

Ink Stings.

-To-morrow spring will be here. Look out for rough weather.

-Governor PENNYPACKER's effort to sprout apportionment seed in legislative soil don't seem to be a howling success.

--The only thing there seems to be no doubt about in the BURDICK murder mystery is the fact that BURDICK is dead.

-On the 1st of April the President goes away to be quiet for two months and the Legislature quits for good on the 16th. Really we hear you shouting, hallelujah! already.

-President ELLIOT declares that no man can work too hard. He evidently ensures the rest of mankind by the fellow who runs the ROOSEVELT family press bureau.

-The strenuousness of the efforts of the Democratic minority of Harrisburg, to force ballot reform legislation has not been such as to create much hand-clapping among the boys in the back-pews.

-The Republican State convention is to be held three months earlier than usual, this year because Mr. DURHAM has to go to Carlsbad. Truly it is a great party whose actions are governed by the necessities of a pair of disordered kidneys.

-Lewistown is said to be without a cent of debt. One visit to the place would convince the man who knows little about municipal conditions that there is no reason why it should be. There are no indications of anything ever having been spent on it.

-Why shouldn't we be thankful? Congress has adjourned and the Bronco buster of the White House promises to hide himself in the wilds of the woolly-west for two months. Really it looks as if the country was to have peace and a rest for sixty days.

-One of our exchanges states that Congressman MORRELL, of Philadelphia will drive a daily stage coach between Devon and that city during the coming summer. This fact shows that General MORRELL has at last struck a vocation, about the size of his qualification.

-Germany has decided to spend \$750,000 on her display at the St. Louis World's Fair. Quite a considerable expenditure for a foreign country but the brewers of Pilsen, Pliner and Wurtzburger, that come from the Kaiser's realm will get that all back and more before the fair is half over.

-It is our deliberate thought--that Representative BUMBLE's premium for baby-makers, will be a poor inducement to struggle for a large family while present trust prices are staring people in the face. If he could offer a discount on these his premium "biz" might go.

-If the Pennsylvania Legislature doesn't soon settle down to the transaction of some of the real business it was elected to transact the public will begin a move to divert the millions they have appropriated for a new capital building to the erection of a kinder-garten for would-be statesmen.

-If "all things come" to "those who wait," the Democratic members at Harrisburg ought to be in sight of something pretty soon. They have waited so patiently, and so quietly, for that ballot reform promised by Mr. QUAY that people have begun to wonder if that is really what they are there for.

-Governor PENNYPACKER's attempt to throw dust in the eyes of the Irish at that St. Patrick's day banquet in Harrisburg on Tuesday night might have been more successful if the average Irishman was not already acquainted with that old German to ast that runs like this: "Here's luck to the Dutch let the Irish pick rags."

-The coal miners who are trying now to adopt a new schedule of wages for the coming year need have no concern about asking too much. The fancy prices of coal last winter are still staring the public in the face from checks stubs and so far as the consumer is concerned he would as soon see the miner get a bit of his money as have the operator keep it all.

-The coroner's inquest is developing little of further interest than has already been told in the mysterious Buffalo murder case. All the evidence, from whatever source elicited only serves to convince the public that the moral atmosphere, that pervades the so-called social set of the Pan-Am erican city, is as impure as the filthy water that Philadelphia's ring furnish her seemingly satisfied people.

-Mr. BRYAN's Commoner is of the opinion that the gentlemen who have spent the past eight or ten years voting the Republican ticket should be given very little consideration in naming a candidate in 1904. To say the least, they shouldn't expect to have much voice in the matter, but if we expect to elect the candidate we name in 1904 we should be careful to name one who will not give these same gentlemen an excuse for voting the Republican ticket for four years more.

-Inasmuch as Bellefonte has never asked a cent from the State the appropriation committee of the Legislature should look very favorable on the bill now before it asking for support for the Bellefonte hospital. Within a radius of ten miles we have thirty five hundred men at work at exceptionally hazardous employment, and there is no questioning the need of a hospital at this point, nor is it asking too much of the State to give this small appropriation, especially when she gives with such lavish hand to others.

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Spoooner's Foolish Notion.

Senator SPOONER, of Wisconsin, addressed the Senate on the Isthmian canal question and in a speech of about an hour assumed to answer everything that had been said against the Panama scheme during two months of earnest debate. SPOONER is just that sort of a fellow. He thinks he knows it all and after his opinion is expressed the argument is closed. He reminds us of the late General JOHN A. LOGAN who was somewhat self-opinionated himself. When the greenback question was uppermost in the public mind and was being discussed in Congress at great length General LOGAN arose one day and after stating that he had given two hours of careful thought to the subject the night before he was prepared to settle it finally and forever. Then he settled it in favor of the greenback.

