

Ink Slings.

—What a good old-fashioned winter this would be if there were only enough snow to cover up its nakedness.

—The local political pot hasn't started boiling yet, but when it does some one is likely to get scalded.

—When Prince HENRY comes over the revolving chair warriors of Washington will have a great time entertaining him, but uncle SAM will pay the bills. It will be about time for SAMPSON to get well, too.

—A young woman has sued "uncle" RUSSELL SAGE for \$75,000, because, as she says, he paid her some attention seventeen years ago. It must come pretty high if there was only "some" of it and that much is worth \$75,000.

—Though Senator COCHRAN, of Williamsport, and several other very good sticks of political timber, have stated that they are not candidates for Governor, they doubtless understand that political lightning strikes just about where it pleases.

—"Misery loves company" it is said but a Bishop street young man would much rather have been alone the other afternoon when something gave way under the strain of his hasty effort to pick up his best girl's golf mitten that had fallen on the sidewalk.

—The latest reports are to the effect that the eastern tomato canners are going to form a twenty million dollar trust, but the thrifty house wife won't have much to fear from this because she can eat all she needs for herself and what she can't eat she can do without.

—Say, you quarrymen and miners. In the light of the many fatal explosions that have been occurring lately wouldn't it be well for you to stop and protect yourself against the chances of a possible long thawing out before starting to thaw out dynamite?

—Senator HOAR's talkin' out in mercin' isn't going to cover up his hypocrisy. His heart is bleeding for the poor oppressed Filipino now, but when his protestations against their harsh treatment at the hands of our government might have been of some use he was dumb as an oyster.

—The appointment of Capt. CLARK to represent the American Navy at King EDWARD's coronation is a gentle reminder to Mr. CROWNSHIELD that the gorgeous plans he had no doubt dreamed out for his command of the fleet at that time might be altered a little by the sensible, brave man who has been put over him.

—How would you like to have the job of the president of the State Agricultural Society now that the Hon. DANIEL H. HASTINGS and the Hon. JOHN HAMILTON have been chosen as his vice-presidents? There will be one satisfaction in it for him, however. He will hardly be bothered with more than one of them at a time.

—The \$10,000 which the working men at Homestead have contributed to the McKinley memorial fund probably represents the truest sentiment of American sorrow. It is a sacrifice of half a day's pay by each one of them, and the spectacle of working people doing such things will be a reminder to the world that their hearts are still tied up in devotion and love to a republican form of government.

—Maryland has a Democratic Senator once more and Senator GORMAN has learned the stern lesson that no man may assume to own a great Commonwealth—except in Pennsylvania—and continue in the enjoyment of the favor of its people. It cost him one term in the Senate to learn the lesson, but he is back again and everybody is happy. There will be no more "shenanigans" about Maryland. Her vote will now go back to its old place in the Democratic column.

—RICHARD CROKER has retired from Tammany hall and put a substitute in his chair at the head of the finance committee. The retirement is not effectual enough, however, to rehabilitate that great Democratic organization. What the "squire of Wantage" must do is only one of two things. He must either go to Europe and leave Tammany alone or stay in New York. If he undertakes to hold the reins while playing the races in foreign countries there will be an end to Tammany and RICHARD CROKER's only source of income and power will be gone.

—It is the duty of every man to attend the primaries next Saturday. The town and township tickets will then be made and you, as a good citizen, should take a hand in the work. The officers you have to elect in the spring are the ones with whom you come in most intimate contact. They are the men who say what educational advantages your children can have, what sort of roads will be made for you to ride over, how much money you must give to the poor, in fact everything that is closest to you is directed by the men elected to office in the spring. Don't you think it is your duty, then, to attend the primaries and see that only good men are named. This thing of nominating some fellow for overseer, supervisor, school director or any other office, merely to "set him up" a little is all wrong, besides, often very expensive. Don't do it. You have no right to foist an incompetent man on a community and you can't do it if the voters of that community are doing their duty. Neither should you help hurt the feelings of such an one by defeating him at the polls, when it was your own fault that he became your candidate.

