

—Are your new leaves beginning to shrivel up already?

—It is cheaper to be good than bad, but the good man usually gives all he saves to the church.

—The presidential timber produces few as good sticks and none better than the Hon. RICHARD OLNEY.

—The President calls his new acquisition on the Isthmus "Panamaans." Are there no women down there?

—The HANNA boom has swept Indiana and from all appearances your Uncle MARK isn't doing much to stop its sweep across any other State that might want him for President.

—The passing of a dividend in U. S. steel and the probable wiping out of all the common stock is beginning to look as though Lake Superior isn't the only bad thing on the street.

—Scientists tell us that man has approached no nearer than two hundred and thirty-eight miles to the north pole, but then none of those scientists have ever been in Centre county on a morning like Tuesday.

—The Chicago theatre horror shocked the whole world, but that distressing catastrophe will not have the effect of making fire-proof buildings any more fire-proof or play house attendants any more careful.

—The TAMMANY dinner in New York wasn't as great an event, politically, as it was designed to be, but it was great enough to absorb columns of space of the opposition journals in trying to belittle its significance.

—From the action of the new pump in trial yesterday it looks as though the Bellefonte tax payers will have to take off their hats to the present council. A saving of thousands of dollars is not a usual councilmanic performance in Bellefonte.

—Russia and Japan have supplied themselves with about every munition of war known of, except the American mule, and how they expect to conduct a first class scrap without the use of our rapid fire quadruped we are at a loss to understand.

—The closing of so many theatres in all parts of the country as a result of the Chicago horror is not exactly a case of "looking the stable after the horse is stolen," but it does look as if there had been an awful dereliction of duty among officials everywhere.

—After we get the largest army and the strongest navy in the world President ROOSEVELT'S idea is probably to turn in and lick every country that thinks we can't do it, just to make them all too mad or too poor to buy any of our bread stuffs, or manufactures.

—Bellefonte is to have street lights in the future—except on "bright moon-light nights." Whether it is to be a councilman or a director of the Bellefonte Electric Co. who is to stand and watch the moon—as a judge of its brightness—has not been decided.

—The heathen Chinese is getting a little taste of the suspense that he made minister COSGROVE and his little company feel in Pekin a few years ago. Trying to watch which way the cat is going to jump between Russia and Japan is likely to make the almond eyed celestial a little crossed in his lamps.

—Farmers are holding out their grain because they think a war between Russia and Japan would send the price of it up. Such might be the result, but owing to the necessarily short duration of such a conflict the Russian output is not likely to be reduced and the Japs can get along without wheat—read very handily.

—The Bellefonte council does well to stick out for iron trolley poles before it grants a franchise for an electric railway through our streets. Past councils have made the mistake of permitting two telephone and an electric light company to plant poles where they please and never pay a cent of tax on any of them, so that it is little wonder this council is profiting by such blunders.

—Real lobsters are said to be cannibals. If a dozen of them are put in an aquarium together it will not be long until they have all been benevolently assimilated by a large, fat juicy fellow who holds sway alone. How different with the human counterpart of the large, juicy lobster. Some dizzy little blonde, with faded blue eyes and a dry weather complexion, usually eats him up at one gulp.

—Seventeen thousand new words appear in the latest dictionaries that were unknown in the publications of ten years ago. This wonderful increase is not so wonderful when we come to consider the lines of talk indulged in by such rapid fire coiners as the Hon. TEDDY ROOSEVELT, Mr. ROBERT FITZSIMMONS, the Hon. JOSEPH BEVERIDGE and a few others of the loquacious kind.

—The police ofConnellsville should be ready to step in and prevent that notorious character, Mrs. KATE SOFFEL, from making a show of herself when she attempts to open the play "A Daring Woman" that has been written for her. She has neither virtue of character nor talent as an actress and her appearance on the stage is an insult to every honorable member of the profession, as well as an attempt to cater to the most depraved in theatre goers.

Democratic Watchman

STATE RIGHTS AND FEDERAL UNION.

