

Ink Stings.

I'll be the big boss of the whole blamed machine, The grand Goo-goo-bum of the county; I'll draw initiators in an old soup tureen, And run things by payin' the bounty.

Democratic Watchman

STATE RIGHTS AND FEDERAL UNION.

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Who is Responsible.

Under the circumstances the cutting down of the public school appropriation \$1,000,000 by Governor STONE was probably the best thing he could do.

But who is responsible for the circumstances? This is the question that the taxpayers will be asking when they get enough gumption into their heads to realize that there is something radically wrong and offensively rotten, both in the legislation and general management of the affairs of the old Commonwealth.

The House of Representatives at Harrisburg during the last session of the Legislature, was controlled by the anti-QUAY sentiment of the State. The Senate was the sycophantic and subservient tool of the boss of the state ring.

It was this ring that dictated the nomination and elected Mr. STONE Governor, and it was the same ring that influenced and controlled the action of the Senate. In the House a number of revenue bills were originated and passed that would have provided abundant means to support all the charities and public institutions of the State, as well as furnishing the usual amount of assistance to our public schools and educational institutions.

In every instance, when these bills effected corporations or interests from which the Republican state ring—Mr. QUAY and his henchmen—annually draws its political stipend, they were voted down by the Senate.

The Democrats and anti-QUAY Representatives did their best to furnish revenue sufficient to meet all the necessary expenditures and outstanding obligations of the State, but because they proposed raising part of these funds from sources that never have, and do not now, pay their just proportion of taxation, a QUAY Senate, that heeded and was largely guided by the advice and wishes of Governor STONE, voted down these propositions and left the finances of the State in the condition they are now in.

It was to save corporations and brewers of beer from bearing a portion of the state taxation, that the public school fund has to be robbed now.

This is the reason the revenues are short of the appropriations. It is the reason the public schools are to be robbed of part of their income, and the burdens of increased taxation thrown upon the shoulders of those least able to bear them.

The responsibility for this condition of affairs rests solely and alone upon the political ring of which Governor STONE is the official representative, and this responsibility can neither be shirked nor lessened by any pretense of devotion to the interests of the taxpayers or the financial honor of the State.

It is Governor STONE and his friends who are responsible for the lack of revenue that necessitates the reduction of the appropriations for the public schools.

This is a fact that every day's proceedings of the last session of the Legislature will attest.

When the coal miners and others, for whose relief and assistance the Philadelphia hospital was established, realize that that deserving institution has been compelled to stand a reduction in its appropriation from the State of \$2,000 in order to relieve foreign and domestic beer brewers and the great corporations of the State from paying a fair share of taxation, they will begin to appreciate the kind of benefits that are to be had from the continuance in power of a political party that is willing to rob its own charities for the advantage of such interests. Robbing the hospitals and schools to save brewers' taxes should have a tendency to open the eyes, even of a Pennsylvania Republican.

Original Ideas on the Production of Harmony.

In parallel columns the Republican says: "There are no satisfactory nor convincing reasons that can be advanced for the continuance of factionalism and dissension in our ranks. Let us set aside everything prejudicial to the interests of our party and, forgetting personal grievances, fancied or real, unite together in giving our friends, the enemy, the stiffest proposition they have met with in Centre county in many a day."

In one column our contemporary urges Republicans of Centre county to get together and in another it berates Governor STONE for having cut the public school appropriation. The Republican certainly takes an unique view of the situation. If it expects the QUAY men in Centre county to turn in with its side while it keeps on shooting away at the goose that is laying their golden eggs there is only one conclusion for us to come to and that is that the editorial writers on the Republican are as green in politics as they are in journalism.

Many a Philadelphia girl is walking with a limp because the board of health of that place has ordered all vaccinated as a precaution against the spread of small pox.

An Interesting Problem.

The army beef scandal has taken on a new form. The jobbers in and out of the administration, which includes Secretary of War ALGER, and the beef packers, are about to become aggressive. They have been on the defensive since the investigation began, and were inclined to be conciliatory for a time. But now that the report has been in their favor they are likely to take a different view of the situation. Instead of running with the hares they are now disposed to hunt with the hounds. It is the accusers that are to be on the defensive hereafter. Exposing crime is the vice and perpetrating it the virtue. That is the ALGERIAN rule, at least, and ALGER's will is the law of the present administration.

In view of these facts it is not surprising to learn that it will be impossible for Generals MILES and MERRITT to both remain in the army, nor is it difficult to conjecture which of the two will be obliged to get out under the circumstances. At the beginning of the war anybody with an analytical mind would have at once seen, under such conditions, MERRITT would be put on the toboggan. He was on record for having condoned ALGER for desertion and cowardice and though MILES wasn't in high favor at the time, he was preferred to MERRITT, but since then MERRITT has learned a thing or two. He has acquired the art of crooking the pregnant hinges of the knee "where thrift may follow fawning." As a result he escaped the danger and privations of the Philippines and secured favor by what looks greatly like shirking. Having gone that far it is natural that he should resort to sycophancy as a medium of gaining further favor.

