

Ink Slings.

—His honor judge LOVE didn't make the address of welcome at the HASTINGS reception. Strange?

—SETH LOW made no bones about declaring the ALGER management of the war department as bungling and absolutely unfriendly to the efficiency of the army.

—The fighters are still in the ring at Harrisburg. Neither side shows any sign of disfigurement and the battle will probably go on for many rounds yet.

—The fight between the Democratic organs of Clearfield reminds us of the preacher who stands in his pulpit and fires at every other denomination, instead of keeping his gus trained on the devil.

—When JEFFERSON said "examine your conscience" as the proper guide in exercising the election franchise, he didn't anticipate a day when fifty cents or a half pint of whiskey would take the place of a man's conscience.

—As long as the French statesmen vent their spleen in such a harmless way as merely shouting "spit" on one or the other they are not nearly as apt to get their mouths slapped as they would be if they actually did the "conspuez" act.

—The President was very prompt to see that DEWEY got a full measure of praise after the great achievement at Manila, but we haven't heard of McKINLEY's chapeau being very high in the air on account of the proposal to make the gallant admiral a presidential candidate.

—Gen'l MILES and Dr. DALY appear to be a little too warm for the embalmers and conspirators. They are telling the truth, the truth hurts and the frequent adjournments of the inquiry court are evidence that the other fellows have to be given time to get their breath.

—The ground-hog kept a stiff upper lip and held out his frosty snout for two weeks, but the pace was too stiff for the hairy, hibernating exponent of prophecy and he gave up his job last Friday. It is quite probable, however, that nobody will soon forget the work he did for two weeks.

—SCHLEY's answer to his calumniators was exactly what might have been expected from a hero. Dignified, dispassionate, indisputable were the words he sent to Congress in his message and to-day he is the more revered because of the jealousies that have endeavored to disparage him.

—Well, well, well, Philadelphia wants the State of Pennsylvania to appropriate \$50,000 to investigate its water supply. Was ever such monumental, brass mounted, double-distilled gall heard of? No other Pennsylvanians drink water when they are in Philadelphia, so let the Quakers look after it themselves.

—The absence of so many of the Republican sachems from the HASTINGS reception, last Saturday night, was not because they are excluded from the category of "friends and neighbors." Oh no, that isn't it at all. It was Saturday night and everyone knows that Gen'l BEAVER, Judge LOVE, revenue collector CHAMBERS, receiver of the Penna. B. and L. A. JOHN M. DALE and t'other dignitaries had to do their Sunday shopping.

—Williamsport women have been rising in righteous indignation against the seating of the mormonistic Congressman ROBERTS, of Utah. They held a mass meeting yesterday and prepared a memorial to their Congressman urging him to vote against ROBERTS' admission. It strikes us that there are a few mormonistically inclined old coons in the Lumber city who need looking after about as much as ROBERTS does—and that's no joke.

—France is in an embroglio as a consequence of the death of President FAURE and the election of M. LOUBET, the president of the Senate, as his successor. In France, as in no other country in the world, administrative changes create crises that look portentous at the time, but are really nothing more than the ebullition of jealousies. The Bonapartists are threatening to strike and the Derouledists are shouting "spit on LOUBET." It is probable that in a few days everyone will settle down to the new order of things and the effervescent French will have forgotten that they were at all disturbed.

—The judge's retirement bill that is now before the Legislature is one of the measures that should be knocked higher than GILDEROY's kite. The very idea of it must be insulting to the judiciary of Pennsylvania. Might just as well include public school teachers and state employees in the bill and fasten them onto the public for life. This is a government of the people, for the people and by the people, all right enough, but the father of this bill is evidently laboring under the impression that the judges are THE people.

—Senator MASON, of Illinois, is of the opinion that the Philippines will have their LAFAYETTE. While the Senator's sentiment is one that a great many people will agree in, yet it is not possible for any Delaware to do for those islands what the French patriot did for the United States. In the first place the same conditions do not obtain and in the second it is useless to think that such a half civilized people could be as formidable opponents to us as we were to England in 1776. However that may be there are few who would not be only too happy to have those unprofitable sand patches slip away from us.