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Roosevelt's Special Message. In his special message to Congress apologizing for his Panama policy, President ROOSEVELT reveals all the demagoguery in his nature. Misrepresenting the facts and perverting the truth in various ways he finally appeals to the prejudices of the public by paying a compliment to the marines at Colon who were compelled to obey orders which never ought to have been issued and declaring, substantially, that the construction of an inter-oceanic canal across the Isthmus is the only question involved. That is a deliberate falsehood and President ROOSEVELT must have known it when he was writing the message. The morality of the government and the honor of the American people are involved and he has undertaken to sacrifice both.

Everybody understands that American marines, as well as American soldiers and sailors, perform their duties faithfully and courageously but the fact that fifty marines at Colon were confronted with danger is no reason why our government should have conspired with a handful of adventurers on the Isthmus of Panama to despoil the Republic of Colombia of a part of her territory and a considerable proportion of her debt paying power. Yet that is precisely what has happened and the President discredits his own statement that "no one connected with this government had any part in preparing, inciting or encouraging the late revolution on the Isthmus of Panama," by the subsequent statement that "this government had several warships on the seas before the revolution was declared," and that the day before the declaration the marines at Colon had been directed "to allow no Colombian troops to land within fifty miles of Panama."

Altogether this is the most disgraceful betrayal of public faith on the part of any government in the history of civilization. Our government was under treaty obligation to protect Colombia in her rights of sovereignty and property on the Isthmus. For this guarantee our people and government have enjoyed valuable concessions since 1846. In fulfillment of it the United States troops have been sent fifty times to restore order and suppress rebellions. But through a perverse nature or an uncontrollable inclination to do wrong ROOSEVELT has taken the opposite course and instead of protecting the rights of Colombia has joined in a conspiracy to despoil her. In support of this outrage he has the audacity to appeal to Congress in a special message.

Worse Than Roosevelt. We learn from a Washington correspondent of the Philadelphia Press that four years ago the late President MCKINLEY had determined to make Secretary of War Root his political heir and successor in office and that now, a public calamity having intervened to prevent MCKINLEY from exercising his right of choice then, his actual but accidental successor in office, President ROOSEVELT, proposes to make Mr. Root his "political heir" and successor in office. This arrangement simply postpones the fulfillment of Mr. Root's ambition to be President, if he have such an ambition, a matter of four years, unless, of course, exigencies arise, which will make another postponement necessary or desirable.

If it be true that President MCKINLEY intended to make Root his "political heir" and successor in the office of President it was rather fortunate than otherwise that it was prevented. ROOSEVELT is had enough in the office of President. He has been acting like a clown ever since his accidental elevation. He has been frightening the life out of business by his queer antics and jeopardizing the solvency of carrying corporations by making excessive demands on them for his personal and family accommodation and he has been violating the honor of the Nation and trampling international law under foot. More than that, he has violated the constitution more than a hundred times.

But God save the country from Root. He knows no law except his own inclinations. He is one of those higher law fellows who believe that oaths may be broken, honor sacrificed, integrity cast to the dogs, every principle of decency submerged in order to fulfill any ambition which he may cherish. During his term as Secretary of War he has Europeanized the army, made it not a national but a personal force and prepared on precisely similar lines to those followed by the second Napoleon when by a coup d'etat he changed the French popular government into an empire. If Root were elected President the Republic wouldn't endure a year or else he wouldn't live that long.

—President ROOSEVELT and Senator LODGE may have some idea of benevolently assimilating Canada some day, but that some day is likely to come when this Nation is doubled up with dyspepsia from trying to benevolently assimilate the Philippines and Panama.

—Subscribe for the WATCHMAN.

Apostles Hanna and Smoot. REED SMOOT, Apostle of the Mormon church and Senator in Congress for Utah, has filed with the Senate committee on Privileges and Elections his answer to the numerous protests which have been presented against his admission to membership in that body. Mr. SMOOT declares that he is not a polygamist and that he is a citizen in every way qualified for the office to which he has been elected. He doesn't deny his relationship with the Mormon church or his belief in polygamy. But he reasons that a man can't be punished for beliefs and that the constitution forbids religious tests as a qualification for office.

Mr. SMOOT has put himself on strong grounds in his answer but not the strongest available under the circumstances. For example he might have said that his election to the office of Senator was in pursuance of a bargain between the Mormon church and the Republican National committee; that the contract involved the conversion of the leading newspaper opponent of polygamy into a supporter of that iniquitous doctrine; that Senator HANNA had represented the Republican party in the transaction, therefore not only encouraging but promoting polygamy and that if one is thrown out the other must be.

