

Ink Slings.

-If the price of coal keeps up old Santy won't find many chimneys too hot for him to descend.

-It often happens that people who are 'all run down at the heel' have their nose turned up most.

-It is looking already as if Reading's goose-bone prophet, who predicted an open winter, will have to try another goose before he will be able to make good.

-It was only to be expected that some one of the ambitious, daring Americans would out LORENZ LORENZ. It was done in an Allegheny hospital on Tuesday.

-Good manners, plenty of soap and water and a little shoe blacking will secure a position for any boy. Then all it will take to hold it and make it grow more valuable is energy.

-The miners got another example of how well the law treats them in Judge SIMONSON'S ruling declaring the store order act, passed in their interest? by the last Legislature, unconstitutional.

-The naval demonstration being made off Venezuela just now by Germany and England has the appearance of an international hold-up. Whatever it may be Venezuela should be taught that she must respect the rights of all men and pay her debts.

-The great violinist who thinks he has struck a note in cool language on his instrument has about the same head on him as the fellow who is looking for the chord of vibration that will start the universe tumbling. If he did strike anything extraordinary it was probably "the tune the old cow died on."

-Bad matches have caused so many fires in New York within the past year that after January first none but safety matches will be permissible in the city. Bad matches are bad things, not only in the commercial world, but in the matrimonial as well and they are discovered in both realms in the same way--by heads that fly off.

-Harrisburg sassify has decided to throw out a little towards the members of the next Legislature and extend the glad hand to the "real gents" in that body. How nice. Now there will be some real incentive to get to the Legislature, aside from the match box, pen knife, postage stamps and fifteen hundred planks allowed by the State.

-With the P. R. R. Co. planning to spend fifty million dollars on improvements next year the world is given conception of the almost incomprehensible resources of this greatest of railroad corporations. It is neither a trust, nor a monopoly, yet it is the most powerful factor in both the politics and business of Pennsylvania, because it renders the best possible public service and respects and protects its employees.

-The prosperity that some people are having is more imaginary than anything else. Of course it is pleasant to know that mills and factories are crowded with orders and rail-roads unable to handle the great volume of carrying business but pleasure at such evidences of prosperity don't make up the difference between the 10 per cent. increase in wages you have probably had and the 33 1/2 per cent. increase in the cost of living.

-It takes frequent spraying with musk or other cheap colognes to kill the "cod-fish" smell on the girl who looks down on the one who "is working in somebody's kitchen." All legitimate toil is honorable and the girl who works in somebody's home at two dollars a week has shorter hours, pleasanter environments and more chance to save money than the one who works in a factory or store at double the wages.

-Dr. SILAS C. SWALLOW'S Pennsylvania Methodist wants to know why the medical profession is making such an absurd noise over the social custom of kissing. The Methodist admits that there may be danger in it but concludes that inasmuch as it has always been practical it always will be. Right you are, doctor, that what nature put the osculatory organs on man for, other wise there would have been just a slit in the face, without the rich red tempting frame that adorns and encloses the mouth.

-That marriage is a good occupation to keep men out of mischief seems to be demonstrated by the jail statistics of the State of Ohio for the past year. Of ten thousand males arrested in that State during the year three-fifths of them were single. It would be interesting to know the relative degrees of their crimes, for we have a suspicion that, though the married men were not bad actors as often as their single brothers, when they did do something it was very much more desperate.

-The result of an investigation into the relative attention paid by men and women and by various creeds to christian duties, recently carried on in New York city, is decidedly significant. Out of a total membership of 685,000 in 306 churches about five-sevenths of the adults attend worship on Sunday; only one-third of the five-sevenths being men. And three-fourths of the entire attendance reported was from Catholic churches. Inasmuch as no one will deny the assertion that a church is the very best place for people on Sunday there seems to be no doubt as to which church is doing the best work in New York.

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Will Need to Cut Much Deeper.

If there is to be any ballot-reform, or any honest attempt to secure a betterment of our ballot laws, by the coming Legislature, it will need to go deeper and much further than an effort to abolish the ring which enables a citizen to mark his entire ballot with a single cross.

