

Ink Silage.

With the coal-oil can, Mary Ann The fire nicely started. She was to blame for by that flame. Her breath and her were parted. —Oo! We're stabbed two times. —Let us be thankful for pleasant weather.

—If it is true that politics makes strange bed-fellows there must be lots of people who need introduction when waking up in Republican camps these mornings.

—With Oleo JOHN in the newspaper business in Centre county the public may expect some pretty smooth things in journalism from that source.

—WU TING FANG dancing the two step at Newport couldn't have been a whit less amusing than his fellow Chinamen walking Spanish at Peking some time ago.

—For fear no one will know of it we advise all of our friends to get a copy of the last issue of the Republican and discover what a "grand rascal" the editor of the WATCHMAN is.

—If JOHN HAMILTON wouldn't be quite so zealous he wouldn't make quite so much of an ass of himself. He isn't the whole QUAY machine that he need fight all of its fights.

—The Profs, D Ds, and LL LDs at Chicago University may come down to Plain "Mister" in addressing one another in the future, but the Kentucky Colonel will hold onto his handle, "by Gawd sir."

—France is getting ready to fall on Russia's neck again, all because the feverish French want friends against the time when some of their enemies might show an inclination to fall on France's neck,—but in a different way.

—It must be pretty hard for a bright young man like editor HARRIS, of the Republican, to father the shallow maunders of tin-horn, shoe-string authorship that are finding room on the editorial page of that journal.

—When wireless telegraphy becomes universal there will be no need of high back fences to keep clashing neighbors from linguistic encounters. They will simply sit down at their machines and shoot a few dots and dashes at each other then.

—In Havana they are inoculating people with yellow fever germs for experimental purposes, but it can hardly be said that the poor subjects are dying, as a result of it, merely for experimental purposes. But they are all the same.

—We would suggest that the fair promoters secure the editor of the Gazette for one of the entertainment features at the big show next month. His great political acrobatic stunt would entertain the thousands who will gather there for a few moments, at least.

—Representative JOHN K. THOMPSON is getting a little more free advertising than he needs just now. The less said about the defunct would-be statesman from Philipsburg the happier he will be, but his traitorous act at Harrisburg will be like BANQUO'S ghost, it will never down.

—Though Commissioner WRIGHT might think that Manila is "extremely peaceable" the fact that four more companies of infantry are to be sent there to strengthen the available garrison of one thousand men and five hundred police is evident that someone else in authority thinks differently.

—The blowing up of the Delaware river steamer "City of Trenton," on Wednesday afternoon, was one of the most frightful catastrophes in the history of navigation on that river. It was accompanied by the loss of many lives, all innocent of the apparent fact that some one who had their safety in keeping was neglecting his duty.

—The announcement that WILLIAM BARRETT RIDGELEY, of Illinois, is to succeed CHARLES G. DAWES, as comptroller of the currency, came rather fast on the heels of the one from Canton stating that after a visit to the President Senator COLUM is favorable to passing the ship subsidy bill at the next session of Congress. Especially does it seem so when it is known that Mr. RIDGELEY is a son-in-law of Senator COLUM.

—The balsam laden woods of Maine were not enough to soothe QUAY into lingering long when he heard of the trouble in the tall timber of Pennsylvania. The "old man" has a proposition on his hands now that is likely to keep him guessing until 1905, if he is permitted to tarry that long at the old stand. Talk about "the great Rocky Mountain game," QUAY has been hiding them and the other fellows have been trying to find them for, lo! these many years, but the time is coming when the board will have to be cleared and poor old Pennsylvania will get a new deal.

—If the Republican, or any of its guerrilla editors, imagines for a moment that the editor of the WATCHMAN aims to "CONTROL a single precinct, ward, township or delegate of his party in Centre county" it is as badly mistaken as it is in the idea that the "cheap guff" that that paper is publishing is going to be a salve for ABE HASTINGS wounded feelings. We have a few friends in Centre county, but we wouldn't insult them by the use of the word "control" in speaking of them, for no one could control the kind that are the WATCHMAN'S friends. Nor has it ever been necessary for its editor to debate anyone by the use of such persuaders as "the real thing."

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The Republican Platform.