But it is doubtful if ALGER will be able to carry out his present plan of driving MILES out of the army in order to promote MERRITT to the chief command. The country will not tamely submit to an outrage, and McKINLEY will hardly take the risk of provoking popular resentment in that way. Unless the signs are misleading there will be trouble enough to secure a re-election without provoking additional opposition, and ALGER's scheme would be prolific in that respect. Nobody can tell, however, ALGER was kind when money was needed and like most men who accommodate in that way, he is exacting. Altogether it is an interesting problem and the public will watch the solution of it with deep concern.

A Tempest in a Teapot.

The EDWARD ATKINSON episode is very much like the traditional "tempest in a teapot." It was a sensation for a day and will be a matter of regret for all time. The small minds that rule in the councils of the administration became frenzied over an imaginary offense and committed a crime against the spirit of the law and constitution, greater than that which they complained of could have been, even if it had been what they imagined, which it was not. So palpable an evidence of incompetency and unfitness has rarely if ever been revealed in a civilized government before. Those pennut politicians in Washington are making a sorry spectacle of themselves.

Mr. ATKINSON, whose passion for pamphleteering, though amusing, is hardly harmful, had compiled from the Congressional Record some matter which he regarded as pertinent on the conduct of the war with Spain. As we understand it there was little or nothing in the document he was distributing other than that taken from speeches of Congressmen, delivered on the floor of the House. But little CHARLES EMORY SMITH, who is rattling around in the chair once occupied by MONTGOMERY BLAIR and later filled by WILLIAM L. WILSON, conceived the notion that the soldiers in the army of occupation in the Philippines ought not to be permitted to read the matter, and he took upon himself to rifle the mails and abstract from the pouches the ATKINSON pamphlet. He had no more right in law or reason to do that than any tramp has to cut a pouch on its way from the railway station to the postoffice in this town. The inviolability of the mails is one of the boasted traditions in this country. But when cheap clerks are entrusted with the work of tugging grown men, which seems to be a rule of the present administration, there is no telling what may happen in any given direction.

There was nothing treasonable in the pamphlet which Mr. ATKINSON had prepared for circulation, but there is treason in the wanton violation of the constitution and laws as perpetrated by Postmaster General SMITH, in rifling the mails enroute to the Philippines. But such things are among the natural developments of this era of immature minds. There are men who talk freely about the sacredness of the flag and think there is no harm at all in stuffing a ballot box. Criticizing the actions of an official is, according to their ideas, a grave offense, but trampling the Constitution under foot an innocent diversion. The ATKINSON episode is in point.

The College Appropriations Cut to the Extent of \$11,000.

Governor STONE completed the work that was left for him to do by the last Legislature, on Monday, and started off on a fishing trip to West Virginia. The all important matter to Centre county was his action on the appropriation bills for the Pennsylvania State College and the Cottage hospital at Philipsburg. He cut the later's amount from \$14,000 to \$12,000 and the appropriation for State was pared down to the extent of \$11,000.

The Legislature had given the College \$86,557.90 but the Governor pared it as follows before he would approve it:

- For repairs and maintenance of buildings and maintenance and improvement of steam plant, \$2,500. For maintaining campus walks and roads, \$1,000. For maintenance of the department of physics and purchase of additional apparatus for physical research, \$1,000. For maintenance of the department of civil engineering and equipment of the hydraulic laboratory the sum of \$2,500. For maintenance of the department of chemistry, including the chemical museum, \$2,000. For maintenance of the department of psychology, including psychological laboratory, \$1,000. For maintenance of the biological and botanical laboratories, \$1,000.

President Atherton's View of the Cut.

Probably the matter of most interest to Centre county before the last session of the Legislature was the appropriation budget, since our great institution of learning, The Pennsylvania State College, was hopeful of securing just such sums as were actually needful for the carrying on of the work of its various departments. The Governor cut the appropriation, along with the others, and while his action will hinder the progress of the College to a certain extent President ATHERTON looks at the act in a most philosophical and kindly way.

While expressing his regret that the Governor found it necessary to reduce the already small appropriation voted to the College by the Legislature, he believes that "the Governor acted in perfect good faith and with a purpose to deal as fairly and considerately as possible with all the conditions of a very perplexing situation. The Governor's determination to reduce the large outstanding floating indebtedness of the State must commend itself to the judgment of every citizen, and the College is willing to take its share of cutting until the finances of the State are in better shape."

He's a Soldier Not a Show Fool.