We make this assertion because every reference yet made to this matter dwells upon the necessity of abolishing the ring as the principle object to be attained, when the truth is the doing away with it would neither simplify the ballot nor cure a single wrong that now exists in our system of voting.

It is not the ring that breeds bribery; it protects intimidation, encourages frauds, and abets repeating, false counting, manipulated returns, and the other infamies practiced under the law, as it now is. For one of these it is responsible. It simply furnishes the great body of voters, the simplest and speediest way of marking their ballots. It is used by 95 per cent. of the voters of the State, and why a system that accommodates this large proportion of our citizens should be changed, and the ticket made more intricate and difficult to vote, simply to meet the demands of a few theorists and visionaries we cannot imagine.

If the present complicated and unsatisfactory method of voting is to be continued there are many other and much more important matters to consider than the abolishment of the ring.

The first is an amendment that will allow the people to make their own nominations and not place this power in the hands of the Dauphin county courts.

The second is such safe-guards about the ticket, when printed, that under no possible process copies can be obtained for the use of those who buy votes, mark the ticket in advance, and require the voter to return the one received from the election board as evidence that he deposited the marked one.

The third is the refusal of assistance in the booth to any voter except where visible physical disability would prevent the marking of the ballot.

And following these changes, such additional ones, if they can be formulated, as will guard against stuffed-ballot boxes, tampering with the ballots, allowing ballots to be cast by persons who cannot show the clearest right to vote, crooked counting, manipulating returns, destroying evidence of fraud, and the score and more ways that crooked officials and others work to change the honest vote of the people. To these must be added provisions for protecting the ballot boxes until cases in dispute are finally determined, and for the opening of these boxes and the recounting of the votes whenever there is a suspicion of wrong, or upon the request of a fixed number of qualified citizens.

All of these matters are of vastly more importance than the abolishment of the ring, and we would have much more faith in the good intentions of the so-called ballot-reformers if we could see their efforts directed against the real, rather than the imaginary, wrongs of the present system.

The WATCHMAN is, however, in favor of going further in the line of election reform than an attempt to correct and continue the present abortive system. It would adopt the machine methods of voting that have proven so successful in western New York, or it would go back to the old "vest pocket" system with booths into which voters could go to prepare their ballots, and would provide envelopes into which the ballot should be placed by the voter while in the booth, so that no one could know or see what kind of a ballot was cast by any citizen.

On these latter methods we may have more to say in the future but if "ballot reform" means only the "abolishment" of the ring, as the principle "reform," then count us "fernest" all the time.

The announcement that G. W. REES has been appointed to the position of deputy revenue collector left vacant by the death of the late Dr. JOHN HARTER, of Millheim, will give very general satisfaction in every quarter, with the possible exception of the immediate friends of the other applicants. Mr. REES is thoroughly qualified for the office. He is a man of strict integrity, courteous, full of energy and ambition to make a success of his every undertaking. Since it must be a Republican we know of no one who would give the customs service more careful or intelligent work than Mr. REES.

It is pleasant to know that Mr. QUAY is to run everything in the next Legislature. He has already announced who the speaker of the House is to be, who will be the members of PENNYPACKER'S cabinet and concludes by saying he is too busy now getting Oklahoma, Arizona and New Mexico admitted to Statehood to bother with the lesser offices. When QUAY runs things in Pennsylvania everyone knows exactly what to expect. There are never any niggers in the QUAY woodpile.

Roosevelt's Trust Cure.

The anti-trust movement about which there was so much talk a few weeks ago has dwindled down already to an innocuous measure with no purpose except publicity. This harmless little bill has been prepared by Representative LITTLEFIELD, of Maine, a keen lawyer and amiable gentleman who would probably be willing to accept a retainer from any prosperous trust which is willing to pay generously for faithful services in Congress or anywhere else. The bill provides that once a year, Sept. 1st, every corporation in the nature of a trust shall file with the inter-state commerce commission a statement giving its capitalization, the volume and character of its business, its receipts and expenditures and one or two other unimportant things.

