

Ink Sillings.

The fifteenth of April is coming along. Have you got your rod and line ready? Your can full of worms, And that same old song Of "the big ones" you're "lost already?" Have you got your high boots, your lunch, and chowder?

—What England seems to be most in need of now is the "open door" policy for her people in Mafeking.

—Visiting delegate on Tuesday—"Say, let me have one of those strips of harmony, I want to see who I am to vote for."

—The harmony seed that Republican statesmen believed they had planted in the Porto Rican policy is not promising a prolific harvest.

—Queen VICTORIA'S going up to Dublin to live for a few days will scarcely make up for the sons of Erin who went down to Colenso to cease living for eternity.

—It seems to be "nip and tuck" between the gallows and the penitentiary as to which will be most in demand when the Kentucky conspiracy cases are ended.

—Possibly it was to save the difference that his lawyers' fees would have cost him, that FRICK agreed to take ten, in place of the twenty million asked, for his interest in the CARNEGIE company.

—When the Centre County farmer looks at his brown, winter killed wheat he will certainly be struck with the conviction that what won't be one of the "all things come to him who waits."

—Look out, "Your Honor," Tom's throwing bouquets at you again. He's after something. Maybe he wants to slide in under your coat tail to fish some of the private streams you have access to.

JOSEPH LA JOIE says he's found the North pole. And states it's a mountain of fire; But JOSEPH won't get his name on fame's scroll.

For scientists say he's a—telling fairy tales. —With all their try to make believe that the war in the Philippines is over we haven't heard that the orders have gone out to hand masters in the army to practice up on "When Johnny Comes Marching Home."

—Every time we think of the figures we conclude what a good thing it was that the CARNEGIE company was a limited corporation. Had it been an unlimited concern there would now be but little in this world left for the rest of us to struggle for.

—General JOE WHEELER thinks the island of Guam is all right. He says they have lots of flying boxes, earthquakes, leprosy and too much rain. Just which one of the four JOE got stuck on when he wrote that optimistic report we have been unable to find out.

—If this thing of Republicans confessing to being participants in the plot to assassinate GOBEL don't soon stop MCKINLEY will have to look for fellows of a different political faith to fill his post offices in Kentucky. All the available Republicans will be preparing for the gallows or accepting the hospitalities of the penitentiary.

—The Williamsport horse that ran away and never got itself stopped until it had crashed through a door in a private residence and found itself in the parlor must have been badly scared, indeed. We have often heard of men getting drunk and taking to the stable, but it is seldom that one hears of a horse taking to the house, because the dumb equine usually has more sense than the drunken man.

—If you have any idea that JOHN TODD'S English miners about Philipsburg are wearing crepe because of JOUBERT'S death you've got another guess coming. They'll more than likely be getting KIPLING to take another spasm like he did on the morning of ST. PATRICK'S day, except it might run something like this time. Oh JOHNNY BURL you must get full. When such news is going round JOUBERT is—well, 'es gone to— Be buried in the ground.

—The Mt. Carmel boy who walked out of the second story window of his home, while asleep the other night, and then walked on down street in his night shirt, without waking up, is certainly a hopeless case. He can't have any brains at all or they surely would have been jarred into wakefulness by that drop from the window.

—It is no wonder that things have gone wrong with Kentucky lately. The surprising intelligence has just been made public that Senator JOE BLACKBURN hasn't taken a drink of liquor in eighteen months. By gad, sah, Colonel; you'll have a great deal to atone for, sah, for not having drunk your share, sah. Especially when portions are so large in Kentucky, sah.

—After calling ex-Consul MACRUM a coward for hurrying away from Pretoria shortly after the out-break of the war and declaring him a disgrace to Ohio Republicanism for having done such an unheard of thing as resigning a public office the MCKINLEY-ites at Washington have found out, to their sorrow, that Mr. MACRUM had a good and sufficient reason for quitting his post. He threw it right into the teeth of MCKINLEY'S House committee on Foreign Relations that he had too much American manhood to represent an administration that did not have the backbone to protect its emissaries from British insult. He proved that his official correspondence was censored and rather than live in an atmosphere where the stars and stripes were regarded no more seriously than the dust ruffle on Queen Victoria's skirts he came home. And he did right.

