

—Let us build the canal and let us permit the world to use it, but let it be understood that it is our canal and when occasion demands we will close it.

—Mr. PAYNE, chairman of the House Ways and Means committee, stated that he thought the tax on beer ought to be regulated by its capacity to make people drunk. Well now, wouldn't that pain you. How in the world would anyone be able to fix up such a schedule when there is n't two men alive who would get drunk on the same quantity of beer.

—The Temperance people need no better pointer as to where their pet President McKINLEY stands than was given in the Saturday's Washington dispatches. After the House had effectually knocked the disgraceful canteen out of the army bill President McKINLEY's Secretary of War, Mr. ROOT, goes before the Senate and pleads to have it re-incorporated.

—LINAS SKINNER, a Southington, Conn., boy, a member of the Forty-third Vol. Inf., is to be shot at Tagloban, on Christmas day. To some it may seem like a very cruel punishment, but the exigencies of war are stern and SKINNER's sleep, though having resulted in no injury, might have been the opening for a rebel raid of the command to which he was attached.

—While young Queen WILHELMINA of Holland is putting forth every effort to make her people abstainers and has even accomplished the pledges of many of the courtiers who were closest in the bacchanalian revelries of her drunken father, in this great country of ours the Secretary of War appears before the Senate and pleads that the canteen might be allowed to continue cursing our army and disgracing our people.

—If you are a parent begin the new year by resolving to make your home brighter and more attractive for your children than it has ever been before. Make them understand that it is their home and not a curio shop. with "hands off" indelicately impressed on every article of furniture, book or trinket, or a place where they will be knocked about and growled at for acting like light-hearted children ought to act.

—President McKINLEY's policy has been one of the flag first, a favored few second and the constitution third. Former President HARRISON, in speaking to the students at Ann Harbor, a few days ago, said that the authority of the constitution is paramount wherever the flag flies over territory belonging to the United States. But then HARRISON is n't President and if he were he probably would n't have boss HANNA to advise him.

—There are not many more days for Representatives-elect THOMPSON and ALLISON to sit on the fence. Before another issue of the WATCHMAN reaches its readers they will be compelled to show their colors and take sides with either the QUAY or anti-QUAYites. There will be no "hewtwit and meetens" after the Legislature meets and when they do show what they intend doing, there is going to be a lot of disgruntled voters in Centre county, no matter which way they go.

—Miners of the Philipsburg region, who have but four days work a month, are said to be whistling for the "full dinner pail." They are seeing the folly of their blind adherence to Republicanism already and use no mild words in condemnation of the manner in which they were fooled. This is all very well, now that the election is over, but when the next one comes around again, no matter how empty their dinner pails may be or how thin the seats of their trousers, they will march up and vote the same old way.

—A part of Northumberland county is gold-struck because there is some yellow water running out of a hole in the ground at Plowville and some one says there is a great gold mine there because a wild duck was shot in that vicinity some years ago that had a lump of gold in its throat. Convincing argument, is n't it. Why future generations of such logicians will probably figure out that all the old skulls that have gold in their teeth were those of a primitive order of man hatched out by the goose that laid the golden egg.

—The investigation as to the death of OSCAR L. BOOZ, a former cadet at West Point, has brought out two sides of a decidedly sensational story. The friends of the cadet say that he was forced to drink tobacco sauce, while being hazed at West Point, and that the burning of his throat brought on tuberculosis. On the other hand West Point people say that Booz was a coward and bawled when he got licked. So far as that is concerned, the world is full of such people. But that is neither here nor there with the question of hazing, which is evidently practiced to very great extremes at the government military academy.

—Hon. WM. P. MARSHALL, of Allegheny, who would like to be the QUAY speaker of the next House of Representatives, and WARD P. BLISS, of Philadelphia, who was one of the famous "Seven-sixers," but who is now with the QUAY propaganda, were in Bellefonte Wednesday morning. What for? You can search us. They arrived on the 9 o'clock train and, after scouting around between the telegraph office and telephone boxes, departed at 9:53 for Tyrone. It is only natural to suppose that they were hunting Legislators, but whether they found ALLISON or THOMPSON we don't know.

