

Ink Stings.

The Emperor of Korea has cut off his queue, tucked his shirt into his pants and become an American in style.

The deeper the probe goes into the putrid beef the greater the debt of gratitude the American people owe Gen. MILES.

Better water need never be looked for by Philadelphians until those at the head of municipal affairs in that city are compelled to take water.

Only a few more days until the angle worm and the tangle foot will meet on the banks of Spring creek to conjure up a new series of big fish lies.

California's Legislature has given up and adjourned without having elected a United States Senator. Pennsylvania's has about decided to do likewise.

ALGER is going to visit Cuba. He had better have Armour & Co. paint him with a coat of that preservative or he might spoil in the hot weather down there.

Tuesday was supposed to have been the first day of spring, but judging from the kind of weather "Old Probs" has been working off on us, no one would have guessed it.

With the President and speaker REED meeting on Jekyll island and shaking hands as if they had been long separated brothers there is reason to look around for the appearance of a Mr. HYDE directly.

The Cuban army has gotten down to that unlucky condition in which thirteen figures conspicuously. There are reported to be just thirteen thousand of them left. No wonder they couldn't conquer Spain.

The Philadelphia youth who is suffering with arthritis deformans, which means the growing of chalk on the joints of his fingers and toes, would be worth far more to a milk man than as an exhibit before medical college classes.

New York has a purely accidental fire and burns up twenty or more guests of a hotel. Philadelphia has a miserable water supply of which everyone knows and kills hundreds of her best citizens with typhoid. Who needs the sympathy most, Father Knickerbocker or William Penn?

Nine-tenths of the American people are law breakers in one way or another. We have too many laws. Even a saint couldn't keep from infraction of the multiplicity of restrictions that are already placed upon the American people and every Legislator seems to think it his duty to his constituents to undertake the addition of another one or two.

The electrocution of Mrs. PLACE forever puts an end to the hope of women life takers of escaping the electric chair in New York. Her crime was far too atrocious to be atoned for by the ending of her miserable life, but it is the fear of a similar fate that will probably stay the hand that might be actuated by murderous hearts in others. Governor ROOSEVELT did well in declining to save Mrs. PLACE from the electric chair.

BRYAN's decision to attend the Jefferson dinner of the Chicago platform Democrats in New York will undoubtedly give the paragraphers great play with him for awhile. It happens to be a \$1.00 dinner and, mark you, if the dear money organs don't set up a howl about a cheap money man and his cheap banquet. They'll do it, just as certain as fate, and in doing it will brand themselves the miserable whippersnappers that they are.

If the exports from the United States have become so far in excess of the exports from England that the Philadelphia Inquirer has to suffer a congestion of the nervous coating of its funny bone that journal might find instant relief by discovering what percentage of the exports of the two countries are of raw materials. The Inquirer wouldn't consider it a crowing matter to acknowledge that three-fourths of our exports are of cereals and raw materials, while ninety-eight per cent. of England's are of manufactures. There is a balance in favor of the United States but it is the wrong kind of a balance.

The Scranton Republican has launched what it hopes will prove a booming big boom for ALVAN MARKLE, the millionaire Hazleton banker and traction operator, for U. S. Senator. The Republican calls Mr. MARKLE all sorts of nice names, all of which are doubtless true, but it sounds his death knell when it says he "is not a politician." The Republican party of Pennsylvania will never have anything but a politician, but because a man is one is not proof that he is unqualified for the office. Mr. MARKLE has a local reputation as a hypnotist, we believe, but whether he will be able to work his hypnotic spell off on the Legislature at Harrisburg is another matter.

The editors of the Clearfield Republican must feel proud of the fight they made against the commissioners of that county to compel the latter to open the county books for publication of matters of interest to the taxpayers. The Republican commissioners refused access to the books for such purposes, but Judge Gordon sustained the plea of the Republican and its first search uncovered an error of \$4,496.96. The auditors have since acknowledged the error and the Republican necessarily takes a very decided jump in popular estimation. It is not to say that the discrepancy might not have been discovered through other agencies, but it is enough to demonstrate that there cannot be too much publicity of county business matters for the good of both officials and people.

