

Ink Slings.

When Noah built his mighty ark, And rode upon the seas, He was no more left in the dark, Or made feel ill at ease, Than we were, just one week ago, When old Spring creek got full And gave us all the over flow...

—Have no favors to ask unless you feel disposed to grant some when called upon to do so.

—The prophet who said March would come in like a lamb evidently reserved the lynx role for himself.

—A record-breaking flood, a thunder storm and a blizzard all within five days suggests the idea that someone should look around for a new weather man.

—When the floods rose and cut off the drinking water in Bellefonte lots of fellows were happy because of the excuse that it gave for drinking something else, but when the "something else" ran out there were "hot coppers" on all sides.

—According to the Senate program the ship subsidy bill is to pass on March 17th. The Bellefonte draymen have about as much demand on the government to subsidize their wagons as the plutocratic sharks who are forcing this gigantic steal through Congress.

—The daily papers are making a great ado over the announcement that strikers are being shot in Spain. What if they are, are we the people to fuss about it when we have the widows and orphans of Homestead, Chicago and Latimer still in our midst.

—The British government is feeding and paying three hundred thousand soldiers in South Africa and maintaining two hundred and forty-three thousand horses in order to round up about five thousand Dutch farmers. It is quite apparent that someone is stuck on their job.

—A handkerchief presented by Mrs. WILLIAM A. STONE, wife of Governor STONE, to a handkerchief sale held at Muncion recently, brought \$7 when put up at auction. It is very doubtful if the Governor, himself, had given it whether it would have brought seven cents.

—The Philadelphia Inquirer is injecting a lot of hot air into the ELKINS' boom these days and the hope of the Democracy and Independent Republicans is that it will be successful in getting him onto the ticket for Governor. It will take far more than the Inquirer's wonderful imaginative powers to tell how it happened after the people have had their say in November.

—On Tuesday evening several local politicians were ready to bet that former Governor HASTINGS would let the ELKINS people win the delegates from Centre county without opposition, his intention being to show his hand when the election day comes round. Just where the "tip" came from couldn't be found out, but on the face of it it doesn't seem to be very straight.

—Emperor WILLIAM is all right. Prince HENRY is all right, the Hohenzollerns are all right and so are all the rest of the Dutch, but the milk in this big entertainment cocoon is the ninety-one million dollars balance of trade in our favor with Germany. Turn that the other way and we Americans would forget that the German Emperor's brother is among us in the eagerness to iron out our green sashes for St. Patrick's day parades.

—Whenever the men who make the laws for the United States get over the fallacy that there can be no prosperity in this country unless the old policy of win and you lose is insisted upon in dealing with other governments the better it will be for all concerned. If our much vaunted ingenuity and resourcefulness cannot compete with the world, unless it be given a handicap, then it is time to find out whether it is ingenuity and resourcefulness or merely a make-believe that has deceived other countries.

—The Altoona committee that wanted to do the thing up so fine when Prince HENRY stopped in that city probably feels a little like the fellow at the swell banquet after he had discovered that bouillon is to be eaten with a spoon and isn't sugared and drunk from the cup as he had done. Cloddy with officiousness and carrying a big address to his German highness they actually jostled the Prince, who was standing on the car platform when the train pulled into Altoona, and asked him to conduct them to the presence of royalty. When he politely made known his identity to them they were so rattled that they forgot their little speeches and slunk away back into the crowd to sit down.

—When Senator TILLMAN hastily decided to punch Senator McLAURIN's nose he did not even invite him out behind the barn to have it done, but went at him in the full glare of publicity in the United States Senate chamber. Right before the very eyes of men who have bought their seats in that chamber, men who sanction murder and incendiarism in the name of war in the Philippines, and men who have made millions by gambling in stocks affected by their own votes as Senators. Is it any wonder that they stood up to censure their strenuous colleague from South Carolina? Such polished, suave, honorable Senators were, of course, shocked at such an exhibition of indecency. Every little pot turned up to call the kettle black.

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Personal Registration.