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Don't Expect Too Much.

Before another issue of the WATCHMAN reaches its readers the Legislature of Pennsylvania will have convened, and in all probability have organized and be ready for the transaction of business. That it will be an anti-QUAY Legislature is generally admitted, but that it will enact legislation that will give to the State such reforms as the people expect is a matter of grave doubt.

In fact, the WATCHMAN has neither thought nor belief that it will. It may defeat Mr. QUAY's aspirations to be returned to the Senate; it may prevent the enactment of additional legislation odious and oppressive to the people; it may restrain the power that has heretofore been so lavish with the public funds, and it may parade itself as the representative of reform in legislation and as the mouth-piece of that sentiment that demands better results than we have been getting from legislative action, but when it is all over, the salaries pocketed and Members return home, the people will find a vast difference between what they now expect and what they will then realize.

The truth is that about one-half the voters of Pennsylvania have come to believe that all that is needed to secure a purified condition of every department of the state government—executive, legislative and judicial—is the defeat of Mr. QUAY; that this result would be the dawn of a political millennium. Such has been the teachings of campaigns for years past, and so persistently has this been impressed upon the people that all other issues have been forgotten. His personal defeat has been made the one dominant question in the politics of the State until all else, than efforts to retain his position, by the one side, or to defeat and destroy his influence by the other, has been overlooked and disregarded.

It is because of the prospects of the defeat of this one man—the defeat of an individual and not a party—that the people are hopeful of reforms, that the WATCHMAN believes to be far in the future, and a better condition of public affairs that it fears will not be realized.

The defeat of QUAY, much as it is demanded and to be desired, will be but a personal failure and a factional victory. When he is gone the party that has made him what he is; that has given him his long and unbridled lease of power; that has recognized him as its leader and dictator; that has endorsed and elected every candidate he has ordered; that has given him Governors and state officers to control, that has elected Senators and Members to carry out his behests, will still be in existence, and in control of every department of the State. QUAY may be defeated, and the good Lord knows that it should be the earnest desire of every good citizen of the State that he should, but Republicanism, as understood and practiced by him, will still live.

Until that is defeated—until the party that is responsible for him and all his representatives—is driven from power, there can be but little hope or encouragement for the people.

Those who build too much on the work of a Republican Legislature are sure to be disappointed.

The Voted School Fund in Sight.

It will be a matter for congratulation generally among the taxpayers of the State that the efforts of a Montgomery county school board to compel payment of that portion of the public school appropriation, withheld by reason of Governor STONE's attempted veto, is almost certain to succeed. At this writing it looks as if there were no doubt of the result, and if the district bringing suit for its portion of the appropriation can force payment every other district in the State is certain of securing its portion of the same fund.

From the fact that the State authorities have, of their own accord, paid all the costs in the Montgomery county case, before the rendering of a decision, leaves but one conclusion and that is that Governor STONE and his admirers recognize the error they made in this matter and are now anxious to avoid the unenviable position they will occupy if it is judicially determined that they have violated the constitution. Their efforts are now to get out of an ugly hole, and no doubt they have determined that the less of court records there are in the case the better it will be for them.

Centre county's share of this fund, of which it has been robbed for two years, is \$8,471.62.

—Just what the United States would put \$250,000,000 into an Isthmian canal for, and then sign away all her rights to it, is more than most people can understand. Secretary HAY made such an agreement with the British government, but the Senate gives hopeful signs of refusing to ratify it and there are still more hopeful signs that HAY will be dumped clear out in the cold.

If It Must be Violated Let it be in the Interest of the People.

A number of newspapers, and a few representatives who will have a hand in making apportionment bills, suggest that the way out of the senatorial difficulty is to join Lebanon county to one of the adjoining counties and give the two, two Senators. This would be easy if it was not for the constitution. That instrument is just as positive and prohibitory about the number of districts, and the number of Senators that each district shall elect, as it is as to how the ratio, upon which representation shall be based, shall be found. It distinctly and unequivocally declares that "the State shall be divided into fifty" districts and that "each district shall elect one Senator."

