

Bellefonte mechanics, clerks and laborers are suffering with union fever just now.

Coal is the burning question that is disturbing the peace of the Bellefonte council.

If Mayor WEAVER isn't honest in his professions of reform in Philadelphia it is a shame for him to play such a joke on the heifers of that city.

The plow-boy of Indiana started another boom for Governor last Saturday, but his boom will probably be on the bum by the time 1906 rolls around.

The four French aeronauts who fell ten thousand feet, then rebounded three hundred meters had a little rubber somewhere else than in their necks.

After Pennsylvania gets her six million five hundred thousand dollars expended on good roads she will be ready for another COXEY pilgrimage to Washington.

Why all this agitation about where the teachers' institute shall be held? If the teachers want to go to Philadelphia that is our misfortune—and their's too, maybe.

"In union there is strength," so said THOMAS JEFFERSON, but in the union that was formed in Bellefonte on Wednesday there is six o'clock closing for the local stores.

The President left the Yellowstone park yesterday and natural conditions will become normal again in that great reserve.

The new state chairman, Senator J. K. P. HALL, has a large contract on his hands, but it won't be near so large if the gang of state disorganizers don't go to work at once to try and tie them up.

They've discovered another bunch of islands in the southern part of the Philippine archipelago that they say belong to us. Yes, another bunch of islands, and— incidentally—another bunch of trouble.

The Pittsburg Post says the Democrats have a half a dozen candidates who are available for the nomination for President next year, but we are not looking so much for available candidates as possible winners.

JOHN D. ROCKERFELLER has discovered that playing golf makes the hair grow. But if you want to JOHN D. in confidence he would probably tell you that frequent applications of petroleum are a better hair producer than golf playing.

Former Senator JAMES K. JONES, of Arkansas, is of the opinion that the Democracy has plenty of good presidential timber. Why certainly we have. We have forests that haven't been cut into for so long that they appear to be almost virgin.

From the position of the observer up a tree it looks as if this sanitary business is being worked to death. Everything must be sanitary now, but we don't observe that this excessive sanitation is impoverishing either the doctor or the undertaker.

If Governor PENNYPACKER doesn't sign the Salus bill he is very apt to remain a parrot. If he does he will probably change to a dead duck in the political piddle. Now it is merely a matter of choice as to what he'd sooner be, a parrot or a dead duck.

There seems to be a general house cleaning down in Missouri and alums is so conspicuous in it that it will not be much of a surprise if some of the politicians of that State shrink clear out of sight by the time we all go down to St. Louis to see the fair.

Now is the time for the Hon. ALAN ANGLANT DALE to jump into the breach. The Republican party in Centre is divided as to who shall be its leader and ALAN demonstrated once that when he wants to be the bell cow all the rest have to fall in behind.

Again the New York Central gets done paying the damages that the courts are laying up against it for that Park Ave tunnel disaster there is likely to be a new policy adopted by the directors of that road—one that will look to the expenditure of more money on safety appliances and less on wreck victims.

W. K. VANDERBILT has been put on the marriageable list again by the courts of New York. The decree of divorce that he obtained in 1895 did not permit him to remarry during the life of his divorced wife, but the court has wiped out that prohibition and WILLIE can try again the matrimonial venture.

The constitution must have gotten away behind the flag when Gen. DAVIS was making terms with the Moros. The condition under which they accept American sovereignty is that slavery shall continue. What we need now is another WENDELL PHILLIPS and an edition of Uncle Fillipino's Cabin.

PATTI is coming back to sing for us, probably not so much because PATTI is desirous of warbling for Americans as because PATTI's exchequer is getting low and the Americans are always delightfully silly enough to tumble over one another in the effort to fill it up. She is to get five thousand dollars each for sixty concerts and, on the side, is to have accommodations for herself, her husband, seven servants, twenty-one dogs, fifty or sixty birds and an Angora goat. How'd you like to be the Angora?

Democratic Watchman

STATE RIGHTS AND FEDERAL UNION.

VOL. 48

BELLEFONTE, PA., APRIL 24, 1903.

NO. 17.