Democratic Watchman

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NO. 8.

How Part of the Deficiency Can be Saved.

The Members of the Legislature who imagine they have a mountain of trouble on their hands in the election of a United States Senator will find this one of the small troubles compared to others they will meet before getting through with the duties they were chosen to perform. There are others, that have scarcely caused them a thought as yet, that will far outweigh, both in importance and in the difficulty of accomplishing them to the satisfaction of the people, any trouble they have, or will encounter, in the election of a Senator.

One, and chief among them, will be the question as to the source from which additional revenue is to be derived to meet the ordinary and necessary expenditures for state purposes and the more than three millions of dollars deficiency that is annually piling up against the Commonwealth. To do this there can be but two ways:—One by increasing taxation, the other by decreasing expenditures. Possibly a little or may be a good deal of both will have to be resorted to, and just here is where the troubles of the Legislature will begin. Every department, every institution, every interest and every individual that looks to the state treasury as a source of its supplies, will kick most vigorously against any reductions in the usual appropriations. On the other hand any effort to add additional taxations to those already borne by the people, or corporations, will meet with the bitterest and most stubborn opposition from them. And no one will wonder that it does.

Although it is but the reaping of the harvest of Republican rascality; the gathering of the fruits of the wrongs, profligacy and extravagance of that party, the situation must be met, and met frankly and honestly. Pay day has come and the people who have danced to the piping of the state ring must pay for the music, whether they were of those who encouraged and enjoyed it or of those who protested and prayed to be protected from it.

To devise ways and means to meet these increased expenditures and accumulating deficits is one of the most serious problems the present Legislature will have to solve. The WATCHMAN offers a suggestion as to how a small portion of the total needed can be saved.

Although the State is already judge ridden and the expense of the judiciary yearly becoming greater, the work of the judges is at the same time being lessened, by increasing their number, and at every session of the Legislature new districts are demanded. The gentlemen who are honored with positions on the bench are not willing, as their work is lessened, to accept smaller salaries or to re-district the State so that a smaller number of judges will be required. While they are clamoring for additional help upon the bench we can name a dozen districts in which there are not two months of actual work during the year for a judge in any one of them, and another dozen districts do not occupy four months of the year.

But you say how can you save in this line? It is true, salaries cannot be reduced; it is equally evident that the number of judges will never be lessened, how then can judicial expenditures be lessened? Simply by applying the constitution as to the salaries of our judges as it is applied to everybody else. Pay them salaries and nothing more. The constitution expressly states that the compensation of judges shall be "fixed by law and paid by the State" and that "they shall receive no other compensation, fees or perquisites of office for their services from any source."

The salary fixed by law for Supreme court judge is \$8,000 per year; for Superior court judge, \$7,000; for judge of the different courts of Philadelphia, \$7,000; for those of Allegheny county, \$6,000; and for others throughout the State, \$4,000. Although the constitution is positive in the declaration that no other compensation, fees or perquisites shall be allowed, the Supreme court judges, each draw from the treasury annually for clerk hire, amounts ranging from \$800 to \$1,250, in addition to their salaries, and other judges "for mileage and compensation for holding courts in districts other than their own," sums varying anywhere from forty to over two thousand dollars per year. Thus, while the State is paying each common pleas and other lower court judges yearly salaries, at the rate of \$12.77, and upwards, for each secular day in the year, it is also compelled to pay them \$12.00 per day additional for any reason they occupy the bench of a neighboring judge and mileage in addition to this, although not a single one of them in the State pays a penny of railroad fare on any road over which they may travel.

If any one can give a reason why a judge who is paid by the State \$4,000 a year for judicial services and is absolutely prohibited by the constitution from receiving any other "compensation, fees or perquisites," should be paid out of the state treasury \$12.00 per day additional for such judicial jobs as he can pick up outside of his own

district, we should like to hear what it is. From the report of the Auditor General for 1896—the last publication that has been made by that department—we take the following figures showing how much over and above their salaries was drawn by the judges of this Commonwealth for that year. As to what it has been since, we do not know, but are told that this judicial jobbery, or trading of courts for the purpose of increasing their incomes, is on the increase.