To attach Lebanon to one of the adjoining counties and give that district two Senators might be fair enough but it would be making but forty-nine districts when the constitution requires fifty, and it would be giving that district two Senators when the same instrument says that each district shall be entitled to but one.

Neither can these requirements be gotten around by dividing one of the larger counties adjoining Lebanon and attaching that county to one portion of it, making two districts and giving to each a Senator. This also would be easy and fair, but unfortunately for this arrangement the constitution again interferes by declaring that "no county shall be divided unless entitled to two or more Senators." Neither Schuylkill, Berks, Lancaster or Dauphin has sufficient population to entitle it to two Senators, and consequently cannot, constitutionally, be divided.

So look at this matter from whatever standpoint you please it is impossible to see how a senatorial apportionment can be made, without a clear and palpable violation of the constitution.

To refuse to make one at all would be equally as great a violation of constitutional requirements as to resort to either of the methods suggested to get a fair division of the State into senatorial districts. It is a peremptory requirement of that instrument that the "General Assembly" shall at "its first session" after each United States decennial census has been taken, "apportion the State into senatorial and representative districts."

Under existing conditions it is very evident that the constitution is being violated in some way or another in this matter and "the plain duty" of those who, as Senators and Representatives, will swear to carry out its provisions, will be to violate it in an attempt to give the people what it means and intends they shall have—fifty senatorial districts of contiguous territory and as equally divided in population as it is possible to get them.

—Prof. ALFRED BIEBLY, the well known Chicago music publisher, and a native of this county, is developing publicist tendencies. He has taken up the great question of relieving Chicago's congested business center and the undertaking, which at first seemed almost as impossible of accomplishment as the stopping of the north wind from blowing, is already showing signs of bearing tangible fruit. The Chicago Journal speaks of Prof. BIEBLY's work for business expansion in no despondent tones.

The Open Doors.

If the Chinese have any reciprocal feelings there should be no trouble in Mr. McKINLEY securing his "open door" policy, so far as that Empire is concerned. He has opened our doors through the Philippines, through Guam and through Hawaii for the cheap labor of the Orient, to pour into this country, and it would be the basest of ingratitude if American goods and American commerce were prohibited free entry at all ports and to all parts of a country to which he has given the glad hand, and for whose josh-worshipping, pig-tailed denizens he has shown such favoritism.

It is true that reciprocity with China, which would mean the continuance of the free entrance of its surplus of labor into the United States in return for the free entrance of our merchandise into their markets would be a little tough on the American working man; but what if it would? Who cares for him, or who is the lookout for his interests? The present purposes of this government is to secure "commercial supremacy." To accomplish and hold this it must place its merchandise in foreign markets, at prices that will compete with the products of the cheapest labor countries of the world, and it will need labor of the cheapest kind to do this. If American labor is further impoverished and starved what of that? Won't the glory of being a "world power," and satisfaction of knowing that we are "expanding" commercially compensate for all else? This seems to be what our people voted for, and it looks very much as if it is what we are going to get.

It is the kind of an open door that Mr. McKINLEY and the trusts desire.

A New Ground for Contest.

It has been left for a Pittsburgh paper to discover the real cause for which ARNOLD and CLEARWATER are contesting the seat in Congress to which the people of this district re-elected Mr. HALL last fall. It is in consequence of the "saloon vote" that was cast for him, and the terrible outrage (?) it was on public morals for the saloon keepers of Elk county to show their preference for candidates by working for the man of their choice. This illuminator of public events tells us that of 90 saloons in Mr. HALL's home county 89 of them supported him, and then goes on to estimate their strength at 20 votes to a saloon, giving him from this source 1,780 votes.

And this is why Mr. HALL is to be unseated. This is the fraud that has been perpetrated. To correct this Congress is to be asked to appropriate thousands upon thousands of dollars and ARNOLD and CLEARWATER expect to pocket the greater portion of it.

