

Ink Sittings.

—BRYAN never talks without talking sense and his sense would be dollars and cents to the masses, if they would only read the lesson it points out.

—The English have released the American flour they recently seized in Delagoa bay, as contraband of war. CHOATE seems to have been the yeast that made them rise to the seriousness of the offense.

—Thanks to our new policy of annexation we have finally come into possession of the bubonic plague. Washington is reaching out to all quarters of the earth for good things, now let it take this malady—worse than leprosy—in welcome.

—JACOB QUIGGLE killed a three foot snake along the roadside, near Pine, on Tuesday. The reptile showed fight when he got after it. It is a rare thing to kill a snake in January, but we have heard of people who see them just as readily in the dead of winter as in mid-summer.

—If the British meet with another decisive reverse in South Africa you need not be surprised to see our own government step in and offer its service as mediator between the Britons and Boers. Such a de-nouement would be almost tantamount to an acknowledgement of defeat by JOHN BULL.

—Three things in Pennsylvania are being peppered unmercifully these days. QUAY, the Philadelphia ballot-box stuffers and Potter county "pig's ears." They are all evils arising from bad legislation in the Commonwealth and should be wiped out as relics of a period of governmental indecency never to be known in the State again.

—The deeper the probe of the State Medical Examination board will go into the scandals surrounding the examination of students last December, before which copies of the questions to be asked were surreptitiously obtained and auctioned off among the candidates for certificates, the more certain it will become that Pennsylvania is authorizing a lot of bad medicine men to practice upon the public.

—CLARENCE WOOLENER, of Wellsboro, has just proven to the world that it holds one mother-in-law who must have been far more attractive than the average. Some time ago he married a Miss LINDSAY, whose mother, Mrs. MARY A. LINDSAY, went to live with them. Later young Mrs. WOOLENER grew tired of her husband and ran away to live with another man, then WOOLENER laid siege to his mother-in-law's heart and won her out. They were married last week.

—The Pennsylvania farmer surely gets less out of government than any other class of men. With the price of his products gone down, the price of everything he uses has gone up. Of the \$46,000,000 of taxes, collected for all purposes in the State, he has to pay \$32,000,000; leaving only \$14,000,000 to be paid by the wealthy bankers and bond holders of the cities and towns, whose personal property far exceeds in value the real estate of the farmers, yet they are not required to pay half as much in taxes.

—It might be well for the public to bear in mind that Governor STONE's administration is very boastful just now because new corporations were added to the Pennsylvania charter list last year in such great numbers as to insure an increased tax income, from that source alone, of over \$2,000,000 annually. That is Governor STONE's people say there will be such an increased income. Saying so very different things, however. And we urge you to bear this boast in mind so that you can confront him with it should he decline to restore that million and a half out he made in the school appropriations last year.

—JOHN WANAMAKER's Philadelphia North American actually said, in an eulogy of Gen. LAWTON: "The entire Philippines are not worth the life of one such a brave patriot, and yet the administration has caused the country to pay for them thousands of lives and at least a hundred million of treasure. Blood and money have been poured out like water to perpetuate a political blunder." It is quite evident from this that the only expansion JOHN believes in is in putting top stories to that bit of property bounded on the north by Market street, on the south by Chestnut, on the east by Twelfth and on the West by Juniper streets, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, U. S. A.

—In the report of the rescue of Lt. GILMORE, of U. S. S. "Yorktown" and those of his men who were captured and held prisoners by the Filipinos at Baler, last April, a Manila writer says that the thoroughly weakened outfit limped into the Hotel Oriente, where "American officers and ladies were waltzing through the halls to the tune of 'AGUINALDO'S MARCH.'" It is easy seen that that correspondent has paid more attention to the gods of war, their plans and capers, than to TERPSICHOORE, else he would have had the "American officers and ladies" doing the *doux temp* to "AGUINALDO'S MARCH." But then when we come to reflect, the American officers have probably learned almost every variety of step from AGGIE's march by this time and it is not so much to be wondered at that they can waltz to it, while others would probably have to two-step.

Democratic Watchman

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NO. 2.

Looks as if It Would Prove a Failure.