The platform adopted by the Republican state convention last week is a marvel in political literature. For the first time in the history of the politics of this or any other State the newspapers have been denounced as a whole and a private citizen has been made the subject of an animadversion in a state platform. The newspapers are condemned and a curtailment of the liberty of the press recommended in the platform of the convention because they are tempted to protect the interests of the people from the predatory incursions of a venal political machine. A private citizen has been assailed in the same paragraph of the platform because, on account of extensive business relations, he has acquired considerable influence with them.

Political platforms have hitherto been supposed to give expression to grave thoughts of political leaders on questions of public interest and present moment. The politics of the parties and the aspirations of the statesmen of the country have been conveyed to the public through the medium of party platforms and they have been as sober in thought as they were expected to be dignified in language. Imagine the surprise of the intelligent and patriotic men of the Commonwealth, therefore, when they read in the Republican platform adopted last Wednesday that the leaders of the Republican party are "amused rather than concerned" because the convention of a great party held the week previously had denounced the machine which had usurped the place of the Republican party as the most corrupt combination of freebooters which had ever been formed to loot the public.

Is it any wonder that thoughtful people of the Commonwealth are beginning to look forward with apprehension when the leaders of the dominant party in the State thus flippantly dismiss an accusation against the integrity of the government? TWEEED once said derisively "What the h— are you going to do about it?" when he was arraigned at the bar of public opinion for less flagrant crimes against the people. But he underestimated the depth of popular indignation and before he had grown much older became a fugitive from justice and ultimately died in prison. Will history repeat itself in the case of the managers of the QUAY machine? It would be poetic justice if the strong arm of the law reached out and rebuked these arrogant freebooters and it will be surprising if they escape much longer.

Quay's Increasing Troubles.

For a man who is out of politics Senator QUAY is having a great deal of trouble about politics. Those to whom he entrusted the work of managing the Republican state convention also gave him heart disease by their follies, and since that his perplexities have multiplied. He had "taken to the woods," so to speak, and hoped to enjoy the seclusion of Maine forests for weeks to come. But he was unable to do so for the reason that so many unexpected and undesirable things have been occurring at home lately that the law of self-preservation forced him back. He arrived there last Friday evening and since that has been having what might be called a strenuous time.

The burden of his troubles was the result of Governor STONE'S dealing with Senator FLINN. It can safely be said that QUAY had no objection to FLINN and any bargain which STONE might make with the late leader of the insurgents would be entirely satisfactory to QUAY if they were agreeable to others in interest. FLINN tried to put QUAY in the penitentiary a couple of years ago and except for the statute of limitations, he would probably have succeeded. Subsequently QUAY tried to put FLINN in the penitentiary and failed only for the reason that the Pittsburg Senator had a firm grip on the machinery of justice. But neither holds any grudge against the other. Both are ready at any time to forget if oblivion promises personal advantage. But unhappily for both reconciliation between QUAY and FLINN might cause other hearts to bleed and for that reason STONE'S reconciliation with FLINN makes trouble for QUAY.

In other words the peace between STONE and FLINN means war between QUAY and the BIGELOWs and the OLIVERs unless they are reconciled to the conditions. That is what brought QUAY home and may cause a reputation of the STONE-FLINN bargain. This bargain involves the political estates of two persons very close to FLINN. They are city solicitor BURLEIGH and director of public safety J. O. BROWN. STONE has promised to keep them both in office, whereas the BIGELOWs and OLIVERs gave up several thousand dollars for expenses in passing the "ripper" in order to get them out. Both sides are pressing QUAY severely and he is threatened with insomnia. The public is watching the case with deep interest.

—Subscribe for the WATCHMAN.

Greatness That Could Be Utilized At Home.

It is a great thing to be a Clearfielder—a real, genuine, hemlock-tanned, coal-smoked native of a county, whose citizens have gristled their gable ends over corduroy roads, blistered their brown hands at log rollings and stamp pullings, and wrestled with the buckwheat itch as the sturdy citizens of that county have. But great as it is to be a native of Clearfield, it is greater still to be a Clearfield politician; at least there are those who would have you think so.