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Civil Service Reform Abandoned.

If the statement of Senator QUAY with reference to the removal of PENROSE MCCLAIN from the office of collector of internal revenue for the eastern district of Pennsylvania is accurate, President ROOSEVELT has not only abandoned all his civil service reform professions, but in going into the camp of the spoilsmen he has literally "burned the bridges behind him."

McCLAIN was removed and a QUAY henchman appointed in his place, for no other reason than that he bolted the machine ticket last fall, Senator QUAY states. His administration of the office was entirely satisfactory the statement goes, but he bolted the ticket and that is an unpardonable crime.

That is a strange turn for affairs to take in Washington, while THEODORE ROOSEVELT is in control of affairs. All his life he has represented the opposite in public affairs. Within little more than a year after he had "escaped" from college, he was elected to the New York Legislature which was his first political office. His record in that body was as interesting as it was strenuous. Every machine measure was jolted by his voice and vote and every machine politician held up to ridicule. His performance in that line during that service secured him the offer of an appointment as civil service commissioner and he was so radical a reformer there that he became police commissioner in New York with the expectation that he would be able to reform that political cesspool.

Gorman's Return to the Senate.

Senator GORMAN was re-elected Senator in Congress by the Legislature of Maryland on Tuesday and on the fourth of March next year he will resume his seat in the body after an enforced absence of six years. If he has learned the traditional lesson of adversity during the period of his seclusion, it may confidently be said that he will return a wiser if not a better man. He will be more useful both to his party and to his State, it may be added in that event, and the indications are that the best expectations of his friends will be fulfilled during the term upon which he is about to enter.

GORMAN served eighteen years in the Senate without interruption, and it is not invidious to say that he was among the most successful of the Senators of his time in the matter of achievement. He wasn't a great orator like VOORHEES and others who served with him or a special star like BAYARD. But he was a tireless, shrewd and sagacious politician, if he failed to measure up to the standard of a statesman, which is a mooted matter, and he never wearied until his task was completed, however prolonged or arduous the labor. He believed in success and directed himself to its achievement and he won out.

But Mr. GORMAN should remember that the issue upon which the Democratic party lost Maryland just half a dozen years ago was GORMANISM. In other words the Senator had come to regard his personal interests as paramount to those of his party or his State and the people revolted. They have come back to him because they have discovered that nothing was gained by the change and for the other reason that they believe he has been improved by a season of disappointments. If he will enter upon his new senatorial career with a determination to leave selfishness behind he will achieve greater results than ever.

That It May Benefit Some One.

Recently, while deploring the condition of a most industrious and worthy young person who is sadly afflicted with curvature of the spine and who is able to have neither the proper surgical attention nor the necessary steel jacket, a listener interposed "Why Miss MARY McBRIDE left some money for that purpose." The statement was news to us and we went on our way rejoicing that "The Boy" was to be benefited and through Miss McBRIDE's kindness. We rejoiced too soon, however, for upon investigation we found that the bequest was left for girls only and that "The Boy" would suffer on.

Miss McBRIDE, who is remembered as a most lovable woman, was herself badly crippled with curvature of the spine and yet she diligently and sagaciously kept on with the millinery business until she had accumulated quite a little fortune. She died in the summer of 1892 and when her will was recorded the seventeenth clause read as follows: "One-half of one-fifth that remains I devise and bequeath to be invested by the trustees of the Presbyterian church. The interest to be used annually for the relief of any girl under the age of twenty-five years suffering with spinal trouble. That she may have proper treatment, braces or jacket to relieve or cure the same. No one person to have the use of the fund for more than two years."

There never has been an applicant for the fund and that is the reason for the publication of this. The amount of money is not great, yet it would be a blessing to some one in need. It is possible that there are young girls in this community or county who can be saved from life-long deformity and suffering through Miss McBRIDE's liberality if it is generally known that she was a public benefactor and left some money for that purpose.