At this distance from where the work is being done it looks very much as if the investigation, now being made by order of the Democratic State committee, to ascertain the cause of the diminished Democratic vote in Philadelphia, would prove a complete failure. So far it has developed nothing that Democrats, conversant with the condition of affairs in that city, have not known for years. It has simply shown that there are two bitterly contending factions there, and that to injure or cast discredit upon the other, either one of them would betray the party and then have the gall to swear that it was the other fellows who did it.

And this is about as near the bottom of the dirty business, or as close to positive evidence of the guilt of any particular individual or party, as the committee will get. It may continue its sittings and witness the washing of the dirty linen of political factions, jealous bosses and "division" heels, until new seats are needed in the pantaloons of those comprising the committee, and it will discover only how little dependence can be placed in either faction, and how badly the party is in need of an organization and leaders that will inspire confidence and insure honest effort.

It is not likely that men who betray the party are going to admit it. To do so would be to sacrifice their usefulness, in the future, to those who pay them for the dirty work they do, as well as to destroy their power of continuing in positions that enable them to use the party organization for their own selfish ends. Neither is it possible for the honest Democrats of that city to give testimony as to who the guilty men are, for the reason that they have been neglecting their duties and remaining away from the polls so long that they know nothing about what has been done or who has been doing it.

So that this effort, like many others that have been made before it, to purify, strengthen and better the Democratic organization, is destined to prove a failure, except so far as it gives the political freebooters of both factions an opportunity to charge to others what they have been guilty of doing themselves.

There is a way, however, that Philadelphia Democracy can be regenerated, revived and placed in condition to command respect and deserve confidence. It is not by crimination and re-crimination—charges and counter-charges—doubts and distrusts—but by the decent, honest, well-meaning men of the party getting together and resolving to take ahead in helping along the work that is to be done and seeing that it is done properly. There are more honest Democrats in Philadelphia than dishonest ones. The party rules and party usages give to the majority the power of naming tickets, selecting delegates, choosing members of the city, ward and district organizations and, in fact, having things just as that majority says they shall be.

The reason the party has fallen into disrepute is because the majority of the Democrats have allowed a few men, professing to be Democrats, to dictate tickets; name those who are to act for the organization, handle and use such money as is contributed; shape the policy of the party; select such men as they can use as delegates and to act for, and represent, the organization as if it was their individual property. This is what has gotten Philadelphia Democrats into the trouble they are now in.

To get away from this condition of affairs let ex-Gov. PATTISON, CONRAD B. DAY, CHAS. J. INGERSOLL, DWIGHT M. LOWRY, DAVID W. SELBERS, or other Democrats of the same character and standing, get together and request one, or two or more good, responsible Democrats from every ward, or district within the city, to meet with them and talk the situation over. Let a committee of fifty, or seventy-five, or a hundred, or what ever number is deemed necessary and can be secured, be formed that will represent every section, and every division of the city, and let them go to work and see that the Democratic voters are aroused to the necessity of nominating their own candidates for local offices, selecting their own delegates to state and other conventions, and of naming their own men for watchers at the polls and for members of ward, city and district committees.

When this is done there will be no further need for general investigation. The power to sell out will be abridged, for no man or set of men will own or control the party organization, nor will its members be under obligations to, or at the mercy of, any faction, or power, except that of the voters back of them.

In this way the Democracy of Philadelphia can be made a power for good.

Will the gentlemen we have named think this over and act?

The precinct committeemen for 1900 have been announced by chairman JOHNSTON and thus early he is inaugurating the campaign for next fall. There is wisdom in this plan, for it gives all parties an early opportunity to get together and begin the work, which is so much more easily and effectively done, now than when the people are in the heat of a party contest.

For What Purpose Are We Warring.

Ask an ordinary, honest citizen of the country, who knows anything, what the war on the Filipinos is to accomplish, and he'll answer you frankly that he does not know.

Ask one of the know-alls, or one of Mr. McKINLEY's mouth pieces, and he will tell you it is to develop the Philippine islands; to secure coaling stations there; to place us in touch with the trade of the far East; to enlighten and christianize its heathens and savages.

You will know no more about Mr. McKINLEY's real purpose when you get these answers, than you did when the honest citizen answered you honestly that he did not know; for the simple reason that the know-alls and the mouth pieces are no wiser than others.