The most utterly preposterous and shameless proffer ever made to a brave man, a fine soldier and a great fighter is that which the State Fair association of Kansas has laid before Gen. Funston. It calmly proposes to give the soldier hero of the Philippines \$1,000 to swim the Arkansas river with his nine soldiers of Calumpit and show his countrymen how they did it in the East. The enterprising association proposes to throw up earthworks opposite Wichita, where the fair is to be held, and to man them with enough of competent cowards to give the whole matter the highest realistic form. They are to be captured amid the greatest applause, of course, and it is mentioned incidentally that this novel feature cannot fail to ensure the success of the fair itself, as well as to provide an interesting and valuable object lesson in the art and practice of war to the youth of the State and to its visitors. It is needless to say that Gen. Funston will certainly decline the invitation to make a fool of himself. His business is real war, and in it he is the peer of the bravest soldier whose name honors our history. To be placed upon the level with a five-legged calf or a horned colt would be to permit himself to become more ridiculous than the unfortunate Hobson, whose brave deeds are shadowed by his mistakes choice of places for acrobatic practice with admiring young women. The lesson of Hobson is not likely to be lost upon our returning heroes, but that such a sublimely ridiculous offer should be made to Funston in a State which should feel dignified by his citizenship, and made in calm expectancy that it could be seriously entertained or fail to awaken a storm of derisive indignation through the country, is almost beyond the range of belief. The fool-killer has a job out in Kansas, and particularly with the people of Wichita and the Fair association which has headquarters there.

Dingley Tariff Burdens.

The Dingley tariff law has been of no benefit to the wool growers; it has been of great disadvantage to the woolen and worsted manufacturers, and has compelled a great many of the American people to go without the clothing they have been accustomed to use and are desirous of buying. It furnishes an illustration of the disastrous effects of this form of protection, which injures practically everybody and is of advantage to nobody.

An Honest Recognition of the Truth.

It would be idle to disguise the fact that the Democratic organization in Pennsylvania is far more respected to-day than it has been before for many years. The action of its representatives at Harrisburg during the legislative session has been such as to invite the confidence of the party people forfeited in former years by the intrigues and trades of corrupt and selfish leaders.

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

The Little Red School House Must Suffer.

Papers throughout the country, as well as the educational interest—and it is an interesting professional and financially—were vigorous in criticism of the lopping off of nearly a million and a quarter dollars from the usual appropriation for school purposes in Pennsylvania. On its face it may be a retrograde step, but there are good reasons in the way of explanation. It simply results from the extravagance and jobbery in state government that has been going on for years, and for which the Republican party and its accepted bosses are exclusively responsible. We heard nothing of this kind when Robt. E. Pattison was Governor and guarded and protected the financial interests of the Commonwealth with ability and integrity, even hampered as he was at all times by a hostile Legislature. If Geo. A. Jenks had been elected Governor we are confident that nothing of the kind would have occurred.

A leading Republican paper of New York declares that the reduction of the school funds is a fitting sequel to the operations of the Quay treasury ring, and repeats facts well known in this State that the school funds were diverted to pet banks to be loaned to ring favorites. As a matter of fact and as a single instance the hundred thousand dollars that the late State Treasurer directed should be loaned out of state funds deposited in the school funds of Pennsylvania and in this way: At the time there was default in the payment of the school quota to the counties and instead of this \$100,000 and many other thousands being applied to that purpose, it was loaned to politicians and speculators on the orders of the Republican bosses. For years the school fund was plundered by these people and distributed as a reward for personal and factional purposes. The counties, deprived of the school quota due them, were forced in some cases to issue bonds to borrow money; in others the school year was cut down, and again in others the pay of teachers was reduced. And all that the school funds could be used for speculative purposes by machine politicians and speculators, or if they did not so use them, they shared in the interest contracted to be paid by such rotten banks as the Peoples for state deposits.

These very Republican politicians who have been raiding the school funds of Pennsylvania have been at the same time posing and making capital and votes as the particular advocates and champions of "the little red school house." No State of the Union, unless some of the southern States, under carpet-bag and negro rule, can match this debauchery of the public conscience here in Pennsylvania. And it is in progress to-day, as county after county is voting confidence in boss Quay by electing delegates to a state convention to nominate another candidate for State Treasurer to his liking.

William Flick, Proprietor of the Flick House at New Centreville, Somerset county, and the postmaster of that town, died Saturday week ago, in the 60th year of his age. He was also postmaster during the Harrison administration, and was commissary-sergeant of the Fifty-fourth Pennsylvania volunteers, and served three years in the army during the civil war. A wife and one daughter survive.

