

Clinton county law moves a little like the Russians.

And next Monday will be the first day of spring.

The robins and bluebirds must have got back to the pines on Monday.

By this time the ground-hog has probably made up his mind never to do it again.

At this rate the "robin snow" and the "onion snow" may be looked for along about July 4th.

It will take more noise than the unexpected CANNON boom in the House last week to scare TEDDY.

There are many reasons why men don't succeed, but the principal one is because so few of them try.

Japan has ordered the war correspondent from the scene of action in Manchuria. Look out for a deluge of war news now.

And Pittsburg complained because she had to drink muddy water, as if Pittsburg had never imbibed anything worse than that.

If the Susquehanna could only be induced to pour a few of its floods into the Yalu the Japs would soon get back to the rice dikes.

Won't GROVER CLEVELAND feel bad when he learns that JOHN M. GARMAN wouldn't vote for him, even if he were nominated.

It is strange that none of the accident insurance companies indemnify against loss of head and yet more lose their heads than anything else.

The Hon. PHILANDER C. KNOX thinks he is not equal to an attack on the Standard oil company. Since when did a Pittsburg rager ever acknowledge a want of nerve?

With General MILES as the Prohibition candidate for President there are lots of fellows who would get onto the "water wagon," who have never been there before.

That the Supreme court of the United States isn't unanimously certain as to what law is in a state of rage. If business had been transacted that day it is safe to say that the Republican organization would have been rent asunder. But happily for that party the first announcement after the call of order was the death of a Member. Under a rule of many years there was no business in order that day on that account and an adjournment was taken. That gave the party "whips" time and the President got down into the lobby and begged the outraged Members to "forget their injuries" and take care of the party. It is said that he even promised to dismiss BRISTOW from office if the indignant Members would consent to OVERSTREET'S notion. In the evening the days labor looked fruitless. Indignation was as furious as ever. On Friday, however, the Members yielded and consented to a compromise.

Friday was another field day. The Democrats still demanded an investigation and the outraged Republicans, though pledged to silent acquiescence in the scheme of the President to protect official scoundrels, broke the restraints. WILLIAM ALDEN SMITH declared that every executive department of the government is corrupt. It was during this speech that he named speaker CANNON for President and the House responded in a burst of enthusiasm such as has rarely been seen. But in the end they all came down to the President's terms. Declaring the department corrupt they voted against an investigation. The purchasing power of public patronage was irresistible to them and they yielded their manhood to the briber of the White House. The presidential lobbyist was too persuasive for them.

The Sultan of Sulu, whom uncle SAM put on his pension roll a few years ago, has gone on the warpath and his pension has been cut off. What a restless old scallawag he must be not to be satisfied with his hundred wives and good American money every month.

After December 31st next Panama will copy our currency, so 'tis said. How flattering is Panama. By the way it would be interesting to know how much currency Panama has that is worth anything, in addition to what we propose paying for canal concessions.

The number of suicides and homicides during 1903 increased over one thousand over those in 1901. While we would not like to refute the assertion that we have so often heard from the pulpit "that the world is growing better" here is evidence that a great many people appear to be anxious to get out of it.

The Reading lad who stuck the figures 22 in his hat and 21 in his shoes and then swore to the election board that he was between 21 and 22 thought it was a very smart trick. But suppose he had been given a good cuff in the neck and a kick in the nether end with a frozen boot, what would he have sworn he was between then?

When judge LOVE gets through explaining to the public how a man who has been a resident of the county only twenty-seven days can be entitled to license, as against applicants who have been life-long citizens and taxpayers he will be a sadder but we hope wiser man. WASHINGTON may be a vote getter in Rush township, but he will prove a vote loser in every other one of the fifty-six precincts in the county.

That the man who handles the pick has better judgment than the man he sends to the convention to represent him is seen in the overwhelming majority the miners of Indiana, Ohio, Illinois, Michigan, Maryland, West Virginia, Iowa, eastern Kentucky and western and central Pennsylvania gave against a strike proposition on Tuesday. The delegates at the Indianapolis convention last week refused to accept a wage cut proposed by the operators and when the action was passed up to the two hundred thousand miners they refused to ratify.