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The Time to Insure Quay's Defeat.

In the senatorial race, against both constitutional requirements and the will of the people, Mr. QUAY seems to have come to a "dead stop." From the fact that Congress is now entering the fifth month of its session and that during all that time it has not shown a disposition to take his case up, and vote upon it, it is more than probable that ample excuses will be furnished for continued delay until final adjournment, and at the end the Pennsylvania boss will be left just where he started. It is not a pleasant position for the ex-Senator to be in, but he has placed himself in it, and he will have to stay just where he is until those whose mercy he is at, either find courage to tell him the plain truth that he has no title to the seat he seeks, or belittle themselves by going back on the records they have made on this question.

Under any circumstances the QUAY contention for United States Senator must be a leading question in the coming campaign. There is no avoiding that issue. And the time to meet it is when Members of the Legislature are nominated and elected. If the people want Mr. QUAY to continue as the Representative of the State at Washington, this is the time for them to be for him. If they want some creditable representative there in place of this old political rooster, this is the time for them to be against him. It is a question for the people of the State alone to solve in the election of men whose constitutional duty it is to elect a United States Senator, and that question should be met manfully and fairly. We have neither excuse nor sympathy for that class of Republicans who berate QUAY during the entire year, and then do not have the moral courage to vote against him when the opportunity offers, nor is there apology for that kind of asininity in politics that allows a position like that of United States Senator to be captured by one whom the majority of the people despise and distrust.

If Mr. QUAY goes back to the United States Senate it will not be for the reason that the people of Pennsylvania want him as their representative. It will be because they have not the independence or principle to act as their honest convictions direct, and for the further reason that the opposition to him have neither the organizing ability nor good sense to get together as they should and make a united effort against his return.

Mr. QUAY can be defeated and the time to do that work is now, when tickets are being made. It can't be done unless the tickets placed in the field are made with that purpose in view, and unless this work is undertaken soon the best that can be looked for in that line, in the next Legislature, will be an out-come similar to the last and which has left the State without full representation in the Senate since the 4th of March, 1899.

A More Than Ordinary Undertaking.

Congressman HALL, of this district, ex-candidate for Governor GEO. A. JENKS, Hon. SIMON P. WOLVERTON, of Sunbury, GEO. F. BEAR, Esq., of Reading, and ex-Attorney General STRANAHAN, have been suggested as a committee to attempt the job of fixing up the trouble around the Democracy of Philadelphia. Its a good committee, and one which, if it gets down to real work, will do as much in the line of smoothing out the wrinkles, and pouring oil on the chafed places of the Philadelphia Democracy, as any one that could be named, but it will find a big job on its hands, and it may as well start out with that understanding at once.

Just how it is going to accomplish the object for which it was created we do not understand, but that it may be successful and that it may get the HARRITY and anti-HARRITY, the GORDON and anti-GORDON, the QUAY and anti-QUAY, the WANAMAKER and anti-WANAMAKER, as well as the reputable and old-time Democrats together and in that condition of mind that they will work together, is our earnest hope.

It will be the accomplishment of a job that will place the names of these gentlemen much higher on the roll of peace-makers than that occupied by the Hague commission, and it will make their services in demand in about one fourth the counties of the State.

—Governor HASTING'S own organ, the Republican, has put an effectual quietus to the stories abroad to the effect that he was an aspirant for most every office in sight. The former Governor says he is too busy and happy with private business affairs to enter the political arena again, at least for the Vice Presidency, Congress, or delegate to the National Convention. Like many other politicians, he is out of politics for the time being. In other words, out until he sees a better opening than any of those he was supposed to be trying to get into.

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A Most Marvelous Lie.

Senator CARTER who, a few weeks ago, exhibited how little he knew of constitutional rights and how much less he cared for constitutional requirements in a speech favoring the admission of ex-Senator QUAY, has just given another exemplification of how little he knows of some other matters, or how small a regard he has for truth. In a statement in which he was exploiting the glories of Republicanism and the benefits of expansion, he declared that "Alaska had paid back to this government a million dollars for every thousand expended in its purchase."

