

Ink Slings.

The EMERY legislative apportionment bill gives Centre county only one Member of the Legislature.

Russia and England are glaring at each other in China but so far as fighting is concerned the one seems to be "afraid and the other dauntless."

Figuratively speaking England will have to stand up and let the Russians smack her mouth now. She can't smack back because her hands are tied-up in South Africa.

Good old ST. PATRICK might have driven all the snakes out of Ireland, but old John Barleycorn has provided a way for the Irish to see snakes occasionally, without the inconvenience of going to an aquarium.

The British have started the story that DEWEY, the Boer General, is crazy. Too bad, isn't it and to think that the entire British army of one hundred and seventy-five thousand men can't catch this crazy (?) General and his handful of determined Berghers.

The action of the seven Delaware Republicans who stood to the last against electing "Gas" ADDICKS to represent that State in the United States Senate is in marked contrast with the Pennsylvania Democrats who sacrificed every hope of an honorable or respected future to vote for QUAY.

It was a great pity M. DE RODAYS didn't perforate Count BONI DE CASTELLANE in their duel the other day. Had the French editor been able to wind up the earthly career of the little French count GEORGE GOULD would probably have paid for several years' subscription to the Figaro in advance.

It is hardly likely that those robbers who killed the cashier of the Halifax bank, while trying to loot that institution in broad daylight, will ever again see the scene of their predatory excursion but the Dauphin county hangman will probably be given orders, ere long, to transport them to the real "Halifax."

In electing a new chairman for the Democratic organization in the State the most care should be taken that he be, first of all, a Democrat of unswerving and unwavering character and then the possessor of enough mental force to direct the policies of a great party in such a way that its adherents will not be ashamed to acknowledge that they are such.

The clerk of the weather bureau at Washington, being mad because it rained on inauguration day, when he had predicted that it would be balmy and bright, is casting aspersions on the ground-hog as a weather prophet. Of course we have no objection to the Washington man's thus acknowledging that he is not in the ground-hog's class. Because the ground-hog made good his prediction on Feb. 2nd and made it very good.

The failure of Mr. HANNA's ship subsidy bill was doubtless a great disappointment to the syndicate that had anticipated gorging itself with government funds. Subsidies are not needed half so badly to build up American shipping as are laws that will make it impossible for the big American Steel trust to charge home builders \$40 a ton for the same steel plates that are delivered in Manchester, England, yards at \$28 a ton. This is protection of the sort that robs PETER to pay PAUL.

ALBERT L. JOHNSTON, the syndicate traction man, is the biggest "ripper" who has struck Philadelphia for some time. Three cent car fares and universal free transfers may never be realized, but the agitation he has started will certainly cause the Union Traction Co. some uneasiness. It is beginning to look as if JOHNSTON will be able to make New York a suburb of Philadelphia, so grand is his scheme. Of course it would be a case of the tail wagging the dog, but Philadelphia wouldn't mind that, so long as it would be something more than it is to-day.

The Clinton county bachelor who was forced to have a sale and give up farming because he had no wife to help him manage presents a pitiable case of pitiless woman. Here was a physically and mentally sound man, pleasing to look upon, who owned a home, seven cows, five pigs and a brown mare, but all of these inducements failed to attract a woman who was willing to share his bed and board. Probably if MCKEAGE had had less of worldly possessions and been better versed in the dulcet plavver of Cupid, with a knack of making goo-goo eyes, he would have been able to gather in that spare-rib he seems fated now to go through life without.

It is now in order for the SAMPSONIANS to pray Congress to turn that historical picture of the fight off Santiago to the wall. Rear Admiral HITCHCOCK, who has just retired, after forty years of active service, has left it to the Navy Department as the last of seven paintings, illustrating four hundred years of progress in naval science. The picture is said to be a splendid work of marine painting and was executed after official data secured from officers who were in the engagement. Unfortunately for the SAMPSONIANS their pet and his boat, the New York, are only a speck on the horizon. In other words they are like the man who fell out of the balloon—not in it. And because of this faithful portrayal of the fight the SAMPSONIANS, may be expected to start a movement to have the picture turned towards the wall.

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Turn the Traitors Out.

