

Ink Slings.

There'll be another horror To rival Martinique, next fall, Mount Penna. has been showing signs Most significant to all The hangers on of Quaydom Who, unheeding, stick to their snap While the old volcano gathers steam To wipe them off her map.

—Are there any volcanos in the Danish West Indies? —Mr. ELKIN is playing the sympathy racket to the limit, with the result that a few delegates are going his way.

—Old General Suspension holds the fort in the mining regions and the full dinner pail forces are completely routed.

—From the way the French peasants are fighting to get into "the greatest show on earth" one would imagine that they are pretty much American after all, especially in the desire to be hum-bugged.

—The great heart of the American Congress has gone out to the Martinique sufferers and \$200,000, has been voted for their relief. Why not "benevolently assimilate" the survivors.

—The underwriters who arranged to float the bonds of the great steel pool have already received \$20,000,000 for their work and in financial circles it is believed that they will receive as much more, all of which leads to the conclusion that the job must have been a good one.

—Now watch the troop of know-it-alls coming forward to explain just how the St. Pierre disaster occurred. It would have been of far more avail had they given the inubai tants of Martinique a tip when there were enough of them left to appreciate the information.

—To-morrow ALFONSO XIII, the sixteen year old King of Spain, will be coronated and assume all of his royal prerogatives. Officially he will have no unpleasant reminders of our late unpleasantness and here's hoping that no future exigency will arise to cause others.

—It is unfortunate that a division has occurred among the leaders of Tammany at this time. Everything presages Democratic victory in New York, in both city and state elections in the future, and that there should be trouble among the workers of that powerful political organization removes much of its certainty.

—When ANDREW CARNEGIE offered to mediate between the United States and the Philippines the late lamented MCKINLEY said, "you do not understand the matter." When Gen. MILLS broached the same subject strenuous TEDDY flew into a fury and wanted to retire him from the army at once. What a difference there is in men.

—Former Governor HASTINGS and his deputy Attorney General WILBUR P. REEDER having declared for Judge PENNYPACKER for Governor every one knows what the Centre county delegates to the forthcoming Republican state convention will do, the efforts of LOVE, CHAMBERS, GRAY, FLEMING, HAMILTON, et al, to the contrary, notwithstanding.

—The "Plover Boy" of Indiana's latest manifesto is to the effect that he will "remain in the fight for Governor to the end" and "there is no power that can take" him "out." It might be possible that his horizon will be so contracted by the time the Republican state convention meets that he won't be able to see the end, when it does come.

—The miners of the anthracite regions were to decide last evening whether they would go on a prolonged strike or remain at work under conditions most objectionable to them. It will involve thousands of men, but we trust that there is enough left in the "full dinner" pail they were so jubilant over two years ago to sustain them during their period of idleness.

—According to his own conception of the qualifications the Hon. GROVER CLEVELAND has placed himself in the class of "the serene duck hunters." We don't know how serene the Hon. GROVER is while sitting in a duck "blind," nowadays, but there was anything but serenity in the eagerness with which he got at the killing of the goose that was laying him golden eggs some ten years ago.

—The Altoona Times thinks that because there are only two hundred thousand old soldiers who are not yet on the pension rolls the day of the pension attorney is drawing to a close. What of the thousands of new old soldiers we made during the Spanish war and are making in the Philippines to-day? Surely, they will furnish pastures green for the sharks for many years to come.

—The Clearfield Public Spirit says "our paved streets look shameful and the dirty dust is lifted from them and poured into the windows and mouths and nostrils of the people." Now this is really too bad, but we would suggest that those peculiarly constructed anatomical wonders over in Clearfield who have "windows" be given a tip to pull their "slats" together when the dust starts blowing.

—It is all very well to talk about the intense love the Britisher has for the American these days and that such a thing as their actually coming to kill one another in warfare will never be heard of again. But wait until the Britisher has that troublesome affair in South Africa off his hands and it won't take him long to assume the air of self-conceit that became so obnoxious in 1775, in 1812 and only recently in the Venezuela difficulty.

