

Ink Stings.

The Democrats now know exactly how FARR they were from successful fusion in the House organization.

Up to this writing Mr. MAGEE has failed to give any sign that he would refuse to fuse with the senatorial lightning.

If you have made any New Years resolutions, remember to stick to them long enough to tell all your friends of your good intentions.

The "warm satisfaction," the "old man" is expressing over the senatorial situation stands a great chance of receiving a chill from the returns yet to come in.

It must have been smokeless powder the enemy were using or Mr. QUAY might have discovered the havoc that was being made in his ranks before his caucus met.

It looks a little scaly for the "old man" at Harrisburg, but don't you think some of those Republicans who didn't go into the caucus are just "waiting to be seen?"

Wouldn't it be just as reasonable to ask fifty-four Independents, to vote for a Democrat for United States Senator as it is to ask eighty-seven Democrats to vote for an Independent for the same office?

There will be a STONE at Harrisburg soon who won't be allowed to gather much moss. Between QUAY and his henchmen the new Governor will be kept rolling so fast that he won't get anything. The boys will be in for it all.

Little microbes go floating round, this mearly, slushy weather; looking for a lung, unsound, in which to get together. They find it soon, and in they slip, these pesky bacilli, no sooner there than you've the grip and are feeling rather ily.

If Governor HASTINGS had only been as wise on going into office as he is in coming out we might have had some suggestions of reforms that he could have assisted in accomplishing. Still it is better to have even the suggestions than nothing.

Is it possible that the foxy old boss of Republican politics foresaw the time when he would be caught up shaking the plum tree and had a STONE put into the gubernatorial chair, so that he can shy it at the fruit when shaking is no longer possible?

How about it, Mr. HARRIS, Member of the Legislature from Clearfield county, didn't the convention that nominated you pledge you to the support of Col. E. A. IRVIN for United States Senator? Don't tell us now that Republican pledges in Clearfield don't go.

Governor HASTINGS last message to the Legislature is a dreadful arraignment of his party, but it loses much of its force because the Governor knew just as well as in his inauguration as he does now of the rottenness of things, yet he failed to correct, himself, what he now urges others to do.

Admiral DEWEY might start a clothing manufactory after he is retired from the navy. If he is going to keep all his namesakes in pants it will be necessary to run a plant of his own. Why over in Clearfield county, alone, there have been thirty-one DEWEYS "happened" within the last six months.

The business man who would pay an exorbitant price for that which he did not need, could not use, and would only prove a bill of expense, would very soon be considered a fit subject for a lunatic asylum. And yet that is exactly the position of the expansionists in their efforts to hold on to the Philippine islands.

"Frosty" GILKESON has parted company with the Governor. The former banking commissioner is super-sensitive. Such a little thing as not being tendered the appointment of a judgeship ought not to have made him so warm. He didn't resign from the Republican party when it declined to tender him the state chairmanship. Then, too, can it be that he is so obtuse as not to see that he is better off not to have been tendered the place at all than to have had the tender only with the understanding that it be declined—as was the case in one of the other instances.

The President claims that we should hold on to the Philippine islands because the American flag is there. If that is so, why in the name of uncle SAM and uncle SAM's interests, do we pay \$20,000,000 for that which the "honor of our flag," compels us to hold? Either the flag has no right there, or it has. If it has then it should be kept there without buying the privilege to have it wave over people that know or care nothing about it. If it has not, it is wrong to keep it there under any excuse. Evidently the President's logic needs repairing or his political policy would be improved by a change.

The Philadelphia Record figures out that any "business founded upon a bounty system is bound to come down with a rush as soon as the artificial props shall be pulled away." While our esteemed contemporary draws its deduction from a purely local illustration, it is none the less logical. Bounties, subsidies or prizes to encourage any business are harmful in the end and for that reason we do not believe the President's plan for building up a great merchant marine service for American ships is a substantial one. Pass laws that will put American shipping on the same basis as that of foreign countries but hold out no bounties, the ultimate withdrawal of which will cause the business to collapse like a pricked bubble.

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NO. 1.

The Opportunity.