It is to be hoped that the attempt now in progress to re-organize the Democratic State Central Committee in the interest of Senator QUAY will be defeated. It is not to be understood that the present organization of that committee is in that interest, for we believe that Chairman JOHN S. RITLING is both honest and sincere in his political convictions and actions. But there was a meeting of the Democratic State Executive Committee in Harrisburg the other day and according to the Star Independent of that city, of the eight members present four were fresh from the QUAY lobby in the Legislature. There was DONNELLY, of Philadelphia; LOVE, of York; GARMAN, of Luzerne, and ANCONA, of Berks. The present plan of these political hucksters is to elect one of their number chairman of the State Committee.

If this is done the Democratic party might as well go into voluntary bankruptcy. GROVER CLEVELAND, in a letter recently written to a Democratic club in Baltimore, declared that if the Democratic party would restore itself to usefulness it must first make itself thoroughly Democratic and deserve the confidence of the people. In this State the Democratic vote has been diminishing year after year. It is the custom of superficial observers to say that this diminution in strength is the result of differences of opinion among Democrats on the currency question or some other party tenet or dogma. There have been such differences, no doubt, and they may have impaired the voting strength of the organization to some extent. But the great enervating influence is in the fact that the rank and file of the party has had no confidence in the personal and political integrity of the so called leaders and the organization has been corrupt.

But the attempt to prostitute the organization to the base uses of QUAYISM was never made so boldly as it is being made now. RYAN and DONNELLY, of Philadelphia, have been hewers of wood and drawers of water for QUAY for six years and have been ready and willing to perform any menial service for him at any time since the Legislature of 1897 spread political pestilence throughout the State. LEXON LOVE, of York, used all his influence to induce the imbecile Members of the Legislature to vote for MARSHALL for Speaker and thus guarantee the election of QUAY. GARMAN, even while he was chairman of the Democratic State Committee, was a pensioner of the QUAY machine and has lost no opportunity since to serve that master and ANCONA, a cheap recruit to the traitorous combination, has been doing his best to earn the favor of the corrupt boss ever since the present session of the Legislature was organized.

Shall the Democrats of Pennsylvania submit to such an outrage upon their party principles and political integrity? We sincerely hope not. The calamity can be averted if the Democrats are just to themselves. Let them rise in their indignation and hurl the traitors out of the organization absolutely. There is no peril to the organization in such a course. The party will lose nothing by throwing such men out. They rarely give their own votes to the candidates and deter thousands of honest men from going to the polls. Therefore let every Democrat who is opposed to so gross a betrayal of faith demand that the representatives in the State Committee, outside of those tainted with treason, vote to turn out the traitors at the re-organization on April 17th, and they will succeed in electing an honest chairman.

Time to Move.

If the present Legislature proposes doing anything towards giving the people an opportunity to pass on the proposed amendment to the constitution we imagine it is about time to begin. Two-thirds of the time of the present session has gone, and as yet we have seen no move to give hope that any attention at all is to be given to this important matter. We have heard about reform and efforts at reform, ever since the Legislature began its work, and if there is to be any effort in this line, except empty promises, the opportunity to show it is growing short.

A little more work for and a good deal less blather about reform would meet with the approval of the people about this time.

Mr. QUAY does not seem disposed to accept our advice in the matter of the appointment of a new federal judge. Neither does it appear that he intends recognizing the services and supplications of our townsman and friend Judge LOVE in this appointment. The other fellow—who is Judge ARCHIBALD—is to get the position, or at least both Senators QUAY and PENROSE have recommended him for the place and this goes a good way in saying that our choice and our candidate is not to have it. We can sympathize with Judge LOVE in his great disappointment. We also have sympathy for the people of the county who were living in hopeful expectation of the opportunity to be relieved of the kind of a Judge he has proven to be.

A "Ripper" Judge.

"Ripping" up things and undoing what the people in their sovereign capacity have done seems to be the order of the day, with those who imagine that they have the power to do as they please, and that the public has no rights, except to submit to their dictum.