Up until recently the question of personal registration was of no great concern to the people in communities other than those of the large cities. But information received through the papers of Harrisburg and other third class cities with respect to the recent municipal elections indicate that the ballot reform association was wise in including cities of the third class in the provisions of the bill to be introduced at the next session of the Legislature providing for personal registration. In other words, at that election the local Quay machines had organized bands of professional repeaters in all the cities of that class and according to the Harrisburg Star-Independent three hundred votes were polled by that class of ballot stuffers in Harrisburg, notwithstanding precautions had been taken to purge the registry lists.

The registry law has been drawn with great care by Hon. CLINTON RODGERS WOODRUFF, of Philadelphia, and has the approval of the ballot reform association. It provides for boards of registration in first, second and third class cities, and fixes days for it to sit. All voters must make personal application for registry and they are subject to the ordinary examination of voters at the polls under the existing law. If they make the necessary answers to questions propounded they are entitled to vote on election day without further inquiry except with respect to residence and identification. That is if a man applies to vote on the name registered who doesn't answer the description of the registered voter he has upon himself the burden of proof of his identity. That provision makes the personation of voters practically impossible.

It is clearly the duty of good citizens to promote the passage of the proposed law by every possible way that is legitimate. In the country districts there are no reasons for such precautions but the representatives of such districts in the Legislature are interested, nevertheless, for upon a just return of the votes in the cities the result of most elections depends. Within the last few years elections have been carried by the fraudulent votes of the cities for the Republican ticket and candidates nominated by the Democrats in rural communities have suffered unjust defeat.

It is a pretty good sized job that some newspapers seem to have cut out for themselves. We refer to the effort a few of them are making to have the public believe that Mr. QUAY has separated himself from the state machine, and that Mr. ELKINS is to be made the Republican nominee for Governor in defiance of the wishes and support of the old boss.

There may be people green enough to believe almost anything that is told them, but we doubt if, in the entire Commonwealth, as many individuals as usually attend the burial of a small-pox patient, can be found who are gullible enough to place credence in any such stuff.

Imperialism Confirmed.

The Philippine tariff bill has been agreed to in the House of Representatives in Washington, only three Republicans dissenting on the final vote, and it may be said that the Republican policy of establishing subject colonies has been confirmed. The three dissenters were led in their revolt by Mr. LITTLEFIELD, of Maine, and though they were unable to check the progress of their party toward the ultimate result, they have succeeded in setting a good many conservative citizens of the country to thinking. LITTLEFIELD is by odds the ablest Republican on the floor and his attitude is therefore significant.

The creation of subject colonies is a subversion of every principle asserted in the Declaration of Independence and the violation of every provision of the constitution of the United States. The fundamental principle expressed in the Declaration of Independence is that all men are created equal. If that is true it follows that all have the same right to self-government and the establishment of a colony of people who are not in the enjoyment of that inherent right, but on the contrary are willingly or unwillingly held in subjection by an alien governing power, is a contradiction of the equality doctrine.

The federal constitution is particularly explicit on the subject of the equality of taxation throughout the country. In one clause it is distinctly alleged that no export duty shall be levied on the products of any State and in another it is quite as plainly set forth that all revenue laws shall be "uniform throughout the United States." Now if the Philippines are a part of the United States Congress is clearly denied the right to pass such laws as that known as the Philippine tariff and if it isn't a part of the United States then Congress has no right to govern the people at all.

The Delaware Channel.

The proposition to make a thirty foot channel in the Delaware river from Philadelphia to the tide gives some promise of success and the appropriation of \$3,000,000 to pay the expenses of the improvement will cause no complaint if the work is honestly performed on an economical basis. Philadelphia ought to be the leading port of entry of this country. It probably would be if the same effort had been made that has been put forth for New York, Boston and Baltimore by those interested in the property of those cities. In fact it was the natural port at the outset and so long as natural conditions prevailed Philadelphia was in the lead. But for many, many years Philadelphia citizens and Philadelphia's business interests have shown a decidedly greater concern for the size of the majority they could give to Republican tickets or the amount of money they could furnish to swell Republican campaign funds, than for the condition of the Delaware channel or the material prosperity of that city. For this reason Pennsylvanians generally took but little stock in the demands that were made upon the Legislature for appropriation by the State to help clean out the channel and lost hope of Philadelphia continuing in the race for supremacy as a shipping port.