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Hastings and Quay.

Governor HASTINGS is hardly consistent in his statement of reasons which influence him to the support of Senator QUAY's candidature for the Republican nomination for Governor. "The last session of the Legislature and the present state administration," he said to a reporter of one of the Philadelphia papers the other day, "are inseparable," and therefore he tucks himself under the QUAY blanket and asks the public to believe that he is doing the best that is possible under the circumstances. But as a matter of fact he is helping QUAY infinitely more effectively than if he had turned in to the support of ELKIN.

As Colonel WATRES said in his Wilkesbarre speech the other evening "the last Legislature was iniquitous and the present administration is abominable." But QUAY was responsible for all the iniquities of the Legislature and for everything that made the present administration abominable. The ripper bills, the franchise grab bills, the pinch and force bills of every description which were enacted by the last Legislature and signed by the Governor were QUAY's bills and they were only passed and signed because QUAY wanted to add them to his stock in trade as a political broker and party boss.

ELKIN was and is a part of the present administration and had more or less to do with the atrocities of the last Legislature. But one of the reasons which influenced QUAY to turn against him as a candidate for Governor is that he had recently revealed signs of independence of QUAY and the "old man" wouldn't stand for such pranks. He, therefore, took up a relative who owes him so much already that he couldn't possibly rebel and Governor HASTING falls into the trap and helps him in his scheme. What QUAY says of ELKIN is probably true, but he might with equal truth say more of PENNYPACKER.

The Gall of the Thing.

The Philadelphia Press, in pointing out the probability of the next Congress having a Republican majority, attributes its hopes to the facts that the increase of membership gives to Republican States a gain of nineteen, while Democratic States gain but ten, and that the "state apportionments are at this time, unusually fair."

It is not the political complexion of the next Congress or the advantages that the increase of membership gives the Republicans that we wish to remark about. It is the idea of what constitutes an "unusually fair apportionment," in the estimation of the ordinary Republican, that we would call attention to. Pennsylvania has 32 Congressmen. It has, on an honest count, less than 600,000 Republican voters. The Democratic vote of the State is in the neighborhood of 500,000. By virtue of the legal make up of districts that the Press designates an "unusually fair apportionment," these 600,000 Republicans are given twenty eight representatives, while the Democrats are allowed but four. That is, every 21,500 Republicans in Pennsylvania have a representative in Congress, while each 125,000 Democrats are given but one. It is so in every State when Republican rerymaunders can be made.

And this is called fairness in politics. It is referred to as a reason why Republicans hope to control the next House of Representatives.

And it is referred to also without either twinge of conscience or sense of shame.

No Question About the Brand.

Did any one hear the name of PENNYPACKER suggested or mentioned as a candidate for Governor until it was given out by DAVID LANE, just after coming from a secret conference with Senator QUAY?

Does any one know of any club, any county, or any Republican organization expressing a preference for PENNYPACKER, as a candidate, until after Senator QUAY publicly gave evidence that he desired his nomination?

Was there any sentiment in any part of the State, among the Republican voters, that indicated PENNYPACKER as their choice until after it was known that he was to be Senator QUAY's candidate?

Was there a single delegate chosen or instructed for PENNYPACKER until after Senator QUAY had given orders to his federal officer holders and other henchmen to turn in and "hoorah it up for him"?

Since he has become an avowed candidate is there a single delegate, or a county, or a club that could be pulled, coerced or controlled by QUAY that has not declared for PENNYPACKER?

Who has always been considered and recognized as the head of the odious, corrupt and disreputable Republican state machine but Senator QUAY?

As QUAY's candidate and QUAY's cousin can PENNYPACKER be anything more or anything less than the candidate and the creature of that machine?

Surely there is no question as to whose brand he wears.

—Subscribe for the WATCHMAN.

A Week of Disasters.