General Payne's Curious Reasoning.

Post Master General PAYNE can discern no fault, he says, in the smuggling operations of the Porto Rican officials who have been indulging rather freely in that nefarious business. The articles smuggled have been used for making presents, he adds, and therefore the act is exempt from the turpitude which attaches to smuggling for commercial or personal purposes. This is rather a nice distinction to draw and may not be fully appreciated by the average man. Smuggling, according to the revised statutes of the United States, is a crime, without qualification, just as burglary or piracy is criminal without respect to the uses to which the plunder is put. But General PAYNE makes a distinction curiously enough.

The reasons given by Mr. PAYNE for putting this strange construction on the crime of smuggling by government officials is that the smuggled articles were given as presents to native citizens whose friendship it was desired to win. In other words, if the matter is thoroughly analyzed they were used as currency to bribe Porto Ricans to acquiescence in some plans of the government on the island. Bribery is also a crime of considerable turpitude so that the ordinary mind smuggling in order to procure the materials with which to bribe would be a double crime. But General PAYNE who, before he entered upon the duties of his present office, was a professional lobbyist takes a different view of the matter. He knew something of the business himself.

As a matter of fact this is a striking example of the lax morals which have become the order of our official life. For political reasons President ROOSEVELT elevates to one of the most important offices in the public service a man who can see no fault in bribing men to do whatever is wanted at the time. He in turn fails to discern any harm in the same offense perpetrated by another and supplemented by a more heinous crime in the nature of smuggling. Thus the entire official system becomes tainted with vice and one criminal condones the practices of another who is equally guilty. The remedy for this is voting out all the rascals and putting men in their places who have a better conception of public morals.

An Absurd Speech.

Mr. DAVID M. PARRY, of Indianapolis who is president of the Manufacturers' Association of America, made a speech during the convention of that organization at New Orleans last week which was both characteristic and peculiar. He denounced labor organizations with great vehemence and indicated that according to his notion they ought to be prohibited by law. As a matter of fact Mr. PARRY can see no real difference between labor unions and anarchistic clubs and he would lay the heavy hand of the law on both as the surest way of preventing strikes and perpetuating the prosperity of the country. A man who believes in a high protective tariff by which the masses are mercilessly robbed in order that unearned bounties may be divided among the classes could hardly be expected to entertain any other view of labor organizations than that expressed by Mr. PARRY. The DINGLEY tariff law, for example, takes a couple of billion dollars a year from the pockets of the people and divides the amount among the manufacturing barons and the labor unions teach, among other things, that such robbery is unjust and should be discontinued. For that reason they are offensive to the small mind of Mr. PARRY and he would have them abolished.

It never occurred to Mr. PARRY, however, that the combination of capital, for manufacturing and other purposes is precisely the same as labor unions and that so long as one kind of industrial combination is allowed the other must be endured. The association of which Mr. PARRY is president is maintained for the purpose of promoting the interests of capital, just as the labor unions for the purpose of maintaining the interests of labor and that a man who is at the head of one has no right to rail against the other. That is the truth, nevertheless, and it may be added that such narrow minds as PARRY'S make labor unions necessary.

It would seem that the Sunday paper has already passed the magazine or book in quantity of reading and he would read all of its great budget would find his time taken up well into the middle of the week, but notwithstanding this condition the Philadelphia Press announces that the Sunday, April 26th, it will add two more color and half-tone sections to its already enormous Sunday edition. Just how the Press figures that its newswires are going to stand up under such a load we can't say, but if it becomes necessary we suppose they will all be supplied with automobiles, as the Press is usually equal to any emergency.

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Ozell and Roosevelt.

While President ROOSEVELT is enveloped in the dense wilderness known as Yellowstone Park, Governor OZELL, of New York, is cutting up some queer capers in New York. In other words the Governor of the Empire State has recently developed some presidential aspirations and according to the best information obtainable he is setting up a machine to capture the delegation. Senator PLATT is doing his best to prevent the consummation of the scheme, but with ROOSEVELT three thousand miles or more away, the Governor is too much for his ancient competitor who appears to be getting the worst of the contention.