Following the principles of the Pittsburgh "ripper" bill, that takes from the people of that city, Allegheny and Scranton, the right to have mayors and other officials of their own choosing, the court at Bloomsburg has ousted one of the commissioners of Columbia county, and, we presume, will have the effrontery to appoint some one in his place. In this case, if any malfeasance in office had been alleged or any offense against the interests of the tax payers of the county charged there might have been some excuse for the action of the judge. But as we read the case there was none.

The deposed official was one of the most reputable and intelligent citizens of the county. He had filled other positions of trust with the greatest credit to himself and to the entire satisfaction of the people. He had represented his district in the Legislature of the State and with such integrity of purpose as to be an honor to his constituents. Unfortunately, however, for himself, he was the possessor of a few shares of stock in an electric light plant and a water company in the town of Bloomsburg. As one of the county commissioners he contracted with these companies to furnish light and water for the county buildings. It was not alleged that any fraud was committed in making the contract, or that any greater price was paid these companies for light and water than others would have charged. But he had offended some one shortly after his induction into office, by refusing to assist in making that some one's son commissioners' clerk, and for this reason, for none other is given or known, advantage was taken of the fact that he had contracted with companies in which he was interested and a superserviceable court stood ready to apply the technicalities of the law and create a vacancy for itself to fill.

Just what we are coming to when the Legislature and the courts assume the power to make and unmake public officials—to override the will of the people—it is difficult to comprehend. Such work might be expected from the tools of a corrupt state machine, but for a Judge of the courts to stoop to take advantage of such technicalities as the law presents, to gratify personal spite, is evidence that the Legislature is not the only power that can disgrace itself and, in addition, shows that some very LITTLE men succeed in getting upon the judicial bench.

Harrison's Last Days.

The last thoughts of BENJAMIN HARRISON, expressed in speech, according to reports from his bedside, were regrets that his country had departed from the traditions of the fathers. This may well be believed for the burden of all his late messages to the public in speech and through the magazines were in that direction. He lamented the imperialism manifest on all sides. He regretted the militarism obvious to all thoughtful observers. In fact he deprecated with all the earnestness of his nature the departure from the lines which had been followed from the beginning of the government until the plutocrats took command, with the beginning of the McKINLEY administration.

BENJAMIN HARRISON was essentially a Republican. There are tenets in the faith of Democracy with which he had no sympathy, and there are features in his official record that are without merit in our mind. But in common with the best Democrat who ever stood for the principles of the party, Mr. HARRISON was honest and patriotic. If he made mistakes they were of the head and not of the heart. He believed in Republicanism and he labored in the interest of Republicanism from the beginning of his public career to the close. In all this broad land there was no man who regretted more keenly than he, the departure from those principles and the adoption of another.

During the last months of his life BENJAMIN HARRISON had done much to recall the American people to a sense of duty. No man in this broad land felt keener the dangers which were encountered when the traditions were abandoned, and no man more promptly or more clearly sounded the call of warning. It was not possible for him to barange the public from the bustings. That would have been beneath the dignity of the office which he had adorned. But it was possible for him to address his fellow citizens through the magazines and that he did with an eloquence and force which no other citizen could have commanded. At no time in his life had BENJAMIN HARRISON exercised as much influence on the conscience and intellect of his country as in the last months of his activity and in his death the country sustained an irreparable loss, because his counsel and advice was needed then.

A Tale of Two Countries.

The people of Canada have no fear of trusts, according to the Dominion Postmaster General, Mr. WILLIAM MULLOCK. "Our tariff laws provide a ready and effective cure for the appetite of manufacturing concerns, individual or corporate," that gentleman said in an interview the other day, while in London on his way home from Australia where he had been on an official visit. "Whenever they produce a commodity and try to encroach on the general good of the community by throttling trade or manipulating prices," he added significantly, "the Dominion cabinet has the authority to place that commodity on the free list. This has acted as a powerful deterrent in the past and would be unhesitatingly invoked in the future," he remarked in concluding the interview.