Two weeks ago the Democrats of the State held their convention at Harrisburg. They made a platform, named a ticket and so conducted the work of the convention as to give the most unlimited and general satisfaction. Even that class of citizens known as Independent Republicans, who have never seen anything that pleased them but themselves, could find no fault with what the convention did. Its actions met the universal approval of the people and its work is sure to strengthen and encourage the Democratic prospects. Along with others, we have thought the work of that convention was the outcome of the combined wisdom of the Democrats of the State, the registered judgment of the delegates of the different counties of the Commonwealth, but judge of our surprise on learning, through the Clearfield Republican of last week, that Democrats in other sections of the State had little or nothing to do with it; that it was the work of Clearfield politicians and Clearfield statesmen. According to that paper they appeared upon the ground before others thought of going. They threw out their tentacles, issued their edicts, and made things go just as they wished them to. They annihilated DONNELLY and RYAN-ism, they harmonized Judge GORDON, they taught Col. GUFFEY a thing or two, they set ex-Governor PATTISON in the shade, they changed the rules of the party, they nominated Judge YERKES, they bound together the bruised and battered factions of the party in Philadelphia, they declared what should be and what should not be, and did and prevented being done—the Lord only knows how many other things; and all of themselves, by themselves, and for the sole benefit of the Democrats of the Commonwealth; that is, if our neighbor of the Republican is not magnifying the ability and importance of some of his own people.

We would be sorry to cast a reflection upon so influential a power as that of our Clearfield "brethren!" We are glad they have come to the front; we hope they will stay there. Time was when Clearfield politicians were most important factors in state politics. It was when under the wise control and persistent efforts of the late ex-Governor BIGLER and ex-Senator WALLACE that county rolled up Democratic majorities varying from fifteen to twenty-five hundred at each annual election; when its Democratic representatives were to be found at Harrisburg and Democratic officials filled its local offices. It is different now. In fact it has been different ever since the death of the lamented WALLACE. Republican representatives speak for its people at Harrisburg and Republican officials increase the tax rates in its local offices. Why this should be so we do not understand. If Clearfield still has the men who can dictate state policies, determine state issues and settle state questions for the Democracy of the Commonwealth, the wonder to us is that political matters at home should be with them as they are. After thus learning and acknowledging their influence, their ability and their power in state politics, we are forced to suggest that a little of the energy, a little of the potency and a little of the earnestness that is said to have characterized them at Harrisburg would not be out of place within the confines of their own county. Their own battered and demoralized organization needs considerable doctoring. Their own defeated and divided Democrats need to be harmonized and made hopeful. Their own despondent followers need to be made to feel that their leaders are both honest and in earnest. In fact, there is much these statesmen can do right at home and we hope that inasmuch as they have shown their ability to manage the affairs of the Democracy of the State they will show equal skill and earnestness in redeeming their own county from the clutch of the Republican ring.

Shivery's traction engine caused what might have been a serious runaway on west High street Wednesday morning. The horse attached to Shivery's dairy wagon frightened and tore loose from a post in front of the post-office. Galloping toward the railroad it collided with Daggett's trap, in front of the Bush house, and was going on in its mad flight when Wallace Reeder did a little sprinting and stopped it. Had Mr. Shivery's milk wagon been smashed up it might have been a costly reminder to him that the law requires a man to precede traction engines to give warning when they are passing along public highways.

What Will He Do About It?

Seven millions of dollars is quite a big sum. A very large sum for a state administration to juggle with or a state platform to lie about. Yet this is the amount that the state ring would rob the administration of Gov. HASTINGS of the credit of accumulating it, we say IF, the statement the ex-Governor gave to the public a few days since, can be relied upon.

In its state platform last week the Republican ring alleged that Gov. STONE had inherited from the preceding administration a deficit of nearly \$3,000,000. That was Governor HASTINGS' administration. After shaking the torpidity out of his liver, and clearing up his brain by a ride through the mountains, the ex-Governor, on Tuesday last, proceeded to interview himself and give to the public facts showing how stupendous a falsehood this statement is. In a long array of figures and a verbose presentation of what he claims to be facts, he shows that in place of a deficit of \$3,000,000, Gov. STONE was furnished with a surplus of \$4,000,000 to begin political business with—a simple difference of \$7,000,000—an amount to add to or deduct from the credit of any administration.