Of course we have little interest in the political quarrels of the Republican leaders in New York and still are unable to conceal some feeling of satisfaction at the prospect of seeing ROOSEVELT bowled out of the public eye and eliminated from public life of the country. In the history of the government we have had no Chief Magistrate who has been as little credit to the office as he. With the habits of a gypsy and the impulses of a clown he has kept the people of the country in a constant state of fermentation while he has prostituted every cherished principle of the government and honored tradition of the people.

Governor OZELL is a good deal of a machine politician and his public record is more or less unenviable, but in most respects he would be preferable to ROOSEVELT in the office of President. That is to say he would at least try to maintain the dignity of the office and give reasonable consideration to the public welfare. ROOSEVELT has never done either and that his strange antics have not made us his laughing stock of the civilized world is attributable entirely to the respect accorded before he came into the office as the result of a lamentable national calamity.

The Press Muzzler.

The GRADY-SALUS libel bill is not only without paternity but there is no living creature willing to acknowledge relationship with it. No individual, association, order or fraternity asked for it in advance and no petition has come from any source requesting its enactment or approval. At the hearing before the Governor the other day two lawyers spoke in its behalf, but both apologized and neither would state who he represented. Every man of character shrinks it as he would a pestilence and no woman of repute commends it.

On the other hand the pulpit has waxed eloquent in denunciation of its iniquities. Ministerial associations, patriotic orders and fraternal organizations have united in condemning it as a thing to be abhorred. The press, not alone of Pennsylvania but in all parts of the country, has reproached it with all the force and energy it could command and finally the newspaper editors and publishers of the State, without respect to political affiliation, creed or purpose, have denounced it as a menace to popular rights and civil and religious liberty.

Yet the Governor hesitates as to how he should treat the measure. As a lawyer he must know it is atrocious. As a patriotic citizen he must realize that it is iniquitous. In every respect it is bad and every consideration of justice, patriotism and manhood should join to move him to an official condemnation, not alone of the bill, but of the vile purposes and unpatriotic aims which it has in view. That QUAY favors it is natural. Political exigencies require the suppression of free speech until after the next senatorial election. But the attitude of the Governor on the question is inexplicable.

Chairman Bliss' Statement.

Chairman BLISS, of the appropriations committee of the late Legislature, takes a cheerful view of the fiscal affairs of the State. "There will be no time within the next two years," he says confidently, "when the State will not have from six to seven million dollars in the treasury. He admits that something like profligacy characterized the appropriations of the Legislature of which he was the fiscal director and that the amount of the disbursing bills far exceeded any previous record, but the revenues will easily meet the demands on the treasury and leave the snug figure quoted above to the good.

The appropriations for the two years will aggregate about \$34,000,000 if Mr. BLISS' estimate of the general appropriation bill is correct, and two millions more if the estimates of others who have examined the subject be correct. The revenues will aggregate \$36,000,000 at the lowest, according to Mr. BLISS, and probably a couple of million beyond that figure, but by skillful manipulation of the accounts the six or seven millions referred to can always be kept in the banks of deposit and, at say two per cent. above the rate of interest fixed by law which can easily be obtained, there will be a snug sum to distribute among the machine favorites as the usufruct of the operation.

Mr. BLISS refers to the profligate appropriations and the probable balance with

obvious exultation and would have the public believe that it is a great financial triumph. But more thoughtful people are not likely to take the same view of the case. In other words business men who are in the habit of using other people's money just as they use their own will probably think it strange that chairman BLISS never thought that it would be a wise idea to cut appropriations to the lowest limit consistent with safe government and reduce the revenues in the same way. That would have left the six or seven millions which will be a surplus in the treasury in the pockets of the people who earn it and where it might be used as the nucleus for any business which might be engaged in.

The Last Legislature.

Our esteemed Republican contemporaries are going to great pains to show that the recent Legislature was an exceptionally creditable body and that barring the odious libel law and one or two other Legislative monstrosities it was really a very meritorious organization. Measured by its predecessor there is some reason for this laudation because, after killing the eight or ten snakes which it was intended to pass during the closing hours, its product is better than that of the session which closed in a carnival of crime two years ago. But that is about all that can be said in its favor. That it was not quite as bad as the Legislature of 1901.