Philadelphia and the Convention.

The complaint of the Philadelphia Democrats that a strict interpretation of the rule of the party for the appointment of delegates to state conventions is unjust is very much like pleading the "baby act." They must have known when the rule was adopted that it would work that result if they failed to get out a full vote in "off years." In fact that was the only reason given for asking for such a rule. It was shown that in the city of Philadelphia a fairly good vote was gotten out at presidential elections on the strength of which the city claimed disproportionate representation in the convention during the intervening years, though the vote was meagre and revealed a want of zeal for the party.

But in any event the chairman of the Democratic state committee could do nothing else than that which he has done. The rule is mandatory and allows him no discretion. It provides that each legislative district shall have one delegate for each 1,000 votes and an additional delegate for a majority fraction of a thousand votes cast for the Democratic candidates. The Democratic candidates are the candidates voted for in the Democratic column. Candidates in the Union column or the Prohibition column are not Democratic candidates, whatever their political affiliations may have been in the past or are at the time. For that reason such candidates can't be taken into account in computing the votes cast for the Democratic candidates for the purpose of apportionment.

The rule is just, not only to the Democrats of Philadelphia, but to all the Democrats of the State. If for any reason the Democrats of any city or county fail to poll their full vote they are unjust to the political colleagues who have done their duty and deserve some punitive regulation. In the case in point the penalty has been applied, not by the chairman of the state committee, but by the rule which the Philadelphia Democrats, through their representatives in the state committee and state convention, helped to pass. The laws require that the rules of the party be obeyed and if chairman CREESE had done anything else than that which he did he would probably have been taken to court to answer for violating the rules.

—The Altoona retail milk dealers association having pushed the price of that liquid up to eight cents per quart, we are prompted to inquire as to whether an increase in the water tax rate of the Mountain city made it necessary.

Failure to Enforce the Law.

At a hearing before the interstate commerce commission in Chicago the other day several prominent railway officials testified that frequently "conditions required the secret out of rates to some large shippers, and invariably, under such circumstances they did it." The interstate commerce law forbids such discrimination under several penalties. It was enacted for no other purpose than to prevent such discrimination, and has been maintained at vast expense to the country for nearly twenty years under the impression that the purpose was being achieved. In view of that fact the evidence taken in Chicago is in the nature of a revelation.

When the interstate commerce commission finished its inquisition and had listened to the narration of the violations of the law by the several railroad officials who testified until the list was exhausted, it packed up its traps and moved to Kansas City, where the investigation was resumed. Whether any of the officials examined there testified to the same misdemeanors we are not informed. But they might as well have unbosomed themselves with perfect freedom for no harm would have resulted to them. At least no effort was made to bring the Chicago culprits to punishment. No information was made, no warrants asked for and not even a complaint filed against them.

Of what use is it to have an interstate commerce commission if the penalties of the law are not imposed for violating the law. Each one of the half dozen railroad officials who testified to the secret discrimination in freight charges in behalf of big shippers ought to have been put under bond at once to appear in the nearest court to answer for the violation of the law. The small shippers have enough to contend against in the competition with their more extensive rivals without this element in the balance. They can buy cheaper because they operate on a larger scale and sell to better advantage for the same reason. They ought, therefore, to be protected against discrimination in freights.

—On Saturday Progress grange at Centre Hall put twenty-eight persons through the second and third degree work at a meeting in the Arcadia.

—If all employers of labor were to employ no man who does not pay his bills, there would be fewer dishonest men in the land.

Echo Answers Correctly.

From the Philadelphia Press, (Rep.) Ex-Recorder Brown says that Governor Stoev handled the cash that was used to secure the passage of the Pittsburg ripper bill. The Governor says he did not, but is he going to stop at this? Mr. Bigelow, or his next friend for him, charged the Governor with having asked \$200,000 and actually received \$150,000 for signing the ripper bill. The Governor says this is not true, but is he going to put off a serious charge of this character with a mere denial?