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Excitement in Congress.

Last week was one of extraordinary interest and excitement in Congress. In fact there were a couple of days of frenzy on the floor of the House of Representatives during which Republicans were furious at the administration and an excited Member proposed speaker CANNON as a candidate for President against ROOSEVELT. The occasion of this episode was the publication of the BRISTOW report including Senators and Representatives in Congress in the postal frauds. The report was presented on Tuesday, but only provoked ridicule. But on Wednesday when the accused statesmen began hearing from home the amusement was changed to indignation. The statesmen discovered that their constituents took the statements seriously and that increased them against the administration.

The first outbreak occurred on Wednesday when the resentment took the form of a revolt against the leaders. Representative OVERSTREET, chairman of the committee on Postoffices and Postroads, had conceived an admirable plan to dispose of the matter quietly. That is to say, he was to make a motion to indefinitely postpone the report and all questions associated with it. But his motion provoked a perfect deluge of opposition. One Republican Member charged that matters that should have gone into the report were excluded and intimated that it was for the purpose of shielding friends of the President. Another denounced the "editor" of the report and when he was informed that it was probably the President he added that in any event whoever edited the report is "a liar and a scoundrel."

On Thursday Members of the House assembled in a state of rage. If business had been transacted that day it is safe to say that the Republican organization would have been rent asunder. But happily for that party the first announcement after the call of order was the death of a Member. Under a rule of many years there was no business in order that day on that account and an adjournment was taken. That gave the party "whips" time and the President got down into the lobby and begged the outraged Members to "forget their injuries" and take care of the party. It is said that he even promised to dismiss BRISTOW from office if the indignant Members would consent to OVERSTREET'S notion. In the evening the days labor looked fruitless. Indignation was as furious as ever. On Friday, however, the Members yielded and consented to a compromise.

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An Interesting Situation.

We shall watch with curious interest the progress of the investigation of the charges against certain Republican Senators and Representatives in Congress contained in the BRISTOW report. There can be no doubt that that report was "edited" by the President. It is equally certain that the object of the report was to intimidate certain Republican statesmen into acquiescence in the plans of the President to shield any of his intimate friends who might be involved in the Postoffice Department frauds. The present indications are, moreover, that the Republicans for whom the trap was set have been caught.

At least it is safe to say that there will be no investigation of the Department. More than a dozen Republican Representatives in Congress declared last week that the Department is rotten. One courageous Representative declared that the purpose of the BRISTOW report was to suppress evidence of iniquity. But in the end all of them voted to limit the inquiry to the relationship of Congressmen to the frauds. The association of others makes no difference. They are to be taken care of because exposure might injure the party and make votes against the President. For that purpose a felony has been compounded.

As things stand at present, however, about one hundred and seventy Representatives stand accused of violating the law in the interest of graft. They must answer to their constituents for that grave charge. But with the exception of the few stool-pigeons no one of the real grafters will be aspersed. MACHEN and BEAVERS will go to the penitentiary and the accused Congressmen will make whatever excuse they can, but the President and his friends stand vindicated. And the Republican Congressmen are responsible for the condition. They have brought upon themselves the odium.

Pennypacker to be Justice.

It has been finally settled, we are assured by the daily papers, that Governor PENNYPACKER is to be nominated for Justice of the Supreme court by the Republican State convention, which meets in Harrisburg on April 6th. The Governor visited QUAY in Philadelphia the other day and the matter was fixed finally, the story goes. QUAY told Cousin SAM that there is danger in the enterprise, no doubt. He pointed out that every respectable and self-respecting lawyer in the State would be against the base intrigue and that even machine politicians of the better sort would hold their noses while voting for him. But he probably added that with the increased facilities for fraudulent voting the conspiracy could be carried to success, anyway, and the vain old imbecile who thinks QUAY can do no wrong smilingly and cheerfully accepted the conditions.