It is understood that this measure represents President ROOSEVELT'S notion of restraining the trusts. It probably also reflects accurately the idea which Mr. J. PIERPONT MORGAN head of the coal trust, Mr. JAMES J. HILL president of the railroad trust, Mr. JOHN D. ROCKAFELLER president of the Standard oil trust and Mr. CHARLES M. SCHWAB president of the steel trust, hold with respect to the matter. Each one of these gentlemen could laugh at such a penalty for robbing the public under the sanction of law, for all it would cost would be the wages of a clerk for transcribing the figures from the books of his trust to sheets of paper for filing. There is to be a tax of one per cent. on the value of shares for which no payment can be shown but that would be a dead letter, for not long ago Mr. SCHWAB was able to state under oath that every dollar of the stock and bonds of the Steel trust represents actual value. He took sick soon afterwards, probably from overworking his conscience.

Everybody with an ounce of brains understands that the only way to restrain trusts is to encourage competition and the only possible means of doing that under existing conditions is to take the tariff tax off the products of the trusts. That would compel them to sell their product at a fair price and with an obligation on them to pay interest on bonds and dividends on stocks to the amount of about four fold their actual capitalization and capacity they would starve while the competitors, organized on legitimate lines and operated on business principles, would prosper. But the Republican party will never consent to that kind of a cure so long as the trusts contribute generously to the corruption fund.

Life and Death of Mr. Reed.

IT THOMAS BRACKET REED, whose death at an early hour on Sunday morning sent a wave of regret over the country from Maine to California had the courage of his convictions four years ago, the recent history of America might have been practically reversed. Mr. REED was then the strongest figure in the public life of the United States. In intellect as well as in stature he towered above those about him. But when he saw wrong surging over the land as the newly adopted policy of his party he hadn't the nerve to turn it back, as he might have done. He couldn't approve because he was honest and patriotic but he laid down, so to speak, and let it roll over him. In other words he resigned the Speakership and his seat in Congress, because he hadn't the courage to oppose the folly of reciprocity and the crime of imperialism which he saw coming and abhorred.

Mr. REED was a man of marvelous power and wonderful gifts. A metropolitan contemporary commenting on his death the other day, remarked that he was no orator. Literally speaking that is true. That is to say he was without the arts of tongue and voice and gesture which give to the orator his power. Yet he was the most successful debater on the floor of Congress during the long period of his service in the House of Representatives. This fact was attributable to his marvelous command of language, extraordinary mental agility and the keenness of his satire. Others were more ready with invective and equally gifted in vocabulary. But no one else of his day and generation could out and slash like him in a running encounter and no other blows told like his on an adversary. He rarely, if ever, made a wrong aim.

Probably one reason for this is that his reputation for integrity was unassailable. No man ever for a moment doubted the honesty of THOMAS BRACKET REED. Men differed with him but not as they differed with insincere men. His opinions commanded respect, even from those who were most bitterly opposed to him in politics and policies. It was for this reason, no doubt, that he was able to do things which no other man would dare attempt. Because of this he was permitted to strike down and trample under foot parliamentary traditions which had been honored almost from the earliest days of civilization. Because of this, too, he could have turned the tide of folly and worse, which began its flood after the Spanish war, if he had had the courage to stand against it, but he was afraid and let it rush on.

The Case of Judge Smith.

Judge SMITH of the Superior court refuses to be "examined" by the commission recently appointed by Governor STONE and we are at a loss to understand how the act of 1901 entitled "an Act to provide for the removal of judges of the Supreme, Superior, Common Pleas and Orphan's courts, permanently disqualified by reason of physical or mental disability to perform their judicial functions and duties," can be brought to bear on him. The act authorizes the Governor to appoint the commission, all right, and for its report. It provides for the maintenance of the infirm jurists by half pay compensation during the remainder of their terms of office and for the appointment of their successors. But all those provisions are contingent on the resignation of the judge, after he has been declared physically or mentally disqualified permanently by the commission.

