

Ink Stings.

If you get the grip, nurse it. If the grip gets you, curse it.

It is beginning to look as if Uncle SAM will pull down his Vest, rather than the flag over the Philippines.

The fellows who were first to kick about the Chicago platform of '96 are on deck with suggestions for 1900.

The Supreme court did not grant QUAY's certiorari. The question now is: Will the Legislature grant his Senatorship?

Enbalm'd beef, bewhiskered beef, and beef that was putrid and blue, all went to make the tin on which the army contract or grew.

The thirteen persons who were killed in that Lehigh Valley R. R. collision, on Monday, scarcely had time to think whether thirteen was unlucky or not.

Lot's wife was the first example of a "rubber neck" and behold, the awful fate she met. Some of the people who are always "rubberin'" might be interested in her case.

No more able Pennsylvanian could be sent to the United States Senate than GEORGE A. JENKS and surely there is no place in which an able man would be a greater credit to the State.

It will take more fluid than was used in embalming that army beef to keep ALGER's political corpse in any kind of preservation, when he once gets out of the war department.

The latest from Dawson, the capital of the Klondyke, is to the effect that food is plenty, "but it takes money to buy it." Isn't it strange that anyone should have the audacity to charge for food.

FRANK CROKER, a son of the Tammany chieftain over in New York, is going to establish a business for manufacturing steel skeletons for "sky-scrapers." What he had better do is make asbestos suits for Gothamites, there will be more of them needed.

We are already having a taste of what it will be to govern those Filipinos. Two privates of the Sixth U. S. artillery were killed by natives of the crew of the gunboat Newport on Saturday. And these are the dear people that we are to take under our wing.

General BROOKE has been ordered to furnish work for every able bodied Cuban who applies. A fair rate of wages is to be paid. How many thousands of able-bodied Pennsylvanians are looking for work, to-day, with starvation facing them, would fair be Cubans?

AGUINALDO, the Philippine insurgent chief, is calling upon the deity to witness that if the Americans don't leave those islands their blood will be upon their own heads. AGUINALDO is all right, except he mistakes whose head the blood will be on, if he attempts to get gay.

Notwithstanding the efforts of secretary ALGER to humiliate him Gen'l. MILES will live in the minds of our people long after the Michiganander has been lost in oblivion. We forgive MILES for his ill-adviced talk abroad because he has been a man and a soldier at home.

Those who are speaking slightly of the late CALVIN BRICE because his supposed fortune of ten million has dwindled to six hundred thousand dollars, evidently haven't met the man who writes this column. Why a man worth six dollars is a veritable Cressus in our eye.

The recent advance of \$2 a ton on wire and wire nails is the first effect that the country has felt of the newly organized wire trust, with a capital of \$90,000,000. This combination of wire makers to rob the people will last for awhile, then bust, just like QUAY's combination of wire pullers, who have robbed the State, is busting now.

Not five years ago the Republicans everywhere were blowing themselves purple in the face trying to create the impression that Democratic policy was to reduce "the wages of American labor to a level with those of pauper England." United States consul HALSTEAD, at Birmingham, has just reported that American makers of bolts and nuts are going from \$10 to \$20 a ton less than British prices and these same blatherskites call this prosperity now.

Governor PINGREE, of Michigan, is no common potato. He tells the people of his own State that railroads should come under the operation of the general tax laws and not be assessed on their gross earnings, that there should be a moderate tax on incomes of over \$1,000 per annum, that all candidates for elective offices should be nominated by direct vote of the people and that we have no business with the Philippines.

The Doylestown Democrat favors a civil pension roll, which we view as one of the greatest impositions that has ever been proposed. Why has the government any more right to take care of its superannuated employees than it has to provide for any other wornout individual. If the editor of the Democrat should be imprudent and wasteful now, when he should be saving against the time when he will be unable to earn anything by reason of being worn out, is that a sufficient cause for levying a tax on all other men to keep him when he gets old and has nothing left? The government pays its clerks good salaries, far more than many of them could earn were they compelled to seek work elsewhere, and it is wrong to propose that it should put a premium on improvidence by establishing a civil pension list.