The failure of the friends of Senator QUAY to induce a sufficient number of Republicans to attend the senatorial caucus to insure the election of his choice, will awaken the people of the State to a realization of the fact that the defeat of the senior Senator, as a successor to himself, is, at least, possible of accomplishment. Heretofore the belief has been that the Republican opposition to his return was not of that earnestness that would defy the dictates of a caucus, or dare the reproaches that such a course would bring from the bosses. But the action of the 54 Senators and Members, in refusing to become a party to a caucus proceeding that was intended solely to tie them up to the support of Senator QUAY, and thus insure his re-election and a prolongation of his dictatorial and corrupt rule, dissipates that belief and leaves a hope for the people of better things for the future.

That Senator QUAY ought to be defeated is beyond question. That he may be is the earnest hope of every man who has the welfare and good name of the Commonwealth at heart. That he will be, however, is an entirely different matter, and one which will depend largely, if not exclusively, upon the position taken and maintained by two-thirds of the 54 Senators and Members who refused to participate in the QUAY caucus. If they are in earnest in their avowed purpose of reform and willing that the defeat of Senator Quay shall end the pernicious system of politics that he has resorted to in Pennsylvania; shall break up the rings that have robbed the State; shall put an end to the abuses the State has suffered and the disgraces it has born in consequence of his methods and his rule, and shall secure to the people a chance to control their own offices—in fact if it shall end QUAYism as well as QUAY,—then it can and should be accomplished. But if their object is only to change bosses; to rally the old rings and the old rosters around a new leader, who, under a pretense of opposition to QUAY, seeks the place to continue QUAY methods and QUAY abuses; then it will not and should not succeed.

It will take only a short time to prove if the purpose of the independent Republicans is to secure the reforms demanded both in senatorial representation and Pennsylvania political methods, or only a change in bosses. The character and antecedents of the candidate they present, or are willing to unite upon, will determine this.

As a Democrat and speaking for the large body of Democrats who feel as we do, we believe that every concession, consistent with party honor, should be made for the public good. If, after an honest and fair effort to secure the election of a positive and reliable Democrat, qualified to hold the position, it is found that it cannot be accomplished, then there should be no hesitancy in joining with the independent Republicans in electing some one who would be broad and patriotic enough to give us at least fair representation and decent treatment in the United States Senate; who would aid in breaking up the power of the rings and rosters that have disgraced the State and robbed its people for years and who would assist, with all the power the position would give him, in restoring honest government and the rule of the people in Pennsylvania.

It might not be easy, in the opinion of many, to find such a man outside of the active workers in the Democratic party. But there should be such, and we believe there are, and that in the condition of affairs that now confronts us they will be brought to the front before this matter is determined.

If the Independents are honest, we now have it within our power to assist in accomplishing that which we have been struggling for years—the defeat of the boss and the curtailment of his power to keep Pennsylvania in the clutches of the ringsters who have disgraced and dishonored its administration, defied its constitution and defrauded its people for years.

Will we have the courage and patriotism to do it?

After all, some good may come out of the delay in the trial of the QUAY conspiracy case. So long as that trial is hanging fire, there is but little danger that the state funds will be used for the same purposes for which the Senator is to answer before the courts. The state plum tree will get a rest, and there will be but few crops gathered by those who fatten on what falls until after this trial is had.

Mrs. BOTKIN can thank her stars that it isn't the fashion to hang women in that "glorious climate of California." If it had been she would have gotten it where the chicken got the ax. As it is she is to spend the rest of her life in prison for killing the DUNNINGS, in Dover, Del., with poisoned candy.

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Who Has Been Swindled?

One of the biggest deals in the unseated lands in Centre county has just been completed with the entering for record in the recorder's office here of 28 mortgages, aggregating \$250,000, as security for the net sum of \$125,000. At the commissioner's sale of unseated lands in April, 1892, Rensselaer Sims, of Troy, N. Y., and Theodore Vall, of Philadelphia, were present, and for the nominal sum of \$207 purchased 38 tracts, with an aggregate of 11,715 acres. Commissioner's deeds for the same were at once secured and placed on record, the entire cost to the investors being not more than \$500. It is on this land that they have just succeeded in placing the mortgages as given above.—Exchange.

Inquiry at the recorder's office proves the foregoing to be correct.