Table with 2 columns: Name and Amount. Includes James P. Stretton, Clerk hire, \$10,000.00; Henry Green, \$1,240.00; Henry Williams, \$1,053.00; J. B. McCollum, \$800.00; Jas. F. Mitchell, \$600.00; John Dean, \$250.00; D. Newlin Fell, \$1,000.00.

Table with 2 columns: Name and Amount. Includes W. W. Schuyler, Northampton, \$72.00; W. B. Stowe, Pittsburgh, \$24.00; Jacob F. Slagle, Union, \$149.00; John M. Kennedy, Crawford, \$118.00; Samuel A. McClung, \$12.00; Frank Garrison, Erie, \$238.00; Herman Serkes, Northumberland, \$2,377.40; C. R. Savage, Northumberland, \$192.00; Edwin R. Biddle, Westmoreland, \$60.00; Lucian W. Doty, Luzerne, \$37.70; John Lynde, Lycoming, \$92.00; John W. Simonton, Dauphin, \$120.80; John B. McPherson, \$467.00; J. F. Taylor, for clerk, \$252.00; S. L. Mestrezat, Fayette, \$226.00; W. B. Waddell, Chester, \$176.40; Joseph Hemphill, \$25.30; J. H. Longnecker, Bedford, \$735.35; H. C. McClure, Union, \$802.00; S. Heath Clark, Clarion, \$72.00; John M. Bailey, Huntingdon, \$1.50; McKnight Williamson, \$79.80; Geo. L. Purdy, Wayne, \$24.00; Jas. M. Ermentrout, Berks, \$49.29; Gustave A. Endrick, \$411.90; Martin White, Blair, \$16.40; Chas. A. Moyer, Clinton, \$81.69; Elijah R. Hicker, Columbia, \$172.20; J. F. Taylor, Washington, \$16.40; Geo. S. Crisswell, Venango, \$33.20; John J. Meiger, Lycoming, \$97.20; John J. Hendry, Carbon, \$120.00; Edwin Albright, Lehigh, \$1,400.00; Calvin Rayburn, Armstrong, \$205.00; Daniel W. Seaver, Susquehanna, \$1,084.00; Samuel H. Miller, Mercer, \$88.00; M. F. Wecker, Beaver, \$212.20; Chas. A. Noyes, Warren, \$28.80; John Stewart, Franklin, \$60.00; Harry White, Indiana, \$120.00; Jeremiah Lyon, Juniata, \$773.00; Benj. M. Peck, Bradford, \$265.20; Allen Craig, Cambria, \$1,355.00; E. M. Durian, Wyoming, \$1,534.40; W. W. Archibald, Lackawanna, \$1,872.20; Fred W. Carter, Adams, \$27.00; Harry M. Edwards, Lackawanna, \$128.00; Cyrus Gordon, Clearfield, \$808.80; A. V. Barker, Cambria, \$384.80; Thos. A. Morrison, McKean, \$365.00; A. G. Olmstead, \$244.50; John G. Love, Bellefonte, \$27.00; Jno. M. Greer, Butler, \$267.60; Martin Bell, Schuylkill, \$284.80; Allen W. Ehrgood, Lebanon, \$730.00; W. D. Wallace, Lawrence, \$940.00; Jno. W. Reed, Jefferson, \$258.00.

Another Proposed Change in the Election Laws.

The hopelessness of ever being able to carry on fair elections in Pennsylvania under the present system of qualifying voters and receiving their ballots has been so apparent to everyone that already this session two bills have been introduced in the Legislature, ostensibly for the purpose of correcting the evils of the BAKER ballot. We say ostensibly because the one is designed to deceive the people into believing there has been a reform made and thereby to continue the operation of the present dishonest system, when the fact would be, if it were to become a law, that not a single one of the many avenues for dishonesty in the BAKER law had yet been choked.