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An Important Duty.

One of the most important duties that devolves upon every good citizen of a community is active participation in the local government. Whether he be a citizen of city, town or township the character and qualifications of every aspirant for office therein should be carefully looked into and if short-comings are discovered such an one should not be permitted to have a place on the ticket.

The spring elections will be held on Tuesday, February 21st. As it is necessary to file certificates of nomination with the county commissioners at least eighteen days before the election the last day will be Friday, February 3rd. This will necessitate the holding of primary elections on Saturday, January 28th, and the precinct caucuses prior to this last mentioned date.

Local elections are the ones that most directly affect the people and are the ones in which everyone is concerned, therefore, bear in mind the necessity of nominating only efficient men for the various offices to be filled. Be careful that intelligent election boards are secured. Choose men who are not apt to be bigoted nor too partisan to give fair consideration to all questions presented to them. For your school directors, supervisors, overseers, councilmen and other official nominees none but practical, progressive men should be favored. Don't put a man on the ticket merely to tickle him. But be sure that he will faithfully and promptly attend to the duties of his office, if elected, before you select him as your candidate.

One of the most important things to any party organization is that every member should take an interest in the primaries. That is the time for the individual to express his preference. Don't wait until a few in your precinct, who have enough interest to attend the primaries, make up the ticket and then kick at it because it doesn't satisfy you. Take a hand in the work yourself. Let every one have a voice in the matter and the harmony that will prevail afterwards will surprise you.

More of the sores that fester and destroy the strength of any political organization can be traced to spring election fights than to any other cause. Next fall we will have a full county ticket to elect and it is important that the party be in the most harmonious condition. We are recovering from the recent sloughing off in our ranks that was occasioned by just such causes. Let us be careful that the baneful effects are not suffered again.

While the decision of the Supreme court judges to send the QUAY case back to the Philadelphia county court for trial in no way affects the guilt or innocence of MATTHEW STANLEY QUAY, his son RICHARD and former State Treasurer BENJAMIN J. HAYWOOD it will, nevertheless, convey the impression to the public mind that that high tribunal has recognized something in the case that should be investigated.

Must the Christmas Tree Go.

The question of cutting the hemlock trees for celebrating the christmas festival is one that has been agitating the minds of the forestry commissioners for some time, but not until recently have they become outspoken in their denunciation of the practice. It has been estimated that more than twenty million of the most symmetrical young trees in the land were destroyed last month, merely to gratify a fad of a few days' duration. This vast number, if anything, is short of the actual amount cut and it will readily be seen that the christmas tree business is making almost as disastrous inroads among the young forests as the lumber business is making with the older timber.

Of course those who are calling attention to this great destructive agency, that has probably rarely been thought of by the masses, deplore the eventual necessity of doing away with christmas trees, but they are compelled to take the position they do from a humanitarian standpoint. The falling of every tree has its effect on the soil and streams and crops and climatic conditions in the vicinity in which it stood. And it is an appreciable loss to any section to have its wooded areas cleared off. More destructive and sudden floods, more frequent and longer droughts, and more devastation from wind storms are direct results of forest destruction.

The christmas tree business is doing its share toward bringing about such unfavorable results and is likely to continue to do so, unless the school children of the land take to planting christmas trees on Arbor day or some inventive toy man gets up a fair substitute for Nature's contribution to the pretty German legend.

No one would care to rob the little folks of one tithe of the pleasure that is their's during the holiday season, but here is a grave question confronting us. One that will effect the coming generation more seriously than it has the present.

A Dead-Lock Would Not Help Quay.

There may be a dead-lock in the election of a United States Senator, as the friends of Senator QUAY, who now begin to realize the chances of his defeat, threaten, but there will be no appointment for him to that position by the Governor should the Legislature adjourn without choosing his successor. A dead-lock continuing throughout the session, and preventing an election, would not give the power of appointing a Senator to Senator QUAY's Governor, it would simply leave the position vacant and the State with but one Representative in the United States Senate, until at an other meeting of the same, or of a subsequent Legislature, a Senator could be duly chosen.