Now when we come to remember that that ice bound, snuffy breeding, country cost us in round figures seven million dollars it is easy to compute how far this head light of the Republicans has gotten away from the truth. Seven millions of dollars divided into thousands would be seven thousand thousand, and a million returned for every thousand, as Senator CARTER asserts has been the case, would mean that we have gotten from Alaska seven thousand millions of dollars.

Possibly the enormity of this sum will not be realized by the ordinary reader, but when he comes to understand that it is a greater amount of gold than has been produced by the entire world from 1792,—the date that statistics were first begun to be kept, up to 1899, he can appreciate how little this Montana advocate of imperialism and expansion knew about the matter of which he was talking or what a loose tongue and gigantic liar he is.

Falling to Step Up.

One session of Congress has already met and adjourned, and four months of another session have gone by, since we became the practical sponsor for decent and correct government in the islands from which we drove Spain. And what has this administration done in the way of bettering their condition? If two Republican Congresses, with the approval of a Republican administration, cannot agree upon and put in operation some form of civil government for the islands they have taken possession of, and made the people of this government responsible for, is it not about time to think about making a change? There ought to be men in this country who have ability enough and honor sufficient to suggest and put in force some sort of civil government that would insure the peace and give a chance for prosperity in Porto Rico and Cuba.

Mr. MCKINLEY and his crowd have proven miserable failures in this line. They have shown a disposition to follow in the foot steps of Spain by a continuation of military rule. They have proven their incapacity to meet such questions as those they have brought upon the country. What do the people whose honor is at stake propose doing about it?

A Place Where Fusion Will Win.

Last week's primaries up in Blair county show the Republican party to be still tied to the QUAY juggernaut. The result, between what is known as the stalwarts and independents, was excitingly close in some districts but when summed up as a whole the QUAY gang succeeded just about to the same extent that they did last year. It will now be in order for the people up there, whether Democrats, Independents, Prohibitionists, or whatever they may call themselves, who are opposed to the continuation of QUAY rule and QUAY methods, to get together and make a united fight against the election of those who will, and expect to be nothing but tools of the state machine.

A large majority of the honest people of our neighboring county are against QUAYISM. Let them show that they are in earnest by joining hands and redeeming Blair county from the rule of the ring. This they ought to do. This they can do. It was done two years ago and should now be done again.

—Capt. GREEN, who now represents the Berks and Lehigh district in Congress, and Lieut. SOWDEN, who represented the same constituency during the CLEVELAND administration and later was the Democratic candidate for Lieutenant Governor, are getting themselves worked up to a high pitch as to which one shall be a delegate-at-large to the Kansas City convention. Letters from each, to the public, have been flying over the State like leaves in autumn, and it begins to look as if there would be more fun in settling their case at Harrisburg than there will be in all the other work the convention will have before it. All the WATCHMAN can do in the matter is to wish them both success and to assure the public that no matter what the outcome may be the world will keep on moving, and the chances of Democratic success continue to brighten.

—Talk about Rev. SHELDON and his daily newspaper running venture, there is nothing quite as successful as running a paper as his editor would run it.

Is it Intentional or Incompetency?

The evidence of Republican unwillingness to grapple with, or determine, important questions, is shown by their inability to agree on any positive policy as to the kind of governments that are to be granted. Porto Rico, Cuba, or any other of the new possessions hereafter to be under the care of the United States. It is now running into two years since our army freed Cuba of the yoke of a military despotism and the robbery of Spanish rule. It is the same length of time since Porto Rico became a dependency of the United States. We promised the people of both those islands, and we proclaimed to the world, that acceptable and suitable governments would be established for both of them. We assured them that military dictation would cease; that peace and protection would be guaranteed them, and that they would be left to work out their own prosperity and happiness under the watchful care of the government that had interested itself in their behalf.

How have we fulfilled those promises, or what capacity have we shown for furnishing them a different and better government than that against which we protested so vehemently?

Our soldiers are still encamped in the fortifications that Spain's armed forces occupied; they stand guard on the streets and take the place of municipal officials; they say what shall be done and what shall not be done. Officers of our army dictate as did those of Spain. Bayonets, in place of courts, enforce order. Tinselled army officials issue the edicts that citizens must obey, and the soldiers under them see that their orders are duly respected.