SPOONER made quite as ridiculous a figure of himself in the Senate the other day. We have no sympathy with Senator MORGAN, of Alabama, or his interminable filibustering on the canal question. He has shown a lack of both sincerity and intelligence in the discussion of the question, for after years of argument in favor of a canal he finally turned against it because the route which he preferred was not adopted. In other words he wanted a canal on his own terms or not at all which is the rule or ruin policy. But during his long and somewhat tedious talk he raised many grave objections to the Panama route which SPOONER didn't answer in his short speech and which he probably can't answer at all. But because he expressed his views and declared his satisfaction with the treaty he thinks that's the end of all opposition to it.

As a matter of fact, however, the treaty, like all the instruments drawn by Secretary HAY is slipshod and dangerous. It proposes to give a vast amount of money for the use of the territory through which the ditch will run but guarantees the government which pays the sum no sovereignty or security over the property. It doesn't even fix the amount as final and actually leaves it open for future litigation and probably vast additional payments. As a matter of fact SPOONER's speech settled nothing and in no respect strengthened the position of the administration in regard to the affair. The treaty ought to have been ratified as it was but every amendment suggested by the Democratic minority ought to have been adopted and the time will come when the country will regret that they weren't.

A Creditable Veto.

Governor PENNYPACKER has wisely vetoed the atrocious bill to authorize the County Commissioners in Philadelphia and Pittsburgh to fill vacancies on election boards. The Governor considerably gives as a reason for his action that the measure is unconstitutional. It invested the Commissioners with authority to determine the qualifications of election officers, which the Governor declares is a judicial prerogative and as the constitution declares that "all judicial power shall be vested in a Supreme court, in courts of Common Pleas, courts of Oyer and Terminer and General Jail Delivery, courts of Quarter Sessions of the Peace, Orphans' courts, Magistrates' courts, and in such other courts as the General Assembly may from time to time establish," his Excellency is of the opinion that the bill is unconstitutional.

If the Governor had been more candid, and less polite, he would have frankly declared that he could not sign the bill for the sufficient reason that it is an iniquitous measure conceived and brought out for an iniquitous purpose. The machine managers know that sooner or later the people of Pennsylvania outside of the two great cities of Philadelphia and Pittsburgh will revolt against the political immoralities which have kept it in power for a dozen years notwithstanding an adverse majority, and that when that occurs it will be necessary to increase the fraudulent vote. With the election officers dependent on the county commissioners for their tenure of office that would become an easy matter. The commissioners would create election boards who would commit any crime and back it up. But it is bad form to look a gift horse in the mouth and we shall not quarrel with the Governor on account of the reasons which influenced him as long as he has vetoed the bill. By that act he has prevented a carnival of corruption annually in the future and probably laid the foundation for a restoration of the State to self-government which it has not enjoyed for many years. It was a splendid act and goes a long way toward vindicating the claim of Judge PENNYPACKER's friends, expressed during the campaign that his acts as Governor would be guided by his own conscience. One act doesn't make a record, it is true, and the virtue of the Governor as revealed in this veto may not be enduring. But it is gratifying, nevertheless, and we thank the Governor for it.

This marvelously mild spring weather suggests the idea that the other fellow has started in to do his utmost to undo what the ground-hog did during his six weeks away. -Subscribe for the WATCHMAN.

An Officer Needed.

The Governor proposes one new office which the general public will agree is sadly needed. That is he suggests that there ought to be a "legislative attorney." In Great Britain, the Governor adds, there is in the parliament a body known as the "draughting commission." Its business is to prepare the bills presented for consideration and see that they are properly constructed, grammatically speaking. This body was created many centuries ago. At that time very few of the "Lords and gentlemen" of parliament took the trouble to learn to read or write. They learned to ride horseback, and swear, and drink, and wrangle, and kill each other on the slightest provocation. But reading and writing was an effeminate accomplishment which was much beneath them. On that account it was necessary for them to have some body or some agent to prepare their measures of legislation in order that they might be intelligible to the public. The "draughting commission" was the result.

Some years ago an adventurer of the name of J. EDWARD ADDICKS, who had a short time previously taken up his residence in Delaware, conceived the notion of breaking into politics. He had already acquired vast wealth from the operation of a monopoly in supplying gas to the several cities of the State and wanted to go to the United States Senate. With this curious idea in mind he opened a barrel of coin and bought seats for most of the employes of his several gas plants in the Legislature. Most of them were illiterate like the English Knights of the Middle Ages but they could tell what ADDICKS wanted by signs. They served the purpose for which they were elected, therefore, excellently, except for the trifling matter that they couldn't prepare bills and it is part of the duty of a legislator to introduce a bill or two during each session. To remedy the trouble Mr. ADDICKS had a bill providing for the appointment of a "legislative attorney" prepared and passed. The duty of the attorney, according to the provisions of the bill, was to prepare measures of legislation. That equalized conditions in the Legislature. The literate and illiterate stood on a common level and the ignorant was precisely as good as the scholarly before the law of Delaware.