Judge SMITH, however, refused to be examined by the commission and proved that he wasn't a fit subject for examination because he has been on the bench and performed judicial duties within a month, whereas the act declares that he must be absent and unable for a year before a commission can act or even be named. In the case in question, however, the refusal to be examined made no difference. The committee reported, without that formality, that the Judge is permanently disqualified and there is nothing left to complete the fare except for him to resign. But Judge SMITH says he won't do that. Probably the Governor will remove him any way, for the title of the act provides for removal though the text makes no mention of such a thing. The friends of Judge SMITH and the public generally will watch with curious interest further developments in the matter.

There are only two ways to remove a Judge who has been elected by the people. One is to impeach him for crimes or misdemeanors and the other is through action of the Governor upon the address of two-thirds of both Houses of the Legislature. Neither of them has been adopted, however, and are not likely to be. In the first place Judge SMITH has committed no crimes or misdemeanors and, secondly, the Legislature is not likely to ask for the removal of a jurist of high character and good ability for no fault of his own. The removal of Mayors and other municipal officials moreover, through the medium of "ripper" legislation last session, was about all the work of that kind that will be undertaken even by the machine during the present generation and Governor STONE will probably be obliged to hunt up some kind of currency with which to pay his political obligations.

The Speakership Decided.

Information from Washington and Philadelphia is to the effect that Senator QUAY has determined on the Speakership of the next House at Harrisburg and happily justifies the belief that there is to be less of the spirit of piracy in the next Legislature than there was in the last. That is to say HENRY F. WALTON, of Philadelphia, is to be the Speaker and though the machine managers say "he can be trusted," which is ominous, his reputation is such as to justify the hope that he will neither be as obedient nor as brutal as MARSHALL was during his term in the chair. He would probably have balked on the franchise grab.

But even if Mr. WALTON were altogether the fittest man in the body for the office his appointment by QUAY would be an insult to the intelligence of the Legislature. Even if he were the only man in the party capable of performing the duties the announcement of his selection in the way it has been made would be a reproach on every member of the body. The constitution provides that the Speaker shall be chosen by the Representatives. The custom of all the years since the foundation of the government, until within the past few that QUAY has exercised absolute control, is outraged by this assumption of power in the matter.

If there was an atom of manhood in the Republican party this usurpation of authority would be resisted. The combined vote of Philadelphia and Allegheny county in the Republican caucus will not constitute near a majority. Therefore some and a considerable number of the country members must acquiesce in QUAY'S impudent action to give it force and effect. There are several country Members quite as capable as Mr. WALTON of filling the office. Both KUNKEL, of Harrisburg, and McCLAIN, of Lancaster, are said to be fully as well qualified by ability and learning and have had just as much experience. Why don't the country Members combine therefore and teach the boss a wholesome lesson. There will never be such an opportunity again.

The curtain is about ready to ring up on another opera bouffe war in South America.

Reed and McKinley.

The Harrisburg "Telegraph," commenting upon the death of ex-Speaker THOMAS B. REED, says: "He was one of the greatest men the country ever knew. A contemporary of WILLIAM MCKINLEY, he was the compeer of the martyr President in intellectual vigor and political acumen." That is about the most unmitigated rot that ever got into a newspaper in this broad land.

WILLIAM MCKINLEY was never in Mr. REED'S class, in any respect. Intellectually the ex-Speaker was as far above and beyond the late President as HENRY CLAY was beyond and above MARK HANNA. REED would have been nominated for President when MCKINLEY was if commercialism hadn't become the dominant influence in the Republican party, which resulted in buying the nomination of MCKINLEY because the money kings were afraid of REED. There was nothing in common between REED and MCKINLEY, except that they were both protectionists. If REED had been nominated and elected President, the Spanish war would have been fought just the same, for the atrocities in Cuba had made that inevitable. But after that the lines would have been different. REED would no more have had imperialism than he would have endorsed slavery.

Straining at a Gnat While Swallowing a Camel.