That the fools are not all dead, or that somebody, has been, or is to be swindled, is just as apparent as is the fact of the recording of the above mortgages. As to the details of the transaction that has secured the loans they represent, or the purposes of the investment of so large an amount of money in the reality given as security we know nothing, nor do we care outside of the suspicions that these mortgages are to make a basis for a larger swindle upon the public, than they are upon the parties who accepted them. In this case it is our business, as well as that of everyone else knowing anything about them, to expose their worthlessness, that the unthinking and unknowing may not be deceived by them.

If the amount of money named was loaned by an individual on the security these tracts of land furnish, it simply shows what fools exist, and what idiots are in possession of money; if by an estate, its manager or trustee must be either a swindler or utterly unfit for his position, and if by a company or corporation it is evidence of a rottenness that should be exposed before it has the power to dupe and rob the public.

As to either of the two first interests it is neither our business to bother nor our concern to care. Individuals or estates, idiotic or reckless enough to make such investments, deserve the return they will get when they come to realize on them—and that will be simply nothing.

It is in the fact that these mortgages will, in all probability, turn up as a part of the assets of some insurance company, some building and loan association, banking institution or trust company, that most interests the public, and if they do it will be the most positive evidence of the utter worthlessness and rottenness of such concern. The difficulty will be, however, to ascertain what company or corporation is doing business on such a basis, for the organization that is villainous enough to attempt to deceive the public with such assets would be sharp enough to hide their character under the head of some general statement.

The cold facts are that the property covered by these mortgages which, somewhere in the business of this country, are made to represent a value of a quarter of a million of dollars, is worth little if any more than the fees paid for recording the documents. This may be considered a wild statement but it is an undeniable fact. Three-fourths of the titles represent tracts that have no existence, while the balance, if they can be found, will be discovered to be absolutely and totally worthless—no timber on them—no minerals under them; simply bleak, rocky hills or soilless, bracken covered flats that no one, who knows their value, would pay the taxes assessed against them to own.

We only refer to this to show how easily some people are fooled, and how necessary it is for the public to know, and know well, the standing of companies and corporations to which they entrust their money or pay for carrying their risks on life and property.

An Object Lesson for Democrats.

Our Democratic friends over in Clearfield county have now an opportunity to realize to the fullest extent what factional quarrels and petty jealousies among leaders will result in. On Monday last, the first time since the organization of the county, the Republicans came into full control of every office within it. Not a single position from judge down to county surveyor, except a commissioner and auditor which the law gives to the minority party, is now held by a Democrat. It is but a few years since Clearfield was one of the most reliable Democratic counties in the State. It had an efficient organization and harmonious leadership, and could be counted upon at all elections for a Democratic majority of from 1,500 to 2,000. Only eight years ago Governor PATTISON carried that county by over 2,300, and we doubt if to-day there are one hundred persons within it who voted for him, who are now Republicans at heart, or vote that ticket because they believe in the principles of that party. Nor are the people of the county one whit less Democratic than then. The sole troubles have been the inefficient party management that allowed the opposition to naturalize and take charge of the foreign vote, and the personal bickering and the petty jealousies of those who aspire to party leadership.

And as the result was last fall so will it be for years to come, unless those who are

responsible for the wreck that has been made of the Clearfield Democracy bury their personal grievances and jealousies of each other, or are set aside by the Democratic people. Clearfield is Democratic to-day if those who aspire to the control of the organization will only allow it to be so. It may not be as largely Democratic as it was under the wise and conservative advice of Governor BIGLER or the vigorous and effective management of Senator WALLACE, but still it is Democratic, its sentiment is Democratic, and it would now be a Democratic county but for the bickerings of those who should work together, and that pettiness of principle among leaders that defeats the party unless they, individually, can control it.

It is possible that the condition that now faces the Democracy of our neighboring county may bring about a different state of affairs. It may open the eyes of the honest Democratic voters to see the folly of being used as tools by those who care more for their individual aspirations than the party's good, and it may arouse them to the necessity of demanding of those who assume to be leaders, that they either bury their personal animosities or take back seats when the management of party affairs is being considered. If a court house full of Republican officials does this, we may prove of some service to the people after all.

Evidences of Republican Rascality.