If SMOOT had taken that position the opposition to him would have ended at once. HANNA is the pet of the group which has set out to unseat SMOOT and most of them would wink at polygamy as they have winked at other iniquities to shield him. It is possible, of course, that HANNA will ultimately take care of SMOOT and not improbable that he has already given the assurance in order to prevent the exposure of the partnership between the Mormon church and the Republican party, but in any event it is tolerably certain that SMOOT'S safest plan is to stick to HANNA. That Apostle of Republicanism will protect his partner the Apostle of Polygamy.

A Successful Institute. It is evident that the 57th annual institute of the public school teachers of Centre county lost none of its educational opportunities nor pleasing results by having been transplanted from Bellefonte to Philipsburg.

It is not a surprise to the WATCHMAN that Philipsburg should have made the stay of the teachers there so pleasant that had it been put to a vote they would have decided to hold the next institute over the mountain also. Philipsburg is full of bustling, progressive people who are not afraid to get up and do something; they are teeming with cordiality all the time and it is only their everyday manner that captured the teachers, many of whom had never been in the place before; not to mention the trolley ride and banquet that was thrown in on the side for the pedagogues.

It is well that the session in Philipsburg proved a success for there was considerable discussion as to the propriety of holding it in such a remote part of the county. As for the future sittings, they are at the disposition of the teachers and the county superintendent and will doubtless be placed where they will do the most good.

The Crowning Atrocity.

The Senate committee on military affairs has voted to recommend the confirmation of the appointment of Dr. WOOD as a Major General in the army. The vote stood six to two, Senators HAWLEY, of Connecticut, and BATE, of Tennessee, being absent. The names of those voting in the negative are not given but presumably they were COCKRELL, of Missouri, and PETTUS, of Alabama, both Democrats. It is reasonably certain that both HAWLEY and BATE would have voted negatively if they had been present. BATE is a Democrat and HAWLEY was a soldier and is a just and honorable gentleman.

This act constitutes the "crowning atrocity" of a dependent, cringing, time-serving and corrupt Senate. Because the President has patronage to bestow which Senators can sell, as DRITRICH, of Nebraska, disposed of that which went to him, an injustice is done to every soldier in the army above the rank of captain whose commission is over ten years old. It is a shame that the President and Senate traffic in the patronage of the government just as huxters deal in cabbages in the market but the shameful record made in the case in point is proof of the fact. ROOSEVELT owes WOOD a personal obligation and sacrifices all the veterans that he may pay his debt with public patronage.

There is still one chance that this shameful iniquity may be averted. The military committee of the Senate is made up of an inferior class of Senators. PROCTOR, WARREN, QUARLES, SCOTT, FORAKER and ALGER are the Republican members outside of Mr. HAWLEY the chairman and the chances are at least hopeful that when the question comes to a vote on the floor of the Senate a sufficient number of Republicans will be of the same mind as HAWLEY to compass the defeat of the trading operation.

—Subscribe for the WATCHMAN.

Absenteeism in Office. It has been publicly and somewhat ostentatiously announced that State Treasurer-elect WILLIAM L. MATHUES has formed a law partnership in Media and that after his induction into office at Harrisburg in May, he will spend three days of each week in his law office. Insurance Commissioner DURHAM is now settled on a ranch in New Mexico for an indefinite time and will not be at his office on "The Hill" for three months at least. Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction HOUCK is scheduled for a journey to the Holy Land which will occupy three months of his time during the coming spring, and Deputy Secretary of the Commonwealth Beiler is hardly ever in Harrisburg.

We refer to these incidents in order to call public attention to the increasing evil of absenteeism in the public service. Until within a few years the obligation on a public official to be diligent in his work was as binding as that upon an employe of a factory or corporation of any class. Officials at the state capital from the Governor down were required to give personal attention to the duties of their office and there was no complaint in consequence. But since the creation of the new QUAY machine, that is since QUAY has become the autocrat and men like DURHAM his prophets, subordinate offices are multiplied in order that the heads of departments may have free opportunity to absent themselves at pleasure.