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In this Prosperity!

On all sides are heard the shouts of exultant protectionists because manufacturing plants that have been idle for months are beginning to start up and there is a tendency among manufacturers to grant a slight advance in wages to employees. It is spread broadcast by protectionist journals that the circus has at last caught up to the advance agent and that henceforth American labor and capital will prosper under the benign influence of restored Republicanism.

It is true that idle factories are resuming and that wages have been advanced in some of the New England cotton mills and in some of the Pennsylvania iron works, but to what rate. Not a single instance can be pointed out in which a factory has resumed operation or is preparing to do so that was not in full blast under the effects of the WILSON bill. Not a case of increased wages is there in which more money is being paid to labor to-day than was the rate at that time. For months previous to the breaking out of the Spanish war the markets were being glutted with the products of American manufacturers over stimulated by pampering tariffs there was a demand far below the supply, prices were beaten down, wages went with them and the business condition of the country was in such a state of paralysis that the wheels of industry would have stopped turning, even had the war not precipitated the collapse when it did.

It was not the war, however, that stopped what should be a ceaseless rattle of machinery in the land. The few hundred thousand men who were taken out of the centers of population and gathered in the great army camps were not the cause. Their absence was never felt. It was but the natural result of a market that had been overstocked by a producing country trying vainly to prosper under laws designed for a consuming country. It is not beyond the mind to recall the retrograde movement. Finally everything stopped. Iron and textile manufacturers were at a standstill and every other branch of trade suffered the effects of the congestion.

That was a year ago. Since then manufacturers have been stagnant, with the result that the over loaded markets have been relieved and once more there is a demand for that which labor produces. The demand comes as a natural result; the supply having been out of it must resume and this is what the protectionists are pleased to call prosperity.

While it is to be hoped that there will be no hand to withhold the march of progress there can be no prosperity for the American people until that condition has been reached and passed at which trade conditions were highest and labor best paid. Prosperity is an advance or gain in anything good or desirable. Then if we are to call this prosperity we must grant that the present low wages, even increased by their 10 or 15 per cent., are desirable and something good.

The real prosperity will not have come until business in our land has resumed the condition it was in before this dwarfing, diminishing retrograde movement began. When once it has regained that point the progress beyond it can really be called prosperity, but until that time comes we can only be considered to be getting back our own.

It is but natural that those on the side of the party in power should clutch at the very first straws that have appeared to save them from the political death by drowning that must certainly be theirs in 1900. The first zephyr that is felt waits a spark of life into the prostrate energy of the land and is hailed as a great storm of prosperity. But one swallow doesn't make a summer any more than a single spurt makes a steady stream.

This is not the real thing, yet to the emaciated, worn down structure of American industry it is a God-send that we deplore is not founded on something more substantial than such a measure as the DINGLEY tariff bill.

The New York Sun proposes what it thinks would be a great time saver to readers of newspapers and books. The Sun has an idea that instead of having matter printed so that it reads from left to right, it would be better to have it alternate; the first line reading from left to right, the next one from right to left and so on; in this way saving the skipping from the right to left to begin each line. Such an alternating scheme will hardly prove popular anywhere else than in the Sun office. There it would be in perfect conformity with that journal's alternating ideas on politics, business and religion. Sometimes the Sun progresses straight ahead, other times backward and then again it is neither one nor the other. It can go ahead and read this way

Mary had a little lamb,
Show as white as fleece its,
And every place that Mary went
Go to sure was lamb the
but the rest of us will be satisfied to lose the time in lancing from right to left after each line is finished. It is good for the eyes.

Algerism Ended at Last.

The testimony of the western witnesses in the court of inquiry into the charges that embalmed and otherwise unfit meat had been supplied to the army during the Spanish war, leaves no doubt of the justice of the complaint made by Gen. MILES and the subsequent conviction of Gen. EGAN by a court martial. Facts more atrocious than any even hinted at in the original charges have been revealed and though the link in the chain which might connect the Secretary of War with the outrage is absent, enough has been shown, even in that direction, to make it impossible to retain Gen. ALGER in the cabinet without making the administration accessory, after the fact, to the crime. In truth nothing but the fictitious popularity of the President has made ALGER tolerable thus far, and that will not serve the purpose in the future.