Any one who will take the time to read the few extracts we print from the Governor's message to the Legislature, will see in them a verification of the charges the Democrats have for years been making about the mismanagement of the affairs of the State, as well as the urgent necessity for immediate and sweeping reforms in these matters. It is not probable that as bitter and confirmed a partisan as the present Republican Governor is would arraign the management of a political administration, of which he is a part, and point out the wrongs it is committing, as he does, if they did not exist or were not both flagrant and palpable. If he is correct, and no one will doubt that he is, what kind of a people must Pennsylvania be who go to the polls, year after year, and willingly and knowingly vote to continue these wrongs?

It has been years since the Democrats began pointing out the evils that were bred and nurtured by the present system of state treasury management and which a Republican Governor now admits and calls attention to; it has been years since they have been demanding a re-apportionment of the State in order that constitutional representation would be secured to all sections, and for two years they have warned the people of the robbery that will be committed and the wrongs that will be perpetrated in the erection of the new capitol buildings if allowed to remain under the control of the ring that has charge of it. But for some unaccountable reason, for some unexplained cause, they preferred to continue these wrongs and take the chances of being robbed, rather than break up the political dynasty that has ruled and disgraced the State for so long a time. With a full knowledge of these abuses, wrongs and thefts they voted for their continuation by voting for the creatures of the bosses controlling the actions of the party under whose management they were committed; and when the people vote to endorse this kind of mal-administration and wrong doing it is not to be wondered at that it exists and flourishes.

If there is any one who has been in the habit of voting the Republican ticket and who tries to relieve his conscience by an attempt to believe that the charges made by Democrats, of treasury mismanagement and other Republican wrongs, are mere political clap-trap, we ask him to read the evidence of their truthfulness, furnished by a Republican Governor and then to remember that there will be an opportunity to correct these wrongs, at least so far as the state treasury is concerned, in less than a year from this time.

A Short Lived Boom.

The boom for our good friend Col. E. A. IRVIN, of Clearfield, for United States Senator, seems to have met with a premature, if not untimely, ending. The Republican Representatives from that county were instructed and pledged to vote for him for that position. In the Republican senatorial caucus held in Harrisburg, on Tuesday evening, one of those Representatives participated, and pledged himself, by that participation, to vote for QUAY. The other Member failed to put in an appearance, but neither inside the caucus nor outside of it do we see that any effort, whatever, has been made by either of these representatives to place the Colonel in a position to be voted for. Of course it is none of our political business, but all the same it is a queer condition of affairs when a county will elect and instruct its Representatives to do a certain thing and then permit them to forget what they were elected to do in so short a time as it has been since the election. If such a betrayal of a trust had been made by Representatives of the people over this way it would have created a hotness along their political pathway compared to what future roasting would prove temperate and bearable.

Governor Hastings' Message.

Admissions of Democratic Charges.—Wrongs in the Management of the State Treasury.—Robbery in the Erection of the New State Capitol.—Apportionment Should be Made and the Election Laws Amended.

Governor Hastings in his last message to the State Legislature to-day, after submitting a report of the public debt and summary of the revenue and expenditures for the fiscal year ending November 30th, 1898 in which the revenues are placed at \$13,325,130.17, the expenditures \$13,973,803.45, and in the debt, \$1,025,981.93, of which no part can be paid until 1912, says:

The management of the state treasury has, for many years, been the subject of public criticism. While it may be true the State has lost no moneys deposited in the various banks throughout the Commonwealth, it cannot be questioned that in the past the public funds have been used for political purposes by depositing them in favorite banks, where such deposits were expected to yield returns in the shape of political influence. This system cannot be defended. It should not be in the power of any man to say what banks shall handle the millions of dollars that are annually paid into the state treasury. It would be far better for the State to receive no interest upon deposits rather than to suffer a system to continue which can be used for political purposes, and it is submitted that the evil will never be corrected until the State keeps its own money in its own vaults, as do many of the States and as is done in the United States. Legislation of this character would be to the interest of all the people and a step toward better government.

If it be argued that this course would be locking up the public funds and taking them out of circulation, the answer is that the moneys should be promptly paid out to the schools and penal and charitable institutions and the cities and counties that are entitled to them, according to law. If this were done, the balance remaining in the treasury from time to time would not be large.