It is not difficult to draw the sharp lines of difference between this country and Canada with respect to the influences which guide Parliament there and Congress here. The Cabinet has the right in this country to increase or to decrease tariff rates under what is called the reciprocity provision of the DINGLEY law. But it is never exercised in behalf of the people. The interests of the people are of no concern to Congress. But when a trust wants help, either by raising or lowering the tariff rates the matter receives instant attention. This was shown a few weeks ago when the sugar trust desired to stop the competition of the Russian sugar growers. A counter-vailing duty was put on by the Secretary of the Treasury and the Russian product was shut out.

In Canada the legislation is for the people and in this country it is for the trusts. There the laws are administered for the benefit of the taxpayers, here for the advantage of the taxgatherers. This is called a government of the people, for the people and by the people. But as a matter of fact it is of the people and for the trusts. In no other country in the civilized world would such open profligacy and obvious corruption be permitted for a moment. But in this country a few cant phrases unctiously uttered by the President silences all criticism and the robbery goes on with the sanction of the authorities and the acquiescence of the people. It is small wonder, all things considered, that intelligent Canadians prefer to remain British colonists, rather than become American citizens.

There is considerable discussion going on just now concerning the results of the abolition of the army canteen. The enemies of that measure in the last Congress are diligently giving publicity to every quibble of the soldiers about the military posts who get drunk at nearby grog shops. These disgraceful scenes are presented as the result of the abandonment of the canteen and while citizens of the country will admit the disgrace of them we can see no argument in favor of the canteen in them. Men who get so drunk that they disgrace themselves and the colors they wear are not fit men to be soldiers and should be dealt with as obstreperous drunkards are everywhere. It is not arguable to say that because such men have not the moral or mental stamina to keep from making asses of themselves the government should resume the liquor traffic, as it did under the canteen system. What it needs to do is to impose such punishment on men of such character as will break up the habit, or, failing in that, remove them from the service.

Strange Ruling in the House.

The Legislature on Monday evening refused to adopt a resolution to enforce the rule which forbids the counting of the votes of members who are not present when the roll is called. In other words it refused, at the suggestion of Representative VOORHEES, of Philadelphia, to forbid the clerks from mutilating the records so as to secure the passage of bills against which the majority of the Members are opposed. That was altogether the boldest defense of parliamentary crime ever presented in the Legislature.

The circumstances attending this peculiar act are these. During a session of the House last week the names of a number of Members who were not present were recorded as voting on a pet measure in the interest of the machine. Protest was at once entered and the clerk said that it was the custom to thus use the names of absent Members. When remonstrance was entered the Speaker declared that he would permit no Member to challenge the integrity of the clerk. The result was that the outrage had to be submitted to for the time being.

But the incident was not forgotten and when the House met on Monday evening Mr. PAUL, of Philadelphia introduced a resolution to enforce the rule. To the consideration of the resolution Mr. VOORHEES raised the point that it was not in order for the reason that the rule covered the point. The chair sustained the point and the resolution fell. Presumably the clerk will interpret the action as an endorsement of his practice of mutilating the records and falsifying the count of a roll call. That is equivalent to putting a premium on crime.

Should the Canteen be Restored.

From the Northampton Democrat.

Friends of the army canteen have been keeping a close watch on the morals of the American soldiers since the closing of the canteen by the government, and they are showing us some horrible examples of the effect of the new system upon the men, both at the forts at home and in the field. The predictions made by the friends of the canteen during the discussion before Congress seem to have already been fulfilled, for after each succeeding pay day soldiers are reported as spending all, or nearly all, their pay in saloons and dives near the military posts and being locked up or returned to camp hopelessly drunk.

The Chicago Inter-Ocean, describing the scenes about Fort Sheridan, declares that if the people who were instrumental in bringing about the change could have witnessed the happenings at the Northwestern military post after the last pay day they would have been heartily sorry for their action. The Inter-Ocean says: "They (the enemies of the canteen) would have found all the old and several new saloons filled with soldiers, drinking and gambling in the company of vile characters of both sexes. Later in the night these would have found in the Fort Sheridan barracks more drunken sleepers and more men absent without leave than have been recorded for years. For some years the difference between pay days and other days has been visible to the ordinary visitor. Soldiers who liked beer were able to get it in reasonable quantities at the canteen at any time, and few celebrated pay day with a debauch. Thursday, however, such men flocked to the Highwood saloons, and many of them spent their month's pay in a night. Disorder was general and fights were frequent. A recurrence of these disgraceful orgies, and the are bound to occur so long as some soldiers are deprived of a moderate amount of drink at certain intervals, will soon bring reproach and disgrace upon our army. Probably the old plan is the better, and a return to it might result beneficially all around."