Having discovered since his induction into office that none of the Republican leaders in the General Assembly are capable of constructing a measure of legislation according to the ordinary laws of syntax, Governor PENNYPACKER has reached the conclusion that the office of "legislative attorney" is not only greatly needed but cheap at any price. Pennsylvania has always felt pride in the educational attainments of her citizens. She was among the first to introduce the public schools, and even while the average citizen of Massachusetts was plodding along in the densest ignorance the Pennsylvanian was equipped with an understanding of the "three Rs." In advance of any other State, moreover, the Keystone developed the school system and introduced not only higher mathematics but geography, grammar and in the larger cities even the classics. Therefore when Governor PENNYPACKER discovered that out of a total of 199 Republicans in the General Assembly there appeared to be not one who could write a measure of legislation in correct language he was sadly humiliated and jumped to the conclusion that we need a "legislative attorney."

The much talked of BUMBLE bill, which proposed giving money prizes and medal decorations to mothers of large families in Pennsylvania, has brought out a counter proposition that would let the father share in the spoils of abnormal procreative propensities. Census statistics show no reason for fearing a falling ebb in our population, but possibly these measures would make good laws for they might have a tendency to cut down the number of betrayal cases that disgrace our quarter session courts. If the prizes were large enough perhaps the fathers of these offsprings might arise to the emergencies and claim their own.

The Shamrock III has been lunched at Dumbarton, Scotland, and Sir THOMAS LIFTON is convinced that "with just a little slice of luck the battered old mug will find a resting place on this side of the water." Right you are Sir THOMAS! It will be luck and nothing else that will do it, for America's yacht building skill has so far outsailed yours on the other side that it is a foregone conclusion that "the battered old mug," as you call it, will stay right here unless we have an extraordinary run of bad luck.

Governor PENNYPACKER's evident intention to clean out the agricultural department at Harrisburg is probably inspired by the offence his bucolic sense of smell takes at the odor of oleo. -The Panama canal treaty having been ratified by the United States Senate the great inter-ocean water way is up to the man with the spade. -Winter hasn't shown any inclination to linger in the lap of Spring so the "man with the hoe" is already abroad in the land.

Legislature and Law.

Governor PENNYPACKER declared in an interview published the other day that the Legislature has no right to violate the law. That is an obvious truth because laws are binding upon all alike. But the Legislature does violate the law frequently and grossly and the only one who can prevent such things is the Governor himself. If he sets his head and heart against such infractions of the organic law as are occurring every day in both branches of the General Assembly they will be stopped. The Legislators who thus disregard their oaths of office and their duties as citizens are influenced by a desire to rescue certain legislation. When they find out that violating law defeats rather than promotes their subject they will quit it promptly.

There is very little conscience in the present Legislature. Most of the leaders in both branches are like perverts. At least they act as if they are without the faculty of discriminating between right and wrong. But if the Governor would take the Legislative record of each bill that has been improperly passed and after pointing out the criminal processes which have been employed to compass its enactment attach a veto for the reason that having been illegally passed it is invalid, the unlawful methods would soon be abandoned. The crooks who violate the law don't want their legislative pets killed off.

Of course PENNYPACKER won't do this as most of the iniquitous legislation enacted by devious and unlawful methods have been suggested by and are for the benefit of QUAY, and if Cousin SAM should interfere with them there would be a wave of indignation start in Florida which would centre on the hill in Harrisburg that would make him wish he had never been born. QUAY is liberal minded enough to let any friend of his talk as freely as he likes and on any subject as long as he doesn't thereby interfere with the "old man's" plans. Denouncing the methods of legislation, therefore, is all right, as long as nothing is done which interferes with the plans of the machine and talk doesn't work such results. But there will be no action.

From ANDREW J. CRUSE, who is now located in Denver, Col., we received the article urging PATTISON for President, which appears in another column of this issue. While the WATCHMAN does not feel disposed to take up the discussion of presidential possibilities at this time nevertheless this article shows that there is still a strong PATTISON sentiment in the West.

Princess Alice Sails Away.