Insurance Commissioner DURHAM has been drawing the munificent salary of that office for nearly five years but he hasn't performed the duties five weeks, all put together. QUAY is enjoying the salary and emoluments of the office of Senator in Congress but unless he has something of personal interest pending he is never at his post. Governor STONE was absent from office more than a third of the time and Pennypacker is little more regular in performance of his duty, but they all draw their salaries regularly while the expense of government is multiplied by employing substitutes, or rather subordinates, to perform their duties. This abuse of power is something for the public to consider.

What Council Did.

The regular session of council met Monday evening with Col. Reynolds as president pro tem and members Jenkins, Wise, Talon, and Kirk present.

The contract for lighting the streets was taken up and approved after some discussion. Council failed to knock out the moon-light clause and in the future we will have lights on the streets, except on "bright moon-light nights." Nothing was determined as to what constitutes a "bright moon-light night" but the wise men of council thought because the word "bright" had been put in before "moon-light night" there was something gained over the old contract which did not boast the word bright.

The West ward sewer proposition was introduced by Mr. Wise, of the Street committee. He reported that the citizens would pay \$200, the P. R. R. Co. \$300 and and if the borough paid \$200 a 12 inch sewer could be laid from the intersection of south Thomas and High streets, along High to Railroad and along Railroad to a point below Gerberich's mill, where it is to empty into Spring creek. Council voted to instruct the committee to ask for bids for the sewer.

The next question taken up was the granting of the franchise for a street railway in Bellefonte. A party of Tyrone gentlemen, among them Mr. T. C. Poorman, have been trying for some time to secure right of ways and franchises for a trolley line extending from Mileburg to Pleasant Gap, and ultimately to Lemont and State College. Several ordinances have been drawn up, but none of them have been satisfactory until the last one which contained only two objectionable points to the promoters. The principal requirements of the borough are that the company shall pave the track between the rails and two feet on the outside of each, erect iron trolley poles and enjoy the franchise for twenty years. To the last two the company objects. They say iron poles are too expensive and they will accept only an unlimited franchise. Council voiced a disposition to extend the limit of the franchise beyond twenty years, but was dissuaded to give up the iron pole clause. The matter was held over for another week pending inquiry into the sentiments of the people of this community. The members of council showed a disposition to do the best thing possible for the town, but as yet have not heard enough expression of opinion on the subject, so that if our people would think the matter over and discuss it with the councilmen they would be able to secure, possibly, a much more accurate idea of the real sentiment as to the conditions that should be imposed on a corporation that would use our streets as would an electric street railway company.

—Subscribe for the WATCHMAN.

Handfuls Burned in a Chicago Theatre. The Most Appalling Holocaust Closes the Old Year in Chicago—The Beautiful New Iroquois Theatre the Scene of a Horror Indescribable—Hundreds of Women and Children Burned and Trampled to Death in the Twinkling of an Eye.

CHICAGO, December 31.—The Iroquois theatre burned Wednesday afternoon during a crowded matinee performance. A great number of lives were lost, the chief of the fire department estimating that there are over seven hundred dead. The fire started in the second act of the play, "Blue Beard, Jr."

It broke out in the flies of the stage, presumably from a defect in the electrical display. In an instant the draperies and flimsy stage settings had burst into flames. The actors and actresses ran wildly about the stage as the audience fought and jammed its way to the front doors. In a short time the interior of the theatre was apparently a mass of flame and smoke was issuing in clouds from the front of the houses.

Though the fire broke out in the stage there was apparently little protection for the audience. Women and children were piling out of the doors and the flames apparently gained rapidly and it was a considerable time before a large number of people could leave the building. Meanwhile special calls and a general alarm had summoned an extraordinary number of fire engines.

According to Stage Manager Calson all the theatrical people are accounted for, through some were slightly burned. Among the burned are Polly Whitford, queen of the fairies, and Dottie Marlow, of the pony ballet.

Manager Davis said that the cry of "fire" created a panic and that this accounted for so many people losing their lives.

The loss of life was the greatest at the foot of the stairways from the upper balconies. At that point the bodies of the persons who sought to flee from the flames were piled fully twelve feet deep. The bodies were taken out as rapidly as the men could enter the smoke-filled corridor and grasp their awful load.

At 4.50 p. m. the fire was out, but between asphyxiation and burns the death list is very large.