When the crime against humanity and patriotism was first exposed Secretary ALGER openly and ostentatiously resented it, and put every possible humiliation on the author of the exposures. That fact in itself should have opened the eyes of the President to the possibilities of criminality. But it either had no such effect or else he was determined to sacrifice honor and honesty in order to shield his favorite. The report of the manifestly packed board of investigation into the conduct of the war clearly and rather stupidly attempted to smirch the general of the army and white-wash the Secretary of War, and the unfriendly acceptance at the white house, of the verdict of the EGAN court martial, combined to force the meat investigators to make an unjust report. But the evidence was palpable and the only alternative is to dismiss ALGER. It is to be hoped that it will result in the elimination of ALGERISM.

Of course no one knows, and it is difficult to even conjecture, what influences have served to shield ALGER from the just penalties of his acts thus far. He was among those who came forward to discharge the President from certain pecuniary obligations some years ago, but it is scarcely probable that he would exact so vast a price for such a service. He contributed liberally to the campaign fund used for debauching the vote of certain cities in the campaign of 1896, but he would hardly expect protection in a crime against the soldiers of the nation in return for that service. Whatever the cause, the fact remains that he has been retained in office under the protest of an almost unanimous public sentiment for months after his unfitness was disclosed, and it is to be hoped that the end will now be reached.

The theory that green wall paper is the only kind that contains arsenical poison has been exploded by scientists, who assert that red wall paper has really more arsenic in it than the green.

The Senatorial Deadlock.

The senatorial deadlock continues to drag its slow length along at Harrisburg and so far as appearances indicate there is no hope of the end. The friends of Senator QUAY continue to express confidence in his ultimate election and it is said that he will appear in Harrisburg within a few days to personally direct his canvass. But it is obvious to all intelligent observers that he has no expectation of an election by the present Legislature. No Democrat could go to him now even if there should be a break in the organization of that party, which is not likely, and it is about equally certain that no one of the so-called insurgents will stultify himself by violating his written pledge.

Under these circumstances it is difficult to conjecture what reasons influence the Senator and his friends to keep up the false pretense of hope. Long years ago, when people were ignorant and credulous, such deceptive tactics might have proved useful for a time. But in this era of intelligence and electricity they can be of no service and may do infinite harm by re-acting. In any event it may be assumed that the people are quite as well aware of existing conditions as the Senator or his managers and that being true he will gain nothing by misrepresentation. There can be no election by the present Legislature, except by the treachery of more than a dozen Democrats, the betrayal of faith by that many insurgents or the unconditional withdrawal from the contest of Senator QUAY himself.

The first two of these contingencies are not likely to occur and the other is to say the least improbable. The manifest course of QUAY, therefore, is to continue the deadlock until the close of the session and then do the best he can to secure a friendly Legislature in 1900. Curiously enough this is also the advantageous course for the Democrats. If the people are not sufficiently disgusted with the Republican party of Pennsylvania after the experience of this year, to elect a Democratic Legislature in 1900, the fact that meantime the Democrats gain half a vote in the United States Senate by the vacancy in the representation for Pennsylvania will afford partial compensation for their efforts at reform.

The Classification of Liars.

There are various kinds of liars in this world, and some are artistic while others are bungling. But no one has ever undertaken to determine whether or not there is a greater measure of merit in one than in the other. It is true that there is an axiom to the effect that whatever is done should be well done, and it is popularly understood that order is heaven's first law so that the sloven would have little show in a competition there, and a bad liar is necessarily a slovenly liar. It is not certain, however, that an accomplished liar would fare any better in such a competition. In other words it may be doubted if there is virtue in excellence when the question is lying.

In the bribery investigation now in progress at Harrisburg various grades of liars have already been developed, and it may be confidently asserted that if no other good results are achieved by the inquiry it will at least serve the purpose of providing a basis from, or upon, which to classify liars in the future. That would hardly justify the trouble and expense which the investigation will entail and probably it may even fail to compensate for the wear and tear on state pride which is a necessary incident to such scandals. But inasmuch as we have the investigation whether we like it or not and the evil consequences are inevitable, there can be no complaint against making the most out of a bad bargain and entering on the credit side of the ledger the fact that this much has been gained any way.