It is only when a vacancy occurs during a recess of the Legislature that the constitution of the United States recognizes the power of the Governor to appoint a United States Senator, and then that appointment lasts only until the meeting of the Legislature. In this State the power to choose a Senator is vested solely, by the constitution, in the Legislature, and the only authority the Governor has in the matter is to call the Legislature together to fill any vacancy that may occur in office during the recess of the Legislature. So that the hope expressed, by those who neither read nor care for either the state or federal constitution, that by preventing an election by the Legislature would be giving the power to the Governor to appoint, is a hope without foundation and an expectation not to be realized.

The "old man," as those who admire him affectionately call Senator QUAY, may be able to trick the public and individuals but he will not fool the constitution to any conceivable extent. It compels him to take his chances before the Representatives of the people or get out of the race. His Governor may be able to assist him to the extent that such patronage as he has will influence votes, but no further. The United States Senator, thanks to both state and federal constitution, is not the creature of a state executive, but the representative of the people. He cannot be sneaked into office, nor will an effort to prevent an election by creating a dead-lock avail anything in the way of securing his success.

Such a termination might be a desirable ending, in case the opposition to the boss and his methods are unable to find a suitable candidate upon whom they can unite. It would, for the time at least, prevent the State from being mis-represented, until the people could elect a new body of Representatives, but it would in no way or manner redound to the advantage of Senator QUAY.

At the Bottom of the Army Bill.

The great corporate interests of the country are preparing for future contingencies in a manner the masses little conceive of or imagine. It is their interests that are back of the increased army bill and it is their interests that will push that bill through, under the plea that it is necessary for the proper control of the territory we have taken from Spain, when, in fact, an increased army to do their bidding here at home is what they are after. Ever since the Chicago riots, when the United States army was used to enforce the dictum of the Pullman car company, and compel its employees to submit to such exactions as its interests demanded, other corporations and monopolies have seen safety in the same power, and have been preparing the country for a change of system that would leave us to rely upon the strong arm of the federal government for the suppression of strikes, riots and other outbreaks that grow out of the oppression of labor.

It is to use the army for this purpose that these interests now so clamorously demand its permanent enlargement. They pay but little of the taxes that are drawn from the public to maintain it, and because it costs them nothing and can be used to their advantage every corporate interest in the country is urging upon Congress the necessity of such legislation as will double the present number of regulars and fasten upon the country, for all time, an immense standing army.

The people who pay the taxes are the ones who should protest against this movement. It may not be dangerous for a few years, but it will always be expensive. The laboring people, particularly, should speak out against it; it is designed almost exclusively as the arbiter of disagreements between them and the corporations employing them, and every one knows how such disagreements will end, when turned over to the tender mercies of a standing army.

The Howard Post and Bulletin is the latest proposition that has been launched in rivalry with FRED DUNHAM's Howard Hustler. The new paper made its debut on Friday and in its salutatory is very modest in stating what it proposes to do with Howard and the lower end of Bald Eagle. While we wish it success we are afraid that journalism in Centre county is getting to be a little like the insurance business—slightly overdone.

The Ripening Crop of Trouble.

From present appearances some of the fruits of the policy of expansion may be gathered at a much earlier day than was anticipated. If there is any reliance to be placed in the news from that far away locality, every American flag that is hoisted in the Philippine islands, outside of the towns of Manila and Cavite, will be run up only after we have conquered the people and made subjects of those who, if fit for government at all, should be allowed the kind they make for themselves. No where, as yet, in all the fourteen hundred islands that constitute the Philippine group, except the two places named, do we have a foothold or a resting place, and no where will the natives, who are up in arms, allow the landing of the American troops or the planting of the American flag, without a struggle.

