

Ink Slings.

There is Lord REIDERS BELLE,
With his hundred thousand men,
He marches o'er the Tugela,
And then scots back again,
And when they're o'er, they're o'er,
And when they're back, they're back,
But Kavona's knockin' the devil
Out o' the bloomin' English pack.

—W. HARRISON WALKER promises to be the greatest political runner this town has ever seen.

—Next Tuesday will tell whether Governor STONE has any friends left in the North ward or not.

—If you want to see the fur fly keep your eye on HARBENBERGER'S political pate up in the North ward next Tuesday.

—With a fine sense of the eternal fitness of things that Madisonburg eloping couple went to a Rev. DE CAMP to be married.

—If the upper branch of Congress continues keeping QUAY on the anxious bench he will need a seat in his trousers long before he gets that one in the Senate.

—HOKE SMITH'S saying that GOEBEL was in the wrong in Kentucky doesn't make it as neatly so as some Republican papers would like to believe. It wasn't so long ago that these same papers that are now pinning their faith to HOKE were railing at him for being the most incompetent Secretary the Interior Department ever had.

—There is nothing left for the Delaware peach trees to do but grow a crop next season. The ADDICKS fight among the Republicans in the Diamond State threatens to crop out again and if it does it will so effectually monopolize whatever notoriety there is going as to frost all hope of any for the peach orchards, through their annual wail of a crop failure.

—Mr. FITZSIMMONS, the fighter, was the fellow who not long ago paraded his intention of retiring from the prize ring and of trying to become as much of a gentleman as possible, but it is quite evident that FITZSIMMONS, a gentleman, did not lie well on the social stomach of FITZSIMMONS, a pug, and the latter, having thrown off the former, is again clamoring for fame such as the brutality of the prize ring wins for men.

—Ex-Consul McCURRY has at last spoken. He says he left Pretoria because he was in sympathy with the Boers and the English were tampering with his official correspondence. If such was the case Mr. McCURRY ought, by all means, to have staid right where he was and had the matter looked into by his home government. His act of running away from trouble classes him with the "quitters" and there are few of them among Ohio-ans, especially when it comes to quitting government jobs.

—Last night was the second anniversary of the terrible disaster to the battleship Maine in Havana harbor. We have by no means forgotten the unfortunate men who went to hero's graves in the dark waters of the bay that night, nor are we likely to, but the stamp tax keeps on robbing the people under the old battle cry of "Remember the Maine" and respect for the dead prevents the people from denouncing it as unjust.

—The wife of the Turkish minister at Washington intends to maintain her establishment in that city in true Turkish style. In the eyes of the Washington correspondents the most notable feature of this is the refusal to entertain men at her home. Mrs. ALI FERROUCH BEY is about as well off as if the rules of the Koran did not taboo male visitors. Judging from the reps of a number of the official set in Washington there are lots of them who would not hesitate to break into ALI'S little harem, if they could.

—It is not more than in line with the general ridiculousness of the requirements of civil service reform that the Grangers should demand that all applicants for positions in the Department of Agriculture be required to display a certain practical knowledge of farming. Of course their aim is apparently to preserve positions in that department for the farmers and their right to them should be unquestioned, but just how much more proficient it is going to make a clerk, if he has been handy at spreading manure, we are at a loss to comprehend. Or how much more accurate will the accounts be kept if some one is presiding over the books who uses gee and haw for the debit and credit sides of the ledger.

—Congressman LEVY, of New York, is talking sense when he urges the passage of his bill repealing some of the war taxes. He says the war is all over now and the government expenses are decreasing daily and inasmuch as the Secretary of the Treasury estimates that the surplus of revenues for the current year will be between thirty and forty million dollars there seems to be no further need for this drain upon the people. The truth of the matter is just this. The DINGLEY tariff being a failure as a revenue producer the longer this war tax can be kept on the longer the people will be deceived. The Republicans are bidding for votes now and they must keep a full treasury at all hazard in order to bolster up their imperialistic President's chances for a re-election. It is not the need of the government that is calling for stamps or checks, etc., these days so much as it is the need of the Republican party.

Cutting Down Republican Majorities.