There is nothing like civil government in either of those islands, although almost two years have passed since peace was restored and this government became responsible for their condition. As Spain ruled, so have we. As Spain enforced order through the bayonets, so have we. As Spain's military authority usurped the power and prerogatives of the courts, so have we.

And why? Not because it is the will or the wish of the people of this country that it should be so. Not because conditions in those islands require the intimidating presence, and dictation of an armed force. But simply because of the incompetency or cowardice, or political venality of the present administration and the party sustaining it.

There has not been a day since the evacuation of Havana, or the capitulation of San Juan that Mr. MCKINLEY and the Republican party could not have redeemed the pledges of this country, to give to those islands stable civil governments, if they had the disposition to do so, and knew how to proceed to do it. Either they do not intend to fulfill their pledges or do not know how to accomplish the work. Whether it be one or the other it is the same. There should be no excuse for deception, nor can incompetency be condoned.

Of one or the other of these Republicanism, MCKINLEYISM, HANNANISM, or whatever you may please to term it, is guilty. Either deserves the promptest and most positive condemnation by the people. Either should condemn to eternal shame the administration that is practicing or guilty of it. There should be no forgiveness for the failure to fulfill our country's pledges. And Mr. MCKINLEY and the party back of him should be held to a strict account for that failure.

Starting in that Direction.

The Philadelphia Record advises the Democrats to give up the Chicago platform; to give up the contest for bi-metalism; to give up the fight against expansion by conquest; to give up the fight against imperialism; to give up the fight for BRYAN and in fact to give up about everything they have been fighting for, except a revision of the tariff laws. Even in this Record shows some improvement in its Democratic tendencies over four years ago. Then it was willing to give up its efforts for a decent and fair tariff, and everything else it had ever advocated, in order that MCKINLEY could be assisted. And it is ten to one that it will be willing to do the same thing in the coming campaign.

At least it is heading that way. —The Clearfield county committee recently assembled declared for BRYAN for President, endorsed the course of Congressman J. K. P. HALL, that of Senator WM. C. HEINLE and elected the following delegates to the State convention W. H. Yoder, of DuBois; P. J. Drain, of Woodward; Joseph Foster, of Coalport; Alexander Shields, of Morris; N. B. Young, of Burnside, and S. J. McKendrick, of Curwensville.

—A call has been issued for the assembling of the Republican county convention in this place on Tuesday, April 10th, for the purpose of electing two delegates to the State convention. C. P. LONG, the Spring Mills merchant, is in the field for delegate and no better Republican or more popular party worker on the other side could be selected.

Franklin and Beveridge.

From the York Gazette. In his speech before the Nebraska Democratic convention Mr. BRYAN quoted from a letter of BENJAMIN FRANKLIN to Lord HOWE in 1776. We give the extract: "The well-founded esteem and affection which I shall always have for your lordship make it painful to me to see you engage in conducting a war, the great ground of which (as described in your letter), is the necessity for preventing the American trade from passing into foreign channels. To me it seems that neither the obtaining or retaining of any trade, how valuable so ever, is an object for which men may justly spill each other's blood; that the true and sure means of extending and securing commerce are the goodness and cheapness of commodities, and that the profits of no trade can ever be equal to the expense of compelling it and holding it by fleets and arms. I consider this war against us, therefore, as both unjust and unwise; and I am persuaded that cool and dispassionate posterity will condemn to infamy those who advised it, and even that success will not save from some degree of dishonor those who have voluntarily engaged to conduct it."

Can anyone read these noble words and fail to ask: Have we sunk from this level to that of Senator BEVERIDGE'S Philippine speech? And if so, it is not time to sober up and do a bit of serious thinking? At a time of excitement and political clamor it is well to question critically the motives which actuate us in forming our opinions or governing our acts. There are mighty issues, vital to the life of the nation and the progress of civilization, involved in the approaching campaign.

On the Potter County Frontier.

From the Lock Haven Democrat. Sheriff Farnsworth, of Potter county, had an exciting time Thursday night, in raiding a "pig's ear." The sheriff accompanied by deputy Stevens, high constable Murphy and three other sturdy men, rode into Blowville about 10 o'clock for the purpose of raiding a notorious resort conducted by George Firth. A dance was in progress in the house, about fifty woodsmen being in attendance.