We have Manila and Cavite, two towns the Spaniards surrendered to us. For these we have paid dearly in the lives of the brave men who fell in battle and those who have died from disease, while trying to hold the positions the Spanish gave us. We have nothing else, nor are we to have anything else, unless we fight for it and win it, for it now seems certain that when we purchased Spain's control of, and authority over these islands for \$20,000,000, we purchased something that country did not possess and which now promises to cost us hundreds of millions more, and all the horror of continuous war, to secure and hold.

Even while our representatives are considering the question of the ratification of a treaty that was to give us these islands, and while the advocates of expansion are telling us of the advantages this government has gained by their accession, the call comes from these new possessions for more men and more equipments of war, to subdue a population that we were told was praying for our success and the protection it would insure them. And to this call the President is preparing to respond affirmatively; so that to issue that which our people have been led to believe we already had—the right and power to plant the American flag in every town or on any spot we pleased within those islands—we must prepare for and carry on what may prove a costly and cruel war, to secure and enforce that right.

Surely the fruits of expansion are ripening for a harvest of death and disease for our soldiers and for uncounted costs for our people earlier than was anticipated. And what a commentary upon our boasted efforts to secure self government for those in pretense of whose welfare we have been waging war?

What an illustration to the world of the hypocrisy that begins a war, ostensibly to assist the struggling patriots of Cuba, and continues it in a costly and determined effort to capture, and hold, and govern the lands and homes of the untaught, half-civilized inhabitants of islands thousands upon thousands of miles distant?

The first robin of the season was seen in Phillipsburg on Monday. At least, that is, the Journal announces it, but there are some people over in Clearfield who would be unkind enough to say that it was the last robin of last season just leaving. They think Phillipsburg is usually about that much behind time.

How Philadelphia Republicans Make up Their Majority.

An illustration of the manner in which Republican majorities are made and maintained in Philadelphia was furnished at the opening of one of the ballot boxes of the thirty-second ward of that city last week. How the ballot box came to be re-opened and a re-count allowed, we do not know. It was a surprisingly unusual concession on the part of the courts of Philadelphia, that have always protected the rascally election boards, by refusing to permit the opening of the ballot boxes to prove the fraud alleged, but in this instance it was done, and with the following result: The original return showed that 157 votes had been cast, of which 106 were given to one candidate and 51 to the other. The box, when opened contained 220 regular ballots, the re-count showing that 105 were properly marked for the fellow who had been originally returned as receiving 106 votes, and 115 for the one who had been given but 51 by the first official return. And this, too, in one of the most reputable sections of the city.

Philadelphia has over one thousand election districts. If its election officers will commit a crime like this in the returns for the election of a school director, what might be expected of them when it comes to making up and certifying to the vote cast for state and other offices when the success of political parties are at stake? A similar fraud all over the city would aggregate over sixty-four thousand votes, and yet there are those who pretend to favor ballot reform that would continue the present system of voting and making returns, and limit their reforms simply to a change in the size of the ballot.

MY LOST LOVE.

By WILL TRUCKENMILLER. The winds blow soft, and warm, and sweet, From out the far Southwest, Where Indian legends tell us lies The land of peace and rest. It stirs the yellow prairie grass, Whispering a low refrain, As though some spirit, hidden there, Sighed out its secret pain. The sea gulls circle far and near, Uttering their strange wild cries, Like the despairing wail of souls Shut out of Paradise. The low round hills look dim and far, Through the blue September haze, A thistle down sails slowly bye— Sad ghost of summer days. The little waves go rippling on Across the silver lake, Oh little waves! oh water bright! I love you for her sake. How oft, in happy days gone by, We passed along this shore; Oh happy, careless, golden days, Gone to return no more. In fancy now I hear her voice, Its chinklike, sweet surprise, And see the low-light shine again In her blue, wistful eyes. I see the Dunkard bonnet, neat, The rose buds on her breast; The little hands that folded lie Upon her lap, at rest. Oh gentlest soul God ever sent To this old world of ours; As pure, and sweet, and innocent As the wild prairie flowers. Alone I sit beside the lake; We met and loved, to part. Ah! well, 'tis best, perhaps, some grief Hides in each human heart. Only the suffering can feel For others grief and pain. Thus are our lives wrought out for us That we live not in vain. The red sun sinks low in the sky, The gray gulls seek their nest; The light winds blow more fitfully From out the warm Southwest. Out of the dusky eastern sky The evening shadows creep; God keep thee safe, my sweetest love, And guard thy peaceful sleep.