Republicans have a right to think as they please, and to say what they have a mind to about it, but the undeniable fact is that their vote in Philadelphia is being decreased at a rate that is neither promising of future spoils or hopeful of majorities. A little over two months ago five of the most trusted and successful workers of the party, headed by the Hon. (?) SAM SALTER, were forced to leave the country for the country's good, and the boastful results of their efforts will be seen no more forever in the returns from the districts they worked.

On last Saturday Judge BREGY'S court further reduced the working force, and possible majority of that party, for at least two years by consigning FRANK TAYLOR, JOE HOGAN and SAM MARKLEY to the tender mercies and less tender diet of the eastern penitentiary, for that period.

These three, like the Hon. (?) SAM SALTER, and Mr. McKINLEY'S Washington officials who are with him seeking a land where no man knows them and where the temptations to stuff ballot boxes are not as great as in the city of brotherly love, were the flag-wavers and spurs-starters for the Republican bosses of the Fifth wards. They were also tools to do and act just as they were told. They did just what thousands of other Republican workers, in that boasted Republican city, have been doing under instructions for years—committed frauds to swell the vote and tickle the bosses of their party for whom they worked and by whom they were paid. They didn't believe they were committing any crime that would merit punishment, for the reason that they had been taught, both by the press of Philadelphia and the leaders of Republicanism there, that the greatest glory a man could achieve was to stuff a ballot box, succeed as a repeater or make a false return of the vote. It was for this "glory" and to show their "divisions" practically unanimous for whatever the Republican ring desired, that they were working.

But they did their work a little too openly and the courts of Philadelphia, that for years have been blind to this kind of business, were compelled to see and in order to leave the impression that they have been looking for this sort of crime, they bristle up and the poor wretches—tools of those who make the courts—are given the full penalty of the law.

It is right that these creatures of Republican rotteness should get just what has been given them. It may possibly deter others from attempting the same crimes in the same open and defiant way; but it won't stop frauds at elections, nor will it purify the politics of that city. It will take hundreds of ward-healers and scores of ward bosses to be placed just where TAYLOR, HOGAN and MARKLEY now are or made to follow the departed SALTER before this will be accomplished.

However, we should not fail to appreciate the good work that has been done, and for this one spasmodic effort of the courts, to show their opposition to heretofore known and recognized Republican methods of increasing the vote, we should be thankful.

The Auditor's Report.

The county Auditor finished their work and filed their account on Saturday last. It was a big job and a long one, and we doubt if men ever tried to do their duty more faithfully or more conscientiously.

The report, as filed, severely arraigns the late board of Commissioners for the extravagance exhibited in the payment of certain bills. It sues charges to each of its members an equal amount of a number that were paid without warrant of law, in addition to deducting from Mr. FISHER'S account, four days; Mr. RIDDLE'S, six days; and Mr. HICKMAN'S, thirteen days, that they had charged for services when there was no meeting of the board.

With their statement of the county finances the auditors filed the following report:

To the Honorable the Judge of the Court of Common Pleas of Centre County:

"The undersigned auditors of Centre county, having examined the accounts of the several officers, beg leave to report as follows: Your auditors met at the court house, on Monday, January 1st, and organized by electing Wm. H. HILTON, president; John H. BECK, secretary; W. Miles WALKER, clerk; and Fortney & Walker, attorneys. Notice was duly served upon the several officials to produce their books of accounts, papers, vouchers, minutes, etc. Harrison Kline treasurer's accounts were examined carefully and found to be correct, except that the commissioner's "receipt book" shows that on the 12th day of January, A. D., 1899, he received eight thousand three hundred and sixty-three and forty-one one hundredth dollars (\$8,363.41) with which amount your auditors find, he neither charged himself nor credited to the county fund in the accounts of the year 1899. Your auditors object to the payment of sundry bills of Commonwealth costs and several bills for maintenance of indigent persons (hereinafter set forth) which we verily believe to be unwarranted and, therefore, have surcharged them to the board, also, we find that the time book shows that they have charged for days when only one member was present (No. days hereinafter set forth) which your auditors believe to be a correct item of surcharge.

Your auditors of the office proceedings were not as full and complete as they should be, in many instances do not contain important transactions of business and in some cases do not agree with contracts made. There has not been a careful scrutiny of bills and accounts in relation to over charges as we think should have been exercised. Assessor's bills in many cases show a large increase. Bills for rooms in which to hold elections are in many instances excessive and the establishment of uniformity in allowances, as near as possible, is recommended.