The sheriff and his posse, armed to the teeth and with an effective flourish of pistols, rushed into the dance hall. The appearance of the officers was a big surprise and before the inmates of the place fully realized what happened, proprietor Firth and his bar-tender, Joseph Lutz, were placed under arrest and hustled out of the building.

By this time the friends of Firth and Lutz determined to take the prisoners from the officers and a mob was formed for that purpose. The sheriff and his men were equal to the occasion and leveling their revolvers at the crowd, informed them that at the first move to gain possession of the prisoners the order to fire would be given. This curbed the mob and the officers were permitted to leave without molestation.

Gen. Lew Wallace Warns McKinley.

From the Altoona Times. The revolt in the west against the Porto Rican policy of the McKinley administration is growing and an evidence of its growth is shown by a letter from General Lew Wallace to the Republicans of Indiana. In this epistle he advises them of the dangers which threaten the country because of the MCKINLEY attempt to defy the provisions of the national constitution.

The Mafeking Enigma.

Military Observers in London Are all in a State of Doubt. Roberts Keeps His Gun Counsel. Methuen Has 6,000 Men at Warrenton, a Strong Force Leaves for Grikatown and One from Kimberley.

LONDON, March 27.—4:15 a. m.—Military observers here, and even those in close affiliation with the war office, are considerably confused as to what is being done for the succor of Mafeking. Some five or six thousand men are engaged with Lord Methuen at Warrenton and Fortteen Streams, and now another column is about leaving Kimberley, if it has not already started, for the Grikatown, eighteen miles westward. Its ostensible purpose is to drive out the Boers. The force is described as a "strong one," and the expedition as "likely to attract much attention."

General French is reported from Bloemfontein Saturday as returning from Thabab Nohu, without apparently having headed off Commandant Olivier, with his fifteen guns and miles of baggage. Boer horsemen are in contact with the British outposts from Biggarsberg to Warrenton.

General Buller's patrols had a sharp skirmish Sunday at Wassebank. Lord Roberts's infantry have now been quiet for fourteen days and news of an advance is hourly expected at the war office. Messrs. Wolmarans, Fischer and Wessels, the peace envoys from the federal forces, are due at Napier in a few days.

After visiting two or three capitals they will go to New York by way of Antwerp. It is understood that at The Hague that they are invested with large powers, and are prepared to agree to anything looking to intervention. The Times prints a statement from Cape Town to the effect that the Boers, after deducting heavy losses, are probably unable now to put more than thirty thousand men on the firing line.

A Lorenzo Marques special says the Transvaal authorities are evidently re-organizing actively, as large numbers of French, Dutch and Belgian volunteers are constantly passing through that place to join the Boer forces.

A correspondent of the Daily Mail, telegraphing Monday, March 29, says: A strong expedition will leave Kimberley today, primarily for Grikatown. Its movements are likely to attract considerable notice.

BLOEMFONTEIN, Sunday March 25.—General French has returned from Thabab Nohu, having failed to engage the Boers, who are trekking northward.

BARKLEY WEST, March 26.—A commando of 400 Boers has re-occupied Papekuel, forcing the rebels in the Herbert district to rejoin the federal flag. Extensive looting is reported in that direction.

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Spawls from the Keystone.

—Charles Ballou has discovered near Raubeville, an excellent quality of hematite iron ore.

—While making repairs to his barn a few days ago, Ira Grgan, of Glen Union, split his thumb the full length, by making a mistake with an axe.

—The Cumberland county commissioners Monday gave notice that after April 25, 1900, they will not pay bounties on foxes, wild cats and minks.

—A. S. Vanwickle, & Co., will erect a new breaker at Colerain, Luzerne county, to take the place of the present structure, to cost \$150,000. It will be of the most modern design and very large.

—Applications for the sale of liquor in Westmoreland county were disposed of at a record breaking rate. There were 164 applications for wholesale and tavern licenses. The path of new applicants was rough, only two or three out of thirty being successful.

—Robert Hamilton, the colored desperado who was shot on Monday night at the speak-easy conducted by Lewis Ayers, at Spruce Creek, died Tuesday morning. John Davis, also colored, is dying with a bullet through his spine as a result of his attempts at making peace.