If it is for either of the reasons given by those pretending to know, or by those professing to speak for the administration, then Mr. McKINLEY's conduct of public affairs is inexcusably extravagant and heartlessly cruel.

He is spending millions of dollars a month and sacrificing the lives, the health and the comfort of thousands of brave men recklessly and most needlessly. Every object that it is said this war is being carried on for, could have been accomplished without the firing of a gun; without the expenditure of a single dollar; without the loss or maiming of a single soldier.

Statesmanship could have secured as many coaling stations for the Filipinos as we wanted at a less cost than Mr. McKINLEY pays yearly to the polygamous sultan of Sulu for floating the American flag over his harem.

American push would have insured us a full share of the trade of the far East.

American enterprise would have developed the Philippine islands, for conditions were favorable and their people were waiting to welcome those who had liberated them from Spanish rule.

American missionaries and American philanthropy would have enlightened and christianized their illiterate and savage heathens faster than does the rifle and cannon and the devilish cruelties of war.

Why then the cost and sacrifice that the country must suffer to attain these purposes?

The \$75,000,000 that have been expended in a war on a weak and defenseless people for the purposes alleged and that could have been accomplished without the expenditure of a dollar would be God-send, if distributed as charity to those in need in this country. The lives that have been needlessly sacrificed would have been spared; the maimed and disease stricken, who will return to live on a miserable existence on a paltry pension would be hale, happy, citizens; darkness would not brood on the hearthstones, nor creep be hanging from the doors of so many of our homes; the bitterness that has been engendered and must continue to exist in the minds of the Filipinos, as long as the recollection of their ruined towns and desolated country remains, would be unknown.

Surely there must be some other overpowering reason for war than the purposes named.

Surely Mr. McKINLEY must have other purposes in view or other ends to accomplish.

What are they?

The Same Old Scenario.

It seems that the public never will grow tired of becoming excited over perfectly groundless rumors and those that attain most frequent publicity are the shop-worn stories of the robbery of the graves of distinguished men, who have died, or of those of some notorious character whose life and manner of death have been such as to place him, for the time being, before the public eye.

Bringing it as near home as possible, it was only a few years ago that ANDREWS, the murderer of CLARA PRICE, was hanged in this county. The manner of perpetration of his crime and the strong chain of circumstantial evidence that was forged about him brought the murderer wide spread newspaper notoriety. No sooner had he been hanged and his body hauled out to "the Divide," where it was buried, than scores of people came breathless to town to tell of the robbery of ANDREWS' grave. They had seen lights moving mysteriously along the mountain the night before and some of the curious had ventured near enough to hear subdued voices, others had remembered seeing three strange looking men in the community and the climax was finally capped by some one's reporting that he had seen a peculiarly shaped trunk put on a Bald Eagle valley train next morning by the three strangers. This all led to the conviction that ANDREWS' body was well on its way to some dissecting table, but it is lying undisturbed along the side of the Alleghenies today, just where it was placed the day he was hanged.

When the departed BILL ETLINGER defied all of the officers of Centre county and made the little village of Woodward notor-

ious from the Atlantic to the Pacific, finally dying by his own hand, all manner of stories were told about the disappearance of his body. With morbid curiosity the public read, days afterward, of the mid-night rumble of a cab that sped up through the Buffalo-valley from Lewisburg and how its occupants had spirited the body of the outlaw away. But his remains are lying in peace near his former home.

Already the old story has been started concerning the body of CRESSINGER, the young murderer who was hanged in the Sunbury jail last week. After the execution his body was taken home to his father's farm and buried, where it probably can be found to-day, but space writers are not content with what they have already made by dealing out the details of his crime, trial and hanging to an omnivorous reading public, so they must start a weird story of how ghouls have robbed the grave and carried the body off.

There is rarely anything of interest in any stories of this sort, but they are published and read and the public persists in being hum-bugged with them.

Its Just Beginning.

There is a diminution in the Republican vote of Pennsylvania since the beginning of the New Year. There is dismay and distress in the ranks of the faithful in consequence.

