

Ink Stings.

—DEWEY's house has been around the whole family now.

—DEWEY changed the ownership of his house about as suddenly as he did that of Manila.

—Down with trusts and out with imperialism will be the Democratic slogan in 1900.

—Strange to say the DEWEY house has not changed owners for the past twenty-four hours.

—Its beginning to look as if the QUAY fortifications might need extension and continuous repairs.

—There seems to be little else for AGUINALDO to do than climb a tree and wait until he is knocked off.

—The most urgent need of the state ring now seems to be a censor for the independent press of the country.

—Queen VICTORIA's Christmas gift to each of the English soldiers in the Transvaal is to be a tin of chocolate. How nice!

—The young German Emperor's recent visit to Queen Victoria might have been inspired by purely friendly motives and it might not.

—If the blustering threats of the Republicans are carried out, the shooting stars won't be a patchin' to the fire works we'll see down in Kentucky.

—JOHN BULL probably entertains about the same feeling for STEPHANUS JOHANNES PAUL KRUGER that MATT QUAY has for JOHN WANAMAKER.

—That Ladysmith has charms beyond estimation seems to be proven by the fact that eight hundred Boers gave up their lives in an attempt to assault her.

—Admiral GEORGE DEWEY has made a sure thing of that house that was given him by popular subscription by deeding it over to his wife and then to his son.

—There were lots of fellows who stayed up to see the shootin' stars last week who shot everything they had eaten for days long before the hour scheduled for the "astral pyrotechnics."

—A great many hogs are reported to be dying in Centre county. An epidemic called "butcher's knife" has gotten among them and the growers seem to be making no effort to stop it.

—That the staunchest heart is often freighted with the most sentiment is borne out by DEWEY's having been moved to propose to his wife by having heard a beautiful woman sing "Just a Song at Twilight."

—We can't see that capturing the wardrobe of AGUINALDO's wife is a very great thing to crow over. If our ideas of the proper thing for women in the Philippines is correct all she could have had was an old cabbage leaf and a string of beads.

—The three ministers who have been arrested for robbing a farmer's bee tree out near Barkeyville will probably be brought to understand that even though it was a land flowing with milk and honey their ministerial robes didn't pre-empt the claim for them.

—Mrs. JENNESS MILLER is to lecture in Altoona next month, but it is hardly to be believed that her talk will have the effect of converting any of the wasp waisted maidens of the Mountain city to the notion of throwing away their stays and coming down to half hose.

—It will take a pretty powerful magnifying glass to find any signs of prosperity in the country districts of Centre county these days. Everything is up in price, but the wheat, corn and oats that the farmer grows, consequently it is a little wonder that he hasn't much wind to waste in cheering for this so-called MCKINLEY prosperity.

—Ex-Governor HASTINGS has been down in Philadelphia consulting as to the best brand of knockout drops to slip into Mr. QUAY's political glass, and Mr. QUAY's friends hereabouts have been closely figuring on the size of the dose it will require to do the same thing for the Governor. These indications give great prospects for a boom in the knockout business.

—Local politicians will now settle down to the making of a legislative ticket for next fall. All other troubles being at an end no new ones are likely to crop out until the matter of saying who will be the Republican nominees for Assembly is taken up. Of course the HASTINGS element will want to name the men, so as to be absolutely certain of two votes against QUAY, in the event of their election, but it is not likely that the QUAY people will sit down with folded hands and leave the insurgents to do as they please with the Republican organization in Centre county.

—At the state banquet given the Emperor and Empress of Germany by their grandmother, Queen VICTORIA, on Tuesday, she displayed \$10,000,000 worth of gold plate on the side boards in the royal dining rooms. The sight must have been a gorgeous one to behold, but we wonder who, of the one hundred and forty guests present, thought of the lives that might have been sacrificed in securing the yellow baubles to the English crown. It is gold that is making dead English and dead Boers in South Africa, but hundreds of millions of it wrought into fine tableware for royalty to dine from can't replace the precious lives that are given up in the greedy struggle for it that VICTORIA's people are making now.

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Signs of Good Times Changing Already.