But it was exceedingly bad, nevertheless, and if the snakes had gone through as the machine intended they should, it would have acquired the record for iniquity. Even as it is no Legislature in the history of the State committed so inexcusable a crime as that which was perpetrated the day before the close in robbing Representatives BLUMLE and FERRY of the seats to which they had been fairly and justly elected in order to give as a gratuity the amount of their salaries to politicians who had been repudiated by the people but may be needed in the future by the machine. In fact the only greater outrage ever committed was the passage of the "press-muzzler" by the same Legislature.

It can be added that no previous Legislature ever reached the same measure of profligacy or showed an equal disregard for the interests of the public. If the half dozen or more bills which were killed under the orders of somebody had gone through, as it was intended they should, until the morning of the day before the adjournment, the Legislature which is now being damned with faint praise, would have been the most atrocious of all. There is nothing in the record of the body to praise and very little that can be exempt from just condemnation.

An Interesting Experiment.

The recent movements on the part of several of the townships of the county to make the poor question a strictly local issue and settle it for themselves will be looked upon with interest from many quarters. The proposition to establish a county poor farm has been before the people of Centre county several times, but failed because the paupers united with voters of the districts having a low poor tax to accomplish its defeat.

In the rich agricultural districts of Penns and Nitany valleys there is no poor tax to speak of, while in the manufacturing and mining centres about Bellefonte, Scotia, Philipsburg and Snow Shoe and through the Bald Eagle valley the poor tax is an expense to be considered seriously. With these two conflicting conditions it is not to be wondered at that the county poor farm idea has always been voted down in Centre county.

Realizing that the conditions are likely to remain ever thus several precincts in the county have established small poor farms of their own. It has been tried in Boggs township and proven so successful that some of the Union township taxpayers took up the question. It met with great opposition at first, but finally the Boggs township success made itself so emphatic to the Union township taxpayers that they have bought the CURTIN farm above Unionville and have a manager on it already. It cost Union township last year over \$1,300.00 to support her poor and already one entire family that had been a charge for thirty years has moved to Altoona, rather than go to the poor farm, another family of four has moved away and another lot of loafers, who had been on the township for twenty years, have waived all rights to aid and volunteered to go to work, rather than be sent to the poor farm.

The Union township experiment is worth watching, especially since it is being conducted by most competent men. It will be tried out on the most practical basis possible and is of such a nature as to prove a valuable object lesson to other precincts in the county.

While at a meeting at Fairview chapel, below Bellefonte, last Sunday Channoy F. York, the Malena manufacturer, generously paid half of a note of \$50 that the struggling little congregation was trying to lift that day.

This Advice is All Right, But Will the Times Dare Stand to It!

From Senator Sprunt's Chester Times (Rep.)

There can be only one excuse for the passage of the Salus libel bill and that is for the politicians who are in the game for graft to place a gag upon the press that their evil doings cannot be exposed by the newspapers. No honest man fears the press and he is wronged by the simple redress under the existing laws, which provide for damages to reputation; but under the Salus bill any boodler whose crookedness is shown up can immediately proceed against the paper which is serving the public and the people's interests.

Corrupt legislators, the boodlers and ward heelers who get into office and the whole raft of spoilsmen want the Salus bill and they are the only people whose interests can be served by such a measure. As a matter of fact this bill is not aimed at simply the press of the State, but at public independence and in its workings will afford a cover for the deeds that will not bear the light of publicity. Because men of that character are afraid of the press, they seek to put a gag upon it by an enactment of the Legislature.

There is only one way to deal with the men who stand behind such a bill and that is for the press of the State to combine for its own interests, to stand immovably for the defeat of such legislators if they are again candidates for re-election and to do so without regard to the party interests they represent. As a matter of fact no organization will nominate men who are thus opposed and they will be retired before the convention which forms the ticket meets to do its work. Let the libel bill sponsors feel the weight of public indignation as expressed by a wronged press.