The people of Pennsylvania have a right to demand that their Governor vindicate his integrity. Let him not think that it is sufficient to meet serious accusations of responsible citizenship with a mere negative. If the Governor is a victim of slanderers the law gives him redress in the courts. If the redress is not wholly satisfactory it at least will give him the opportunity to meet his accusers face to face, subject them to cross examination and support his denial by solemn oath.

It would give him an opportunity, too, perhaps, to get on record testimony as to his character. There may be some people who are willing to swear that they do not believe Governor Stoev would pay out money to secure the passage of a bill in which he is interested, and that he would be incapable of accepting \$150,000 or any other sum for his signature to an act of the Legislature. If so, the Governor ought to have the benefit of this valuable testimony. He stands in need of it, for his friends are not speaking out in his behalf at present to any great extent.

To Abolish the Goo Goo Eyes.

Rather the Governor just now seems to furnish the reply to that continental conundrum "What Ails Pennsylvania?" and the echoes make answer, William A. Stone.

They Will Not Ease.

Men who talk about harmonizing labor and capital either ignorantly or intentionally omit to say that what they are really trying to do is to harmonize labor, capital and monopoly, something which can never be done. What they fail or do not want to see is that monopoly—the power by legislation to capitalize a privilege—is not capital and is the great disturbing factor in the industrial world, causing all the trouble.

It's Great to Be a World Power.

Twenty million dollars for the Philippine islands, \$85,000,000 for maintaining an army one year, \$60,000,000 Spanish war claims. Being a "world power" makes a beautiful topic for an after-dinner speech, but it's a little expensive. Besides the trade argument drops out when we learn that the United States has secured only ten per cent of the foreign trade of those islands.

Can't Get Poorer is the Reason.

President Roosevelt says, "It is not true that the rich have grown richer and the poor have grown poorer." His statement is only partially true. There is a point beyond which the poor do not grow poorer. To do so would be to starve, but it is true that the aggregate number of the poor has increased.

Talk For Themselves.

We pay at the rate of about \$70,000,000 a year for the little more than \$5,000,000 a year of Philippine trade we get, while European nations pay nothing for the more than \$45,000,000 a year they get. These figures do their own talking.

What That What They are There For?

Uncle Sam is paying out over \$3,000,000 a year in salaries to officials in the Philippines. Our new possessions seem to be regular bonanzas—for the office-holders.

Trust Makes Out in Sugar Prices.

The American Sugar Refining company took the initiative on Tuesday in reducing prices for refined sugar. The reduction amounted to five points on Nos. 5 to 11 of the soft grades, and ten points on all other grades. Arbuclle Brothers, the W. B. McCahan company and E. H. Howell, Son & Co. made like reductions.

Suboribe for the WATCHMAN

—Albert Welch, aged 21 years, of Minn, Potter county, was riding on a log train when he fell to the track. The wheels of the cars passed over his chest and he was dragged a short distance. He expired as the trainmen were picking him off the track.

Dr. Joseph Kalbfus, secretary of the state game commission, was in Williamsport Thursday with reference to the violations of the game laws. Dr. Kalbfus stated that there is too much illegal hunting in Lycoming and Clinton counties and that all offenders will now be searched for and prosecuted.

Sunday evening little Helen Baumgardner, aged 2 years, placed the poker in the stove grate at the home of her grandmother, Mrs. Marie Matthews, in Altoona, and, after it became red hot, took it out and held it against her 4 year old brother Willie's back. A blaze promptly resulted, but prompt and effective measures saved the boy's hide, though a new outfit was necessary.

Samuel E. Bell, for many years employed as a passenger conductor on the Pittsburg division of the Pennsylvania railroad company, died at his home at Seattle, Wash., Dec. 24th, of paralysis, aged 56 years. Mr. Bell was the conductor in charge of the ill-fated day express train, when it was swept away with some of its passengers and lost in the memorable Johnstown flood, of May 31st, 1889.