At 4.30 o'clock fifty bodies had been carried from the theatre into Thompson's restaurant, one door east. Of these fifty thirty were dead, a number were showing faint signs of life and it was impossible to tell at first glance whether about one dozen of them were dead or alive. They were mostly the bodies of young women under 20 years of age, and children from 8 to 12. Bodies were placed on the floor, on chairs, tables and one young woman in dripping garments was stretched along the cigar case.

All the larger dry goods stores of the city, which are situated within two squares of the theatre—Fields, Mandals, Carson, Pierce, Scott & Co., Schlesinger & Meyer and the Boston Store, as soon as they heard of the emergency, sent wagon load after wagon load of blankets, linen and cotton for bandages. All of their teams were placed at the disposal of the authorities and were utilized in conveying the wounded to the hospitals or to the offices of nearby physicians. Within fifteen minutes after the fire broke out fully fifty physicians were on the scene, and trained nurses seemed to spring from the ground so rapidly did they appear. As soon as a body was taken into the neighboring stores it was examined with a stethoscope for signs of life.

CHICAGO, January 1.—For the first time since Chicago has possessed bells to peal, whistles to shriek, and horns to blow, the old year was allowed silently to take its place in history and the new year permitted to come with no evidence of joy at its birth.

An official proclamation issued Thursday by Mayor Carter H. Harrison, he made the suggestion that the usual New Year's eve celebration be for this time omitted. The idea found a ready response in the hearts of the people and the Mayor's words in fact only gave utterance to the unexpressed thoughts that had filled them all.

The appalling calamity of Wednesday in the Iroquois theatre has cast Chicago into the deepest grief and gloom, and for the time being at least seems to have chilled and deadened all the ambitions of life. Business Thursday was performed with the sole view to actual necessity and even that much was carried out in a perfunctory manner.

PROMINENT RESORTS DESERTED. Ordinarily, on New Year's eve, the streets of the city are filled with merry-makers, but Thursday night the only throng that was to be seen were those around the morgues; ordinarily, numbers of fashionable restaurants in the heart of the city are filled with light hearted revellers, who toast the year that passes and hail the year that comes.

Thursday night these places were comparatively deserted, and some of them closed entirely, with doors locked and curtains drawn. Usually among these gay people are found many members of the theatrical profession. Thursday not a single one of them was in evidence.

CITY'S SECOND GREAT CALAMITY. For the second time in her life, the city of Chicago, has been stricken to the heart. Not only have many of her sons and daughters met death in a variety of horrible and torturing forms, but the blow has fallen almost as heavily upon the strangers within her gates. There is hardly a village or town within a radius of 100 miles of Chicago whose people are not directly or indirectly interested in the piles of dead or in the injured which fill the hospitals, or in the fate of those who seem to have passed in the ill-fated structure and of whom no word has since been heard.

DEATH LIST ESTIMATED AT 564. The list of dead continues as it was given Thursday night, in the neighborhood of 560. It is generally accepted at

(Continued on page 4.)

Spawls from the Keystone.

—Information from Clearfield Tuesday morning says that the thermometer at the postoffice, in Clearfield, at 7 o'clock registered 33 1/2 below.

—John D. Dorris Esq., of Huntingdon, has been appointed by Governor Samuel W. Pennypacker as a member of the board of managers of the Pennsylvania Industrial Reformatory to succeed Samuel A. Steel, deceased. Mr. Dorris is a well-known lawyer and is junior member of the firm of Furst & Dorris.

—Thomas J. Scott, yardmaster at Tyrone station, middle division, Pennsylvania railroad, has been promoted to the local assistant trainmaster for the middle division, with headquarters at Midflin. He succeeds S. Blair Cramer who died at Midflin a few days ago, and he entered upon the duties of his new place on Monday.

—A few days ago Walter Burns, of near Fossilville, Bedford county, met with a serious accident. The young man intended to kill a chicken and loaded his gun, not knowing that the weapon already contained a load of powder and shot. When he pulled the trigger one of the barrels exploded, blowing his left hand off.

—Among the victims of the Chicago theatre disaster was a Miss Porter, niece of Mr. and Mrs. Barr, of Minneapolis, formerly of Hollidaysburg. Mrs. Anna Bond, a daughter of William Thomas, who resided at Hollidaysburg many years ago, and her two children, also perished in the holocaust.