To the public, and particularly the tax payers, it matters little which of these contentions is right. Under Republican administration—and both administrations referred to were Republican—it is all the same whether there was a deficit or surplus. Extravagance, corruption and prodigality go on, whether the treasury is bankrupt or overflowing.

The question about this matter that will most interest the people of the Commonwealth is what is Gov. HASTINGS going to do about it? If the figures he gives are correct the claim of the Republican state platform is a plain and unblushing lie of his administration. It is an attempt to take the credit that should belong to his administration and give it to a man who is willing to steal glory from his predecessor and use it to magnify his own merits as an official. It is an effort to falsify facts and besmirch an administration that Gov. HASTINGS must stand sponsor for.

If this were the charge of a newspaper or a personal enemy of Gov. HASTINGS it would be different. It is the charge of the Republican party of the State, expressed in its platform and the approval of that platform is the endorsement of that charge and right here is where our fellow townsman must find himself in a peculiar predicament. To vote the Republican ticket is to endorse this platform. To endorse the platform is to libel his own administration, to discredit his work as an executive. He is the head and front the owner and controller of the Republican party of this county. His money is expected to enthrone the "boys" and his efforts are depended upon to get out the vote for the Republican state ticket. Are these to be used, this fall, to rally the Republican masses for a platform which seeks to discredit his administration and would leave the impression that he was either incompetent or dishonest while he was in office? We wait to see.

The South African War.

General Sir HERBERT KITCHENER, commander-in-chief of the British forces in South Africa, has just issued a proclamation inviting all the Boers still alive and under arms to surrender under penalty of deportation to some penal colony. Lord ROBERTS issued the same kind of proclamation a year or so ago and got little for his pains and Sir HERBERT will probably meet with no greater success. In fact, President STEYN, of the Orange Free State, and Generals BOTHA and DEWET have already indicated that they have no intention to surrender but on the contrary they will fight as long as they have strength to sit in the saddle.

In the history of the world there has never been as cruel and unjust a war as that of Great Britain to rob the people of those little Republics of their liberties and property. Having acquired, by honest industry and patient labor, homes and fire-sides in a fertile but unexplored section of the world they were pursued by the greed which has always characterized the British and ordered to give up their treasures. It was an unparalleled outrage against justice and civilization. Yet there was no protest from any quarter and the civilized world, with its professions of Christianity held in subjection, permitted the outrage to be perpetrated.

In the end, no doubt, those courageous men who love liberty and justice better than life will be killed on the field of battle or starved into submission. But it may not be soon, and whenever it comes in the eyes of the best element of the world the Boers are victorious. In other words for a handful of peaceful people to hold out against the hosts of the most powerful and wealthiest empire that exists today or ever has existed is an evidence of military prowess never equaled in the history of the world. The final triumph over them will be secured at a frightful cost and before it is completed the expense will be vastly increased.

It Costs Too Much to Live.

From the Pittsburg Post. People are always interested in what they eat and what they wear. No matter what the station in life these things enter into the calculations of every man and woman of thinking age, and are of especial interest to the men and women who have families to maintain. The question of eating seems, however, to be the more important of the two. People may get along with very few clothes, but must have a certain amount of nourishment if they wish to be healthy and vigorous.

The cost of nearly all classes of food is very high, some items being more than double the price of the corresponding item a year ago. Take the case of potatoes, which is the staple food of many families, and the prices asked to-day seem almost an extortion. August 19 a year ago potatoes were \$1.25 to \$1.50 a barrel; to-day they are quoted in a wholesale way at \$4.50 to \$4.75 a barrel. This, too, in the face of the fact that the government report for July shows the conditions of the potato crop in Pennsylvania to be better than that in a number of other States. Onions, cabbages and green beans are also away up.

The difference is not so marked in fruit. Peaches can be bought at 50 cents to \$1.75 a crate, against 25c. to \$1.25 a bushel. Green apples are 75c. to \$1 a bushel, against 50c. to 60c. a year ago. Pears, bananas, lemons and cantaloupes are all higher than they were a year ago, while there is no corresponding improvement in the quality.