It will be news to the ordinary reader to learn that a vote cast by a saloon keeper is a fraudulent ballot, or that licensed houses using their influence for a candidate makes his election illegal. We recognize that there is no man in the country who knows more about the influence, the internal workings and the effects of saloons, than the ex-Honorable WM. ARNOLD himself. We admit that on matters pertaining to the saloon his experience, in and about them, qualifies him to be an expert. But we will be surprised if he don't run up against something he does not understand when he attempts to show that the business of selling whiskey or beer disqualifies a man as a voter and that his influence exerted at an election makes the result illegal.

If Congress should conclude that such is the case, and a Republican Congress can come to a vast amount of conclusions, there can be but one result to the contemplated contest—and that would be the increase of Mr. HALL's majority by thousands of votes. In this and Clearfield counties, in which, combined, there are something like two hundred licensed hotels and saloons, four-fifths of the votes of these places were cast for Mr. CLEARWATER. Averaging them up, as the Pittsburgh paper does, would give him in these two counties over 3,000 of these fraudulent "saloon votes" as against the 1,700 Mr. HALL received in Elk.

If the saloon keepers of the district are to be disfranchised Mr. CLEARWATER's hopes of being a Congressman will vanish, as does a dust pile in a cyclone, although Mr. ARNOLD may prove successful in securing the fees that he is principally after.

A Borrower's Howl.

The supporters of the policies of the present administration are elated to almost bursting point because there is said to be a gold reserve of \$476,000,000 in the Treasury. Suppose there is, what kind of financing is it that has that money lying idle, and at the same time compelling the public to pay interest on borrowed money, as the people of this country are doing.

If, with the surplus now on hand, two or three hundred millions of bonds were lifted, and the people relieved of the payment of that much interest, it would be much more to boast of, than the simple process of borrowing money and then blowing about the amount we have in the Treasury.

—We do not see why the Philadelphia Inquirer should get so hot under the collar, when some fellow or some newspaper expresses the opinion that Mr. QUAY stands in the shadow of an ignominious defeat. Getting mad and calling people "liars" don't change the situation a particle. A side that is cocksure of winning, as the Inquirer would have you understand its side is, should be happy in the thought that things are going their way. And people who are happy and are having their way are not apt to lose their temper, and growl and complain and call hard names. Evidently our friends of the QUAY organ have different dispositions from ordinary folks, or the "old man's" chances are not as rosy as they would like the public to believe they are.

—The Pittsburgh Post, with another one of those progressive humps that it has been getting on so frequently of late, has added the picture scheme to its Sunday edition. Henceforth the Sunday issue of the Post will contain a beautiful color-type, such as would be ornamental in any home or public place. The Post is a great paper and this new feature will add to its greatness.

—The Philadelphia Record Almanac for 1901 is out and its pages are teeming with just the kind of information that a person has need to refer to every day. It is nicely printed and a flaming red cover leaves little cause for mistaking it when searching for a reference book.

A Good Resolution for the New Year.

From the Philadelphia Times.

Much complaint is heard from retail dealers and in other business circles because of the failure of a considerable portion of their customers to pay their bills promptly. With many who are entirely unable to pay the failure is the result of thoughtlessness. They know that they can and will pay their bills, but they seem to consider it their right to delay payment for a considerable time, and to be offended when they are especially urged to pay what they should have paid without putting their creditors to the unpleasant and expensive necessity of employing collectors.

We are near the close of another year and every well-regulated family should inaugurate the new year by the adoption of the policy to pay promptly their household and current bills. There are those who are unable to pay their necessary bills, but they give dealers very little trouble. As a rule they are dealt with carefully and but little loss is suffered; but the chief trouble to our dealers comes from people who are quite able to pay but who appear to assume that they are conferring a great favor upon everyone with whom they deal, and have the right to delay payment as long as their interest or their caprice may dictate. It is well known to all dealers in the city that a considerable portion of their customers who claim to be specially respectable, not only delay payments of household bills indefinitely, but the percentage of that class that does not pay at all is very much larger than the percentage of the poorer class.

There is not a prominent newspaper in Philadelphia that is not often appealed to by respectable people, not only delay payments of household bills indefinitely, but the percentage of that class that does not pay at all is very much larger than the percentage of the poorer class.