The Honorable SAMUEL SALTER, a Republican law-maker for the people of the State and an official representative of the truly good citizens of Republican Philadelphia, is off to parts unknown, to escape the consequence of stuffing the ballot box.

EMANUEL HERSHEY, another equally reputable Republican office holder—reputable as Republicanism goes these days—is off to the same unknown destination, to evade the penalty for squandering, or stealing, \$65,000 from the Lancaster county treasury.

Three of Mr. McKINLEY's official household—CLARENCE MEESER, of the congressional library; WILLIAM H. COOKE, of the mail equipment shop; and HARRY McCABE, of the geological survey staff—are, like SALTER and HERSHEY, seeking a country that knows them not.

Five other Republican brethren—JOSEPH G. RODGERS, JOHN C. SHEEHAN, JOHN SILVERMAN, JOHN SCULLEN and JOHN HANNA—all shining lights along the path of past Republican success, are traveling on the same mission, and Pennsylvania registration lists and Pennsylvania election booths will likely know them no more for ever.

And still there's more to follow. We don't wonder that Republicans are dismayed. It is not strange that there is disquietude, discouragement and despondency among them. It is not surprising that fear marks their actions; that timidity muzzles their boasting and that terror colors their imaginations.

There is cause for all this. This little gang of fleeing Republican criminals, whose boast it was that they were good for full three hundred votes, are but the forerunners of others who are soon to follow.

Honest people are beginning to understand how Republican majorities have been manufactured. Decent men are opening their eyes to the kind of company they have been keeping. The law is reaching out for those who have violated its provisions and defied its power. Justice is awakening to the necessity of action.

It is to be wondered at that in the face of the threatening judgment that now is scattering the thieves, and repeaters, and ballot box stuffers, and false counters and other Republican rascals, that there is consternation in the Republican camp? Every absconding scoundrel is to them notice of a reduced majority. When they all go, woe to Republican hopes! Woe to Republican success!

Looks Like Continued Cheap Wheat.

A telegram from London, under date of January 6th, says:—"The promise of autumn sown wheat is excellent, not only in Great Britain but in France, Germany, Russia, Italy and Spain."

This may prove great news for the hungry and the many who must buy their flour or bread and who have little to pay for it with, but it won't be such glorious information for the farmer whose prosperity depends almost wholly upon the price he receives for his wheat.

With over half of last year's crops still in the granaries of the country; with prices varying from but 60 to 70 cents per bushel, and but small demand at that price; with the promise of a full crop next season, not only in this but throughout every country of the Old World in which wheat is grown, the prospects for increased prices are exceedingly slim. In fact it looks more like 50 cent than \$1.00 wheat for the next year, and with it abundant opportunities for explaining why Mr. McKINLEY's prosperity has failed to reach the overtaxed, overworked and underpaid agricultural interests.

In 1898, when a failure of the crop in Eu-

rope and the manipulations of a stock gambler in Chicago, run the price of wheat up to \$1.25 per bushel, there was not a Republican paper in the country but was quick to give credit to this rise in the price to Mr. McKINLEY. For about one month, and at a time when there was but little in the hand of the farmers, this price prevailed. It has never been that since. From appearances it will not be that, or near it again during the term the present administration controls affairs and it might be in order for those papers, and politicians, and people who professed to believe that to Mr. McKINLEY was due the credit of this advance, to explain why the farmer receives no better price now than he does, and why the out-look for any increase is so gloomy.

How the Expanding Has Been Done.

From the Pittsburgh Post. The Philadelphia Record has made the landing on the McKINLEY platform of expansion and imperialism. The two go together with colonialism and militarism. They are all chips of the same block. It prints the annexed table as an argument sustaining McKINLEY's expansion:

Table with 2 columns: Territory, Square Miles. Includes Louisiana tract (1,234,450), Florida tract (58,680), Texas tract (395,780), California, Utah, Nevada, Arizona and New Mexico tracts (589,530), Alaska tract (581,410), Hawaii territory (6,740), Puerto Rico (3,600), Philippines (14,000), Sulu and Guam (50).