The Quay Case.

From the Philadelphia Record. The refusal of the Supreme court to issue a writ of certiorari upon the petition of M. S. Quay, R. K. Quay and Benjamin Haywood in the case pending in the court of quarter sessions in this city had been generally anticipated. The opinion, as written by Chief Justice Sterrett, asserted the jurisdiction of the Supreme court to grant the relief prayed for by the petitioners if it had been made clear that the power was to be exercised in the aid of justice. Failing to satisfy the court in this vital point, the petitioners had no standing. The opinion sustains the jurisdiction of the Superior court in appeals for a review of proceedings in the quarter sessions, but insists that the right of appeal does not exist until after conviction and sentence. The contention of the petitioners that they could not have a fair and impartial trial in the courts of Philadelphia was dismissed by Justice Sterrett with decisive intimation of the contrary belief, and the assertion that if the court believed the averments of the petitioners it "would not hesitate a moment to send the indictments to another jurisdiction for trial." The substance of the decision is that while the Supreme court has jurisdiction its interference was not asked for in aid of the administration of justice. The court therefore refuses to be made the vehicle of delay. Partial delay has been secured, but it is clear that Senator Quay and his counsel have made a false move. The way has been effectively barred for his return to the United States Senate, and a preliminary advantage of great moment secured for the friends of good government.

Why Art Thou Silent, William?

From the Westmoreland Democrat. When President McKinley sent his message to Congress at the opening of the session, it was devoid of any suggestion as to a plan for the government of "our colonies." In explanation of that noticeable silence, it was announced that it would be imprudent to make any such recommendations while the peace commission was still sitting. It was intimated, however, that the subject would be given special consideration in a supplemental message. The views of the administration, it was generally expected, would be transmitted to Congress in connection with the peace treaty, but that document was sent to the Senate, last week, without any recommendations whatever. Andrew Carnegie was undoubtedly justified in the declaration made some weeks ago: "I began to grow doubtful about the president having convictions upon any subject."

"Has Got" is Good.

From the New York Sun. Another language-saver has launched his boat. "Is 'has got' good English?" he writes; "should not 'got' be omitted?" For the three hundred and thirty-third and last time we say that "has got" is sound, correct English, good historically, good in modern use, a perfectly healthy idiom. Anybody who has scruples about the "got" can cut it out. Anybody who has a taste for prunes, potatoes, prisms can learn to break himself of the habit of saying "has got," if he perseveres. We seek to put no constraint upon tender consciences. But abstainers from "has got" should be warned against being puffed up. Fresh English is always good, but persons who like it cannot be welcome to take it that way. They musn't put on airs, though. If you want fine work done of every description the WATCHMAN is the place to have it done.

Spawls from the Keystone.

Snyder county Republicans will hold their primaries on May 13th.

Thirteen cars were smashed in a freight train wreck on the mountain near Mainville, Columbus county.

Descending Locust mountain in a sleigh, aged George Davis and wife, of Shenandoah, were thrown on the rocks and badly injured.

Frightened horses ran away with a stage coach down a steep mountain road, between Mercersburg and McConnellsburg, and John Seltzer, a passenger, was thrown out and seriously hurt.

W. S. Hoover, of Hoover & Slavin's lumber camps, near Glen Campbell, reports the cutting of a big pine tree which was fifty-one inches in diameter and cut 10,000 feet. The but log measured 2,240.

A Jackson day banquet was held Monday night by the Young Men's Democratic club of Williamsport. Congressman Sibley, state chairman Garman, W. U. Hensel and James A. Stranahan were among the guests.

Daniel Wolf, of Booneville, died Sunday, aged about 75 years. About a week ago Mr. Wolf fell and struck the back of his head on the frozen ground. The injuries caused death. He is survived by his wife and several children.