With these remarks we submit the following statement of the county expenditures for the past year for which orders have been drawn by the late board of commissioners.

A Statement that Proves Profringacy and Don't Show All It Should.

The WATCHMAN makes no apology for the many columns given up this week to the Commissioner's exhibit of the financial condition of the county. It is a document of the greatest importance to local taxpayers and will be studied with more interest by them than any other matter that would have occupied the same space.

We are sorry we cannot say that it is a satisfactory exhibit, or shows careful and economical management on the part of those controlling the county affairs for 1899. It is just the reverse of this. In every department from the expenditures for court purposes down to the cost of cleaning the court house it shows a liberality, or recklessness, with the people's money that is neither encouraging to the tax-payers nor commendatory of the work of the Commissioners.

Ten years ago, and under what was then thought to be an incompetent and wasteful management of county affairs, the total expenditure for county purposes amounted to \$45,857.47. Of this \$10,000 was expended in erecting new bridges, making the actual payments for county purposes a little over \$35,000.00. Last year, less than \$800.00 was expended on bridges, and less than \$2,000 on improving the public property, and the management was such that it cost \$63,923.76 to meet the same expenditures that were paid, in 1889, with \$35,000.00.

There is possibly an excuse for even some increase in expenditures over what they were ten years ago, for the reason that a registration of school children now has to be made, tickets for all elections have to be printed, and blanks for the different county officers have to be paid out of the county treasury, which was not required then. But outside of these, and they will not add \$5,000 to the general expenses, we can recall nothing that would give a reasonable excuse for any increase in the cost of county affairs.

Why the expenditures have run up, will be clear to the reader if he will examine the amounts paid for making assessments in certain districts, for pointing the jail walls, for repairing the pavements about the court house, for making out registration lists, for commissioners and clerks pay, and scores of other items for which the price paid is out of all proportion to the actual cost of the work done.

Of these matters we may have more to say in the future.

But the increased expenditures, as shown by the payments made by the Treasurer, is not the only complaint the tax-payers have reason to make against the outgoing Board of Commissioners. Last fall the WATCHMAN charged that there was queer book-keeping up about the court house, and that no one knew exactly what the condition of county affairs were. This charge has been verified by the examination of the books and accounts by the County Auditors. They found, that \$8,363.41, that was received on the 12th of January, 1899, was not accounted for in the account of that year at all; they found that payment for \$7,000 due from the State to the county for 1900 had been received for and entered in the account of 1899, to partially replace the \$8,363.42, received and not accounted for in January of that year, and that with these attempts to make a better showing of money in the treasury than the facts warranted, prior to their efforts to be re-elected, that they have gotten their accounts so mixed, and in that condition, that, according to the Auditor's statement, their outgoing Treasurer is charged with having \$21,190.82 in his hands in place of \$12,827.40, as shown by the Commissioners exhibit.

What became of the difference—\$8,363.41—that was paid to the county by the State on the 13th of January, 1899, is a matter for the treasurer, Mr. KLINE, and the outgoing Board of Commissioners to explain.

Another matter that is worthy of note in this connection is the fact that since the present Board of Commissioners were sworn in, that scores of unpaid bills have been presented for adjustment. In the matter of bridges, alone, it is said that accounts aggregating almost \$2,000, have turned up, of which no account had been kept. Printing and other bills have been held back, so that the exhibit, as given in the statement published—extravagant and profringacy as it makes the management—does not tell near all, nor will any one know the actual condition until all bills are presented.

Although the statement shows that the county assets are in excess of its liabilities \$34,229.12, the actual facts are that the county assets amount to nothing of the kind. To figure it up to this, and meet demands made in 1899, \$7,000 of money belonging to the county income of 1900, was used in December. The payment of bills of which no mention is made was neglected until there are thousands of dollars

of them now due and to be met, and in place of the new Board going into office with a clear sheet and an excess of over \$24,000.00, the actual excess when discovered and fairly stated will not be a penny above \$14,000.

It is to be hoped that the new Board of Commissioners will prove a great improvement on the one that has just passed out of office. There certainly is plenty of room.

Corporations Spend Vast Sums to Cheat the People.