It is but a little over two weeks since the election and already there are signs of shrinkage in the prosperity boom that we heard so much about, and an effort to hedge on the promises that it would continue and increase so long as Republican policies were approved and supported by the people. Prior to the time the people voted there was no limit to the assurances of good times, and no tiring in the effort to have the voter believe that we were only at the beginning of a season of prosperity, the like of which the country has never witnessed or enjoyed, and that was to last through all time, provided the Republican party was retained in power.

It was to establish this belief that the Republican newspapers and speakers; the stock gamblers and speculators who parade themselves as the business men of the country; representatives of corporate influences and agents of trusts and syndicates—all of which are interested in the success of the Republican party, set up the clatter about the prosperity we were enjoying and how great the promise was of its increase and continuation. Thousands of deluded men really believed we had started on a new basis that would make all classes of people prosperous, and all the inhabitants of the country happy.

These promises and professions had their effect. They influenced thousands of unthinking, impressionable men, many of whom are not prospering enough under the MCKINLEY administration to buy patches for the worn out gables of their pants or to secure one good square meal a day for their families, to walk up and vote their endorsement of every evil Republicanism represents and every wrong it is perpetrating upon the country. A sickly boom, which, like the small pox, is found only in spots, was magnified into a great and growing business revival, the end of which no one could see, and the blessings of which none could estimate. Men were made strong in the belief that a business millennium had struck us, and, inspired by that belief, voted for war and the desolation and destruction it brings; for imperialism and the outrage upon the principles of free government it implies; for expansion and the future and endless trouble it insures; for trusts and the oppression of the people that follow in their wake, as well as for the lesser evils Republicanism stands for.

Alas, for the reliability of such promises! How soon their falsity reveals itself and their hollowness stands out as evidence of the bunceism for which they were used. To tell people now that these anti-election professions were made only for the effect they would have on the vote, and that in less than two weeks after the result of the vote was known, a different outlook is given to business affairs, may not convince them of the deception that was practiced upon them, but should at least put them to thinking.

Before the election *Dunn's Trade Review*, the mouth piece of the bankers, brokers and others who want to be recognized as the business men of the country, was unceasingly telling of the bright business prospects that the immediate as well as the distant future presented. Then it could see nothing ahead but increased orders, increased prices, increased business and increased and wide-spread prosperity. Now that these promises have served their purposes, it already discerns a different condition of affairs. Votes are not needed and the truth can have a chance. In its issue of the 18th inst. we find the following summary of business conditions:

"The signs of shrinkage in the new demand for iron and steel product become more clear, and while the prices of pig iron are maintained without change, plates are quoted lower at the east, with some small mills selling at 2.5 cents at Pittsburgh, and sheets are sold by some works there at \$3 to \$4 less than the regular prices."

A new demand does not make up for the rapid completion of old orders in some lines, so that competition weakens prices.

Shipments of boots and shoes fall off.

Wheat declined a fraction although Atlantic exports were only 2,976,551 bushels, flour included, against 3,968,768 for the same week last year and the Pacific exports 720,733 bushels, against 1,988,038 last year. The course of the market is the more noteworthy because western receipts are much reduced, being only 5,897,970 bushels, against 10,357,311 last year. Corn declined a fraction, with heavier exports last year and smaller receipts."

If there is anything encouraging in this he must be a confirmed optimist who can discover it.

—The time is comin' on, when the ground is frozen stiff; and the apple butter's bolin'; and fresh sausages we sniff; and the turkey gobbler's sleek and fat, but roostin' high these days, for he knows the time is drawing near that will end his gobbler's lays.

—The Philadelphia Record is busily engaged blazing a path through the political wilderness, over which it hopes to lead those who will follow it into the camp of the imperialists and contractionists in 1900.

—Since ex-Lieut. Governor WATRES and Senator MAGEE joined the insurgent forces, the QUAY adherents are not exactly certain just "where they are at."

Pennsylvania Official.