It may be added that QUAY is more anxious than PENNYPACKER to consummate this iniquitous conspiracy. Things have been going bad with the old man for some time. The slump in the value of stocks and the inactivity in speculative operations have so reduced his resources that he has recently been compelled to offer one of his Lancaster farms for sale. For this reason he needs a legislative session rich in loot and to make that certain he desires to have "Oleo Bill" BROWN in the office of Governor. Under such circumstances the pirates will hesitate at no infamy. All sorts of snakes and pinch bills and grafts will be pressed and it won't be necessary to be even particular as to their passage if the clerks will be obliging and there is no doubt on that score. Under favorable conditions QUAY ought to be good for a couple of millions out of the next session of the Legislature.

But the people will have to pay the piper. Pinch bills and snake grabs and special privileges cost money, for the corporations that are pinched charge back upon the users of their service and the graft must come out of those who can't help themselves. Putting PENNYPACKER on the Supreme bench is a menace both to the integrity and the capability of the court, moreover, for he is either grossly ignorant of the law or utterly indifferent to moral obligations. It is the custom to say that his blunders are harmless eccentricities and if they come less frequently and under other conditions that idea might be accepted. But the frequency of them and the fact that they are always in one direction lead to the conviction that they are the result of design and a vicious nature, rather than of accident.

Smoot Inquiry Adjourned.

The SMOOT inquiry in Washington has been adjourned for a couple of weeks, the last testimony having been heard on Saturday last. The necessity was of summoning a new lot of witnesses who might have been sent for in ample time to answer the call when wanted. It is not likely that an officer of the Senate will go to Utah to summon the witnesses. At least there is no necessity for that as any United States marshal or state official is competent to serve summonses for the Senate official. The chances are, moreover, that a letter to any witness wanted would have met with a prompt response. The Mormons are not averse to testifying.

In view of these facts it may be assumed that there was some other reason for adjourning the inquiry for a while. As a matter of fact the investigation had taken a curious course during the last couple of days and maybe the adjournment was to head off that line of questioning. For example, on Thursday one witness testified that the church always insisted on the election of Republican politicians to office and on Democratic members of the sect keeping quiet. Another testified that when an Apostle who insisted on "preaching Democracy" became a candidate for United States Senator he was disciplined by the church and another testified that before elections the president of the church invariably issued a manifesto stating to the faithful "that it is the will of the Lord that you vote the Republican ticket this time."

It wouldn't require a big jump to carry the inquiry from that line to a discussion of the influences which made the polygamist organization anxious for the success of the Republican party. For example, it is alleged on responsible and well authenticated authority, that there is an agreement between the Republican national committee and the Mormon church under which they are bound to be mutually helpful to each other. That is to say, the Mormon church agreed to elect the Republican electoral ticket and the Republican committee agreed to give the Mormon church a seat in the United States Senate and other favors. Probably the adjournment was taken to avert that jump.

As between ROOSEVELT and HEARST it would merely be a matter of a toss up, so near alike are they.

The Disease, not the Name, Should be Fought.

The question as to whether small-pox really is prevalent in and about Howard is becoming much mooted. And before it is finally settled there will likely be much bad feeling engendered between the people of differing opinions in that community.

While the WATCHMAN has no desire or inclination to get mixed up in a controversy that seems as ridiculous as it is ill-advised we cannot refrain from calling public attention to the one salient, incontrovertible feature of the case.

There is an infectious disease prevalent! No one denies the presence of an infectious, contagious disease. So what difference does it make whether it is small-pox, "anamolous" small-pox, Cuban itch or something else. It is prevalent and should be stamped out. The sooner the people take such a sensible view of it the sooner this end will be accomplished.

No matter how much more the wise men of that community may know than the half-dozen or more physicians who have passed on the disease the outside world will take the judgment of the physicians. Because of the fact that there is an infectious disease present. No matter what it is no one wants to walk right into it.