From the Lancaster Intelligencer. The Postmaster General in his recent report gives very unsatisfactory treatment to the widely recognized abuse of the postal service in the shipment of a great weight of printed matter at low rates, which were fixed by Congress with the idea of encouraging the dissemination of information tending to the public intelligence may be properly considered worthy of encouragement by a low postal rate; but while the authorities balk at trifles, it is well known that there are tons of printed matter thus distributed that might very well be ruled out with great saving in postal administration. They seem to work by that old rule of straining at a gnat and swallowing a camel. A little folder issued by a pastor to his flock is sternly wiped out as offending, in some mysterious way, against the letter of the law, while ponderous volumes and wagon loads of thinly disguised quack medicine circulars, or magazines that have more advertising pages than reading matter, pass easily through the mails and are delivered to the most remote and difficult parts of our domain at the expense of Uncle Sam.

Of Course He Should.

From the Lancaster Intelligencer. The statement that at least half of the silver dollars in circulation are counterfeit is made by a New York banker on the strength of his own limited observations, and of assurance received by him from other bankers, who agreed that about half the silver dollars turned in by them at the treasury were returned as counterfeit. This proportion of counterfeit silver dollars is probably local and exceptional, as there would otherwise be too many vast and mysteriously accumulated fortunes to account for. In any case, the report would be more disquieting if it were not understood that these counterfeiters have as much silver in them as the government's silver made dollars, which the government is pledged to hold to the gold standard. If there are forty millions or more of these counterfeiters, so accurate that only a few experts can tell the difference, many people might seem to be in danger of losing a whole lot of money; but if Uncle Sam can't protect his own people from suffering by no fault of their own, his broad shoulders should bear any loss of that sort, and charge it up to the cost of maintaining the gold standard.

Have Forgotten the Foul Mouth.

From the Clinton Democrat. Isn't it queer how soon the Republican organs forget the sins of their leaders. Only a few short years ago when "Joe" Cannon was defeated for re-election by the same constituency now behind him the Republican organs all over the country said they merited defeat and ran big black headlines on their election news page about "Foul-Mouthed Cannon Going Down in Disgrace." During the session preceding his defeat Mr. Cannon got off a "joke" on the floor of the house which had the effect of clearing the ladies' gallery instantly. Now the same Cannon has the endorsement of almost the entire Republican party for speaker for the next congress.

Lets Us Have a Memorial Hospital in Bellefonte.

From the Clarion Democrat. The best memorials that are left in these times in honor of the distinguished men who die are something like that proposed for the late Bishop Taylor of the M. E. Church. The Methodists of Pennsylvania, and especially those who were friends of Bishop William Taylor, who died recently in California, will be asked to assist in the work of raising a \$2,000,000 memorial fund for him. The movement has been started by the board of trustees of Taylor University, Richmond, Indiana, and the idea is to have the memorial take the form of a building on the university campus and to be given to the use of the school which bears the Bishop's name.

Justice to Chicago.

From the Philadelphia Press. An effort to form a Potato Peelers' Protective Alliance in Chicago brings out the fact that there are between 3,000 and 4,000 potato peelers in that city. This information may help to correct the opinion that Chicagoans are accustomed to eat potatoes with the jackets on.

Spawls from the Keystone.

-Daniel Green Jr., and Miss Lena Spencer aged 14 years, of Andrews Settlement, Potter county, were married by a Shongo justice of the peace, a few days ago.

-The Elk Tanning Co.'s plant at Ridgway was destroyed by fire on Saturday night, incurring a very heavy loss. The leech house was the only part of the plant that did not burn.

-While attempting to replace a belt in a factory at Clearfield, J. S. Fox was whirled around the shaft and hurled against the wall. His clothes were torn off and three ribs were broken.

-John Slavin, of 612 Baker street, Williamsport, is sick with smallpox. The man came home sick from the Reynoldsville silk mill, where he had been working. His home has been quarantined.

-Young Speece, the Osceola lad who was at Clearfield last week convicted of burglary, and who was remanded to jail to await sentence, has since made a confession, and it is said he has implicated several others.

-Twenty miners were killed and eight were badly injured by an explosion in a South Wilkesbarre mine on Tuesday. The explosion was caused by a miner dropping a stick of dynamite, which ignited the gas.