The following dispatch from Harrisburg, under date of Feb. 9th, gives to the public the sequel to the defeat of the Granger's tax bill before the Legislature in 1896. The dispatch announces the instigation of legal proceedings by WILLIAM R. PEOPLES, of Jersey Shore, against Congressman M. E. OLMSTED, the noted corporation lawyer of Harrisburg, to recover fees for professional services during the time when the Granger's tax bill was before the Legislature and Congressman OLMSTED was fighting it for the benefit of corporations in general.

The people knew very little of what was going on during those days when the Grangers were making their great fight for a more equitable tax adjustment between the land owning farmers and the great corporations, and this telegram only partly tells the story of the hateful influence corporate wealth wields over the Legislature to the detriment of the general interests.

HARRISBURG, Feb. 9.—William R. Peoples, of Jersey Shore, has entered suit in the Dauphin county court against Congressman Marlin E. OLMSTED, of this city, to recover a fee of \$500 for professional services rendered to him during the time when the Granger tax bill was before the Legislature of 1896 he furnished Mr. OLMSTED with certain data for an argument before the House Ways and Means committee against the Granger tax bill.

The information related to the value of certain property belonging to Leonard Rhone, former master of the State Grange, who advocated the passage of the bill. Mr. Peoples alleges that he secured this information at the request of Mr. OLMSTED.

A. C. Stamm, who is associated with Congressman OLMSTED in the practice of law, said to-night that Peoples was not employed by the Congressman personally, but by the Beach Creek railroad company, of which OLMSTED was at the time president and general counsel. Brickler and Peoples were local counsel at Jersey Shore and Peoples performed the service for which the suit is brought, under the immediate direction of A. C. Stamm, superintendent of the company at that place in his capacity as local counsel. His bill, which presumably included this service, was subsequently rendered to the company and paid.

The facts in the case are these: While the Granger's tax bill was under discussion before the Ways and Means committee Mr. RHONE made an argument, setting forth the value of corporate and personal property and the millage rate of taxation, as compared with that of real estate. The statistics he used were compiled from the reports of the Secretary of Internal Affairs and the Auditor General and made a decidedly startling showing.

According to the published reports the figures showed that corporate and personal property paid on an average valuation only three mills, while real estate paid sixteen mills of taxation. This so aroused corporate interests that they employed special emissaries, at any salary they demanded, as shown by the above telegram, to spy upon and hound Mr. RHONE and others who were leading the fight for the common people.

As Mr. PEOPLES is the partner of Capt. BRICKER, corporation clerk in the Auditor General's office, he was selected to come to Centre county to ascertain the valuation, for purposes of taxation, of Mr. RHONE'S property in Pennsylvania. After sneaking about in that community for some time the corporation hiring succeeded in making an inventory of the Granger champion's property, stock and crops. He carried it back to Harrisburg and Mr. OLMSTED used the data in his argument against the bill for which Mr. RHONE was struggling.

As the public knows the bill was lost, because boss ridden, corporation enthralled Pennsylvania did not have it in its power to say that the tax burdens of the farmer and small property owner should be lightened and those of the corporations made heavier. But after the money interests had accomplished their purpose there came the settlement of the costs of accomplishment; in which it is quite evident that they forgot to count Mr. PEOPLES. He now sues to recover \$500.00, which he states he was to receive from the Beach Creek Railroad Co., that sum being the share of but one corporation in the fund to defeat the Granger's tax bill.

If corporations are accustomed to paying so munificently for services it is not to be wondered at that they pay only three mills taxes, while real estate pays sixteen.

It is noteworthy that while he is not a lawyer the Centre county farmer prepared such an argument in that case that corporations spent thousands of dollars in undoing its effects, and Mr. WANAMAKER used it as a basis of many of his speeches during the last campaign and in it can be discerned much of the animus in the warfare which the present administration is waging against Mr. RHONE.

One of the Issues of the Next Campaign.

The fear of the trust issue in the coming campaign is weighing heavily upon the soul of the administration. Here and there the party leaders are putting their noses together and discussing the best means of throwing a veil over the slow moving glacier.

They now propose an amendment to the constitution giving the United States government control over corporations. With-out a visible and flaming sword, what hollow mockery is this? Government control is possible now if the laws are enforced.

Where is the Sherman law? Has it become a dead letter? Where is the Interstate Commerce law, and all kindred statutes supposed to control trusts? Struck with the weight of money attached to their necks.