This has been a week of disasters. Since the last issue of the WATCHMAN came from the press the overwhelming calamity at St. Pierre, which obliterated that thrifty and promising city from the face of the earth, has been followed by a strangely fatal accident on the Panhandle railroad near Pittsburg, which cost scores of lives and a vast amount of suffering. The volcanic eruption at St. Pierre was attended by other disturbances or rather convulsions of nature entailing losses of thousands of lives and it is probably within the lines of conservatism to say that within the radius embraced in the Windward Islands there has been the greatest destruction of life by volcanic action in the history of the world not excepting that of the destruction of Pompeii.

In the midst of the anguish caused by these disasters it is comforting to reflect that they were unavoidable. Such things are distressing beyond measure under any circumstances but when to their horror is added the conviction that they might have been prevented or were to any extent the result of human carelessness the burden of grief is multiplied. That the lamentable affair in the West Indies cast its shadow before it is true. That there were signs revealed some time before the disaster that was impending. But the proper precautions had been taken and the best information attainable was to the effect that there was no immediate danger. That assurance satisfied the people.

But, unhappily, it didn't avert the calamity. It layed fear and added to the overwhelming volume of misfortune when it came, however, and multiplied the number of victims. But when the best has been done nothing more can be expected and the local government, which is the guardian of the people in such communities, has exhausted its opportunities there is nothing more to be done. In the absence of assurance to the contrary we might have been inclined to think that with proper precaution the Pittsburg disaster might have been avoided. But the evidence is that it is quite as free from carelessness as the other and all that can be done is express regret that such things will come.

The Coal Strike.

The strike in the anthracite coal regions began according to schedule on Monday morning and an army of 145,000 vigorous wealth producers were changed in a moment to consumers and wealth destroyers. The strike is only preliminary, thus far, and may yet be averted by the reason and forbearance of the men. In other words the order under which work ceased is a temporary one and may be revoked by a convention which will be held in the near future to determine the policy of the organization. But it is certain that the burden of averting the calamity will be on the men. The trust will be doing nothing toward restoring peace.

The men at the mines have asked nothing that is unjust or unreasonable. The expenses of living have nearly doubled since the present wage scale was agreed on and the miners demand a slight increase in wages. In charges for supplies they have been robbed for years mercilessly and they ask for justice in this respect. The long hours that have been the rule are destructive of health and they have asked that the day be cut down. There is nothing wrong with any of these requests. The price of coal has gone up with other things, but the value of labor as measured by the trust has not been changed.

Yet the miners will be obliged to yield in the end and resume work on the terms which prevailed when they left off. During every day that they are idle they will sustain a loss in wages of something like a quarter of a million dollars. This burden will be on their backs when they resume work, but the trust is so powerful and the multi-millionaires who compose it so heartless that it will have to be borne, even if it crushes out lives and breaks hearts. It is a pity that such is the case. But so long as the men vote to keep a party that fosters trusts in power they will be compelled to pay the murderous penalty that those trusts impose.

—It is only about five days since our distinguished neighbor, Donbful DANIEL, crawled back into bed with Senator QUAY, and attempted to recant all that he had ever said of the enormity and the extent of machine, crimes and short comings; and it is just about as many days since the rumors began to float around that DANIEL was an aspirant for the Republican congressional nomination. Now, we don't know anything about how much dirt the ex-Governor agreed to eat or what kind of an ass he bargained to make of himself to please the old boss, whom he has been so viciously berating for the past four years, but we do know that if he should get upon the ticket it will take much more than the good will of the head of the machine to make him the representative of this district at Washington. The people have not forgotten that he was QUAY's Governor for a while and the record he made during that period of his administration.

Honest Primary Elections.

Colonel WATRES said in his Wilkesbarre speech that the paramount issue in the approaching legislative elections is the question of a better primary election law and he couldn't have uttered a greater truth. The primary election in this country is the unit of politics. If they are absolutely fair there will be little incentive to corrupt the general elections. For example, with a just primary election law it would be impossible for the QUAY machine to give the eighty-five votes of Philadelphia to PENNYPACKER in the coming Republican state convention and without them QUAY's candidature would have no chance. Then there would be nothing to induce QUAY to have the ballot boxes in Philadelphia stuffed at the coming election to elect his candidate?