The proposed appropriation of \$3,000,000 by the general government will, however, give Philadelphia a channel equal to the requirements of the largest and best steamships. It will not make the cost to the public anywhere near what the New York harbor has cost. The clearing of a passage through hell-gate in New York harbor has cost the government much more than the proposed expense of the thirty-foot channel in the Delaware. But Pennsylvanians don't grade the favors which have gone to others. They only ask for justice for themselves and if the proposed appropriation is granted, the general sentiment will be that it is expended by others than the rings that have robbed Philadelphia, and that the work he done under the management of men who will see that it is used for the purposes intended, and not to enrich the jobbers who have gotten their claws so deeply into the business vitals of the metropolis of the State.

Better Men the Remedy.

The franchise deals recently effected in Pittsburgh and Philadelphia are likely to accentuate the popular objections to the work of the last Legislature. When the franchise grab legislation was being railroaded through those who were able to analyze them protested that they were intended for the purpose of creating speculative property out of nothing. But the interested parties asserted that the purpose was to promote rapid transit in one of the big cities and relieve the congested local travel in the other and a good many men of honest purposes were induced to vote for them.

The developments of the last few weeks, however, have stripped those schemes of all false masks and laid them bare before the people. The consolidation of the Philadelphia franchises in the hands of the owners of the present street railway properties proves that the grab bills were for no other purpose than to "freeze" out the JOHNSON syndicate, which was pleading for the opportunity to give the people better service at greatly reduced rates. The Pittsburgh grab was for the precisely similar purpose and the absorption of them by the present monopoly is the sufficient proof of the fact.

These franchises for the two cities were won in the neighborhood of eight millions of dollars. They were created out of nothing, it is true, but nevertheless they belonged to the people and the appropriation of them by a group of politicians was as much a crime as the breaking into the city treasuries would be. It can be said that there is no recourse now for the property having been acquired by legal processes the title is established. But it is not altogether foolish to look the stable after the horse has been stolen. It is a lesson to be more cautious in the future and the incident in point should teach the people to send better men to the Legislature.

The whole matter of the political redemption of Pennsylvania seems to be up to the Democratic leaders and the Democratic organizations. Conditions point unmistakably to the fact that the people are ready for revolt and the State ripe for a revolution. Are you ready to take advantage of the situation? Do those who have charge of the state and local organizations realize the great responsibility that is now upon them? Do they understand how near we may be to victory if they do their full duty, or how far that victory may be off should they fail at this the time of great expectations and great promises. It is a fearful responsibility that now rests upon those who have been invested with party leadership and they should waken up to the fact that to make that leadership effective and successful work to that end should be begun at once, and prosecuted earnestly until the victory that is within our grasp is assured.

Spice in Political Life.

Variety is the spice of life, we are assured, and we have been having variety enough in the politics of Pennsylvania during the past week to season it to the taste of an epicure. For example, we have been receiving almost daily reports from the QUAY retreat in Florida as confuting as they are numerous and at least two gubernatorial booms previously bursted have been re-inflated and started out again afresh and under the most promising auspices. Attorney General ELKIN has been overwhelmed, withdrawn and retired at least half a dozen times since the last issue of the WATCHMAN. But he is still a hopeful candidate and the search for dark horses still goes merrily on.

Probably the greatest interest with respect to political conditions centres in the two re-inflated booms that have come into public notice during the week. The first of these and probably the most important is that of Representative SIBLEY, of Venango county. The Republicans of that county held a convention the other day and after transacting the usual routine business adopted a resolution favoring SIBLEY. Jor had been lounging about the corridors of the capitol all day with his ear to the floor listening for the joyful sound and finally when the information was conveyed to him by a newspaper man he acknowledged that it was delightful but too sudden. The other re-inflation was the boom of DON CAMERON. The Republicans of Armstrong county are responsible for that.