—After an idleness of nearly two years the spinning mill of the Bloomsburg carpet works resumed operation Tuesday morning. The mill is one of the largest in the State, and it is expected that several hundred hands will be employed in a short time to run the mill on full force.

—David M. Kriner, of Level Corners, Lycoming county, died a few days ago from the effects of a small scratch. Some time before his death Mr. Kriner had been playing with his pet dog when the animal accidentally clawed the gentleman on the hand. Blood poisoning resulted. Deceased was 73 years old.

—Mr. David Brode, while assisting in removing a stove from the Brode residence in Bedford, to the pavement, slipped on the icy steps and fell to the street, dislocating the hip bone and the right leg was broken between the thigh and knee. It is a very serious fracture and Mr. Brode is an aged man, being over 75 years.

—Still Duncannon grows. On Tuesday evening the borough council met and admitted the whole of Baskinsville into the borough, upon presentation of a petition by a majority of citizens requesting same. This will increase the borough's population to about 2200. The borough will now extend from the P. C. station to Juniata bridge.

—A few days ago James O'Brien, a market gardener, who resided near Empire, on the Buffalo, Rochester and Pittsburgh railroad, was found drowned in Toby creek. It is supposed that as he was walking along the stream he sustained a heart attack and fell over in the water. He was 65 years old. He is survived by his wife and three daughters.

—The civil service examinations required of applicants for enumerators of the census is causing Charles Zerbe, superintendent for the Eighteenth district, much difficulty. Of the many applicants for appointment who tried the examination he writes that only half will pass. Some of the papers contain 50 errors, some over a hundred and none is nearly perfect.

—An incident which occurred at the Methodist conference at Hazleton last week is causing manifest pleasure in ecclesiastical circles throughout Pennsylvania. Father Philips, pastor of St. Gabriel's Roman Catholic church, hospitably opened the doors of his parish house to a merry group of John Wesley's followers. There was a leaven of true Christian spirit in the act.

—Prominent lumbermen at Clearfield are quoted as having stated that about 300 rafs would be sent to the eastern markets this spring. A greater number of the rafs, they say, have already been purchased by eastern buyers than last year and at higher prices than prevailed then. There is a great demand for timber and eastern purchasers are getting impatient at the slow opening of the season.

—Saturday, Lewis Maloney, a wood cutter, of Clinton county, while intoxicated, fell into the ash pit at the stove heading factory. He was frightfully burned by the hot ashes. He managed to crawl out of his hot bed on to the ground, where he rolled in the snow and extinguished the fire in his clothing. He was a pitiable object, face, arms and chest a mass of blisters, with eyes swollen shut. He will live, however.

—Bessie Irene Hartman, the 9-year-old daughter of Charles W. Hartman, of Everett, was severely burned last Saturday evening a week. She was in the bed-room rocking the baby, standing with her back to the hot stove, when her skirts caught fire. She screamed to her mother, who was down stairs, and by the time she reached her she found her enveloped in flames. Mrs. Hartman wrapped her own skirts about her and quickly smothered them. The child is very severely burned about the breast and head, but is expected to recover.

—On the evening of February 28th, a horse belonging to Mike Moore was hitched in the church sheds at Sylvester, Tioga county, and when the owner called for it, the animal was missing. It was at first thought that the animal had been stolen, but the mystery has at last been solved and the horse was found on March 10th, in a sugar bush on Fayette Pride's hill farm. And, strange to say, he was alive and nothing missing but the cushion to the buggy. The horse had gone without anything to eat or drink for twelve days and nights.

—The new tunnel and the changes in the line of the Pennsylvania railroad near Spruce Creek are almost completed and it will be only a matter of a week or two until they will be ready for use. The new line eliminates to a large degree the curves at the east end of the tunnel and will allow of almost unlimited speed by the big engines on the fast express trains. This tunnel will make the third tunnel put in use by the Pennsylvania during the past twelve months, viz: the Radabaugh tunnel, the old Portage tunnel, and now the Spruce Creek tunnel. This latter tunnel will be used entirely for west bound traffic, while the old one will carry the east bound trains.