A delicate surgical operation, which was performed at the Hahnemann hospital, Scranton, Saturday, is pronounced wholly successful. Peter Zieber, a miner, had his skull trephined and his brain cleared of extensive membranous adhesions. The operation was decided on as the only expedient to save the man's life, the nervous disorder from which he suffered causing as many as seventy-five convulsions a day, which were fast fatalizing him.

An action to determine the ownership of a locomotive claimed by a coal company, a locomotive manufacturing and two railroad companies was ended in the Blair county court at Hollidaysburg Monday.

The claimants were the Altoona and Beech Creek and the Pittsburg, Johnstown, Ebensburg and Western railroad company; the United company, of Houtzdale, and the Baldwin locomotive works, of Philadelphia. Judge Bell decided that the Altoona and Beech Creek Co. was the rightful owner.

John C. Stewart, who was one of the victims of the Clearfield powder mill explosion was a brother of Dr. Samuel C. Stewart, of that place, and was a man well to do. He owned several properties in Clearfield, and had been interested in lumber and factory operations for some years. He leaves a wife and two daughters. The scene at their home when friends broke the terrible news to them cannot be described. His funeral occurred at 2 o'clock Saturday. Roy Smith was buried from his father's residence in Girard township on Sunday morning.

The work of constructing the new tunnel on the Pittsburg division of the Pennsylvania railroad at Gallitzin will shortly be begun. Contractor Peter F. Brendlinger, of Philadelphia, who has the contract for building the tunnel has completed his preparatory work and is on the ground with a large force of men, and apparatus to begin operations. The new tunnel will be started 100 feet north of the present west bound tunnel, and will be pushed to completion as rapidly as possible. The winter weather will not delay the work to any extent as it will be all under ground.

A young man named Varner, who was employed until recently by John Shank, in Warriorsmark valley, Monday morning presented a check for \$12.75 at the counter of the Blair county bank, asking for the cash therefor. The check purported to be given by Robert S. Ross and was made payable to "Joseph Wanamaker."

Through speedy investigation, the paper was found to be a forgery and officer Wands being notified, he arrested Varner and locked him up to await further proceedings. When Varner appeared at the bank he had already a railroad ticket to Mount Union and he expected to get to there on main line express.

The pension bill recently introduced in the United States Senate by Senator Quay gives widows of old soldiers a pension of \$12 a month, and to all old soldiers who served ninety days in the Civil war who are not receiving pensions and were honorably discharged, it gives a pension based on their ages as follows: 50 years of age and under 55 years, \$6 a month; 55 years of age and under 60 years, \$8 a month; 60 years and over \$12 a month. If the new bill should become a law the dismissal of an army of clerks, special examiners and medical examining boards would follow, and the money would go directly to the spot without the roundabout and expensive ceremony now required.

Pennsylvania railroad employes whose checks were garnished by the Rogers Collection agency, of West Virginia, met in Ensminger's hall in Harrisburg, Attorneys Mendis D. Detweiler and Albert Miller, who will represent the men in their injunction suit restraining further attachments, were present. The employes were very bitter in their denunciation of the merchants who sold the claims to the Rogers agency without having first offered the men reasonable terms of settlement. It was stated that the agency will get fifty per cent. for collections. A resolution was passed denouncing all merchants who had a hand in attachments and deciding to boycott them in the future. It was also decided to pay all just claims if the costs were removed and to carry the various suits to the supreme court.

Spawns from the Keystone.

—J. Ward Wood, of Punksutawney, walked over the high embankment into the creek in the darkness Saturday night. His body was recovered. He was 50 years old and leaves a family.

—The Beaver Lake Copper company is the name of the company chartered to develop the copper formations in Penn township, Lycoming county, near the popular fishing resort of Beaver Lake, from which the company derives its name.

—While C. H. Dutton, a traveling salesman, was on his way from Lock Haven to Williamsport, his pocketbook containing \$550 was stolen from his pocket. The pocketbook was afterwards found along the railroad track, but the money was gone.

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