-An indictment was on Tuesday returned against the city of Easton for failing to keep four of its streets in proper condition. Should conviction follow, the fine imposed will be used to improve the streets complained of.

-H. H. Mullin, Republican, who was defeated for representative in the general assembly from Cameron county, proposes to contest the election of Assemblyman E. K. Blumle, and is getting signers to a petition for that purpose.

-Six carloads of stallions, 115 in all, passed through Tyrone Friday as third section of Pacific express. The animals had been bought in France for the United States government and are being taken west to be distributed at the army posts.

-The health authorities of the lower part of Schuylkill county are fearful of an epidemic of smallpox. At Schuylkill Haven the number of cases is mounting towards a score. The Almshouse Board refuses to receive tramps and vagrants and have shut off visitors.

-The trustees of the new University of Southern Pennsylvania at Martinsburg, Blair county, have received a letter from President Roosevelt extending his good wishes and informing them that he would probably accept their invitation to participate in the dedicatory ceremonies next spring.

-At Lewistown, a crowd of a hundred men and boys last week captured the carriage containing Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Whistler, who had just been married. Blowing horns and ringing bells, a procession was formed that forced the couple to traverse all the principal streets of the town.

-J. H. Allport, of Hastings, formerly of Phillipsburg, Conrad Wenderoth, of Oresson, and two Philadelphia physicians returned from a hunting trip in the Rocky mountains this week. They killed four bears, two wolves, four mountain lions, twelve foxes, twenty two deer and three wildcats.

-Felix Michalofsky and his son Joseph have entered suit for \$10,000 and \$20,000 respectively against the Pittsburg Screw and Bolt Co. The boy lost all the fingers but one of his left hand while working on a threading machine, and it is alleged he was not advised of the danger of his occupation.

-Judge John M. Bailey, of Huntingdon, Saturday certified a suit of the county of Huntingdon against the county of Mifflin, in the common pleas court of Blair county. This is a suit instituted by Huntingdon county to compel Mifflin county to pay one half the expense of a commission appointed to determine a boundary line between the two counties.

-A verdict of \$2,800 has just been given against the borough of Pottsville in a damage suit caused by a defective pavement. The plaintiff was a woman who sustained injuries by a fall, and at the last meeting of council the city attorney was ordered to institute a suit against the owner of the property on whose sidewalk the injury occurred to recover the judgment, costs and expenses.

"I have left you forever and hope never to see your face again," wrote Mrs. Clara Myers to her husband, John S. Myers, after she had parted from him as the result of a quarrel. Mr. Myers died afterwards, and when his wife demanded her widow's exemption of \$300 out of her husband's estate this letter was offered in evidence against her claim. Judge Bell has filed an opinion holding that the wife, by deserting her husband, had forfeited her claim to the widow's exemption.

-A 2 day old boy baby, abandoned by his parent or parents, was found on the rear porch of the Altoona hospital Saturday morning by one of the attaches and taken into the institution. The infant was wrapped up in some clothing and was in a basket when found. Tracks leading away from the vicinity seemed to indicate that the baby had been brought from out Fairway way and placed on the porch but a short time before he was found. The infant is being cared for until he is given a home. Several persons have been after the little fellow.

-President of the Altoona board of health, Dr. J. M. Sheedy, has made an information before Mayor Hoyer charging Rev. J. W. Bain, pastor of the First Presbyterian church, with having violated the rules of the board of health in not making a proper return of the marriages performed by him during the quarter ending September 30th. The case was set for a hearing Monday afternoon, before the mayor, but neither the defendant or his attorney appeared. Rev. Bain was ill at his home with lumbago and could not leave his bed. The hearing was, therefore, postponed until next week.

-The freight track is now the heaviest in years on the P. and E. In order to assist in getting the freight over the road, five crews were sent Sunday from Renovo to Sunbury to bring trains to Renovo. This was made necessary owing to the large business that is being done on the road, and with all the crews on from Sunbury there was not enough men to handle the traffic. The middle division men left early Sunday morning and took in five heavily loaded freight trains during that night and Monday. This was a responsible task to undertake for men who had never run over that end of the road before, but they got through all right.