

Ink Slings.

The picnic basket is beginning to make goo goo eyes at Hecla and Hunters parks. —If love is a disease of the heart, as a London medical journal states, Dr. Cupid is the boy who should be kept in close quarantine.

The local Republicans pounded a spigot into Uncle SOLLY's barrel last week and got a free trip from Harrisburg to DuBois, with all the trimmings.

—To-day the most truthful of them will lie a little. You know there is nothing that makes men deviate from the actual fact quite as much as brook trout.

—Sir HENRY IRVING denies that he is going to write his memoirs. How sad. We have long been waiting for some explanation of his claim to being an actor.

—Senator BURTON might have thought he was like DANIEL in the lion's den, after his trial and conviction, but, unlike DANIEL, he won't be able to get out so soon.

—With nearly half a million soldiers on foot in the far East both sides throw a fit of exuberant exultation over the grand victories they have when one or two men are killed.

—No doubt the Republican national convention would like to unload ROOSEVELT like QUAY's convention got rid of PENNYPACKER, but then ROOSEVELT doesn't have his QUAY.

—It looks already as if the Republicans were afraid of PARKER. Whenever a party that is as firmly entrenched in power as it has been gets on the defensive there is an unmistakable sign of weakness.

—A microbe has been discovered that will kill rats and other rodents without injury to other animals. Of course the discovery was made in Paris, for the microbe business has ever flourished there.

—The smart set in London is affecting the wasp waist again and the wasp waist will be affecting the smart set again very shortly. There is no accounting for the foolish ways of the average woman with her stays.

—It is predicted that radium will disappear in eleven hundred and fifty years. Very sorry to see it go but then at \$20,000,000 a pound we can't bring ourselves to a clear understanding of what it came at all for.

—Captain RICHMOND P. HOBSON will have to remain contented with his present occupation and his kissing acts as a side line. He was defeated for nomination to Congress from the Sixth Alabama district on Tuesday.

—The Altoona Times recently devoted half a column of its editorial space to an effort to make people believe that riches will not make them happy. Up to that time we had always credited the Times with having good sense.

—The little prison at Ironton, Mo., yawns for United States Senator BURTON. There are a number of prisons in Pennsylvania that yawned so much for another distinguished Senator a few years ago that they all feel asleep.

—The United States Senate hasn't lost much in the conviction of Senator BURTON, of Kansas. Any fellow who couldn't get into the graft game with more deftness than he did is unfit, even for such a place as the Pennsylvania Legislature.

—In the light of the reported serious illness of boss QUAY and the possible outcome of it what do you suppose the Plover of Indiana will think of permitting himself to be laid on the shelf from which he can't jump into the boss' shoes.

—A rather peculiar condition of affairs exists in the Blair-Bedford congressional district, where JOHN M. REYNOLDS, an ex-Democrat, is heading the ticket for Congress, and JOSEPH E. THROPP, a supposed ex-Republican, is the Democratic nominee. If it should happen to resolve itself into a mud-slinging campaign how many times do you suppose the word renegade will be used?

—A horse over in New York, that had lost all the hair out of its tail and become very unsightly, was supplied with an artificial tail and at once it became so proud that it would not stand on the same side of the street with other horses. And who can say that there is such a vast difference between horse and man. Give some woman a rat and a switch and they will carry their head as though they owned the earth.

—The Philadelphia police think they have discounted the cunning of a SHERLOCK HOLMES, because someone told them that he thought a negro named LAWRENCE GIBSON had murdered WM. THOMAS, the aged night watchman at Houston hall, and when arrested on suspicion GIBSON confessed. The Philadelphia police force is so unaccustomed to catching criminals that when one does walk into their hands they imagine it is a wonderful achievement.

—Scarcely a day passes that the harrowing accounts of a number of murders do not blacken the pages of our daily papers. In many cases life is held so cheap that it is taken for the most trifling cause. To say the least this tendency is alarming and the time will soon be at hand when the feeling of insecurity will affect society in general. Much of the growth of murder can be attributed to the mawkish sentimentality that too often expresses itself for a murderer. If the law were swifter in meting out its punishment for the crime and less frequently defeated in its purpose men and women would probably think more before they hurl another soul into eternity without a moment's warning.