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There are silly men and women who think that the chief purpose in life is to wear fine clothes, and to be able to pay for their garments with each returning day. The woman is regarded as in some measure excusable for desiring to make herself attractive, but the dude who wears fine clothes at the expense of the tailor's customer who really pay their bills, is generally regarded as neither useful nor ornamental. He can figure somewhat in fashionable society, but chiefly as a matter of convenience to others. There is really little or no excuse for his existence beyond teaching mankind what fools mortals can become.

Not only in the circles of fashion, but throughout all the varied channels of business, the importance of prompt payment of current bills can hardly be over-estimated. The men or women who promptly pay their bills always deal to the best advantage, and they command the respect of all with whom they have business relations. That position can be as well attained by the poor as the rich, as the honest poor man or woman can always command credit, because they rarely incur obligations that they cannot meet. It is, therefore, a duty for all classes and conditions to pay current bills as they become due, and if the policy could be generally established, it would save thousands of struggling people and business establishments from serious embarrassments.

It is simply common justice to dealers and customers that every well-regulated household should begin the new year with the fixed purpose to pay all current household and current bills when they are accepted as due. The policy would keep all within their legitimate means; it would avoid contraction of needless debt to which many are often tempted; it would make every family feel entirely independent within itself, with the consciousness that they deserve and command the respect of all with whom they have business relations. Pay current bills.

A Most Dangerous Measure.

From the Northampton Democrat.

Democratic opposition to the army reorganization bill is based upon a solid foundation, the principal feature of which is the vesting with one man the power to increase the army to 100,000 men at any time he may see fit to do so. For this, if for no other reason, the bill should be defeated. But it is most likely that it will pass both Houses of Congress and McKINLEY will sign it without hesitancy, for it is a measure framed to place within his power that which no other President of the United States could do.

This is not a time when men are needed at a moment's notice, but there were times when they were. Yet the man who occupied the exalted position of President in those days of trouble never as much as dreamt of being clothed with the authority to call men to arms at will.

McKINLEY may not be the man to abuse this great trust, but one more of his successors may see opportunities for personal and party benefit in an increased army and they may sacrifice oath and honor for the dollar.

This bill, however, is but one of the pet measures of the McKINLEY Administration. The people were warned against vicious legislation of this kind but they would not heed the admonition of far-sighted men and they returned to the White House the man who can be easily handled by the machine, they elected a majority of Congressmen who will do the bidding of the same crowd.

Is This a Fling at Judge Love?

From the Bellefonte Daily News.

"Who will be Centre county's next President Judge?" was an inquiry made in our hearing a few days ago, to which the following somewhat suggestive reply was made: "I cannot say who will be, but I can say who won't be."

Spawls from the Keystone.

—Charles R. Meminger, son of Rev. W. F. Meminger, formerly of Tyrone, now of Chicago, was killed by the cars in the latter city on Saturday. He was aged about 21 years.

—The ministerial association of Williamsport at a recent meeting adopted the report of a committee which strongly urges the passage by the city councils of a curfew ordinance.

—Thomas M. Kelly, postmaster of Orbisonia, Huntingdon county, is dead, aged 61 years. He was a prominent Republican leader, and a member of the Grand Army of the Republic.

—The jury in the case of Joseph McClelland, the young lad who, unfortunately, in handling a gun, shot and killed little Bessie Burkholder, at Houtzdale, on Monday, has returned a verdict of accidental shooting.

—An 8 year old son of Robert Patterson, of Latrobe, was watching the parade of a show Saturday, when he was run over by a wagon and seriously injured. The lad was carried home and given surgical attention. He is in a critical condition.

—The date of the Central Pennsylvania conference of the Methodist Episcopal church to be held at Chambersburg, has been changed from March 13th to 27th. The Baltimore conference meets at Hagerstown on that date, and the planned reunion of the two conferences will be held during that week.

—William R. Liveringhouse, a well known Republican leader, of Lincoln township, Huntingdon county, was appointed by the court of common pleas county commissioner to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Commissioner George W. Stewart. There were twenty applicants.