The testimony of the professional lobbyists who spent much time in the interest of the McCABRELL bill reveals the fact that whatever else the State of Pennsylvania may be lacking, it is rich in liars. Of course every community has its liars and here and there you will find one who may be classed as an artist in the work. But this episode in the legislative life of the state capital has brought to light at least three perjurers who may lay claim to high rank and if they were not all citizens of the same State we should not hesitate to back them for championship honors. There is considerable difference between a liar and a perjurer. It is comparatively easy to reel off a yarn over the coffee and cigars and long experience and immunity from detection may develop marvelous powers in a likely man under most circumstances. But when it comes to telling a lie under oath and sticking to it through a rigid cross-examination, the amateur naturally gets confused, and only the most expert and accomplished can meet the requirements.

It is with something like pride, therefore, that we scan the record of the investigation now in progress in Harrisburg, for it has revealed at least three liars of the phenomenal type. It may be that the cross-examination was faulty, and that the portion of the committee which is opposed to exposures has proved more adroit than the contingent which aims to get at the truth. But in any event the returns show that there have been three witnesses before the committee either one of whom can beat Ananias in a lying match with both hands tied behind his back.

Bogus Pledges of Reform.

The QUAY candidates for delegates to the Republican state convention in Lancaster county have put out a reform platform as the basis of their claims for popular favor among the voters of their party faith. If they are chosen, they promise in substance, that they will vote for no candidate for State Treasurer who doesn't in turn pledge himself to every reform that any reasonable man could ask. The candidate for Treasurer who gets their votes in the convention, if the people are credulous enough to elect them, must agree to an examination of the books of the treasury, to prompt payment of the school appropriations, the abolishment of useless offices and the cutting down of extravagant salaries. There are a few other improvements in official morals and political methods that must be agreed to as well, but these are sufficient to recall the adage that "when the devil was sick, the devil a monk would be. But when the devil got well, the devil a monk was he."

The Republican party has been promising these and other reforms, not only in the state treasury but in all departments of the public service, before each recurring election for nearly a score of years. But after the people are deceived and the continuance in office secured, the promises are disregarded and the pledges repudiated. In every state convention of that party held within the last five years the most solemn guarantee of better municipal government was clearly given. But when the question was brought up in the Legislature—when the promise is brought to the point of taking on form—the reformers and the plunderers, the saints and sinners, make common cause in an opposition. When the people are deceived the object of the promise is fulfilled. The pledges are made not with the view of improving methods but in order that the improvement which the people demand may be prevented for a time.

If the people of Lancaster county are deceived by this old trick they are too credulous to be entitled to sympathy.

But it is not clear why the QUAY candidates for delegates in Lancaster should proclaim pledges of reform in advance of the vote, unless on the hypothesis that "the guilty flee when no man pursueth."

Pledges of reform ought not to be a recommendation to the voters of a party which has always practiced the antithesis of reform. In making appointments the question of reform is never considered by Republican office holders and politicians. The matter that influences them is the capacity for party work and the power in controlling and manipulating party conventions. That being notoriously true, what is the reason for such an hypocritical pretense as is implied in this pledge of bogus reform? The truth is that these politicians have become so accustomed to cheating that they now cheat each other and the reform promises of these candidates for favor in Lancaster are simply bogus gold bricks in a new form. The pledges are not worth the paper they are written on.

Young Widows of Old Soldiers to be Pensioned No Longer.

From the Doylestown Democrat. Congress has stopped one of the big pension leaks that had broadened into fraud, and the taxpayers should be thankful for it. A special act that slipped through as a rider provides that "Hereafter no pension under any law of the United States shall be granted or paid to the widow of any person entitled to a pension under any law of the United States, unless it shall be proved and established that the marriage of such widow to the soldier, sailor, etc., was duly and legally contracted and entered into prior to the passage of this act."