On Thursday last week, the last of the official returns of the State were received at the State Department in Harrisburg. A computation of the vote shows that

FOR STATE TREASURER: Barnett, R., received.....438,070

Creasy, D., received.....327,512

Caldwell, P., received.....18,672

FOR SUPREME COURT JUDGE: Brown, R., received.....461,889

Mestrezat, D., received.....298,403

Ricketts, P., received.....18,265

FOR SUPREME COURT JUDGE: Mitchell, R., received.....457,810

Zelly, D., received.....301,454

Robinson, P., received.....18,612

This shows a falling off from the Republican vote as cast for MCKINLEY in 1896, of 388,998, and from that polled for STONE one year ago, of 38,016. While the Democratic vote polled for CREASY was but 94,542 short of that cast for BRYAN, and but 30,336 less than the number given JENKS, last year. The Prohibition vote seems to have faded faster than that of either of the other parties, it being 113,611, short of that cast for SWALLOW in the last campaign.

It will be noticed that BROWN, who was generally acceptable to both factions of the Republican party, received 23,880 votes more than was given BARNETT, and that CREASY ran 29,109, ahead of MESTREZAT. Whether the difference in the votes of these candidates can be attributed to BARNETT's cowardly record in the Philippines or is a consequence of his subservency to the state ring, it would be impossible to figure out. Both causes, no doubt, contributed to the result, but as neither or both, amounted to more than is shown, it is waste of time to speculate on what may have been the reason. The fact that the difference between the vote given the two Republican candidates is so small, when the recognized difference in their characters, their records and their merits are so great, only demonstrates how politically hide bound the Republican voters of Pennsylvania are, and to what extent they will lend themselves to gain a purely partisan victory.

A Job that Would Prove a Short One.

The Lock Haven Democrat has received information that the Commissioners of this county propose, before retiring from office at the end of this year, appointing a clerk for the office they vacate, for the ensuing three years. Whether there is any basis for this statement we do not know. Under an act passed by the last Legislature they are authorized to make such an appointment, and if they could choose a clerk, and insure his retention in the position for the next three years, we have no doubt they would attempt the performance.

Unfortunately for aspirants for the place, there are two difficulties in the way of such a movement, either one of which will effectually defeat its amounting to anything. The one is the improbability of Messrs. RIDDLE and FISHER agreeing as to who they should select. On this point we doubt if concessions would be made by either, and as the feeling that cropped out of the unmerciful cutting that each gave the other at the recent election still exists, it is not probable that FISHER would concede to RIDDLE the naming of one of his friends for the place, nor would RIDDLE allow FISHER the selection of a clerk whom he would want to make a confident and adviser of while he held office.

The other difficulty is that the new board will make its own clerk, in fact has already done so, and the repudiation of the selection made by the out-going board would be about the first official act of the incoming members.

It would be scarcely worth while for the Republicans to show the nastiness, that an attempt to steal the commissioners clerkship would be, for all they would make out of it. The job they would get would be to short.

Vice President Hobart's Death.

The Vice President of the United States died at his home in Patterson, N. J., on Tuesday morning and the nation is in mourning for an official who had proven himself both honorable and popular.

Mr. HOBART held an office which at first we all seem prone to consider merely that of a figure head, but when we remember that its incumbent is first in line of succession to the highest place within the nation's gift and that he presides over the foremost body of Legislators in the world we come to a fuller realization of its true importance. He was popular as presiding officer of the Senate and he was tactful enough to prevent the raising up of any barriers between himself and his superior, as is so frequently done at Washington. He was one of President MCKINLEY's warmest friends and most consulted advisors and endeavored to the best of his ability to faithfully discharge the duties of his office.

His death is to be deplored, not only as that of a high official of the United States, but as an active business man, a husband and a father. Party prejudice will not so far blind a soul as to make him oblivious of the loss the country has suffered in the death of Vice President HOBART.

A Pretty Mix.

Just at this time that class of people who think they are able to take care of their own and everybody else's morals, are exercising themselves no little over the prospects of ousting Congressman ROBERTS of Utah, from his seat in Congress, because of his multiplicity of wives. They have started the churches to move in this matter and pulpits all over the country are ringing with denunciations of polygamy and calling loudly for such action, by Congress, as will set the seal of condemnation on polygamous doctrines and all the immoral, as they consider them, practices of the Mormons.