In this connection we want also to call attention to the foolishness of the idea that prevails among some people to the effect that it is a disgrace to be quarantined. No reasonable mind could conceive any ground for such a conclusion. Take the Howard case, for an example. Nobody there is responsible for the first appearance of the disease. They are all the unfortunate victims of some one who came into their midst affected with it, when he or she should have been quarantined at home. It is no reflection on the personal habits of the people of Howard if they have the disease, but it is a reflection on their general intelligence and conception of moral duty if they permit others to get it because there is some dispute as to what it really is. Within the past few days a number of cases have broken out in the "Big Hollow," all of which can be traced right back to Howard and are the best evidence in the world that it is the duty of everyone to see to it that a strict quarantine is maintained in every affected quarter.

Rockefeller for Roosevelt.

The friends of the President announce with obvious satisfaction that the Standard oil company favors Mr. ROOSEVELT for President. This is interpreted, naturally, that the Wall Street opposition has been placated. ROCKEFELLER is altogether the most important figure in that element of the life of the country at this time. Once Mr. J. PIERPONT MORGAN was the controlling element there. But the practical failure of the steamship trust and the utter collapse of the shipbuilding trust have so bumped MORGAN that he realizes the propriety of laying low for a time. Under the circumstances ROCKEFELLER has taken his place.

But there is nothing now in the statement that ROCKEFELLER is for ROOSEVELT. As a matter of fact, he is never for anybody else. It is true that while Senator HANNA was alive it wasn't safe for even the Standard oil magnate to be candid on the subject. They were all afraid of HANNA and he was against ROOSEVELT. But HANNA was hardly cold in his coffin until the Standard oil company opened negotiations with ROOSEVELT. Mr. JAMES STILLMAN, president of Mr. ROCKEFELLER'S bank, was a guest at the White House before HANNA'S body was laid in its final resting place. The purpose of his visit was to "fix" ROOSEVELT and he achieved the purpose.

It would hardly be safe to say that Wall Street is for ROOSEVELT simply because ROCKEFELLER has "come over." The chances are that the more conservative capitalists in that centre of finance are still dubious of TEDDY. But the Standard oil company will contribute liberally to the campaign fund and ROCKEFELLER will serve as vice-president of every meeting held in New York during the campaign. That will help to a considerable extent, but not enough to control the business vote of the country. ROCKEFELLER has made terms for the Standard oil company, but he hasn't satisfied the better element in the business life of the country.

A cake of ice is said to have been seen floating down the river at Harrisburg that measured twenty-five feet long and was five feet thick. The fellow who first gave this bit of news (?) publicity probably didn't think to inquire who measured the ice.

The Northern Securities Case.

"The Mountain has labored and brought forth a Mouse." In other words, after more than a year of boasting that the administration will crush trusts, or at least so regulate them as to make them harmless, the Supreme court has decided, in relation to the Northern Securities company just what it decided in 1896 dissolved the Trans-Missouri affair. That is, it has decided that it is illegal for a trust to organize in a way that would make it possible to restrain trade between the States. The Northern Securities company was so organized and the effect of the decision will dissolve it.

But the decision doesn't sustain the pretense of the President that he is a trust buster. On the contrary it shows that not a step had been taken in advance on the trust question since President CLEVELAND'S Attorney-General in 1896 dissolved the pool, which had been formed to regulate rather than restrain trade. In fact in that case the results were reached in half the time consumed in reaching this decision and the premises were less clearly defined. The organization of the Northern Securities company was so palpably a violation of the law that there was little chance to go wrong. But in the Trans-Missouri case there were no such tangible evidences of culpability.

The effect of the decision is the dissolution of the Northern Securities company if it stops with present achievement. But if the President is really a trust-buster it will not stop there. In other words, the decision shows that similar proceedings against the Steel trust, the Standard oil trust and the Beef trust will bring about the same result in each and unless the President is a false pretender he will lose no time in setting the legal machinery in motion. The Northern Securities company was doing comparatively little harm, but the others are exceedingly inimical to public interests.

