Bucktail regiment in the civil war, accompanied by Col. Bireley Bey, of Cairo, Egypt is touring Gettysburg battlefield.

—Mrs. Elizabeth Arnold, who was shot by her son-in-law, Albert Daub, on April 27th, at Lebanon, died Sunday, and the wife of Daub, who was also wounded, is not expected to live.

—Judge Woodward has decided against the payment of an expense bill of \$129, presented by John O'Brien, county detective, of Luzerne, for hunting a man wanted for homicide.

—Straying from her home at Bear Creek, Luzerne county, Wednesday evening, Mrs. William Blaklee, aged 80 years, has not since been seen, and thirty men are hunting her in the woods.

—Patriotic citizens of Monaca, Berks county, erected two 100-foot poles and Wednesday night ran up a large flag. A company of volunteers which has been formed by Caleb Bland paraded the village street.

—At Kennett Square Saturday evening a flag pole was raised on the borough hall building and a fine flag flung to the breeze. The town band was out and there was a speech by Rev. George Alcorn. A long flag pole has also been raised at the Yorklyn Sunn Mills.

—The shortest regular term of court ever held in Perry county was that of the April court, 1898. Court convened at 10 a. m. and adjourned at 2:30 p. m. the same day. Not a traverse jury was empanelled. All cases were non-suited or continued. The costs amounted to \$473.40.

—The first reserve of Company H, Sixteenth regiment, National Guards of Pennsylvania, left Ridgway, Sunday night under command of Lieutenant Anderson. Twenty-six men were taken to Mount Gettysburg. The entire reserve of the Sixteenth passed through Ridgway Sunday.

—At Williamsport Saturday a tramp gave 8 year old Nettie Barr a torpedo cap and told her to open it. The inexperienced child struck the cap with a stone, and the explosion that followed blew two of the child's fingers off the hand. If the tramp could have been found, he would have suffered severely for his fiendish advice.

—Francis F. Fetterhoff and Howard L. Mitten have purchased the Huntingdon Local News paper and will continue the paper as a semi-weekly. The former gentleman has been connected with the paper for many years, and will be no new hand at the business. Both are fine young men, and we hope they may meet with great success.

—Fire at Muncy Saturday damaged several houses and for a time threatened the destruction of the upper end of town. The flames broke out in the bicycle shop of W. O. Hess. That building was entirely destroyed. The barn, slaughter house and ice house of James Farenbach were also burned. Other buildings were on fire but were saved. The losses will aggregate \$2,000; partially insured.

—Charles Glise, the little six-year-old son of Oscar Glise, of Island, near Look Haven, was playing along the river bank Monday morning when a saw log, which had been lodged high on the bank by the late flood, became loosened in some way or other and rolled down upon him. The little fellow was squeezed between two logs. He was severely injured, and was in an unconscious condition when picked up.