Total expansion, 3,077,875. And on this showing the Record makes comments, stealing the livery of the Jeffersonian-Monroe-Polk policy of annexing adjacent territory to serve the devil of McKINLEY expansion and empire at the other end of the globe. Says the Record:

"Of the accretion of our territory 2,293,975 square miles were added by Democratic administrations, in spite of the active protests of opposition parties. The remaining 673,900 square miles were acquired without the active dissent of the Democratic party, though under Republican auspices. It is rather late in the day for the Democracy, under the lead of Bryan, to run counter to a policy established by Jefferson and so acted upon by his Democratic successors as to have trebled the original area of the Republic before the purchase of Alaska in 1867."

It requires all the gall of a Democratic convert to McKINLEY imperialism to compare it with the annexation of 2,300,000 square miles of compact and contiguous territory, joined to the United States by an imaginary line, to say nothing of the differences in climate, population and adaptability to sustain people of our own race and political training. The champions of McKINLEY expansion do not refer to that, or to the fact that his policy of acquisition has involved the country in a needless and cruel war. McKINLEY's Philippine policy holds the same relation to the Jeffersonian policy of expansion that highway robbery does to honest and square dealing. One strengthened the original Union, and has added to it 20 States and Territories, with a homogeneous population. The other is today and will remain a source of national weakness and a monument of national dishonor. It has set aside the great and beneficial principles of national policy laid down by Washington and Jefferson and set forth in the Declaration of Independence and the constitution of the United States. In its place it has given us a bastard imperialism, a bloody war, and no end of debt and taxation.

And all for what? No one in authority has yet answered the question. What do we want with the Philippines? What does their conquest promote in the interest of civilization, christianity or Americanism?

The Spring Elections.

The spring elections, at which borough and township officers will be voted for, will occur on Tuesday, Feb. 20. From the state election laws are taken the following regulations governing the election:

Last day to file the certificates of nomination with the Secretary of the Commonwealth, 45 days before the election; to file nomination papers with the same, 35 days before election; certificates of nomination for county officers with the County Commissioners, 21 days before; last day to file certificates for township and borough officers, Feb. 2; nomination papers for the same, Feb. 5; objections to papers filed with the Secretary of the Commonwealth, 21 days before; to county officers, Feb. 8. Time to withdraw from all tickets, except the township and borough offices, fifteen days before; township and borough officers Feb. 8th.

Additional Taxes on Notes.

The commissioner at Washington has decided that ordinary judgment notes will hereafter be considered as the same as bonds and taxed fifty cents each under the war revenue law, and if a power of attorney is embodied in the note it must bear the added stamp worth twenty-five cents. The universal practice among business men and internal revenue collectors has hitherto been to consider a judgment note as an ordinary promissory note, carrying as tax a stamp worth two cents for every \$100 of face value.

The County's Popular Sheriff.

From the Philadelphia Ledger. Cyrus Brungart, who was inducted into the sheriff's office on New Year's day, arrived here this evening on a business trip, returning home this morning. The sheriff's popularity is evidenced from the fact that he had the greatest majority of any man elected to office in this county at the November election. We predict that he will make one of the best sheriffs Centre county has ever had.

—Subscribe for the WATCHMAN.

Spawls from the Keystone.

—Moses Keller, a farm hand employed at Chestnut Hill, near Columbia, was kicked in the face by a mule Wednesday morning. His jaw and both cheek bones were broken and he is terribly cut and bruised.

—J. G. Spangler, proprietor of a law and collecting agency in Altoona, was convicted in Blair County court Tuesday of acting as a lawyer when he was not a member of the profession. He was fined \$10 and costs.

—Orrin Krebs of Sinnemahoning, aged about 52 years submitted to an operation in Williamsport hospital a few days ago. A piece of the skull which had been depressed from boyhood, owing to an accident, was raised. Mr. Krebs is improving.

—The borough of Jersey Shore Friday afternoon paid Mrs. Rebecca Fowler the \$1,500 awarded her by the court recently as damages for injuries sustained by falling on a defective sidewalk. The costs amounting to \$77, were also paid by the borough.

—The executive committee of the Pennsylvania State Teachers association has commenced making arrangements for the big state convention to be held in Williamsport on July 3, 4, 5 and 6, 1900. Between 500 and 1,000 teachers will be present, as well as speakers of national reputation.