It is safe to conjecture that the naming of both these gentlemen was a tentative operation. In other words neither the Republicans of Venango nor Armstrong county were serious, though the Armstrong county political speculators took the trouble to send a committee to Washington to back it up. But as a matter of fact the object of both movements was to create sentiment against the nomination of ELKIN and having accomplished that result the idea was to trust to luck to get a candidate who will serve the purposes of the QUAY machine without outraging the consciences of the anti-QUAY Republicans. Thus far there are no indications that the expedient has been successful.

A Closed Incident.

The TILLMAN-McLAURIN episode is what the diplomatists call a closed incident. That is to say a vote of censure was passed by an almost unanimous vote of the Senate and though TILLMAN gave the body a paring shot which was construed as a fresh offense, it was decided that nothing further would be done in the matter. This was probably the wisest course to pursue. It is proverbial that no one can stir up pitch without being defiled and the chances are that a further agitation of the trouble would have led to unpleasant consequences.

But now that the matter is over we may be permitted to express the opinion that after all Senator TILLMAN was less to blame than his colleague. It is true that there is no condonation of the offense he committed. In a parliamentary body no man has a right to resort to other than parliamentary expedients. To strike a blow is ruffianism. But ruffianism isn't the greatest or the gravest crime in the catalogue. Corruption is infinitely worse. To an honorable man the presence of a corruptionist is unbearable. An expression of blackguardism from such a man is an unendurable affront.

TILLMAN struck a blow, but what many men would have done less under the circumstances. Within reach of his good right arm a man whom he despised had put an opprobrium on him. After a series of provocations one whom he estimated to be a conscienceless blackguard had stigmatized him as a liar. What was there left for him to do other than that which he did. The majority of the Republican party would have been glad to censure TILLMAN and let McLAURIN go free. But the minority prevented that and all ought to be content with the issue of the affair.

A Promising Life Gone Out.

The announcement of the death of Congressman RUFUS K. POLK in Philadelphia, on Wednesday evening, will be a severe blow to his many friends throughout the State. The fact that he had been ailing was unknown to any of them until the news of the end came. Only his closest personal friends knew of the fact that he had a weak heart, but none suspected the sudden and startling termination of a life that promised so much.

Mr. POLK was one of the rising young men of the State and whose future usefulness many looked forward to with great hopes. He was twice elected to Congress from the district composed of Montour, Sullivan, Columbia and Northumberland counties, served his constituents and the State with a zeal and faithfulness that few in public position manifest. Since taking a part in politics he has been recognized as one of the leading Democrats of the State, and among those whose names were being canvassed as available candidates for Governor at the coming election, he stood well to the front.

Gang Fighers Charity.

From the Clearfield Republican. The fog horn charity practised last week by Is Durham and Clayt Erb in sending their costs in the Meek-Harris case to some Clearfield charity, to be named by Harris, is characteristic of the stalwart gang generally.

Durham and Erb were summoned here from Philadelphia as witnesses by editor Meek. Judge Gordon's ruling prohibited them from testifying. Under the law they are entitled to \$1 per day and three cents per mile, circular, for each mile traveled. Mr. Meek sent them notice to make out their bills and forward to him. They did so and received checks for \$20.75 each. This amount they sent to Frank G. Harris with the request that he give it to some deserving Clearfield charity. The very deserving Children's Aid Society received the \$41.50 of editor Meek's money.

Durham and Erb both travel on passes and they could well afford to be charitable with other men's money, especially when the prospects were so bright that their action would get into the newspapers.

It Must Be Dignified.

From the Pittsburg Post. Speaking of the Tillman vote of censure by the Senate, George Fred Williams, of Boston, admits that Senator Tillman did an indiscreet act, shocked some delicate sensibilities, but wronged no man, woman or child. As to the "dignity of the Senate," he says, "God save the mark," and then goes on:

"Men stood up to vote censure who have been found guilty by competent tribunals of securing their seats by bribery and fraud; some cast their vote before and will cast it again for the slaughter of an innocent people whose only offense has been love of liberty; some have increased their fortunes by speculating on their own votes; many, if not most, are the tools of a system which takes tribute from the scanty tables of the poor, while it not only relieves the wealth of the rich from its just burdens, but legalizes all sorts of extortions to increase it. I agree that they do all these things very judiciously, always politely and quietly, and they are ever solicitous not to shock the sensibilities with the coarse or obstructive methods. Dignity is preserved, the dignity of the Senate."