The main cause of the corruption at general elections is the desire to recover the money spent in carrying the primary elections. A candidate who corruptly pays money to secure a nomination must keep the thing up until the polls close at the general election in order to get even. Having spent money, far in excess of legitimate uses, in both the primary and the general election, he is obliged to rob through the medium of excessive charges or in some other way in order to recompense himself for the expenses incurred at the primary election, and this leads to the malfeasanccs which disgrace the public service and some times to suicides and worse. Plainly the remedy for all these evils is a primary election law which will prevent corruption.

Colonel WATRES neglected, however, to suggest a plan to assure the State honest primary elections. He indicated that in his opinion a regulation which required the two parties in all sections of the State to hold primaries at the same time and under the same regulations would accomplish the desired end. But that is only a part of the process. The first thing to be considered is the election of Senators and Representatives in the Legislature who are in favor of honest primary elections. The Representatives in the Legislature for Lackawanna county last session didn't meet these requirements and Colonel WATRES hasn't indicated thus far that he will insist on such as will for the next session. Until he does that he can hardly be counted as an earnest advocate of honest primary elections.

Better Manners in the Senate.

The gratifying announcement has been made that better manners are to prevail in the United States Senate hereafter. In other words, after a few days of unusual mendacity on one side and extraordinary vituperation on the other, the participants in the disorder shook hands all around and agreed upon reform. Presumably Senators LODGE and SPOONER agreed that they would discontinue the habit of lying about the Democrats and PATTERSON and RICHARDSON promised that they would use less offensive epithets in repelling the lies, if they were uttered. With that understanding the hatchet was buried and peace was declared.

The cause of the explosion of bad temper was a palpable misrepresentation of facts with respect to the policies of the administration in the Philippines. The Democratic Senator had with pardonable vehemence denounced the cruelties which had been perpetrated on the natives under orders from some of the military officials. The order of General SMITH to kill and burn until the island of Samar would resemble "a howling wilderness," was properly denounced and the water cure and other iniquities condemned. In reply the Republican Senators declared that the denunciation of those things was an attack on the American army. It was a daring and audacious position to take and it led to some very bitter disputes.

We are glad that those Senators have agreed to behave themselves in the future for there was plenty of room for improvement. But the Democrats should have required as a condition of settlement that the others should have made public apology for their unjust accusations. No Democratic Senator ever attacked the American army. From the beginning of the government until now the Democrats have always been the most earnest defenders of the American army. Many a time they have been the only defenders of that body, as when TOM CORWIN denounced them as murderers in Mexico and said that he would "welcome them with bloody hands to hospitable graves."

—The WATCHMAN most heartily concurs with the *Nees* in the view it takes of the new water works proposition and the Water street improvement question. If the people of the town were but to consider the question carefully they would realize the wisdom of making the improvement to Water street permanent. Build a high wall of solid masonry and top it off with a stone pavement and neat iron hand-rail and the job is done forever. There would be no more carpenter and lumber bills after every spring flood and the people using it would not be inconvenienced by its wreckage several months during each year.

LONELY, NEBER-MORE.

De great red sun am settin' De day am almos' gone I hears de hoot owl's callin' De night am comin' on An' in de house der's silence Der's silence ebbermore, No friendly voice am callin' No footsteps on de floor Lonely, lonely, lonely, neber-more, When I jine de loved ones waitin' For me on Canaan's shore.

The Exposition to Be Postponed.