The event of the week has been the sailing away of the President's daughter, Princess ALICE as she may as well be called went on a visit to Porto Rico and her sailing was made a great event. We all remember the ceremony which attended the departure of the Prince and Princess of Wales a couple of years ago, their destination being Australia and after that other colonial possessions of the British crown. There was a vast crowd at the station when they left London and a still more enthusiastic multitude at the wharf from which they sailed and in both places the people were generous in their popular acclaim. It was a delightful incident and made the heart of King EDWARD glad.

But that event was nothing compared with the ceremonies which attended the departure of Princess ALICE ROOSEVELT the other day. She likewise was destined to one of the insular possessions of her father's empire and though the crowd may have been no greater and the enthusiasm even less the pomp and circumstances were infinitely superior. There was a squadron of soldiers, an army of detectives, a host of secret service men and every essential element of royalty attending the event. A military salute was fired as the Princess approached the government vessel on which sumptuous quarters had been prepared for her and her suite and the commanding officer welcomed her on deck with the obsequiousness of a long practised servitude.

We are moving forward in shape toward the destiny which now seems inevitable. That is to say there are signs on all sides that the Empire is approaching and unless the thoughtful people of the country put a check upon the present tendencies it will not be long until, like France, the Republic is converted into a monarchy. It has been said that ROOSEVELT's inclinations don't run in that direction and his tendency to gypsy life is cited as evidence of that fact. But the pomp and circumstance of the Empire attends him in all his movements and the substance would be more welcome than the shadow.

The Panama canal treaty having been ratified by the United States Senate the great inter-ocean water way is up to the man with the spade. -Winter hasn't shown any inclination to linger in the lap of Spring so the "man with the hoe" is already abroad in the land.

Pattison for President.

Dr. Howard F. Hawkins in the Denver, Col. Post, "A Call to Arms," in a recent issue of the Commoner, is the writer's only excuse for coming into print. It must be admitted by every thinking man that the Democratic party is hopelessly divided, and wherein lies the cause and what will unite us? To the former question I would answer that we have too many leaders and that they are each and all leaders in a distinct and opposite direction.

The writer is and always has been a supporter of Democratic principles, having worked through pride and voted for both Mr. Cleveland and Mr. Bryan, but for Mr. Bryan to define and state the necessary qualifications for a worthy disciple of Democracy I enter my protest.

Mr. Bryan goes too far when he contends that a Democrat must believe in the Kansas City platform in its entirety and that the silver question must take precedence over all the other issues. Any man of any party who believes in his party principle in every iota, is too easily suited.

My contentions are that for any person to be a "good" Democrat it is only necessary to believe in the Democratic platform as a whole over that of the opposition parties.

True "Mr. Bryan is to be reckoned with," but none the less it is true of Mr. Cleveland, as past events have amply proven and about both of their supporters we are seriously crippled.

Both gentlemen owe to humanity as well as their Democracy to support as president whoever the next national Democratic convention shall nominate, for only in the Democratic party the common people can hope for redress from the oppression of the trusts, the corporations and the money power.

While a firm believer in the unlimited election of silver I hope that in the coming election this issue will be relegated to the rear and that some question of more importance will be brought to the front, and while we may all differ as to the relative merits of certain issues, that fact should not mar our Democracy in the least.

One does not have to scrutinize the Commoner very closely to see that if an opportunity presents itself Mr. Bryan will be found guilty of the same offence for which he has been reprimanding Mr. Cleveland for the past six years, namely, if any man receives the nomination on the Democratic ticket for president whose ideas are incompatible with those of his own he will come conspicuously by his silent, if not active opposition, and thereby help to elect a Republican president.

This sort of Democracy I deplore, and it seems to me that wherein lies our only hope for success is not in reorganization, but rather in harmonization of the conflicting element in our own party. This cannot be accomplished by nominating either Cleveland, Bryan, or Hill therefore it behooves the conservative element to lend its influence to selecting a man of suitable qualifications, a man who has never caused the wrath of some leader to fall upon him, a man who can hyp-hanna-lyze the people, a man who can lead us in unison, a man who is broad enough in mind to council with friends and neighbors even if they differ in some insignificant point.

Then and then only can we hope or expect success at the coming election, and I am sure that such a personage with the capabilities is easy found.

Dr. George Muffley, of Watsontown, appeared before Judge Voris Auten Tuesday and asked, on grounds of several technical errors, that he be relieved of paying a fine of \$15 imposed by Justice Wagner. The fine was imposed at the rate of 16¢ cents a word used in swearing at a party of workmen. The judge refused the request, and ordered Muffley to pay the fine.