A Peril to the Democracy.

From the Philadelphia Public Ledger. No one need lie awake o' nights in fear of the election to the office of President of the United States of Hon. William E. Hearst, but if those Democrats who were but a little while ago hoping—expecting, even—that their party was to emerge in 1904 from the slough of defeat into which it was thrown eight years ago by the malign force of Bryanism, and in which it has since floundered, are seriously considering the Bryan-Hearst movement, they will no doubt recognize that it presents many and great possibilities of danger. On Thursday last the Democrats of Rhode Island, assembled in convention at Providence, elected six Hearst delegates to the St. Louis convention. On Saturday these six delegates—two delegates in opposition being absent—met and declared themselves "unequivocally in favor of the nomination of" Hearst, and adopted a resolution that "unit rule shall govern the delegation from Rhode Island," and that "the entire vote of such delegation shall be given" Hearst. Thus has Hearst received the solid delegation of the first State to hold a state convention. Further than that, in Ohio he got the first district delegates elected in the United States, and, apart from both these acccessions, he has captured other scattering delegates to St. Louis. The indications are that Hearst will have more than a third of the delegates to the National convention; and, unless the two-thirds rule be abandoned by it, he and Bryan can make a good deal of trouble in that body, and shatter for another four years all hope of Democratic solidarity and power.

It is incredible that Hearst can be nominated for the Presidency, much less elected; but as the catapult of Bryan and the other malcontents and wreckers in the party, he is a person to be reckoned with. Preposterous as his aspirations are, they constitute a very serious peril to the Democracy.

Gen. Miles Would be President.

Announces Himself as Candidate Subject to Prohibition Party Rules. OIL CITY, Pa., March 14.—David O. McCalmont, of Oil City, chairman of the Venango county Prohibition committee, is in receipt of a letter from General Nelson A. Miles, in which the General announces himself, indirectly, as a candidate for the Presidency, subject to the rules of the Prohibition party.

Some time ago McCalmont wrote to General Miles announcing that he would be a delegate to the Prohibition national convention, and asked if he could not have the pleasure of supporting him for the nomination. The full text of the letter received in reply Mr. McCalmont refuses to make public, as he claims it is a private communication. He states that it has not been seen by anyone but himself. At a banquet held in Franklin on Tuesday evening of last week, attended by a few men active in the Prohibition party in Franklin, Mr. McCalmont proposed General Miles as a candidate and read an extract from the letter, in which General Miles is quoted as saying:

"It remains with my friends to say what services I shall render further to my country." Mr. McCalmont refuses to quote any further for publication and claims that the original quotation was given out simply as a matter of private information to a few friends. He has written for General Miles' permission to publish the full text of the letter.

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Spawls from the Keystone.

The Huntington and Clearfield Telephone company are making preparations to extend their lines to DuBois.

Andrew Carnegie promises to give \$1500 toward the purchase of an organ for the Stroudsburg Methodist Episcopal church.

John Betts, aged 71 years, a well-known citizen of Jersey Shore, dropped dead on Sunday. He was at the home of his daughter, Mrs. D. M. Boswell, when he complained of not feeling well and a moment later fell dead.

Postmaster Giddings, of Windber, has offered to contribute \$500 to the Young Men's Christian association of that town, provided its other friends will give a similar sum. The money is wanted for equipment purposes.

The annual order for locomotives and coaches to be built by the Pennsylvania railroad company, at the shops in Altoona, is announced. It provides for the construction of 146 engines. The order for new coaches 160. These will be made of various kinds.

The Rev. Dr. William Dayton Roberts, of Williamsport, at the close of his sermon in the First Presbyterian church on Sunday morning, announced to his people his acceptance of the call recently received from the Temple Presbyterian church of Philadelphia.

The Fifth regiment band will be inspected at Clearfield on the afternoon of March 18th. The entire band of thirty members will be there for the inspection and will give a concert in the opera house that evening. Major Jeffries, inspector of the Second brigade, N. G. P., will do the inspecting.