The measure referred to is the one introduced by former Secretary of the Commonwealth DAVID MARTIN, who is now representing the Eighth senatorial district in the Legislature. No man who occupies a seat in that body knows better the need of election reforms in Pennsylvania than does Mr. MARTIN, nor is there one there who realizes to a fuller extent the service the present loose system renders to the Republican party, particularly in Philadelphia, his home. Knowing these things as he does Mr. MARTIN has framed and introduced an election reform bill which would reform nothing that needs reforming, yet it would serve the purpose of leading the people to believe that something had been done to correct the evil when, in reality, it would continue as bad as it is at present.

The three most obnoxious features of the BAKER law and the loop-holes through which most of the corruption is injected into our elections are the complex and doubtful manner of certifying nominations, giving the courts power to refuse a place on the ticket, for purely technical reasons, to those whom the people want to be there; the complicated ballot that gives excuse for a purchasable voter to ask aid and thereby show his briber that the goods are being delivered, and the refusal to permit the opening of ballot boxes to show that fraud has been committed. These are the three features of the BAKER law that make it merely a mockery of an honest system and none of them would be elided by Mr. MARTIN'S proposition.

There has been another bill presented, however, by Representative Fow, of Philadelphia, which comes far nearer being what the people want and what the State needs. It is on the line of suggestions made by the WATCHMAN, in its issue of February 3rd, and contemplates a personal registration of voters.

The bill, in the first place, provides a registration board in every election district. Citizens must appear, personally, before this board and register, receiving a certificate, which constitutes a prima facie right to vote. It is presented to the judge of elections, who perforates it and hands the voter his ballot. There are ample provisions against fraud and for requiring proof of the applicant's right to register as a voter. One copy of the registration must be filed with the county commissioners from which to prepare check lists and all other election papers. The board also keeps a copy to be used by them on election day. The bill, while guarding against illegal registration or voting, secures to everyone qualified the right to vote. No tax receipt can be purchased unless a registration certificate issued by the board is produced, and it is not to be used by anyone else except accompanied by a power of attorney.

The system that Mr. Fow proposes is like unto that of New York as far as is possible under our constitution. The one clause in which personal registration is made compulsory recommends it as a most desirable change, for it affords a relief from the abominable and unprevented practice of repeating that flourishes in the large cities and makes qualified voters out of pug dogs, pet cats and everything else unscrupulous politicians care to have entered upon the registration list.

While Mr. Fow's bill will hardly satisfy every want of those who favor honest elections in the State it is that much more to be desired than the MARTIN bill, because it strikes at the greatest evil of the present system, while the other makes merely a pretense of reform.

It required stamps to the amount of \$11,762.54 for the promissory notes which the Central Pacific railroad company has just given the United States in payment of that company's property indebtedness to the government. It was the largest stamp tax ever paid on a single transaction of that sort and is likely never to be equalled in amount.

—M. LOUBET, the new President of France, is an aggressive bi-metallicist and has always manifested a lively interest in the free coinage of silver. His idea of it is at a ratio of 15 1/2 to 1, instead of 16 to 1. He believes in effecting it by international agreement, but it is supposed that he would not be averse to co-operating with the United States with the hope of forcing England to adopting bi-metallicism.

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—According to the Trade Review, published by R. G. DUN & Co. for last week, "business is expanding." This assertion, of course, is based on the view of men who are practiced in business and financial observations. The far sighted sort, you know. Now the ordinary conception there doesn't seem to be any expansion anywhere, except in President McKINLEY'S territorial policy. If the DUN trade prophets merely intend that business was expanding during the week ending Feb. 18th, as compared with that of the previous week, then their assertion will probably be accepted, but that is not what the people want. They are looking for the time when it will expand to such prosperous proportions as it assumed under the WILSON bill and the benign effects of Democratic legislation.

Out With Such Disreputable Business.

From the Pittsburgh Dispatch. Correspondence from Washington reveals the fact that the bill to create a Major General's place for the express benefit of Adjutant General Corbin is to be pushed through the House in the rush of the last days of Congress. It was slipped through the Senate in the closing hours of the last session and has been awaiting its chance ever since. It is one of the most undignified jobs of Algerism, but is probably a good part of Corbin's share of the plunder. The services of General Corbin during the past year have consisted of lung power in the interests of what is known in Washington as "the Michigan push," activity in plots and mis-statements to injure every officer misgued enough to serve the country instead of the Alger regime, and unwearied fidelity in guarding the records of a certain court-martial in which H. C. Corbin was defendant, and which has been carefully omitted from the government reports. He has touched nothing but to muddle it. He is next to the Secretary of War himself, the most eminent exponent of the Alger system, and represents the class of the men and the methods that are disgracing and demoralizing this army.