ELECTION OF UNITED STATES SENATORS.

The Legislatures of California, Colorado, Florida, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, Ohio, Utah and Wyoming have adopted resolutions urging upon Congress favorable action on a bill for an amendment to the federal constitution by which the qualified voters of each State shall be authorized to select their representatives in the Senate of the United States by direct vote of the people, the same as our governors judges and state officers. Similar action is urged upon your honorable bodies. Such an amendment would have been avoided by Representatives at its last session by an almost unanimous vote.

In many States where Senators were recently elected, if qualified voters had been clothed with the power of election, the disgrace and humiliation occasioned by the deplorable conduct of members of such Legislatures would have been avoided. Why should United States Senators be the only exception to the American rule of the majority? No candidate for office should be unwilling to submit his record to a vote of the people. If senatorial aspirants cannot trust the people with their records, how can the people be expected to have confidence in the Senate?

THE STATE CAPITOL.

After giving in detail the history of the break between himself and the building commission of the state Capitol over the question of plans and architect, the Governor says the four commissioners in their answer to the bill in equity filed by the Attorney General stated that "although the contract which they proposed to let would not complete the capitol building, yet they proposed to let other contracts for its completion, and promised the court that it would be a complete, separate and independent structure in compliance with all the requirements of the act of Assembly. Three of the commissioners, Amos H. Mylin, Benjamin J. Haywood and Samuel J. M. McCarrell, upon oath, stated that, under their plan of construction the building would be complete and fit for occupancy within the amount of the appropriation. The court in rendering its decision accepted their promise."

"I now aver," continues the Governor, "that the four members of the commission have utterly failed to carry out their sworn promise to the court and that they have acted in flagrant disregard of the act of Assembly. The structure in which you are assembling to-day is unworthy of your noble bodies and is a disgrace to the Commonwealth. In its present condition it is hardly fit for human habitation, much less the official abode of the representatives of the great Commonwealth. The act requires that the building 'shall be built in that phase of the renaissance style of architecture known as the colonial.' This structure bears no more resemblance to colonial architecture than does the Egyptian Sphinx. There are scores of farmers' barns in Pennsylvania more attractive in appearance than this building. It is made of common brick embedded in cheap mortar, looks like a hastily erected factory building and is repulsive to the eye.

\$2,500,000 TO COMPLETE IT.

"The roof is made of hemlock and pine boards covered with tarred felt, pitch and sand; the gables and dome are covered with third-rate quality of pine fencing boards; and the floors are made of common pine boards which give under the feet. The stairs and stair-cases, including the main entrance, are all of wood, and the partitions between the rotunda and west wings and upper floors are of seven eighths inch matched pine fencing, and the same material is placed in front of the elevator shafts. Only about one-fifth of the entire building is plastered at all and such as is plastered is of two-coat work. There is no plastering whatever in the halls of the Senate and the House of Representatives. The Senate chamber walls are finished with outworn stained green fastened to the rough sides of the wall composed of brick and

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Spawls from the Keystone.

—Moses Frezinski, of Shenandoah, bought a cow for \$10, and a few hours after it became his property he was sentenced to pay \$10 fine and \$8.80 costs for twisting its tail.

—While George Pease, of Penfield, was digging a rabbit out of a hole in the woods a few days ago, his dog began frisking around when he knocked his owner's gun off a log. The weapon was discharged and the shot tore off one of George's fingers and badly lacerated his hand.

—Altoona's board of trade started out some time ago to raise a fund of ten thousand dollars as a nucleus with which to start a manufacturing boom in the mountain city. At a meeting of the board Monday evening committees reported the sum of \$7,757 already raised.

—A fatal affray occurred at Irvona, in Clearfield county, Friday night, in which young Edward Ricketts lost his life. It is alleged that Jim Killin attacked Ricketts with a curtain pole and beat him so that he died. Killin, who is under \$2,000 bail on another charge, has left the country and cannot be found.

—W. D. Wood, a prominent iron manufacturer of Pittsburg, died on Monday from the effects of grip, after an illness of ten days. Mr. Wood was a member of one of Philadelphia's best families, was 73 years old and for many years has been one of Pittsburg's leading manufacturers.