This completely stops the practice of old soldiers marrying young women, who upon their death, become "wards of the nation" and draw the soldiers' pension during their natural lives. This practice largely increased the pension roll in the past, to such an extent that the last Revolutionary widow pensioner only recently died. This step should have been taken long ago, but its better now than not at all, and we shall hear of no more frauds on the government through the sacred marriage ceremony. As a beginning has been made in the stoppage of pension leaks, and its about the first, if Congress will but turn on the search light it can find others that should be dealt with. The people should be an unit in stopping pension frauds and leaks, but, unfortunately, it is not, and the combinations to swindle the taxpayers through this agency, are numerous and powerful. Toward the soldier, who fought and bled, and the widowed mother of his children, the open heart of the country goes out, but the manufactured widow will no longer be a recipient of the country's bounty.

Why Didn't They Choose the Anti-Quay Candidates Then.

From the Millinburg Times. William M. Ginter was badly beaten at the Republican primary election on last Saturday. His defeat is heralded as a Quay-Focht victory. Perhaps this is right and perhaps it is not.

Mr. Ginter entered the campaign as anti-Quay candidate. Mr. Rothermel tried to represent no faction. He could not be persuaded to say that he was either a Quay man or a Focht man. He would endeavor, if elected, to represent the Republican people of Union county, as he might be able to learn their wishes.

If Mr. Rothermel takes the trouble to consult the rank and file of the Republicans of Union county, he will find that they are opposed to Quay by a large majority.

John Sherman not Dead and Getting Better.

SANTIAGO DE CUBA, March 21, 7 p. m.—There is no truth in the statements published in the United States and cabled back here representing that John Sherman is dead. It is incomprehensible how these reports originated.

The American line steamer Paris, captain Frederick Watkins, arrived here this evening before dark, and it was immediately reported that Mr. Sherman was not only alive, but better, resting easily and expected to recover.

Mr. Sherman will be transferred, if all goes favorably, to the United States cruiser Chicago on Thursday. The cruiser is now coaling at Kingston, Jamaica.

There was a general feeling of relief in Washington when the last bulletin from Santiago was read announcing that Mr. Sherman was still living. The report of his death created a profound impression throughout the capital. It came just as the officials were separating from the several departments, and as the news spread about it became the universal theme at the hotels, clubs and in all public places. On every hand were heard tributes of veneration and respect for this notable public figure, and the sentiment was general that in his death the country had lost a statesman who had served long and faithfully.

Salary Grab Bill Signed.

Governor Stone Approves the Allegheny County Measure.

HARRISBURG, March 21.—Governor Stone signed the Allegheny county salary grab bill to-day. There was never any question as to what he would do with it. Senator Magee introduced it. Under its provisions Coroner McGeary will receive \$5,000 a year, instead of \$3,500; George W. Miller, clerk of courts, \$9,000, instead of \$5,000; Dr. Chessrown, the jail physician, \$1,800; the county controller, \$6,000, instead of \$5,000.

If you want fine work done of every description the WATCHMAN is the place to have it done.

Spawls from the Keystone.

The state fish commission reports that after the February blizzard, melting snow affected the water at the Allentown hatchery and at least 1,000,000 trout fry perished.

The Northern Central railroad is putting in the block signal system on the Susquehanna division, between Harrisburg and Sunbury. The work will soon be completed.

Governor Stone issued a proclamation Saturday setting Friday, April 7th, and Friday, April 28th, as Arbor days for this spring. The very uncertain weather caused the selection of two dates.

A new bank was organized in Martinsburg on Tuesday, March 21, at 10 a. m., when the stockholders met for that purpose. All the stock to the amount of \$15,000 has already been subscribed.

Austin has been severely scorched again. Before the flames were extinguished four business houses were destroyed and the Masonic hall and Ward's bakery were badly damaged by smoke and water. The loss is estimated at \$10,000.

Burdine Estep, one of Osceola's old and well known citizens, died last Saturday morning after a long illness. He leaves a widow and five sons and five daughters. Mr. Estep has for years been a successful coal operator. The funeral takes place at 2 o'clock Monday afternoon. Interment in Umbria cemetery.