A Bad Effect of Carnegie Gratitudes.

From the Pittsburg Post.

Mr. Carnegie is finding out some of the disadvantages of profuse benefactions in a way that he has often adverted to in his writings. A London paper comments on the fact that his unstinted gifts to education in Scotland has had the effect of drying up the streams of local generosity. Principal Story has been telling the Glasgow University council that while he was able to collect \$350,000 for the better equipment and extension of the University previous to Mr. Carnegie's gift of \$250,000 he has since been able to collect only a beggarly \$15,000. Possible donors point to the lordly sum of \$250,000 and button up their pockets, in spite of the fact that Mr. Carnegie's gifts are to be devoted to entirely different purposes than the equipment and extension of the University. Appeals for contributions in aid of the arts, law and theology are now "turned down" because of the munificent gifts in other directions. Mr. Carnegie in numerous publications has commented on the evil effects of indiscriminate giving, and what he said is confirmed by the Scotch educational authorities. As they say, lavish giving is drying up the springs of local generosity.

Just Where We 'Are at.'

From the Honesdale Herald.

Where is Pennsylvania located? The first boy answered, in China, for it is surrounded by a wall of protection. The second boy says no, it is a province of Germany, because it observes the law of lese majestie. The third boy thinks that it is located somewhere in Russia or Turkey, he doesn't know which, for free speech, a free press and free men are not allowed in those countries. The fourth boy says you are all wrong. Pennsylvania is a State in trust ruled America. It is simply bores ruled Pennsylvania, and with it there is no other country to compare on earth. Here the sovereign people rule through despotic bosses, whose laws are made to prosecute all those honest thinkers that dare raise their voices against crime or criminals; here we are taught that evil consists in being found out. Anything is right that succeeds under cover. In this happy Elysium the discordant sounds of a free press must never be heard. Happy home of the silent thief! Ah! Pennsylvania!

Why, He's the Whole Posh.

From the Harrisburg Patriot.

Discussing presidential possibilities a political savant has figured out that Roosevelt's popularity is waning, that Hanna is in the running in splendid fettle, and that the opposition to Roosevelt will probably combine on Senator Spooner, of Wisconsin. Few able men ever sat in the Senate of the United States than Senator Spooner, but no other man has ever borne so strong a hand in national legislation and remained so little known to the general public. That aside, upon what ground is the assertion made that Roosevelt's popularity is on the wane? At this moment of grace no one can be blind to the fact that he is not only the strongest man within his party, but also that he is stronger than his party.

The Judicial Measurement of a Jug.

From the Potter county Democrat.

A Kansas jury, after careful investigation, has decided that a man is not drunk, in the eyes of the law, no matter how much booze he may have imbibed, if he is still in a condition to make a successful horse trade. In Nebraska, a few years ago, it was held as a legal principle that when a man was unable to hold up a fish pole, he was too drunk to hold office. Down in Texas a man is never drunk until he rolls under the table and wants to go to sleep.

We Ought to Know it All.

From the Boston Traveler.

Included in the President's staff on his trip are two secretaries, one physician, three stenographers, three messengers, two secret service men, representatives of three press associations, representatives of three illustrated papers, two telegraph operators and one official photographer. There is no danger that publicity will not be forthcoming.

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Spawls from the Keystone.

Senator J. Henry Cochran has been chosen a Pennsylvania representative at the Louisiana Purchase exposition.

The police committee of the Williamsport council has reported favorably on a curfew ordinance and council will take action on the matter.

The Renovo council and board of health met Saturday to take steps to prevent the borough being invaded by smallpox suspects from infected districts.

Dr. Wyoff, who has been practicing medicine at Loganton for some time, took down his "shingle" Thursday, and departed for Glen Campbell, where he will locate.

It is reported that there are 200 or more cases of smallpox at St. Mary's. Representatives of the state board of health are there and there is some talk that the town may be quarantined.

W. M. Bair, above Jersey Shore, has a full blooded Jersey cow that presented him, four weeks ago, with two male calves that are in appearance so near alike that it is impossible to tell them apart.