—William Gray, of Locust street, Milton, is lying in a precarious condition, suffering from gangrene. Some time ago Mr. Gray had a troublesome corn which he cut off, and in so doing cut the flesh. It became quite sore and finally gangrene set in and little hope is entertained of his recovery.

—While out hunting in Blacklick township, Indiana county, Friday, John Baughman, of Blairsville, let his gun fall, the charge entered his right foot. His two companions helped him home, where the foot was amputated at the ankle joint. The young man is doing well at his home and his recovery is expected to be rapid.

—The range in the laundry of the Gumble house at Jersey Shore exploded Tuesday morning and Mrs. D. A. Cochran, who was in the laundry, was painfully burned about the hands and face. The water pipes had frozen up, and when the explosion occurred the entire top of the range was blown off and the lids and pieces of iron flew in every direction.

—Wednesday Thomas A. Dudson, who was arrested in Altoona for passing counterfeit money made a full confession, implicating A. J. Stewart, of Crisslin in the crooked work. According to Dudson, Stewart was the leader in the manufacture and passing off counterfeit pieces. Dudson was discharged from custody on bail and Stewart was sent to jail at Hollidaysburg in default of \$1,000 bail.

—Henry A. Teed, of Cedar Run, Lycoming county, died Tuesday as the result of a wound received while he was hunting with his son. They were three miles from home when the accident occurred, a bullet entering Teed's side. The son took his father home in a wagon, but by the time they reached their destination he was nearly frozen to death.

—For the third time within a month Mrs. John Landy, of Montoursville, while temporarily insane attempted suicide Monday morning. She jumped into a mill race, which was covered with a thin coating of ice, and plunged through the ice into the water. The contract with the chilling waters caused the woman to suddenly change her mind, and, catching hold of a cross piece, she succeeded in pulling herself out.

—While playing in a lot over a hog-pen 5-year old Jessie Richards, of Rose valley, Lycoming county, fell through a hole in the floor and landed on the back of vicious hog, which furiously attacked her. The girl, with remarkable presence of mind, rolled herself under the feed trough and screamed for help. Her father ran to her assistance and succeeded in beating off the hog and rescuing the girl, who was seriously injured.

—Silas Wolfkill met with an accident in the sand mine of the Silica works at Newton Hamilton on Wednesday. He was at work in the mine when about fifteen tons of the roof fell, part of which struck him. When his fellow workmen picked him up they thought he was killed. A physician was sent for and dressed his wounds, which were the end of his right thumb smashed, his left arm was punctured near the elbow with the sharp point of his pick about two inches, the back of his head was slightly cut and he also received a bad flesh wound in his back.

—George W. Stewart, one of the commissioners of Huntingdon county, died at the home of his daughter at Huntingdon Wednesday night, of heart trouble. He was aged 62 years, and was a veteran of the Civil War. Mr. Stewart had occupied a farm near Three Springs until two weeks ago when he moved to Huntingdon and had not yet become settled there when his last illness overtook him. He was a Republican in politics and was serving his second term as county commissioner. Mr. Stewart was a brother-in-law of Mrs. W. A. Brouse, of Tyrone, who made her home with his family for several years before her own marriage.

—William Russ, a hotel keeper of Harrisburg, was arrested Tuesday by the State Game commission for having in his possession twenty-four dozen quail, which he purchased in Philadelphia, and which he exposed for sale. The Lacey law says that game birds brought from one State to another are subjects to the laws of the last State, and in Pennsylvania no quail can be purchased or sold, under a penalty of \$25 for every bird sold or bought. It is alleged by Dr. Kalbhusen the game commissioner's representative, that Mr. Russ has within a few days purchased birds in Philadelphia which were recently brought from Chicago. Twenty four dozen quail, at \$25 each, would amount to \$7,200 and under the provision of the law this penalty could be enforced. James Russ, proprietor of the Commonwealth, in the same city, paid \$150 penalty for having in his possession last fall a deer purchased from Juniata valley hunters in violation of the game law. The men who sold the deer are also being prosecuted by the state commission.