St. Louis has reached the sensible conclusion not to open the Louisiana Purchase exposition until 1904, thus postponing its great exposition for a year. Possibly St. Louis might have made ready by the date originally set, but it could have done so only by incurring tremendous expense and at the sacrifice of many of the greatest features of an international fair. Some of the foreign governments, for example, which were anxious to participate in the exposition had declared their inability to construct buildings or to prepare suitable exhibits by the date fixed. Many of the States, also, which are desirous of being represented at St. Louis, were unable to secure proper legislative action within the former time limit. A world's fair is not completed when its great buildings are constructed. The palaces rise with marvelous rapidity, and if the putting of them under roof were all that it was necessary to accomplish, St. Louis might be ready in 1903. It is the tedious work of decoration and the million and one details that follow which consume time. St. Louis has acted wisely in postponing the world's fair. It will be acting equally wise if it now proceeds upon the theory that the additional year it has allowed itself for preparation will permit of no relaxation of its energies.

Parely a Dress Parade Agreement.

The scheme formulated at The Hague peace conference has at last been perfected. All the governments represented have affixed their signatures to the articles of agreement, and the diplomatic corps at The Hague capital has been established as a permanent administrative council. The nations have agreed upon the best methods of procedure for the promotion of universal peace and general disarmament. Now let them proceed. South Africa and the Philippines would appear to be promising fields for the exercise of their good offices; and John Bull and Uncle Sam are prominent among the signatories. But it has already been intimated that for some reason or other the Boer war does not come within their jurisdiction; and the fate of any proposal to arbitrate in the Philippines can easily be imagined. Like many another scheme the peace congress makes a fine showing on paper, but it is not so fine when an attempt is made to put it into practical operation.

Punishment of the Guilty Demanded.

If even one unarmed prisoner has been put to death in the Philippines, if men have been tortured, if even an order has been given by an officer to kill non-combatants and to burn their dwellings, then the government and the nation are responsible for disgraceful acts such as cannot be tolerated by enlightened nations. Undoubtedly some of the inhabitants of the islands of the archipelago are savages. But the light shines everywhere now, and the dark deeds once committed in foreign parts by civilized men are no longer to be condoned or accepted as necessary incidents in the progress of civilization. Charges are made which must be investigated until punishment or the acquittal of the offenders shall clear the general government of responsibility.

Keeping Tab on the Floppers.

It is intimated that state chairman Reeder has again flopped and is once more standing in with the Quay end of the machine. Mr. Reeder is usually found with the bread and butter brigade, if able to locate it. B. F. Gilkeson, better known as the political weather-cock of Bucks county, has "flopped" from Elkin to Penny-pack, and threatens to stay there until the convention meets. He usually manages to change at least twice in a campaign.

Our townsman CLEM DALE Esq.,

has shed his political chapeau into the congressional ring and purposes standing for all there is in it until the bosses decide who the Republican nominee shall be. There may be other fellows, in the district, with larger "har's" and less desire to hold on to what they have, than Mr. DALE, but when it comes to getting from one side of a factional fight to the other, there is no one who can hold a "candle to him." He could be a QUAYite, an ELKIN supporter, a PENNYPACKER advocate, an EMBERTainer or a HASTINGS healer any time in the day that was necessary—and make all these changes without a blush. This faculty should commend him to the leaders, when the mixed and mottled condition of the district is considered, even if his close attention to the spigot of the bar that he would be expected to produce might be against him.

Spawls from the Keystone.

—Williamsport on Tuesday decided by vote to borrow \$51,000 for municipal improvements.

—The post office at St. Mary's was burglarized Monday night. Stamps worth \$1,500 were taken. The police authorities at Renovo were notified.

—John A. Sheaffer, aged forty years, who was suddenly stricken blind at Burnham, near Lewistown, a short time ago, has regained his sight as suddenly and mysteriously as it left him.

—The switch tower employes on the Reading company's new belt line were relieved and the switches locked until after the expected strike is over. It was to have been put in use for the first time next Sunday.

—The entire school board of North Lebanon township, Lebanon county, six in number, were arrested Tuesday to answer the charge of willfully neglecting to assume the duties of a health board in enforcing the quarantine of small-pox patients.

—A maniac was found near Luthersburg a day or so ago in an almost nude condition and in a murderous frame of mind. He was captured with difficulty and is now being cared for in Clearfield while an effort is being made to learn his identity.