In what direction, then, will the Government wield this club of commercial reform? Through Congress? Impossible. As long as Senators and Representatives stand pledged to the trusts. Through the courts? Again an impossibility, when the trusts are as firmly entrenched in the courts as the Boers on Spion Kop.

Through the people? Certainly, and easily. Every man who has a vote can put a nail in the coffin of trust oppression, and if given an opportunity the people can be relied upon to effect their own deliverance and to regulate their own grievances.

The Standard Oil company is often pointed to as an ideal trust. So it is. The evils which exist in this company exist to a greater or less degree in all trusts. This company brings oil from the earth for 15 cents a barrel and sells it to the laboring man for \$4 a barrel, a price which enables it to pay a dividend of 33 per cent. on an enormous capital.

Thus, if the poor Standard Oil laborer working for \$4 a month should fall heir to \$100,000 he could invest it in Standard Oil stock he would receive, in interest the amount of his wages during his natural life.

When a man lends money on these figures the law deals with him as a usurer. The best way to regulate a snake is with a club. When it is thus regulated it becomes harmless. There is no need of killing the trusts. It is only necessary that their oppressive power shall be broken and their poison fangs extracted.

This can be done by passing a Constitutional Amendment or a commission that will sink itself purposely into the mud to find what is visible on the surface.

Christianizing the Philippines.

When the Americans came into possession of the city of Manila, there were just three places in the Philippine metropolis where liquor could be bought. Now there are 400 existing there, by and with the consent of Mr. McKinley. Military rule all that we have in the Philippines today. The President is the commander in chief of the army and navy and if he wishes he can shut off the sale of intoxicants in Manila. Mr. McKinley's power is supreme in the Philippine capital. What he wants to do there, he can perform. The place is under martial law. There is nothing whatever to prevent him from closing up all the saloons and the responsibility for keeping them open rests on his shoulders.

Hold on to Your Walnut Trees.

Nearly every country newspaper that we read tells about some farmer selling his walnut trees for the purpose of having them manufactured into lumber, for shipment to Germany, says an exchange. Evidently these farmers have not thought much about what these walnut trees will be worth in the near future. They will only realize this when the trees are gone and the prices of walnut double twenty or thirty times. Don't sell your walnut trees. Keep them on your farm. They are not only good for fruit but the increase in price which we are sure to realize in after years will more than pay the interest on the sum paid you now for them.

It is Usually That Way.

It is found that after four months hard work in getting subscriptions to perpetuate the Dewey arch in New York, only \$160,000 has so far been secured. While New York was in hysterics over the arrival of Admiral Dewey and in admiration of that grand work of art, there were many to make the assertion that no difficulty would be experienced in collecting \$500,000 for the work of making the arch permanent. At this late date it appears that somebody was very liberal in offering someone else's money.

Legislators at Frankfort.

FRANKFORT, Ky., Feb. 12.—The Republican House and Senate met at 12 o'clock to-day, nine being present in the latter and twenty-eight in the former. The Senate appointed a committee to inform Governor Taylor that it had convened in Frankfort and was ready for business. It reported in a few minutes that Governor Taylor had received the message and replied: "Well, go ahead." The House appointed a similar committee and both houses then adjourned for the day.

You cannot touch pitch without being defiled. Elections cannot be made a mockery for years without the public conscience becoming corrupted.—Phila. Press.

In this the Press is right, and being so, think of the condition the public conscience of Philadelphia must be in by this time.

Spawls from the Keystone.

—During the month of January there were sixty deaths in Johnstown.

—Bedford again has its streets illuminated by electricity and is happy in consequence.

—Pennsylvania has more national banks than any other state. The number is 438. New York has 337. Total in the United States 800.

—The trade of Punxsutawney has placed a shoe factory which local capitalists propose starting. It will give employment to 25 men at first.

G. F. Herrill and brother have about completed the remodeling of their saw mill on Dent's Run, and will be ready to start up as soon as the freezing weather has disappeared.

—Thirteen months old James Brown, of Eldred, Saturday stuck a celluloid bomb into an open grate. The bomb exploded, ignited James' dress, and before his mother could beat out the flames he was fatally burned.

The National hotel and three adjoining dwellings were destroyed by fire at Hastings Thursday morning, the loss being \$5,400, with only partial insurance. The fire department of Hastings, consists of a bucket brigade.