—An Italian, Amelia Garbano, is in jail at Ebensburg on a charge of swindling. It is charged that he dropped a \$100 bill in front of an unwary Poleander and then, taking the latter into his confidence and agreeing to divide with the Poleander, induced the latter to give him \$50 in change for it.

—The saw mill of Ezra Canfield's Sons, below Williamsport, was destroyed by fire Monday evening. The mill had been running all season, but had closed last Tuesday. None of the lumber in the yards was burned. The mill loss, however, will run over \$12,000. Between fifty and sixty men were employed while it was in operation.

—There will be five eclipses during the year 1899, three of the sun and two of the moon, as follows: A partial eclipse of the sun, January 11; a partial eclipse of the sun, June 7; a total eclipse of the moon, June 23; an annular eclipse of the sun, December 2; a partial eclipse of the moon, December 16.

—James L. Mitchell, at one time one of the heaviest operators in the Clearfield coal region, and who still has interests in the Osceola district, but whose most extensive operations are now in Cambria county, has taken hold of Eureka No. 14, formerly known as Laurel Run mine, at one time owned by John Nuttall & Co., and recently abandoned by the Berwin White Co.

—The official report from Rome concerning the appointment of Rev. John W. Shanahan as bishop of the Harrisburg diocese, to succeed the late Bishop McGovern, has been received by Archbishop Ryan at Philadelphia. The new bishop has for years been rector of the Church of Our Mother of Sorrows and superintendent of parochial schools in the archdiocese of Philadelphia.

—An aged woman stopped a retired business man of Ebensburg a few days ago on the street and handed him \$2.50 which she owed him. The man protested that he knew nothing about it, but the old woman insisted that it was correct and he took the money. He afterwards hunted up his books and found that it was for a pair of shoes sold over forty years ago, when the woman was a girl living in Ebensburg.

—The boiler of an engine on the Philadelphia and Reading railway blew up near Bowser's station, a short distance from Reading, Tuesday, instantly killing engineer William Weaver and probably fatally injuring conductor Joshua Robeson. The engine was drawing an extra freight at the time of the explosion and the unfortunate men, together with two others, were on the locomotive at the time of the explosion.

—Al. Jones, aged about 30 years, of Alexandria, was drowned in the Juniata river near his home Monday while skating. His family knew he was on the ice, and because of his failure to return at the luncheon hour some apprehension was felt concerning his safety. A search was immediately instituted. Lying on the ice and beside a great hole the young man's bones were picked up. A more vigorous search resulted in the finding of his dead body some distance down the stream.

—A few evenings ago a number of persons at Rockwood, Somerset county, gathered in one of the bar-rooms in that place and were spending the evening in drinking. At a late hour a dispute arose between Jerry Koutz and William Bracken, who were employed as trackmen on the Somerset and Cambria railroad. A desperate fight between the men shortly followed their war of words in which young Bracken received very serious if not fatal injuries. He was cut across the right side of the face and across the throat, the wound escaping the jugular only by a hair's breadth.

—The Bedford county smallpox scare refuses to down. Dr. Benjamin Lee gives out that Dr. Atkinson after making a thorough investigation of the conditions existing in Bedford county reports that "the disease is spreading rapidly, but the country physicians deny that there is smallpox. Dr. Atkinson hired a wagon and toured through the whole country. In one instance he found a school teacher who had the disease in its most flagrant form. The country physician whom the teacher had consulted denied that it was a case of smallpox. Dr. Atkinson had the greatest difficulty to prevent this man from going to school to teach."

—A boy named Smeal, while walking through the woods near Wallaceton, ten miles from Clearfield, Monday morning found an unknown man hanging lifeless and frozen stiff from the limb of a tree. Coroner Currier was notified, summoned a jury and held an inquest. The stranger had taken off his trousers, cut off each leg of his drawers and made a stout rope, which he tied around his neck and to the tree. When found he was almost in a sitting position, the limb having bent. No one could throw any light on the identity of the suicide. He was about 30 years old, five feet nine inches in height, had sandy hair and mustache, weighed about 170 pounds, and was well dressed. There were no papers or marks on his person.