—The handsome house of the Young Men's Republican club at Williamsport, is to be sold by the sheriff May 31st. Since it was erected in 1893 there has been a mortgage of \$15,000 against it. Failure of the club to pay the interest is the cause of foreclosure.

—The body of the dead man found near Sandy Ridge, on Tuesday, has been unquestionably identified as that of George Maxwell, who disappeared from Houtzdale in November. The circumstances attending his death will likely always remain a mystery.

—While Mrs. William Kennedy was going east on main line express last Sunday her little son threw her pocketbook out of the car window. The episode occurred between Millintown and Newport; but the pocket book has not yet been discovered. It contained \$40 dollars.

—Two Hungarians were cutting down a tree near Patton Wednesday. It was close to the road and fell just as H. D. Allison, a prominent hotel keeper of Patton, was driving past in his buggy. The tree struck the buggy and injured Allison so badly that he died in an hour.

—The Eighth Avenue Methodist Episcopal church at Altoona was dedicated with appropriate services Sunday. Bishop Fowler preached the dedicatory sermon. J. W. Powell, of Buffalo, who had charge of the finances, performed the same services for our Methodist people here last spring.

—The clerks employed at the various coal offices in Wilkesbarre have been put to work on the pay rolls. It is reported that all the employes at the mines in that region will be paid in full not later than Thursday and that when they receive their envelopes they will be told that they are no longer in the employ of the company.

—While descending a flight of steps at his home in Williamsport Thursday morning, Lewis Slipp slipped on a piece of matting and fell to the bottom. His neck was broken by the fall and he died. His 16 year old son, Conrad, who was asleep on the first floor, had been dreaming that his father was dead and was awakened by the crash of his father's fall.

—The Lock Haven Express says that Frank Sanderson on Sunday last found the skeleton of an Indian in a washout that had been made by recent floods near Lock Haven. It was in perfect preservation, but all the bones except those of the arm and skull crumbled to pieces when touched. Several flint arrow heads and vessels of clay were found near the skeleton.

—As a result of the strike among the coal miners the Erie Railroad company is curtailing its working forces along the entire system. The locomotive and car repair shops at Dunsmore, Pa., and Elmira, N. Y., were closed on Saturday night, and on Tuesday one-half of the working forces in all the shops on the system were suspended until further notice. Yard forces will also be decreased.

—Many of the Philadelphia and Erie trainmen will have to purchase new time pieces. They have been ordered to have their watches inspected by Inspector Miller, who is going over the system as early as possible. Every watch that is stem wound or stem set is condemned unless there is a catch lever. The reason is obvious. It is a precaution against watches being misset by contact in the trainmen's pocket.

—The jury in the libel suit of B. K. Fisher against editor Bangert, of the Falls *Creek Herald*, brought a verdict at Clearfield Thursday night acquitting Bangert. The *Herald* by cartoons and sharp articles charged Fisher with running a questionable hotel. Judge Gordon, who was one of the witnesses for the defendant, admitted that he had received from Fisher a dressed turkey before one of the courts at which Fisher received a liquor license. He also had been sent other presents by Fisher, but he returned them.

—"Bill" Phillips, the negro who shot and killed George Boney, another colored man, entered pleas of guilty of murder in the second degree for the killing of Boney and guilty of assault with intent to kill for shooting at Cora Williams, his mistress, at the court at Clearfield Thursday. The court accepted pleas and Phillips was sentenced to 15 years in the Western penitentiary on the murder plea and to three years to the same institution on the assault plea. The crimes were committed last July at the Fulton tunnel, on the line of the West Branch railroad.

—Dell McCready, aged 23 years, a Cambria and Clearfield brakeman, boarding at the Gladstone hotel, Altoona, was on his train Sunday, when it broke, and in attempting to stop some of the cars he was jolted off of the bumper and thrown under the wheels, which ran over his left leg above the knee. He was taken to the Altoona hospital where the crushed member was amputated. In addition he had a laceration of the scalp, which was dressed. McCready grew weaker as the evening wore on and succumbed to his injuries at 11:30 the same night.