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Vice President Roosevelt and His Possibilities.

From the York Gazette.

The Philadelphia North American announces that the cowboy rage of Vice President Roosevelt's history is closed. "Colonel Roosevelt has his ambition set on the Presidency and he is not going to lessen his chances by any failure in the decorum demanded by his present position." Of course, no one seriously expected the Rough Rider to act otherwise than in a dignified way when he assumed his seat as presiding officer of the Senate. No one has doubted his ability to act up to any position, for he is a strong, brainy, thoroughly capable man. What the people feared they still fear, and that he may attempt, not in an undignified or "rough rider" way, but none the less strenuously, to control or guide or coerce the Senate, instead of being, as all former Vice Presidents have been, simply presiding officers. It is difficult to conceive of Colonel Roosevelt remaining quiet and unobtrusive in any position. Should he perform the duties of the Vice Presidency according to precedent and tradition, it will astonish the nation and will prove more strength of character on his part than if he should give way to the temptation to meddle.

The North American suggests that the Vice President can avoid the oblivion into which men heretofore have fallen in this office by the use of his pen. This is possible and will arouse no objection whatever from any source. On the contrary it would be a great pity if he should be temporarily lost to current literature.

Whether or not in his case the Vice Presidency will prove a stepping stone to a higher office remains to be seen. It depends not only upon his own party but upon the manner in which the Democratic party will deal with pending issues and go before the people in 1904. A reaction in public sentiment seems to be almost certain before that day.

Stealing Our Thunder Again.

From the Doylestown Democrat.

It is said that Babcock's bill, introduced last session, to repeal the duties in the iron and steel schedule, which protects trusts, will be pushed at the next session. Babcock is a Republican, of Wisconsin, and his proposition is said to be very popular in that State. How did it come that a Democrat did not have the gumption to form a bill? There had been a great deal of talk in that direction, but the session was allowed to go by without anything being done. The iron and steel trust could not stand free trade in these metals. Nothing could knock them out sooner than such a policy—allowing products that come in competition with the trust to be admitted free of duty. The sooner it comes the better.

No Soldiers in the World Equal the Boys in Blue.

From the Pittsburg Press.

Lieutenant Colonel Arthur Hamilton Lee, who was at Santiago as the British attaché, when he voiced his belief in Parliament the other day that the American troops in physique and intelligence were superior to any others in the world confirmed the opinion other foreign attaches have come to in watching the American soldier boy in China and the Philippines. Colonel Lee might add that they are not only superior in physique and intelligence but in human sympathies and moral restraint, as becomes good Americans.

What is the Matter With Thompson?

From the Meadville Democrat.

A dispatch from Harrisburg states that W. H. Andrews is Quay's choice for State Treasurer this fall. We had thought of Judas Washburn as the probable Quay candidate for this high trust, but maybe Bill would know better than Washburn how to make a wholesale grab and cover up his tracks when boss Quay calls for funds.

Spawls from the Keystone.

William Hetzel, a rolling mill operator at Duncansville, Blair county, drank a quart of whiskey at a dose to drive off a chill, and went to bed. In an hour he was a corpse.

The big fire brick plant of the Pennsylvania Fire Brick company, at Beech Creek, is nearly completed and it is expected that the making of brick will be commenced in about two weeks.

Frank Deutsche, proprietor of the Occidental hotel, Williamsport, was found dead in bed Sunday morning. Heart disease was the cause. He weighed nearly 300 pounds and was 37 years old.

Suit has been instituted by the borough of Tyrone against the Tyrone Gas and Water Co., to compel the sale of the gas and water works to the municipality. The plant is estimated to be worth \$250,000.

Andrew Carnegie has promised to give New York City sixty-five branch libraries, at an approximate cost of \$5,200,000, providing the city furnishes the sites and maintains the structures. A gift of \$1,000,000 has been promised to St. Louis on like conditions.