Archie Bower, of Williamsport, purchased a keg of powder at a public sale near Montoursville last Thursday. After taking it home he tested it to see if it was damp by pouring some on the floor and lighting it. It was all right, but some of the powder fell in the keg and Bower may possibly recover from the explosion.

At Jersey Shore Sunday evening while the family of Rev. Joseph Stevens were at church, thieves gained access to the house. They entered the room occupied by Miss Elizabeth Stevens and stole \$30 in money, most of which belonged to Miss Mackey, of Chambersburg, who is visiting the family. The thieves found considerable jewelry but did not carry it off.

Among the bills recently introduced in the house at Harrisburg is that providing that wild turkeys, pheasants, grouse, quail, partridges, woodcock, prairie chickens, English Mongolian, or Chinese pheasants may be killed from October 15 to December 15. It provides that rabbits may be killed from October 1 to February 1; squirrels from October 15 to December 15.

A. F. Heinkles, of near Lewistown, has a collection of 500 arrow heads ranging from the midget less than one-half inch in length to the large ones four inches long; spear heads of all sizes; several skinning knives; five little axes and seven tomahawks. The greater number of the relics was found by Mr. Heinkles along the shores of the Juniata about the island of Millin, and the others along the river shore between Mexico and Thompstonville.

Julius Steumple, a teamster on the Hyatt lumber job, near Lewisburg, hitched his team to a log in the woods Friday, and was dragging it along. The log rolled on the man's feet, knocked him down and rolled over him. His head was crushed against the root of a tree, fracturing the skull. He was found afterwards by his fellow workmen. The injured man was taken to the Williamsport hospital. His condition is critical. He is 28 years old and his parents reside at Ellinport.

While under the influence of liquor Monday at Bellwood, James Shipman, a blacksmith, attempted to shoot Geo. Taylor, colored, at E. D. Sower's jewelry store. He missed the first shot and then Taylor grappled with him, holding the revolver away from him. W. C. Barntown, a barber, next door to the jewelry store, ran in and took the revolver away from Shipman, who gave himself up to the authorities. Shipman had a grudge against Taylor.

A man giving his name as Fred Miller, and his home as Rochester, made an unsuccessful attempt to commit suicide at Williamsport Tuesday night by jumping from the Market street bridge into the Susquehanna river. He was rescued by men who saw him jump. He was well dressed and had \$160 on his person. He stated that he was a dentist. It is evident the man is just recovering from a spree. He had a railroad ticket from Genesee to Philadelphia in his pocket.

The casket in which the late Major Seelye, of Forksville, the 450 pound hotel man, was laid to rest, was the largest and most expensive ever taken to Sullivan county. It was of red cedar, lined with copper, sealed air tight, covered outside with broadcloth, and inside with cream satin. Its inside dimensions were six feet three inches long, thirty-six inches wide and twenty-four inches in height, while the ten silver handles were wrought with Masonic emblems. It was necessary to enlarge one of the windows before the casket could be taken from the house.

A thunder and lightning storm passed over the eastern edge of Clearfield county Wednesday morning which seemed a freak in the way of storms for the month of March. At Osceola and Houtzdale it thundered until it fairly shook the houses, and at Chesterfield mine, No. 16, the lightning struck young Wilkes, a soldier of the Spanish war, and for a time it was thought he was dead. The young soldier revived and will likely recover all right. When the bolt came it struck a coil of copper wire which caused a sudden blaze of fire to leap into the air about thirty feet and as suddenly disappear.

Brigadier General Wiley has been discharged from the volunteer service of the United States and has returned to his home at Franklin. He will probably return to his old command, that of the Second brigade, in the National Guard of Pennsylvania, when the reorganization of the state's military is completed. The bill before the Legislature for the reorganization is opposed by many of the best military men in the State as to many of its features. General Wiley particularly protests against that feature which provides for all staff officers to be appointed by the Governor, which virtually places that power in the hands of the Adjutant General, who is the actual force behind the Governor. Captain Bure, of company A, Huntingdon, is chairman of the military committee. He is being urged to oppose the bill as it now stands, but may not choose to lock horns with the Adjutant General.