—Emanuel Getz, of Jersey Shore, is now lying in bed suffering from a very painful injury. Mr. Getz is a blacksmith, and while shoeing a horse the animal became obstreperous, and in his efforts to quiet him, Mr. Getz fell, and the horse fell on top of him. Mr. Getz's body was bruised and all the ligaments in his left leg were torn loose. Mr. Getz was taken to his home where his leg was placed in a plaster of paris cast.

—The cornerstone for a new United Brethren church at Windber will be laid Sunday, May 28th. The structure, which will be frame, will be erected at the corner of Graham avenue and Ninth street. Clark & Son, of Hooversville, have the contract and the building is expected to be completed within three months. The trustees of the church are the Rev. E. F. Wriggle and the Messrs. Hiram Baumgardner, E. L. Reed, H. R. Shaffer and David Reed.

—Mrs. Mary Beck, of East Ridge, near Cherrytree, Indiana county, perhaps the oldest woman in that or adjoining counties, slipped and fell several days ago, fracturing her hip joint. Dr. E. R. Erhard, of Cherrytree, is the attending physician. He reports that although the break will not heal the woman has stood the shock well and promises to live for some time. She enjoys good health, and, although almost 102 years old, until two years ago she was able to do her own work. On June 2nd she will celebrate her 102nd birthday, and if her health permits her friends will make merry the extraordinary event.

—For the first time in many years mass was celebrated at Spruce Creek, last Sunday, Rev. Father T. W. Rosensteel pastor of Saint Matthew's church, Tyrone, was celebrant. The services which were attended by several hundred people, were held in the improvised chapel at the home of James Cullen, one of the oldest and most respected residents of the church diocese. The saying of mass in the quaint old village revives a church service of many years ago, when Spruce Creek was one of the pioneer towns of Central Pennsylvania, and mass was at regular intervals celebrated by bishops and priests now deceased, and some yet living have grown old in service of their faith. The new railroad work at Spruce Creek has brought several hundred workmen to the town; many of them are Catholics. On the third Sunday of every month Father Rosensteel will celebrate mass at Spruce Creek at 10:30 o'clock.

Spawls from the Keystone.

—The new frame Baptist church at Jersey Shore was dedicated Sunday. The building cost over \$2,000.

—The Juniata county Agricultural society has set the time for holding its annual fair at Port Royal for September 13th, 14th and 15th.

—Miles Henderson, of Barre township, Huntingdon county, has a dog that will hunt nothing but snapping turtles and catches lots of them.

—The executive committee of the Old Pennsylvania Canal Boatmen's association will meet at Blairsville in the near future to set a day and place for the next annual reunion.

—The venerable Rowland Francis, one of Cambria county's earliest settlers, died Saturday morning at his home in Cambria township, at the age of 99 years. His death was caused by ailments of old age.

—There will probably be no direct punishment for those who steal plants and flowers from graves and in some cases rob them of their top soil, but the person who has fallen to the level of a cemetery thief certainly occupies a place with degraded humanity no better than that of the highwayman.

—The body of John Kohn, the wealthy lumberman of Three Runs, near Karthaus, who has been missing for a month, was found under a pile of saw dust near his saw mill Thursday. The several hundred dollars he had with him are missing, and he was evidently murdered. Detectives are at work on the case.

—The Hazleton National bank and First National bank gave notice recently that on June 1st they will reduce the interest rate on deposits from 3 to 2 per cent, per annum. The local banks are not able to profitably invest all the money deposited with them. Over \$3,000,000 are on deposit in the Hazleton banks.

—The Queen's Run fire brick company, of Lock Haven, has received by cable a large contract for fire brick from Brazil. The brick are to be of special sizes and shapes and will be used for purposes for which it is impossible to procure suitable stock in foreign lands of as good quality as those made by the Queen's Run company. The contract was secured without competition.

—During the storm on Tuesday of last week the barn of J. R. Lute, near Grip post-office, Indiana county, was struck by lightning, but was not fired. J. R. Lute, Isaac Lute, John A. Keith, J. L. Davis, Samuel DeHaven, and G. W. Patrick had taken refuge in the barn and all were considerably stunned. A cow was killed by the bolt, and the structure was somewhat damaged.

—The county commissioners of Fulton county offer a reward of \$100 for the arrest and delivery to the jail in McClellanburg, of McClellan Pennell, who shot William C. Beatty, at Barnes Gap, Fulton county, on the night of April 20th. Pennell is about 30 years old, height 5 feet 10 or 11 inches, of slight build, dark complexion, black hair, smooth face, nose drooped at end, long, slim feet.

—An oil spring was recently found near Elmer, Potter county. The oil appeared on the surface of the stream in such quantities that the matter was investigated and the spring was found to be overflowing with oil. The flow is not very steady, but once a day a small volume of oil is given off, the flow lasting for an hour or less. The spasmodic flowing of the spring indicates the presence of gas.

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