Monday morning Howard, the 14-year-old son of Taylor Goodman, of Westmoreland City, while about to descend a small flight of steps at his home while asleep, tripped and fell to the bottom, and when picked up life was extinct. It is thought that his neck was broken.

The big fleet of twenty-seven rafts harbored at the mouth of Bald Eagle creek during the winter, by the Myers brothers, was started for Marietta at an early hour Saturday morning. The raftsmen began soon after midnight to float their rafts out of the creek, and within two hours the whole fleet manned by fifty-four men was afloat.

O. W. Wright, a white man working in a Johnstown restaurant, was stabbed Monday night by a colored man named Ramsey Williams. The latter plunged a knife to Wright's left side, near the heart. Wright had been "kidding" the colored man. The doctors are not able to tell yet whether Wright's life can be saved.

On Friday last another suit was filed against the New York Central railroad company. Samuel B. McFarland and Mary McFarland, father and mother of Martin H. McFarland, ask \$30,000 damages for the death of their son, an engineer, who was killed in the wreck at Gordon Heights, on the Beech Creek, Feb. 7th, 1900. This is the third suit growing out of this wreck, the amounts aggregating \$90,000.

Lewistown Electric Light, Heat and Power Co. stock appears to be in demand. Several weeks ago a Bloomsburg company went to Lewistown and procured an option on the majority of the stock at \$40 per share and was to have 60 days in which to pay for same. Last week a party from Williamsport appeared on the scene and offered \$45 per share, and the former agreement was lost sight of as the extra \$5 per share loomed up so big and the latter company gobbled the stock. Now there are rumors of law suits and damage cases which cause the lawyers to smile.

The House appropriations committee estimates that if no increase be made in the appropriation to any charitable institutions, if no new buildings are allowed to any of the insane hospitals, or if the State Departments are required to conduct their business for the next two years with the same amount of money as was allowed them by the last Legislature, and if the school appropriation remain at \$5,500,000 annually, the necessary expenses of the state government will be \$11,925,000 for each year. This leaves a balance of \$1,375,000 annually for each of the next two years.

It now seems more probable that the Legislature will not be able to adjourn on April 25th, the time named in the resolution of Mr. Hall, of Pittsburg, which was adopted. The bulk of the work of the Legislature, including the passage of the new capitol building measure, the appropriation bill, ballot reform legislation, the Beacon excise law, the libel law and the Philadelphia "ripper" bill will consume days together in debate and the more hopeful legislators are hoping for an adjournment about the latter part of May or early in June as the earliest possible date.

The Cambria steel company has made another radical departure in the use of steel cars. It has built and is now using in its coal mines four cars made all of steel. The new cars were built as an experiment and they have proven so satisfactory and have stood the hard usage so much better than the old wooden ones that the new style will probably be adopted permanently. The steel cars weigh about 100 pounds less than the old wooden cars and they have a capacity of 1,000 pounds more of coal than the wooden cars. They will also last about three times as long as the wooden ones.

A special from Williamsport says: "For years this city has been making an effort to get rid of Grafius run, which has caused considerable damage by its several overflows, and legislation in councils had gone so far that one ordinance yet remained for final passage, after which the work of relief was to have been started. A sewer was to have been built from the head of the run to the river, but several property owners, who are opposed to the sewer, filed claims against the city for \$20,000 damages, and last night select council amended the remaining bill in a manner that practically kills it. Now other property owners threaten the city with a \$100,000 damage suit if the sewer be not built."

A most horrible accident occurred on Friday last near Summerville, a small town in Indiana county. Charles Smith who operated a saw mill was working near a circular saw when his clothing caught. He was dragged against the saw and cut to pieces before the other hands could shut down the machinery. The saw passed through his body and both arms, severing the latter near the elbows. The head and upper part of the body rolled away from the saw, but the remainder of the body was cut into pieces which were gathered up in a basket. The DuBois Courier says Mr. Smith's father runs an undertaking establishment at Summerville and he was notified to go to the mill and prepare for burial the remains of a man who was killed there. His astonishment was great on finding it was his own son who was the victim. The dead man leaves a wife and one child.