Eggs are quoted at 17 to 18 cents a dozen against 15c. to 16 cents a year ago; creamery butter at 23 to 24 cents now, against 21c. to 21 1/2 cents last August. In the jobbing grocery lines many items are higher than they were a year ago, such as canned goods and dried fruits. In this department there are some exceptions to the general rule, several staples being lower now than they were August 1900, notably sugar and coffee. Flour is now quoted at \$4 to \$4.10 a barrel, while \$4.10 to \$4.20 was asked a year ago.

On the market page of this issue will be found a list of 22 articles, most of which are regarded as staple foods, that shows the comparative prices of leading food products now and a year ago. In this list it will be found that only three are lower than a year ago, one unchanged, while the balance is higher, some very much higher. Inquiry among dealers discloses the fact that all changes in the opinion that the high range now prevailing is due to the usual crop shortage. The supply of everything almost except wheat seems to be below the average, and flour is slightly lower than it was a year ago. The lower figure on sugar is attributed to the sharp competition between refiners, while the lower price of coffee is thought to be explained on the fact that there is a large crop and that a keen rivalry exists between competing importers. The most discouraging feature of the case in regard to many things is that the shortage is likely to continue until another crop season is due, and under such conditions a continuance of high prices is to be looked for.

Mr. Palm's Nomination.

From Meadville Morning Star, Ind. Rep. In nominating Hon. Andrew J. Palm for State Treasurer, the Democratic state convention made no mistake. There is not in politics in either party today in the State of Pennsylvania a cleaner man, nor one more deserving of the honors of public office. He has been tried and not found wanting. His career in the State Legislature is an open book, and no breath of scandal is against his character. He has served two terms in the House of Representatives, has worked faithfully in the interests of the State and his constituents, and won the respect and confidence of honest men of both parties. Like most men who have succeeded in climbing the ladder, Mr. Palm was born and raised on a farm. He was born near Shesheville, in Mercer county, June 21, 1848, on the farm where his boyhood and early manhood were spent. Through his own efforts he managed to secure an academic education, afterwards graduating from the State Normal school at Edinboro in 1871. He served for three years as principal of New Lebanon Academy, and three years as principal of Middlesex schools, and was then elected county superintendent of Mercer county schools, which position he filled for six years so acceptably as to achieve more than a local reputation as an educator. He next turned his attention to newspaper work and for seven years edited the Mercer Press and a part of the time also the "Educational Review" of Pittsburg. In 1892 he founded the "American Journal of Politics," which four years later was merged with the "Arena," of Boston. As a writer his style is vigorous and positive, and he is not afraid to denounce corruption and fraud, whether it be found in his own political party or elsewhere. His views are broad and liberal, and he has ever been a ready advocate on the side of humanity. Although the Republican majority in Pennsylvania is anywhere from 100,000 to 300,000, if Andrew J. Palm were as well known and appreciated throughout the State as he is in Mercer and Crawford counties he would be elected by the largest majority ever given a State Treasurer. Honest men in politics is the crying need of the times, and in the future the question of the voter will not be, "is he a Republican" or "is he a Democrat," but "is he an honest man?" To have a man in the State Treasurer's office at Harrisburg with the intelligence and honesty of Mr. Palm would be a "consummation devoutly to be wished," and there are not a few Republicans in this part of the State who will vote to that end.

A Warning to Other States.

From the Seattle (Wash.) Post-Intelligencer. The condition of Pennsylvania to-day is the frightful consequence of political degeneracy. And it is a warning to every other State in the Union to fight corruption in politics with all its strength, and not to permit a single triumph of the system that saps resisting power until little short of a popular revolution can shake it off.

Spawls from the Keystone.

—The "ankle bug" has taken the place of the "kissing bug" in many places. A number of persons have been badly crippled for a week or more as the result of its bite, which is very painful. As yet the insect has not been identified, and is known only as the "ankle bug." Persons wearing low shoes are easy prey.

—During a quarrel in the Pointdexter hotel Williamsport, Saturday night, Charles Payne shot Benjamin Trice, both colored, in the left breast. Trice will recover. Payne was arrested. He is charged by Trice with killing a man at Cotesville, and is suspected of being the man who murdered the darkey at Karthaus several weeks ago.