If the bill is got through the House after the public warning that has been given of its character, it will be because the forces of jobbery are stronger than the forces of public service.

Judge Love on the Duties of Assignees.

From the Philadelphia Press. Speaking of Judge Love, that able jurist has just passed judgment in an interesting case that he heard on the Cambria county bench. The decision is especially commending and has become assigned.

The estate at issue was assigned in 1893 and appraised at \$24,000. Only \$11,000, however, was realized for the beneficiaries, and the Court found that there had been mismanagement and carelessness on the part of the assignee. His fees and those of the attorney in the settlement were therefore cut down \$350 each, in addition to a surcharge of \$508 for inefficient conduct of the trust. Altogether this gave the creditors \$1,323, or about 30 per cent. more than was originally found for them.

Judge Love delivered an opinion that assignees and their counsel should realize that assigned estates for the benefit of creditors are made in trust for the creditors and assignor. Where the estate is largely insolvent, as is this one, it is especially in trust for the creditors, and is not to be unnecessarily prolonged in settlement and minimized for the benefit of the assignee and counsel concerned. The assignee is a trustee, and subject to good faith and responsibilities as such.

Oh, There's a Slight Difference.

From the York Gazette. The first Republican President, and the greatest, Abraham Lincoln, held to the opinion that it was the President's duty to execute the will of the people as expressed through Congress. The last Republican President informs the leaders of Congress that he "will accept no compromises from that body," and cracks the threat of an extra session over their heads when they talk about dropping, for this season, his bill to increase the size of the army. And yet around election time the leather lunged demagogue of Ananias sent out by the Republican campaign committee tells us that it is the same Republican party now that it was in Lincoln's time.

When an excessive duty is placed upon some article of manufacture, the first effect is to stimulate the home industry, and if the article happens to be one of large demand its manufacture becomes immensely profitable. The next steps are over-stimulation, over-capitalization, over-production, glutted markets and falling prices. Finally and inevitably come the formation of trusts, the combination of big concerns and the freezing out of small ones, the limitation of output and the control of prices—in short, a gigantic and tyrannical monopoly.

It Depends Largely on Whose Ox is Gored.

From the Clearfield Public Spirit. It is a fact that among the newspaper publishers who assembled in Washington for the purpose of telling Congress how necessary it is to repeal the tariff on white paper and wood pulp, there were more who publish protection newspapers than publishers of free-trade papers. Funny, isn't it, how easily a protectionist is converted into a free trader when the protective policy effects his own pocket.

—If you are in need of fine printing, which has no equal, the WATCHMAN is the place to get it. Satisfaction is guaranteed on everything.

Spawls from the Keystone.

—Johnson's shingle mill, near Medix run, was destroyed by fire a few nights ago.

—Chambersburg Methodists contributed \$1000.24 the past year for missionary purposes.

—A new township, named in honor of Senator Magee, is to be organized in Allegheny county.

—Fifty-three recruits for the regular army were sent to the front by Lieutenant Moses from Pottsville.

—Sleighting on the Delaware between Bristol and Burlington has come to an end, the ice being unsafe.

—Anthony Rhoads, aged 85, a flagman at Bethayres, west of Yardley, was struck by an east bound train and killed.

—Mrs. Lorinda Hedaline, a Hazleton woman, was fatally scalded, and four hours after the accident gave birth to a son.

—A finely executed snow statue of George Washington, 12 feet high, standing on the main street in Ashland, attracted crowds of sightseers.

—The engagement of attorney B. W. Cumming, of Pottsville to Miss Wolverson, daughter of ex-Congressman Wolverson, of Sunbury, is announced.