—A bold attempt was made Wednesday morning to burn the large plant of the North American Tannery, at Lewistown, but the night engineer discovered the blaze and with difficulty extinguished it. The incendiary returned to see if his villainous attempt was succeeding and was shot at by the engineer but the miscreant escaped.

—William Willow, of Lock Haven, was shot in the knee Saturday night by Jacob F. Lehman, a Pennsylvania railroad officer. Willow and his 14-year-old son, it is alleged, were taking coal from a car in the lower yard. When the officer attempted to arrest the father and son they ran. The officer, as they were fleeing, fired his revolver to frighten them, as he states, the ball taking effect in the knee of Mr. Willow Sr.

—J. W. Campbell, a prominent Philadelphia coal shipper, has become the possessor of 338 acres of coal land on Blacklick creek, along the new Ebensburg and Blacklick extension of the Pennsylvania railroad. The sale was made by Harry McCreary, of Indiana, who acquired the land some time ago and the consideration involved is \$11,133.75. Mr. Campbell will begin operations in the spring and will employ 300 men. The coal will be shipped to tidewater, and although Mr. Campbell does not at present contemplate erecting any coke ovens, he may do so later.

—A telegram to the Philadelphia Press from Huntingdon, under date of December 26th, says: In an altercation in a restaurant here Friday night John Smith was struck over the head by a beer bottle. Smith wandered into a stable and Saturday morning he was found unconscious and about noon he died. Coroner Harman held an autopsy and the physicians found that Smith's death was due to the blow on the head. George Sherrer was arrested and lodged in jail, charged with having struck the fatal blow. Smith was 25 years old and was the youngest son of Rev. M. L. Smith, a well-known Methodist minister.

—The new year sees little or no change in the labor situation at Altoona and vicinity. The Pennsylvania Railroad company shops, which employ in the neighborhood of 15,000 men, are at work on full time with no cut in wages. The bituminous coal situation for that region also remains unchanged. Several efforts were made by small operators recently to cause an average reduction of 15 per cent, but in each instance the miners went on strike. No settlement has been made and the strikers appear willing to remain out until the new scale meeting be held there in March. The big coal concerns are standing by the present wage scale.

—The Assyrian woman who was dangerously hurt in the wreck on the Cumberland Valley railroad Friday evening when A. C. Moyer of Tyrone lost his life, has friends in Tyrone also. Her name is Mrs. Nendia Sydes, aged 29 years. Her husband was a peddler, and died at Clarksburg, W. Va., two years ago, and she continued in the same business. Her mother and a daughter four years old reside with Side Modad, who recently purchased the Curtin store in seventh ward. They have only been in Tyrone a short time going there from Shippensburg. Soon as word of the injury to the woman reached Side Modad he at once sent his brother Macon Modad to look after her. They are all peddlers and merchants in a small way.

—Special officer W. H. Manning, of the Blair county branch of the League of the American Sportsmen, while patrolling the woods in the vicinity of Mt. Acton on New Year's Day, arrested an Italian with an unpronounceable name who was engaged in gunning for rabbits, notwithstanding the fact that the hunting season had ended fifteen days before. The offender was taken before Justice Leet, where he was promptly fined \$25 for hunting without a license and \$10 additional for a dead bunny found in his possession, aggregating, with costs, \$35.50. The foreign money order business will go a little short in that region for a month or two, while the process of education goes marching on.

—A big black bear, almost frozen, stopped a heavy freight train on the Pennsylvania railroad early Sunday morning and the train had to be shoveled out of the snowdrift in which it had halted. The train crew was making a desperate effort to get to Altoona in the heart of a wild blizzard. While toiling up a heavy grade near Dunlo the engineer saw a black form on the track and shot at steam. The bear arose and came toward the locomotive. When the engineer saw that it was a bear and not a man on the track he made a desperate effort to get started again, but in vain. The water froze in the supply pipes, and as the snow drifted deeper in front of the locomotive the train crew realized that nothing was to be done but wait for help. The bear, after vainly trying to warm himself in the glare from the headlight, fiercely resenting any movement toward him by the members of the crew, finally shuffled off in disgust. The train remained frozen up several hours until a force of shovellers got it out of the drift.