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Concerning Highway Improvements

What is called "the emergency" River and Harbor bill passed the House of Representatives in Washington, yesterday. It carries an appropriation of \$3,500,000 and is ostensibly for the purpose of making repairs in harbors and improvements in rivers that have been damaged by floods or otherwise and require instant action. The real purpose of it is to have a considerable fund at command from which a few thousand dollars may be drawn for instant disbursement where it will "do the most good" in close Congress districts. It will be remembered that Representative BATES, of Meadville had such an emergency on hand last fall. The town of Corry, where his opponent lives, owns the building which is used for a postoffice and rents it to the government. Things were going badly there for Mr. BATES and someone suggested that if he could get an increase in the rent of the postoffice amounting to \$100 it would help him greatly. Thereupon he wrote to "Dear BEAVERS" asking for the money and gave him assurance that compliance with his request "would do me much good at this time." He got the money.

The party managers have concluded that it is inexpedient to pass a regular river and harbor bill this year. The real bill would carry an appropriation of from \$75,000,000 to \$100,000,000 and supplementing the other profligate appropriations would swell the total to a startling sum. Therefore it is reasoned that the really important improvements in rivers and harbors can go over for a year if there is an emergency fund sufficient to meet the political exigencies. Under this arrangement a few hundred thousand dollars can be expended in deepening the Delaware channel so as to make certain a solid congressional delegation from Philadelphia and make a Republican majority in Delaware at least probable. A few thousand more will secure a Congressman in St. Louis, probably a couple in Cincinnati and one here and there in other sections of the country. Unless there is actually a land-slide the carrying of a dozen or so of doubtful districts, it is expected, will preserve a Republican majority in the House and if there is a land-slide no amount of money would achieve the result.

As a matter of fact there ought to be no money appropriated for such purposes for the reason that it is not expended honestly for the purpose of public improvement, but is used for political graft. But even if the contrary were true the appropriation of vast sums for such purposes is an injustice to a great majority of people who pay the taxes. For example, the proposed deepening of the Delaware channel is for the purpose of facilitating the business of Philadelphia importers who imagine that it will help them in their competition with New York traders. With a channel which will admit the heaviest draft steamers they believe they can get goods from foreign producers delivered at their doors cheaper than at present to the extent, at least, of the amount of the freight from New York by rail, for the only difference in delivery is a matter of time when the entire distance is by water. But what good is that to the consumer? Absolutely none, for the price of the product is the same in any event and the saving in freight charges is only an addition to the profits of the dealer.

There is one way that the benefits of river and harbor improvements might be equalized to the tax payers. That is to say if it were made the rule that for every dollar appropriated for river and harbor improvements an equal amount be appropriated for the improvement of roads in the country. The water ways are the highways of commerce and the country roads the highways of agriculture. That being true the improvement of the water highways benefits the city merchants at the expense of all the taxpayers and the improvement of the land highways benefits the farmers under precisely the same conditions. Thus by an equal division of the appropriation, between land and water highways, all classes of tax payers are equally benefitted and taxed alike, which is just and right. But under the present custom of giving vast sums to river and harbor improvements and nothing at all to land road improvements the bulk of the burden is put on one class, while all the benefits go to others.

We would suggest, therefore, that in future all river and harbor bills be made to provide with equal liberality for land road improvements. Even at this session now that an emergency river and harbor bill has been passed a supplemental bill might be introduced and enacted providing for an emergency fund of \$3,500,000 for road building in places inland from the seashore. The improved harbors will enable the importing merchants of the cities affected to reach their sources of supply easier and at less expense and the improved land roads will enable the producers to reach the markets for the disposal of their products easier and at less expense. Every agricultural

constituency in the country is concerned in this matter and the Representatives in Congress of such constituencies might be made to realize their obligations to labor for their constituents as the Representatives of city constituencies work for the benefit of the people whom they look to for re-election.

An Inadequate Defense.

When BOURKE COCHRAN said the other day that the President's "order" which worked an amendment of the pension laws was a dangerous usurpation of power Mr. DALZELL, of Pittsburgh, replied that the House has vigorously and successfully resisted all attempts of the Senate to encroach upon its authority. As a matter of fact the House hasn't done anything of the kind, but even if it had, the statement of the fact would be no answer to Mr. COCHRAN's allegation. He charged the President with usurpation, which is a crime punishable by impeachment. He is a great lawyer and a Representative in Congress, so that his accusations can't be brushed aside as coming from irresponsible authority. Mr. DALZELL's answer is apparently an attempt to do this.