—In a fit of jealousy Harry P. Kichline, of Bath, Northampton county, said good-bye to his wife, kissed their baby boy and then sent a bullet through his brain.

—Seventy-three of the eight members of the Schuylkill county bar have petitioned Governor Stone to appoint judge Archibald, of Lackawanna, to the Supreme bench.

—President McKinley has intimated to Congressman Hicks that he will sign the bill providing for a public building at Altoona. The matter has now been favorably considered at every step up to the White House action.

—In the Clearfield county court Monday afternoon, Michael Hart, convicted of the murder of Victor Corietta, was called before Judge Gordon and sentenced to 15 years imprisonment in the Western penitentiary at Allegheny.

—Saturday Maurice Graham crawled into the boiler in the Luppert furniture factory at South Williamsport to make repairs. He removed the section of a pipe, when escaping steam blew over his body. He was taken out badly scalded.

—One of the children of James Thomas, residing in Spring township, Perry county, kicked the covers off, while in bed asleep one cold night last week, and its feet were so badly frozen that it is feared the child's toes will come off.

—At Montgomery Tuesday a boy named Myers pointed a didn't know it was loaded air gun at William Mincevomer. The weapon was discharged and the ball entered Mincevomer's face. The ball was probed for, but could not be found.

—Burglars entered the store of the Berwind-White company, at Windber, Sunday, expecting to secure \$25,000, which was to be paid out in wages. The money was still in a Johnstown bank, and the burglars left after releasing the watchman, who had been bound and gagged.

—C. W. Thomas, who formerly resided at Jersey Shore, was taking a sleigh ride a few days ago at Millburg. He had an attack of heart disease, when he fell out of the sleigh and alighted on his head. He is now suffering from concussion of the brain, and his recovery is doubtful.

—A visitor to the jail at Sunbury Thursday left the key sticking in the inside of the door. James Dressler and Oliver Bittinger, who are serving eighteen and sixteen months, respectively, were in the corridor at the time. They opened the door and made their escape to the Snyder county hills.

—Mr. and Mrs. Harry Hill, of Catawissa, accompanied a sleighing party which left that place for Mainville, six miles distant, Saturday night. They took with them their 9-months' old child, well wrapped up to protect it from the sleet which was falling at the time. When Mainville was reached it was found that the infant had been smothered to death.

—The \$16,000 necessary to start the worsted mill in Sunbury has been raised and the mill will locate at that place. Mr. Leach will have the management of the mill and it will be located on Front street in the old school building. The work of putting the building in order will be commenced at once. The machinery will be ordered, part of it being made in England, as none is built in this country.

—The pay of the Cambria Steel company Saturday at Johnstown amounted to over \$150,000, which is the largest by some \$2,000 of the present winter, and \$10,000 more than was paid out January 28th. This increase, however, has nothing to do with the recent rise in wages, as the present pay is for labor done before that went into effect. About \$25,000 was also paid out to the employes of the Berwind-White coal company at Windber.

—Dr. Lowrie and Crawford and health officer Wanda, who went to Sinking Valley Huntingdon county, on Saturday afternoon, reported that the McClain home they found that Miss Mary McClain had suffered an attack of varioloid some weeks ago, but she is now entirely well and all danger of contagion is past. At the Burnshire home no indication of smallpox was discovered, the only illness that had been in the family or now prevailing there being bad colds or grip.

—Mary Wilson, who is the leader of the Junior Epworth league at Punxsutawney, gave the members of that organization a sleighing party to Big Run Saturday, and on the way home, while passing near a precipice, the coupling pin in the big sled which carried Miss Wilson and twenty children, ranging from 7 to 15 years, broke, and caused the sled to precipitate its load down a fifty foot embankment, seriously injuring Miss Wilson and slightly hurting a dozen of the children.

—Judge Cyrus Gordon at Clearfield Monday granted the rule prayed for by John F. Short and George E. Owens, publishers of the Clearfield Republican, on the county commissioners to show cause why a mandamus should not be issued compelling them to allow the petitioners access to the public records of that office for the purpose of publishing weekly the list of orders drawn on the county treasurer and also the minutes of the business transacted daily. The rule is returnable the second Monday of March.