Herbert Pines, an extra engineer, was killed at the Gallitzin tower Tuesday evening. Pines who was firing on the trip on which he met his death, was engaged coupling up engines at the tower and was struck by an engine he did not see, knocked down and run over. The body was picked up, taken to Gallitzin station and then conveyed to Altoona. The dead man was aged about 25 years and his home is near Lewisburg, Union county.

The great scrap for the Clearfield post-office between John H. Martin and the Chases is to be pulled off Friday afternoon at the several election houses between the hours of 2 and 8 p. m. The articles of agreement were recently signed by the principals and attested by witnesses. Only the Republicans will be allowed to vote in this novel contest, which is the outcome of bitter strife, and has even been carried into the administration's ranks at Washington.

At the funeral of William Stephon in Pine Creek township, Clinton county, Sunday, owing to bad roads, the hearse was drawn by four horses, something unusual at a funeral. Mr. Stephon's illness was of short duration, and from a singular origin. It is stated he had been sick but twelve hours, and not even the physician in attendance considered the illness serious. Mr. Stephon had been constructing a hay rack the day before his death and was using a brace and bit. The pressure of the brace against his abdomen is thought to have burst a blood vessel in the stomach.

Spawls from the Keystone.

-It costs \$153.89 to hang murderer Grethor at Stroudsburg.

-Ground was broken on Monday for Wilkesbarre's new \$1,000,000 court house.

-Thirty-eight men imported from Louisville to Pittsburg, to take striking bridge workers' places, joined the strikers.

-Scranton capitalists will soon reopen the abandoned Hillman colliery, near Wilkesbarre, and employ several hundred hands.

-The bill to prevent the sale of cigarettes or cigarette paper to persons under 21 years of age, passed finally in the State senate on Monday night.

-The York postoffice cleared over \$40,000 last year and now eleven clerks have had their salaries raised from \$9,600 to \$10,800 in the aggregate.

-A very distressing fatality occurred at Houtzdale last week, when a little child of William Moore fell into a pan of boiling starch and was scalded to death.

-With wagons already loaded, Pottsville's icemen struck for a raise of wages from \$9 to \$12 a week, and their bosses were glad to compromise, after delivering all the melting ice themselves.

-There are twenty-three cases of typhoid fever and twelve of grip at the Lutheran home at Loysville. The well children will be sent to their relatives. Five trained nurses from Baltimore are now in attendance.

-Mrs. Sarah O'Rourke, the oldest person in DuBois, and the oldest pensioner carried on the Civil war pension roll of the United States, died Tuesday. Deceased was born in Ireland, August 27th, 1799, and was there over 104 years old.

-Miss Annie M. W. Pennypacker, daughter of Governor Pennypacker, who has pursued a three years' course in nursing at the Pennsylvania hospital, Philadelphia, will graduate next Thursday from that institution. She expects to continue nursing after graduation.

-Mrs. Blanche Stadler, of Huntingdon died in the Altoona hospital Saturday afternoon, of peritonitis, aged 28 years. She had been admitted but a short time ago in the hope that a permanent cure might be effected, but without avail. Deceased was a native of Huntingdon and is survived by her husband and several children.

-A message was received in Sunbury Monday stating that the body of a young boy had been found in a seine at Havre DeGrace and asking for a description of the little Hewitt boy who was swept away by the high water, falling into the river at Sunbury while playing with some companions on Friday morning February 6th.

-The miners and operators of District No. 2, United Mine Workers of America, after almost a week's sessions, closed the week at Altoona on Saturday evening, dead-locked on the scale question, but this week will try and straighten out the tangle. The bones of contention are the eight hour day and the amount of increase the men shall receive for their labor.

-School teachers and residents of Danville and other places were victimized by two strangers who said they represented the Harper Brothers publishing house and offered as premiums to subscribers to the Harper publications a set of Rudyard Kipling's works, all for four dollars. Our people should be on their guard if the swindlers come this way.

-One of the largest independent tinplate plants in the country was started up at McKeesport Monday, five mills being put in operation and five more will be started April 1st. The plant covers fourteen acres and gives employment to 400 men, many of whom were barred by the American Tinplate company on account of active participation in the strike two years ago.

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E. S. Forney, Altoona's delinquent tax collector of the 1902 duplicates, may go to the pen. He has been leaving a paper purporting to be a warrant of arrest at the home of delinquents, thus claiming that they are under arrest, and claiming the fees the same as in the case of a regular arrest. Many citizens have disputed his right to such fees and have paid them under protest. No legal action was taken however, until such a paper was left at the home of C. E. Mower. He brought a criminal charge against Forney before Alderman Irwin as a test case. When arrested Thursday night, Forney waived a hearing and gave bail in the sum of \$800 for court. The outcome of the case will be awaited with much interest.