Whether they are right or wrong in this matter is not now the question with us. It is the inconsistency of these people and the hypocrisy of their efforts that we would call attention to. Of the whole cabal, people, churches and preachers included, who pretend to see such disgrace to the country and such demoralization of the morals of the masses, in the recognition of a believer in the Mormon faith as a representative in Congress, not one in ten of them, but has given his assent and approval to the President's policy that made the Sulu islands one of the possessions of this government. That island contains about 100,000 inhabitants, most of whom are Mohammedans, the balance heathens. To secure governmental authority over it, the fealty of its Sultan, and the control of its trade, we have agreed, according to President SCHURMAN of the Philippine commission, "not to interfere with the religion or the customs of the island," and are "obligated to recognize and defend their native laws, usages and religious rites." For this privilege, Mr. MCKINLEY, through his representative General BATES, has bargained to pay to the Sulu Sultan \$12,000 a year. Has anybody heard any of these highly moral and publicly virtuous people, who are so grievously horrified at the thought of a man with two wives, representing a constituency in the Congress of the United States, denounce this purchase of President MCKINLEY, with its creaking corruptions, its immoral practices and its religious rites?

The Sultan, whose fealty too, he has bought and whose "customs" he has bargained "not to interfere with," is the possessor of over one hundred wives. Every subject that he controls marries and is the recognized husband of as many women as suits his fancy. The religious rites are mostly beastly orgies in which lust and licentiousness are the controlling influences, and the "customs" of the country run from sacrificing helpless children and the decrepit aged as an offering to their heathen gods, to running a harem and reveling in sensual voluptuousness.

These are the things that President MCKINLEY has bought and bargained "not to interfere with." Has any one heard the voice of a minister or a cry from the church, against this degrading contract?

And yet we turn our sniffling noses into the air and beg of Congress, and bellow at the public, to prevent the disgrace to the government that the admission to Congress would be of a man, who is our equal in intellect, in morals, and in devotion to country, but whose belief in church doctrines and marital relations differs from ours.

Ohio Official Result.

Whatever of satisfaction the Republicans can get out of the result in Ohio, as shown by the official returns, they are certainly welcome to it. On Tuesday the compilation of the complete returns were filed and they give the following:

For Nash, R.....417,199

For McLean, D.....368,176

For Jones, R.....106,721

From these figures it will be seen that the Republican candidate for Governor, who was running as the distinct representative of the MCKINLEY administration and for whose success all the power and patronage of the federal government was used, falls 57,698 votes short of a majority.

In 1896 Mr. MCKINLEY had 525,989 votes in the State, of which 108,790 refused to go out and cast their ballots as an endorsement of his policy, or, if they went to the polls voted directly against such endorsement.

Surely there is not much in such figures to draw encouragement from by those who are favoring a policy of contraction in money matters; of expansion in expenses and troubles, and of imperialism in violation of the spirit of our government. It is possible that when those who have been blowing so loudly about the administration victory in Ohio come to take a closer account of stock the party assets will not appear nearly so promising as has been imagined.

—Just what inspired DEWEY to give away the pretty Washington home that was presented him by popular subscription we are at a loss to know, but it is certain that he will have a good time explaining his act to the people who contributed to the purchase fund.

A Poor Chance for Honest Voting in Pennsylvania.

From the Easton Sentinel

The long in vogue system of voting by ballot is no longer in touch with the spirit of the times. Voting machines are coming and the States that adopt them will be in the front line of political progress. In Buffalo, Rochester and Ithaca, N. Y., where the machines have been tried, the voters proceeded smoothly, and as soon as the polls closed the result was known. The machine registers the choice of each voter and computes the vote as it is recorded. When the last man votes the result is made known. The total vote in Ithaca at the late election was announced fifteen minutes after the closing of the polls, while the accurate figures in Buffalo were known forty minutes after the hour for closing. The time was needed only to collect the returns from each district, as the total at each polling place was known within a minute or two after the closing of the polls. Besides the advantage of accuracy and rapidity in making the result known there are others possessed by the voting machine. Where it is used there can be no mistake in counting, there are no defective ballots there can be no ballot-box stuffing.

A constitutional provision in Pennsylvania prevents the use of the voting machine in this State. At the last session of the Legislature resolutions were introduced having in view the submitting of a constitutional amendment to the people so that they might decide whether or not they wanted to try the voting machine. But Governor Stone, who is a practical politician, decided it wasn't expedient to permit the people to express their views on the subject. But even Gov. Stone cannot always be the chief executive of this ringed Commonwealth, and the day is not far off when voting machines will be used at Pennsylvania elections.