—Judge Albright of Lehigh county, last week handed down a decision relating to the rights of fishermen and owners of streams. He rules that a fisherman is guilty of trespass who enters a stream and fishes without the consent of the land owner, although he wades the stream and does not touch dry land, and the fact that the state has stocked the stream with fish does not make of it a public stream.

—Commissioner Wilson, of the internal revenue bureau, has decided that a physician who prescribes and sells to his patients whisky, brandy, wine or any other alcoholic liquor that is not compounded by the mixture of any drug or medical ingredient therewith, is required to pay a special tax as a retail liquor dealer, even though the alcoholic liquor thus furnished be prescribed as a medicine only so used.

—Walter L. Main's circus will not go on the road next season. So says a telegram from Geneva, O., winter quarters of the aggregation. The health of Mr. Main is poor and, as he is independently rich, the physicians have advised him to give up business for a year. Main's circus will always be remembered in Bellefonte and vicinity on account of being in the big wreck near Tyrone several years ago.

—Kneeling against a tree in an attitude of prayer, the frozen body of Lewis E. Wirts, a prominent engineer on the Huntingdon and Broad Top railroad was found yesterday near his home, with a bullet hole in the right temple. A 38-calibre revolver with one cartridge exploded, was lying at his side. Broodling over the death of his favorite daughter was the cause of suicide. He leaves a widow and eight children.

—Recently, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Schofield, of Union township, Clearfield county, celebrated the 62nd anniversary of their marriage. Sixty years of married life, the diamond wedding are considered very rare, but this old couple now lived two years beyond that. Mr. Schofield is now 87 years of age and Mrs. Schofield is 85. Both are in the enjoyment of good health. There were present on this occasion four of their children, five grandchildren and ten great grandchildren.

—Saturday three Jersey Shore boys were rescued from watery graves. While skating on the river, Charles Messner broke through the ice, opposite the pump station, and was going down the second time before his companions could throw him a stick and pull him out. Jacob Johnson broke through near the same place, but was taken out by Arthur Allen, who jumped into the water and assisted Johnson out on the ice. Henry Miller fell in and was taken out by his companions, who shored a boat over the ice to where he was floundering in the water.

—There is a dearth of boarding houses in Braddock and vicinity. Since the four hundred men have been imported by the Carnegie company to work on the new furnaces about to be erected in the vicinity of the old cinder dump the local lodging and eating houses, of cheaper variety, have been flooded. From an authoritative source it was learned that the Carnegie people provided transportation for the men and have assured all the lodging house keepers and the others, on whom the strangers must be dependent for a time, of pay for whatever pains they go to in behalf of the emigrants.

—Altoona has at least one kid who believes in promptness in others at least.

The youngster is a boy about a dozen years old. He has a sister. The other night on account of illness in the family the girl was obliged to sleep on a lounge down stairs. Early in the morning the boy arose and going down stairs demanded that the sister get up and prepare breakfast. Playfully the girl refused to obey the mandate of the kid whereupon he struck a match and sticking it under the lounge the excelsior was ignited. A blaze immediately followed, the girl got up, and a hurried pitching of the burning lounge from her house prevented a conflagration. It all happened at the home of Samuel Hroday at Eleventh avenue and Twentieth street.

—W. H. Schnars, of Westport, who has charge of the stage line between Westport and Hammersley's Forks, lost his horse last Friday. He was making his usual trip. Upon reaching the Arnold residence, he stopped his team and went into the house to attend to some business leaving his horse standing on the road untended. The team was a gentle one and Mr. Schnars states he never thought it necessary to fasten them. While he was in the house the horses started out and walked up the road until they reached a point called Werts' Narrows, when the back end of the sled slipped over the bank. This frightened the horses and they started on a run up the road. After going about twenty rods, at a narrow point in the road, the horses and sled went over the embankment, which at that place is about 150 feet high, killing both the animals instantly. The one horse in its descent crashed into a stump and broke its neck and the other in some manner caught in the harness and choked to death. The sled was heavily loaded with hay, chop, bran, mail, etc. These articles were scattered along the mountain side and the sled was almost entirely demolished. Mr. Schnars' loss is an extremely heavy one, the team being valued at \$250. He hired Mr. McCoy's horse and sleigh and returned to Westport.