—There is at present time a swindler operating in the State who is making money in a new way. It is said he goes from house to house and extracts teeth without cost, provided a set is ordered. He calls again in a short time and gets half the price and the plate and then disappears, leaving the victim minus teeth and cash. There is weeping and wailing but owing to the circumstance, no gnashing of teeth.

—William L. Woodcock, of Altoona, has been appointed a delegate to the conical conference of the Methodist Episcopal church, which convenes in London, England on the 4th of September. Dr. Edward Gray, of Williamsport, and Hon. Thomas H. Murray, of Clearfield, will also be in attendance as delegates from the community. Very notable body. It will represent Methodism throughout the world.

—Near the southern edge of York county is a walnut log for which \$1,500 was recently refused. It was found by a man who was making an excavation in the bank of a creek, and who realizing partially the value of his discovery went to the owner of the land and secured possession of the piece for \$75. He dug it out of the sand and clay, and a lumberman who examined it offered the price first mentioned. The owner asked \$1,800. The wood has been covered for possibly centuries, and is as black and hard as mahogany.

—As a trial to give an idea as to whether the proposed movement to establish consumptive camps on the state's forestry reservations was a success or not, two or three consumptives have been sent to the reservation in Pike county. The results have been most satisfactory. The patients have been greatly benefited, and while their permanent recovery cannot be assured, the improvement in their condition is such as to strengthen the hope that camps will be carried out on a more extensive scale.

—The lumber firm of Wm. Whitmer and Sons, Co., of Sunbury have purchased 19,000 acres of timber land in the Seven mountains. This purchase with the 10,000 already owned by that firm gives them nearly 30,000 acres or about forty seven square miles, in that section. The holdings embrace all the tracts from Poe mills to Potter's mills and between Penn's valley and Big valley. It is the intention of Whitmer and Sons to operate on the tract cutting prop timber, paper wood and match wood, utilizing everything down to a growth of six inches, this will give them an immense field for operations for years to come.

—Traffic, both freight and passenger, is totally suspended on the Pittsburg, Johnstown, Ebensburg and eastern railway, owing to the resignation of General Manager Frank Patterson, who has telegraphed President S. P. Langdon that he refuses to take the responsibility of running trains because the roadbed is so imperfect. The accident last week, in which part of a train was thrown over an embankment, is responsible, Mr. Patterson says, for his stand. Spreading of the rails caused the accident. The road taps the Dougherty creek district and sandstone fields, and is the only road running to Wopsonneck, the famous summer resort.

—The engine on the Ebensburg & Blacklick passenger train has twice recently jumped the track because of an open switch. This was rather costly as well as very dangerous, and a detective was assigned to watch the switches, with the result that last week he caught several boys of Vintondale in the act of opening a switch at a point so dangerous that the passenger train, then soon due, must have inevitably plunged headlong over an embankment with its human freight. The boys were so small that the officer after getting their names and the names of their parents, released them to report to his superior, and it is not yet known what disposition will be made of their case.

Work upon the new line now being built by the Vanderbilts between Clearfield and Karthaus to get rid of the heavy adverse grades on the Beech Creek railroad is progressing rapidly, and, according to the officials of the Beech Creek, the road will be finished by next spring. The new line, which is twenty five miles in length, runs through a very wild and practically undeveloped country. The builders, in hewing their way through the dense underbrush, have encountered hundreds of rattlesnakes, which have not been taken kindly to being disturbed, and there have been many fierce encounters between the workmen and these reptiles, in which the former were victorious only after battles. In fact, so numerous and vicious are the snakes that it has been found necessary to form gangs of men whose duty it was to unearth and destroy them.

—Representative Beaver, of Juniata county, recently wrote to Attorney General Elkin with reference to the late act prohibiting the sale of tobacco in any form to persons under 16 years of age, desiring to know if a merchant could fill an order from a parent to be carried home by a minor child under 16. The attorney general replied: "Replying to your letter of recent date with regard to the act prohibiting the sale and furnishing of tobacco under the age of 16 years, I would advise you, unofficially, that section two of the act of July 1, 1901, referred to, which reads that no person or persons shall either by purchase, gift or other means furnish tobacco in any form to a person under the age of 16 years is broad enough to cover the cases which you suggest in your letter. By the terms of this act the sale and furnishing of tobacco under any circumstances to persons under 16 years is absolutely prohibited."