How One of Mr. Hanna's "Good Things for the Country" Works.

From the Chicago Chronicle.

The glass trust will earn this year 100 per cent on its capitalization. The value of the trust plants was, according to their own statement, \$6,000,000, but that amount was inflated to \$17,000,000 by the addition of water. The trust controls 85 per cent of all the glass factories in the country, and it has cleared in one year \$17,000,000 on an investment of \$6,000,000. How did it make this immense amount of money in so short a time?

"The rules of the trust also, in flagrant violation of law, control and restrict the traffic in glass. Dealers in glass are compelled to sell their orders direct to the trust, and the trust sells to dealers the product of such a factory as the managers select. By this plan good glass and bad glass are marked off in the same lot. The purchaser has no choice. The same price is charged for all qualities. Prices were advanced by jump after jump until in 1899 it was as high as it was two years ago, when the trust was re-organized. By increasing the price of glass 100 per cent the trust is able to declare 100 per cent dividends a year on its enormous over-capitalization."

Is this one of the good trusts that the Republican orators and newspapers claim should be carefully fostered? You know that they classify them as good trusts and hand-ones. The good are those that protect by the tariff. The bad are those that the Attorney General says the law won't reach. Therefore they will all live and flourish so long as the grand old party remains in power.

The Everlasting Shame of the Republican Party.

From the Pottsville Miners' Journal (Rep.).

There probably never has been a time in the history of our State when the people have been so aroused over the debauchery practiced in the nominating conventions and at the polls. At the late election the abuses were so pronounced in various parts of the State as to bring forth denunciations from even the partisan press, and in Philadelphia such abuses culminated in the arrest of important manipulators of voters and most unprincipled ballot-box stuffers, effected, it is true, by the sturdy newspapers of the city. Here were men caught red-handed in the crime of prostituting the people's ballot, without the possibility of a fine of denial, and testimony is being day by day going to show the wide extent to which these frauds were being engineered and in many cases carried through.

To the everlasting shame of the Republican party in that city, the culprits have been given to be the agents of the Republican organization there, and the evidence so far adduced shows that these ballot-box stuffers were under pay to ply their nefarious calling.

How Elections are Conducted in Philadelphia and How Pennsylvania is Kept a Republican State.

From the Phila. North American. (Ind. Rep.)

Election officers under indictment for fraud serve in the same posts year after year, and with practiced dexterity repeat their crime. The law has no terrors for them, for the law had its talons clipped by the machine bosses and their tools in office. Overseers appointed by the courts are driven from the voting places; honest citizens fear to act as watchers; things and crooks, bums and beats, policy sharks and hucksters and professional criminals man the election boards; repeaters roam from poll to poll and will, and the black flag of organized and piratical crime floats over the places appointed for freemen to register their will.

There has not been an honest election in Philadelphia for many years. From forty to eighty thousand dishonest votes are counted for the dominant political machine at every election. This path has been smoothed and the way made straight for the election crime to do its foul and deadly work. From the padded assessors' list the forged return concocted by imported government employes from Washington, every variety of iniquity is practiced with trained ingenuity to roll up the fabulous majorities for the machine candidate.

Spawls from the Keystone.

—The amount of money disbursed at the Pittsburgh pension agency last year was \$6,731,453.78.

—Scarlet fever is raging to such an extent in parts of Blair county, that it has been thought best to close the public schools of Logan township until the epidemic ceases.

—One of the largest funerals ever held in York county was seen on Sunday last at Wolf's church, of Henry Hubley, for 46 years organist of the church, and for 35 years a school teacher.

—A 15-barrel oil well was struck on Monday, one and one-half miles east of Gaines, Tioga Co. The well is in an entirely new territory, and shows the trend of the basin in this petroleum field.

—A subject that interests every county in the State will be discussed next month by the Northampton Farmers' club, of Bucks county. The question is whether the annual teachers' institutes, as now conducted, produce results commensurate with the expense.

—Johnstown has followed the example of Titusville's effort to be good, by Mayor Woodward ordering all cigar, confectionery and fruit stores to keep closed hereafter on Sundays. He permits only restaurants, newsstands and drug stores to do business on the Sabbath.