But Is It Tottering?

From the York Gazette. Admiring as we do the elevated tone and hopeful spirit of William Lloyd Garrison's article, "The Tottering Edifice of Protection," we are convinced that the fall of this hoary abuse can come only from an aroused and indignant public opinion. The protectionists and trusts, fostered by special favors and growing rich and powerful at the expense of the people, will never voluntarily abate their pretension nor relinquish their spoils, and the only remedy is to enlighten the ignorant and awaken the interest of the patriotic masses.

The American Free Trade league is devoted to this work. Its membership includes nearly every State. Its annual fees are \$1. Its publications can be obtained by sending ten cents in stamps to its address, 602 and 603 Tremont building, Boston, Massachusetts.

A New Ruling in Attempts at Suicide.

From the Philadelphia Ledger. A few days ago Herbert Wright, of Philadelphia, was before Judge Arnold on a charge of attempting to commit suicide. Defendant pleaded guilty, but the judge discharged him, saying that there is no such offense in this State or country as attempted suicide; that a man's life belongs to himself or his Creator; that the law against suicide emanated from countries where there were kings and emperors who adopted the theory that it is wrong for a man to kill himself and thus reduce the number of the king's subjects. In the ruling the judge gave the human side of the problem. Next comes the problem of accountability to God for the use that he makes of his life. "Aye, there's the rub."

President will Visit Charleston.

WASHINGTON, March 3.—A delegation of prominent citizens of Charleston, S. C., had a conference with President Roosevelt to-day in regard to his attending the Charleston exposition. The delegation strongly urged the President to keep his engagement to visit the exposition and assured him a most cordial welcome. The President told the delegation that if nothing intervened to prevent he would take great pleasure in visiting Charleston and the exposition some time in the near future.

In Session in Lock Haven.

LOCK HAVEN, March 5.—Preliminary to the opening of the annual session of the Central Pennsylvania United Evangelical conference in that city, twenty-six junior ministers were examined to-day. The examining board re-organized with Rev. M. I. Jamison, president, and Rev. M. A. Kennally, secretary. The annual missionary meeting was held to-night.

House Continues to Debate Rural Free Delivery.

WASHINGTON, March 5.—The House to-day continued the debate on the bill to classify the rural free delivery service but, without action, adjourned out of respect to the memory of Representative Polk, of Pennsylvania, whose death occurred suddenly at Philadelphia last night. A committee of fifteen was appointed to attend the funeral of the deceased Member.

The Long home at Salona, which has been quarantined because Mr. Long's mother was exposed to small pox infection while in Harrisburg recently, shows no signs of developing a case of that disease. Mrs. Long was reported ill soon after her arrival there but the report was incorrect. The quarantine will be maintained a few days longer however.

Spawls from the Keystone.

—The Bloom's Run iron bridge, near Curwensville, was on Saturday lifted from its abutments by the flood and carried nearly a half mile down the stream.

—Lydia B. Carlisle has instituted legal proceedings against the city of Williamsport to recover \$6,000 damages for a fractured leg caused by falling on a defective sidewalk in that city in October last.

—A Huntingdon man asked for stamps at the post office the other day and the post master asked: "What denomination, please?" the man stammered a bit and said his wife belonged to the Presbyterians.

—The largest car of window glass ever shipped from Kane, was shipped east by the Pennsylvania Window Glass company, Wednesday, 11,000 boxes made up the car, the weight of which was 91,000 lbs.

—Zuber & Son, of Lock Haven, had forty-six hogs penned in their butcher shop along the creek. The stream rose so rapidly that before assistance could be given the porkers by the men who went to the shop, about thirty were drowned.

—The fruit growers of the southern part of the State are perturbed by the anticipated visit of a guest that will not be welcome. This is the year in which the seventeen year locusts will make their appearance in this country during the summer months.

—The boom company at Williamsport do not expect any logs on this freshet. On the next rise the logs and rafts will be started. It is estimated that 80,000,000 feet of logs will come down this spring, which estimate is 40,000,000 feet less than last spring.