Benjamin Rogers, of New Albany, Bradford county, had a hand sawed off sawing slats on a saw mill the other afternoon. The flesh was so mangled and torn that the arm had to be taken off just below the elbow.

Captain William Sweeney, one of South Williamsport's leading citizens, died Friday afternoon, aged 62 years. Deceased was identified with the National guard, as a captain of Company B, Twelfth regiment.

In the neighborhood of Slate Run and back in the Black Forest lumber camps where quarantine has been established to prevent the spread of smallpox trouble is reported. It is stated that threats have been made to kill the guards.

The Governor has signed the bills requiring non-resident hunters and unnaturalized foreigners to procure a license before hunting in this State, and prohibiting the discharge of Flobert rifles, air guns, spring guns, etc. in cities and boroughs.

With a large scarf pin supposed to be in her throat, a child of Mr. Houck, of Loyalsock, is a patient at the Williamsport hospital. On Sunday Prof. Charles Smith turned the X rays on her, and if the pin is located, an effort will be made to remove it by an operation.

Dorsey A. Bittner, of Renovo, a few days ago captured a young deer in the river at that place. The News says the deer was chased from the woods by dogs and as a last resort took to the water. Mr. Bittner, who was along the bank at the time, procured a boat and caught the animal.

A young man in Jersey Shore, says the Vidette, is kicking like forty. He never had the mumps, and his girl's little sister has had it for three weeks and during all this time he has not been to see his dear girl. And, to make matters worse, another young fellow, who has had the mumps, has been calling on the girl.

George Burns, a hero of three wars, and who claims to have been with General Greeley, a member of the Jeannette crew on his polar expedition, was a lodger at the Williamsport police station Saturday night. He is 73 years old, and claims to have five bullets in his body. He has no ribs on his left side, and his heart is on the right side. He is quite a character.

Some time Saturday night or Sunday morning robbers entered the general store of Benton Duff, at Rocketon, Clearfield county, six miles from DuBois, and carried off half the stock of goods in the building. The marauders gathered in a miscellaneous cargo of loot, consisting of guns, shoes and a little of every kind of merchandise used in the stock of a small country store.

Charles W. Andrews is the name of an employe of the Williamsport gas company, who prevented the destruction of the house at which he was working at the expense of severe and serious burns to himself. A spark from the wrench with which he was working kindled the gas, and he deliberately plunged his left hand into the flame, shutting off the supply of gas. He was also badly burned about the head and face.

At the late primary election in Winslow township, Clearfield county, three school directors were to be elected, two for three years and one for one year. The Republicans failed to designate the time on their official ballot, and the directors of that party who were elected have been unseated as the result of a contest on the part of Democrats. The decision is important and will establish a precedent for similar cases. Judge Reed's ruling will be generally commended.

The result of the competitive examination for the appointment of a naval cadet to Annapolis, conducted at Clearfield several weeks ago has been announced to the respective candidates by Congressman S. R. Dresser. He has named as appointee Joseph Knapper, Jr., of Philipsburg. George Woodward, of Penfield, who ranked second in the examination, was named as first alternate; Julian A. Chase, of Clearfield, second alternate, and Donald Woodward, third alternate.

A few mornings ago Constable Earnest took to the Bedford county poor house from Everett a man named Walter Fairley, an unaturalized Canadian. Upon reaching their destination Fairley was told to take a seat at the door of building while the officer tied his horse. This required but a few minutes, but when he returned to the Canadian Mr. Earnest was shocked to find that he was dead. Fairley is said to have had a horror of the poor house but whether or not the dread of being a public charge caused his death cannot be said. He was sixty years old.

P. J. Packard, a fireman on the New York Central railroad, had a narrow escape from death Saturday night. He fell from his engine while the train was crossing a trestle, but luckily escaped without any broken bones. Near North Bend, on the river line, the railroad crosses a trestle which is over a public highway. It is thought that Packard had become blinded by looking into the fire box and stepped off the train. He was taken to his home at Jersey Shore by a special train, and Dr. Mohn summoned. He found that no bones were broken, but that Packard had sustained a contusion of all the muscles of the back. He is quite severely injured.