The Federal constitution distinctly and unequivocally declares that "all legislative powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives." The pension laws quite as distinctly fixed upon certain conditions to entitle a veteran of the Civil war to what is called invalid pension. The President's order alters those conditions radically, which is an essential element of legislation. Therefore in making that order the President was usurping the prerogatives of Congress, violating the constitution of the United States and committing perjury by breaking his oath of office to "support, obey and defend" the organic law.

A false pretense that a difference of opinion between the Senate and House of Representatives upon a question of revenue legislation justifies such a misfeasance in office may deceive JOHN DALZELL, who stands accused in the BRISQW report of criminal conspiracy to cheat the government in connection with postoffice favors, but it won't fool the intelligent American people. The crime against the Federal constitution must be answered in some other way. The usurpation by the President of the prerogatives of Congress must be supported by a stronger and better excuse or condemned as an admonition against similar crimes in the future. DALZELL would better try again.

Penny Will Obey.

While laboring under the belief that QUAY intended to catapult Governor PENNYPACKER instead of JOHN P. ELKIN into the Supreme court we expressed the belief that PENNYPACKER would be quite as obedient as "Oleo Bill" BROWN could possibly be in the office of Governor. It is an open secret that the coming session of the Legislature is to be a perfect carnival of corruption. The depreciation in the value of corporate property has made it necessary for QUAY to replenish his resources and he intends to achieve the result by vicious legislation, including pinch bills, snakes and similar measures for commercial uses.

At the close of the last session it was found necessary to kill a number of bills of that character because Governor PENNYPACKER had threatened to veto them. It will be remembered that then QUAY was on the high tide of prosperity and rarely visited Harrisburg. The profits of the evil legislation, therefore, would all have gone to the Senator's lieutenants and the Governor wouldn't consent to immerse himself in infamy for their benefit entirely. But next year it will be different. QUAY will be at the scene of operations in person and the hungriest of the mob. He will compel Cousin SAM to sign whatever the result.

And it won't be a difficult matter at that. PENNYPACKER has no really well-founded scruples against vice. He would just as soon be out of it, probably, and might even prefer clean hands to those reeking in corruption. But if QUAY wants corruption PENNYPACKER will be ready to oblige him beyond question. He will convince himself that there can be no harm in anything which contributes to the comfort and feeds the expensive passions of Cousin MATT. These are really not pleasant facts to promulgate. But they are facts and the public may as well look them in the face as to view them from the rear later on.

—Writing from Sherman Heights, Tenn., S. B. Dennis says: "Enclosed find one dollar for the WATCHMAN another year. It is always a pleasure to write an old friend to come and see me and the WATCHMAN is truly an old friend." Jas. Tobin, of Snow Shoe, writes much in the same vein and we appreciate both letters.

—Andrew Thompson, a well-known resident of Unionville, is said to be ill beyond the hope of recovery.

Still Resisting Investigation.

During the discussion of an amendment to the postoffice appropriation bill the other day, proposed by Senator GORMAN, Senator TELLER, of Colorado declared that there is specific evidence of the loss to the government of \$3,000,000 as the result of the frauds in the Postoffice Department. Of this amount, he added, \$26,000 had been traced to MACHEN and \$20,000 to BEAVERS, leaving \$3,154,000 unaccounted for. Mr. GORMAN's amendment provided for a searching investigation of the Department by a committee of Congress to be completed before the appropriation to certain purposes in the Department be available. Senator TELLER was supporting the amendment.

If \$3,154,000 dollars have been stolen from the government and nobody knows who got the money or how it was obtained, the leaders of the Republican party ought to be anxious for an investigation rather than fighting such a proposition. In the first place until the perpetrator of the crime is revealed and punished the party under whose auspices he operated is responsible, whether the leaders of the party know who he is or not. If they know and fail to expose and hand him over to punishment they are accessories after the fact, which is almost as bad as perpetrating the crime. But in any event they are responsible because they have been charged with guarding the interests of the people and have failed.