Bedford town is in darkness through the failure of the borough authorities to renew the contract with the electric lighting company. An ordinance taxing poles and a suit to recover the tax levied created strife between the authorities and the company and prevented an agreement on the terms of the new contract.

The citizens of Wymps Gap, in the mountains above Uniontown, were surprised Monday to see a big buck deer tearing down the mountain side with a pack of hounds in pursuit. The deer dashed through the town and along the pike to the old Laurel Iron works, where it turned and climbed the mountain side and was lost.

Walter Dockard, of near Montoursville, drove two horses to Williamsport Saturday. While attending to business matters, the horses frightened at the cars and started on a gallop towards home. They twice made the circuit of a long field near the farm and then ran a distance on the public road when one of the animals fell dead from exhaustion.

La grippe caused the Buffalo, Rochester and Pittsburg railway to partly tie up its traffic. Of the thirty-five crews who have headquarters at DuBois, the railroad company's physician says at least twenty-five per cent. are down with the grip and nearly fifty men in the car shops are similarly affected. One physician says he attends an average of sixty grip patients daily in that city.

In order to awaken a deeper interest in religious work, a committee of 1,000 persons from the different Sabbath schools of Harrisburg made a house to house visitation one day last week, the object being to influence the residents of the city to attend the different Sunday schools of the city. The committee was under the chairmanship of Rev. Joseph Stockton Roddy, pastor of the Olivet Presbyterian Church.

Within the short period of three weeks Mrs. J. D. McCreight, nee May Datesman, of Lock Haven, has been a bride and widow. On Tuesday Dec. 20th, she was happily married in Lock Haven, and the newly wedded husband and wife left on their eastern trip. Mr. McCreight had not been feeling well and while the couple were in Harrisburg his condition became such that they returned to the home of the gentleman's parents in Lewisburg. Here septic fever developed, causing the young man's death.

A Patton township man lingered too long among convivial friends in town the other day, and on the road home ate several bananas, which had the effect of making him very sick. He was casting up one thing and another, at the barn, when his wife appeared on the scene. She asked him what had made him sick, but the reply was rather indistinct. She made several efforts to catch his words, and, on returning to the house, told the children, that as nearly as she could understand him, their father had eaten three pianos.

Some mischievous boy, stole silently up to a load of straw belonging to J. L. Cyphers, of near Duncansville, as it was being hauled along an Altoona street Wednesday, struck a match and applied it to the combustible contents of the wagon. The straw burned vigorously and Cypher's efforts to suppress the flames availed him nothing, the flames spreading themselves over the entire wagon. Firemen answered an alarm and directed a plug stream onto the burning straw, extinguishing the fire before it had damaged the wagon. Rumorists asserted that the fire was started by a spark from Cypher's pipe, but he denied the story.

A casket company of Allegheny has received an order from the government for 400 zinc-lined coffins to be shipped within thirty days. Each coffin is to be accompanied by a rough box. The remains of American soldiers who have died or were killed in battle in Cuba, Porto Rico and the Philippines are to be brought back to the United States in the coffins and will be buried by friends or by the government in the national cemeteries. Each coffin is to be zinc-lined and air-tight, so that there will be no danger of disease spreading through the removal of the bodies. The caskets are to be finished in rosewood, mahogany and oak, and will be satin-lined. The same company recently furnished the government with 1500 coffins.

The Madsensville correspondent of the Orbisonia Dispatch says: On Monday a party of prospectors commenced work at what is known as Potts' Gap at a point on the Black-log mountain in Springfield township for some valuable ores. Tradition has it that away back in bygone days the Spaniards did find and work a silver mine in Potts' Gap, as there are ruins of decayed timbers where tunnels had been made into the mountain. A short distance from this point a year or so ago some men found a mine of anthracite coal, but owing to the water coming in upon them, they abandoned the work. Just recently a mineral resembling copper was discovered on the farm of Elmer Ramsey. It is no longer doubted that this locality is rich in mineral deposits and only needs a railroad through it to bring its mineral resources prominently before the capitalists of this great country.