—Some of the prisoners in the Crawford county jail object to working on the roads. Eight of them were started to work last week. Two of the prisoners—tramps they were—ran away, but were recaptured and will be liable to an imprisonment in the penitentiary or workhouse.

—Orders have been issued disbanding Co. C. of the Fifth regiment, N. G. P., at Hollidaysburg. The order for the mustering out of Co. F. Twenty-first regiment at same place, has been revoked, and the Company is detached from that regiment and assigned to the Fifth regiment as Co. C.

—John Steel had a fierce battle with a catamount in the woods south of Blossburg, Thursday. After shooting at and wounding the beast, Steel was forced to draw his hunting knife and defend himself from the attack of the infuriated animal. He finally succeeded in killing it. It weighed fifty pounds.

—Rev. C. S. Long has tendered his resignation as pastor of the Christian church at Lock Haven. He has been there nine years, this being his second pastorate. He is editor of the *Christian Worker* and chaplain of the Twelfth regiment, National Guard of Pennsylvania. He has accepted a call from the Christian church of Scranton.

—Josiah Candor, a prominent citizen and a veteran of the civil war, died at his home in Lock Haven on Thursday, at the age of 68 years. In early life he was a conductor on the Pennsylvania railroad and enjoyed the distinction of having had charge of the first passenger train that arrived in Lock Haven after the line was extended there.

—Some Northumberland county capitalists are striving to equal the venture of the men who propose to make Niagara Falls a big distributing medium for electrical force. They contemplate erecting a turbine wheel in the stream in Brush Valley, north of the Shamokin water company's dam, and furnishing power to near-by towns to operate electric light plants, factories, etc.

—The clerks of Shamokin have formed an association to secure a "fair compensation for services rendered," to disseminate useful information by means of lectures, pamphlets and industrial literature, to obtain comfortable seats behind sales counters for lady clerks, to do away with Sunday work, to abolish child labor in the stores and to provide a benefit fund for sick, aged and indigent members; to bury the dead and to provide such other protection as may be needed for the members of the order.

—The coal dealers of this State have profited by the war between the British and Boers in South Africa. The coal mines from which South Africa is supplied with fuel for steamers and locomotives are located in the neck of Natal, now in control of the Boers, and it is impossible for the British to get this coal for their use. There must be coal for ships and locomotives, and Pennsylvania has been asked to furnish it. Thousands of tons have been ordered and will be shipped as soon as they can be got to seaboard and ships can be provided to carry them over the ocean.

—At Curwensville Wednesday night as jeweler Kerns was closing his store, two strangers stepped in and requested change for a fifty dollar bill. While Mr. Kerns was in the act of opening the safe door to get the money, each of the strangers covered the jeweler with revolvers and demanded all the money that was in the safe. A tussle ensued, in which Kerns succeeded in grabbing one of the weapons. He made such good use of it that both the strangers ran out of the store and disappeared in the darkness. The attempted robbery was reported to the police, but the strangers could not be found.

—Lack of sufficient rains to make rafting floods will necessitate the banking before freezing weather sets in of twenty-two million feet of logs lying in the Susquehanna river and its tributaries west of Lock Haven and in Pine Creek. This will have to be done by men and teams and will cost the lumbermen thousands of dollars. Next spring the logs will be rolled back into the streams at another big expense. Eight million feet lying between Lock Haven and Williamsport will be driven into the boom on an artificial flood made by means of a "splash" dam erected on the breast of the dam, in Lock Haven, backing the water up twelve miles and letting loose when the dam is broken, a four foot flood.

—One child dead, three other children dying and the father, mother and another child seriously ill is the result of coal gas escaping from a furnace on Sunday night last at the home of John Moran, who lives on the South side in Carbondale. Neighbors of the Morans grew apprehensive to-day when the family did not appear and their front door was broken open. The entire family of seven was found on an upper floor in an unconscious condition. All the physicians of Carbondale and two from Jermyn, nearby, were summoned. Despite their efforts the youngest child died in a short time. Three of the remaining four children have been given up by the doctors and the other child and the father and mother are in a serious condition but will recover.