The Pine Grove school house in Monroe township, Bedford county, was destroyed by fire on Monday evening of last week. The fire is believed to have been of incendiary origin, and is laid at the door of some bad boys in the vicinity.

—John Snyder, of the east end of Nittany valley, while hauling logs to a mill a few days ago, had his one foot severely injured by having it caught between a piece of timber and a stump. It was the last load that he intended hauling.

—Elmer E. Haagen, a former Clinton county boy, who has been lumbering at Kermoo Clearfield county, for several years, has closed a contract for about 30,000,000 of virginia pine and hemlock timber in Indiana county and has commenced to cut it.

The barn of Charles Yohn, near Beaver station on the H. B. T. R. R., was totally destroyed by fire on Wednesday evening last, together with all contents excepting the stock. The loss will amount to about \$1,000, on which there was an insurance of \$500.

—John Slagle, a resident of Clarion county, aged about 65 years, committed suicide by shooting his head off a few days ago. The family had left the house and when they returned his body was found in the wash house, with his head fearfully shattered and an empty shot gun at his side.

The school teachers of Hopewell township, Bedford county, have struck or intend to strike for higher salaries. They have so notified the directors. When it is known that the salaries in that township range from \$23 to \$26 per month it will not be wondered at that the pedagogues insist on more money.

The plans for a wagon bridge across the Susquehanna river from Shamokin dam to Sunbury have been completed. The bridge will be a handsome iron structure with eleven piers, and will be twenty feet wide. The A. & P. Roberts company have contracted for the iron. The structure will cost \$140,000.

—Leo Scott, a young son of Mr. and Mrs. Howard Scott, of Jersey Shore, formerly of Phillipsburg, had a clear toy in his mouth a few days ago. The piece of candy slipped into his throat and choked him. The father ran for the doctor, but the mother succeeded in dislodging it just as the child was getting black in the face.

—Charles Steward, was driving from North Bend to market at Renovo, a few days ago, when his team went over an embankment of thirty-five feet. He jumped out of the wagon, but horse, wagon and goods went down on to the railroad track. The horse was bruised badly. Mr. Steward wants damages from the township.

The second death among the smallpox victims at Larimer tippie occurred Sunday morning. The victim was John Favarel. He was in an isolated shanty near the tippie for several days without fire, food or drink before he was discovered. The Italian who died Friday was buried on Saturday and the body taken in a round about way to the cemetery.

The attorneys for the defense in the Harmon murder case, Clearfield county, in which a verdict of manslaughter was rendered, have made a motion for a new trial, and the motion will be argued before the argument court the first Monday of next month. The bail of the prisoner of the sum of \$10,000 has been renewed and he will be granted his liberty until that time.

—Patrick Crossen, clerk at the Armstrong cafe, Johnsbury, is battling with death as the result of injuries received at the hands of David Schrumm. Schrumm ordered an oyster stew Friday night. When it was served he complained that it was too hot. Then Schrumm threw the stew on the floor and hurled the bowl at Crossen, fracturing his skull. He admitted throwing the bowl before Squire Secrist, and was lodged in jail at Edinburg.

—Mrs. F. A. Heydrich, who has been at the residence of George Poorman, Castanea, is suffering from a severely scalped face. Mrs. Heydrich went to a kettle, in which chestnuts were being boiled, to remove the lid. As she did so, there was a loud report, and the chestnuts and boiling water blew up against the ceiling. The scalding water and chestnuts struck Mrs. Heydrich in the face. In several places the burns are so deep that it is feared that scars will remain. Her one eye is nearly closed and large blisters cover other portions of the face. The scalds were attended to. What caused the chestnuts to fly from the kettle is not known.

The body of Wallace Mohan was found on the ice of Little Bailey Run, Potter county, Friday morning, with his head crushed in. Mohan is a log jobber, and, as a rule, carried considerable money about him, and as it was near pay day the theory is that he was waylaid and robbed. He was known to have left a "pig's ear" at Blowville about 11 o'clock Thursday night, and some are inclined to the theory that he was followed, waylaid and robbed by denizens of that place. The spot where Mohan's body was found is about two miles from the point where William Ayres, a wealthy farmer was murdered a couple of years ago, and whose murder still remains a mystery. Mohan leaves a widow and three children at Austi.