—One thing John Wanamaker has done, and that is in establishing one of the most prosperous businesses in the country. Newspaper advertising, he says, has been the means of his success. Doubting merchants may get a pointer from the fact that last year he distributed \$25,000 to the newspapers of Philadelphia alone.

—Robert Jellison, of Blairsville, who has had his burial clothes in readiness for the past twenty years, has taken them from the cedar chest and had them pressed, that they might be in proper shape when death occurs. This was brought about by the recent death of his sister, Miss Lizzie Jellison, who also had her burial clothing ready for a number of years.

—At Karthaus Saturday night, Ross Stewart, a white man of North Carolina, who had been employed on the West Branch road, and his brother quarreled with two Italians. One of the latter fired three shots from his revolver, one of which took effect in Ross' heart, killing him instantly. The Italians are Guy Marino and Michael Ross. They both fled.

—Col. R. C. Elder, commanding the Fifth regiment, N. G. P., has announced these staff appointments: Adjutant, Captain James S. Stackpole, of Lewistown; chaplain, Captain J. K. Lloyd, of Altoona, former incumbent under Col. Theodore Burchfield; regimental clerk, Howard O. Lantz, Esq., of Lewistown, who was formerly connected with the regiment as first lieutenant of Company T.

—A fox hound owned by W. T. Shibe, of Williamsport, returned Monday night after having been four days on the chase, during which time he crossed the Bald Eagle mountain five times and traveled over 300 miles. Shibe and a party started out Thursday, and started a fox, which they chased until dusk. One of the dogs returned next morning. The dog came home with his feet cut and his body badly torn.

—Miss Maud Johnson, the Lock Haven Normal school graduate and the Perry county school teacher, who mysteriously disappeared from Mrs. Zeigler's home in Philadelphia last Thursday, has been found. She was wandering aimlessly around the streets of Philadelphia and seemed to be in a bewildered state of mind. From inquiries that she had made it was suspected that she was endeavoring to make her way to the river with the intention of throwing herself into the water. She was taken to Mrs. Zeigler's home.

—Right in the midst of floods on all hands, Bellwood came nearer having a water famine than ever in its history. Some obstruction in the pipes weakened the pressure on Saturday. Many people didn't have water at all and those who had it were afraid it would stop any minute. But by nightfall the obstruction was removed and the pressure was as usual. On the other hand, by the clogging of drain pipes the water rose in the Methodist church cellar so high as to put out the fires in the furnaces.

—The annual district conference of the Pittsburgh district of the African M. E. church, will be held in Bethel A. M. E. church, Tyrone, May 20th, 21st and 22nd, 1902. This conference will bring together all the pastors and local elders and deacons and preachers of the district, and one lay delegate from each charge in the district. A great time is expected. The pastor, Rev. S. A. Lewis, will commence preparations at once for the entertainment of the conference which will be the first ever held in the Tyrone A. M. E. church. The membership of this church has increased under the present administration from fifteen to fifty.

—During the storm Friday night last lightning struck a house at Belial, near Houtzdale, occupied by an Italian and family, tearing the roof off and demolishing the building generally. The roof was torn from a bed occupied by the man and two children, all of whom were taken from the building in an unconscious condition. The children came to in a short time but the man did not recover consciousness until noon Saturday. In an adjoining building, the sister of Miss Lovena Copenaver, until recently residing in Tyrone, was going up stairs with a lamp in hand at the time, and the shock cut the light out leaving her in darkness and badly frightened.

—Pennsylvania stands second among the States of the Union in silk production. New Jersey heading the list. According to the figures given out by the census bureau there are 843 silk manufacturing plants in the United States, the total capital represented amounting to \$1,082,201. Pennsylvania has 880,804,042, one-fourth the total amount, invested in the industry. The total value of the products of the silk mills of the country in 1900 was \$101,256,258, and the value of the product of the Pennsylvania mills was \$31,072,926, or a little less than one-third of the aggregate. This is a very creditable showing for the Keystone State, and two of the largest silk mills in the State, are located in Williamsport.