Three brothers named Smith, residing at Everett, have died during the last month of small-pox and several cases of the disease are now in the town. One of these is the young wife of Horace Smith, the marriage having been celebrated while he lay upon his death bed. It is said she has a very severe attack of the disease.

The Home of the Friendless, Williamsport, came very nearly being destroyed by fire on an early hour Saturday morning. One of the inmates struck a match, the lighted head of which flew off and ignited a curtain. She quickly gave the alarm and the fire was put out, although the room and the contents were badly scorched.

The Clearfield Republican says that contractor Reuben H. Thompson has begun tearing down the Methodist church. Men are at work demolishing the high tower and before another week will commence to take down the walls. During the building of the new church services will be held in the opera house each Sunday.

An overhead foot bridge will be erected by the railroad company in the west end of the yard at Renovo, above the depot, says the News. The foundation has already been completed. This is an improvement which has been under consideration for some time by the company and one which will be of great benefit to the people of the North side.

In court at Hollidaysburg Monday Wm. Hall, a venerable looking prisoner pleaded guilty to the larceny of an overcoat from the hotel Myron, in Tyrone. The defendant had no excuse to offer except that he was drunk and that he was 65 years of age and was never before charged with any crime. He was sentenced to serve 60 days in jail and pay \$5 fine and costs.

Because he was disappointed in love, Walter Hyde, a young farm hand, who worked on the J. M. Mosteller farm north of Williamsport, shot himself through the heart Friday afternoon with a shotgun. He had placed the muzzle against his body and pulled the trigger with his foot by the aid of a loop of binder twine. Mrs. Mosteller found the body in the barn.

John Reynolds, who resides at Graysville, has a faithful lot of chickens, that care as little for under zero weather as a mule does for a man with a club. His flock numbers forty hens, and in a single day not long ago when the thermometer registered eight degrees below zero they laid thirty-four eggs. During the month of February Mr. Reynolds received \$17 from the sale of eggs.

Eight years ago Miss Paulina Blum, of Bradock, was supposed to have died and arrangements were being made for the funeral when the accidental scratching of the body with a pin caused the blood to flow and it was found that Miss Blum was still living after lying in a comatose condition for nearly two days. The beginning of this week it was believed that death had come in reality and according to Miss Blum's urgent request the body is being kept a number of days before interment. Mrs. Gilbert Greenberg, of Huntingdon, is a sister of Miss Blum.

A very enterprising moving picture showman succeeded the other day in throwing the pretty city of Hazleton into a turmoil by arranging for the sounding of a fire alarm which called out three divisions of a fire department in order to form a scene for a moving picture which is to be reproduced there. The alarm was a general one, and a report spread that the business section of the city was being destroyed by fire. People hurried from all directions to the scene of the supposed fire, all of which contributed to the effectiveness of the picture.

Fourteen prominent Pittsburg and Philadelphia politicians on Thursday pleaded guilty before Justice of the peace Barclay, of Clearfield, to the charge of running deer with dogs on the border line between Blair and Clearfield counties, and were each fined \$100 and costs. The Commonwealth was represented by Joseph Kablous, secretary of the State Game Commission. The game commission profits to the extent of one-half of the fines, \$700, and a halfhearted lesson is taught not only the culprits who were punished, but notice is served on all hunters that the law must be observed.

As an outcome of Saturday's Democratic primaries in the precincts of the Eighth ward, Altoona, common councilman Wm. C. Myton, James P. Bartley, W. B. Saylor, Fred Gleicher, William White, William Oeffinger and Carl Heinzman were arrested Monday on information made before Alderman G. A. DoByne by Ed. Kabelle charging them with conspiracy to stuff ballot boxes and cheat and defraud George W. Wigham and George Meek out of the nomination for select council, and also to cheat and defraud P. E. Coll out of the nomination for common council. All the defendants entered bail for hearing.