The persistency and energy with which the Republican leaders in the Senate and House of Representatives resist every effort to investigate the frauds make it certain that they know where the fault lies and that it is very close to the head of the administration. If only unimportant persons were concerned there would be no attempt at concealment. BEAVERS and MACHEN were given up willingly to the vengeance of the law because they were no use. But PERRY S. HEATH, who was secretary of the Republican National committee and PETTIT, who is a clerk in that committee, were protected. The other and greater offenders must be important fellows indeed.

Elkin Absolutely Unfit.

Governor PENNYPACKER appointed SAMUEL GUSTINE THOMPSON to the office of Justice of the Supreme court because, as he stated at the time, he was an ideal man for the place. Two years ago he accepted the nomination for Governor for the reason, as he stated it at the time, that JOHN P. ELKIN was morally and mentally unfit. THOMPSON hasn't lost any of his splendid equipment for the bench since and ELKIN hasn't improved in morals or methods. Under the circumstances what will the Governor do on election day? He certainly can't support ELKIN.

No argument is required to prove that in the nature of things the highest order of moral and intellectual strength is essential to qualify a man for the Supreme court bench. If a Governor is delinquent in one particular or another it is bad enough but not fatal. His term of office is short and he hasn't opportunity to do much harm. He can avert, as PENNYPACKER has done, for four years but then his race is run. He goes out and never again gets a chance to trifle with public affairs. But with a Justice of the Supreme court it is different. He must be above suspicion and if he isn't he puts dishonor on the judiciary for twenty-one years.

Now if ELKIN wasn't morally fit for Governor he is less fit for the Supreme court bench and if he is unfit for that office it is a crime of the gravest character to elect him. Suppose, for example, he would pass upon the constitutionality of laws as a Judge as he did as Attorney General. In passing upon the right of the Governor to veto a resolution submitting a constitutional amendment to the people, the Supreme court declared that the assertion of such a right was absurd. Yet ELKIN asserted it and upon the bench he might be equally stupid.

—If PARKER is a good man and would make a safe President, if elected, why not nominate him? Is it either good sense or good politics to decay him because some Democrats who did not vote the ticket in 1896 or 1900 feel that they could support him? It is certain that we cannot elect anyone without having all the votes we can get and when one issue has failed twice it is surely time to try another.

—The German police stopped a burlesque show in Berlin a few nights ago because one of the ridiculous characters was called Mr. ROOSEVELT. The Germans have a fine sense of delicacy indeed, but what a waste of it to undertake to protect a man who makes himself about as ridiculous as possible whenever the opportunity presents.

—It is said that a normal human being breathes twenty-six hundred gallons of air every twenty-four hours. If this be so it is easily seen where some people get so much wind.

Quay's Conspiracy.

The "quick-change" of characters in Senator QUAY's little comedy in Harrisburg, last week, deceived most of the people of the State for the moment, but few of them are still resting under the delusion. The delegates were kept in the dark with respect to the plans of the boss and what are known as "the country leaders" were not let into the secret. But it is reasonably certain that PENNYPACKER, PENROSE, ELKIN, and probably half a dozen others were acquainted with the plans a month ahead of the event. They knew that PENNYPACKER wasn't to be the candidate for Justice of the Supreme court, but that a man less fit, if that is possible, was to be.

QUAY wants no reputable and independent men in office and he can't afford to have his candidates in the lime-light of public scrutiny before they are nominated. The proposition to nominate PENNYPACKER justly aroused public indignation and provoked popular protests. The suggestion of JOHN P. ELKIN for the office would have been rebuffed with equal earnestness and emphasis. Because of that QUAY compelled PENNYPACKER to continue in the attitude of a candidate until it would be too late to formulate an opposition to Elkin whom he intended to nominate from the beginning. He believed that after the nomination the party whip would keep the voters in line, even for so bad a candidate.

It was a base conspiracy which intelligent and conscientious men would promptly resent. The purpose of it, moreover, was dastardly. It was to catapult into the Supreme court a man who is conspicuously and notoriously unfit. Governor HASTING's dismissed him from a subordinate office in his administration for being concerned as accessory to a crime, so that he is morally unfit to sit on the Supreme court bench. During his term as Attorney General in the administration of Governor STONE he made such absurd decisions in several important cases as to mark him as mentally unfit. But by this conspiracy of QUAY and PENNYPACKER he stands to go upon the bench unless an aroused public conscience will defeat the purpose.

Will Roosevelt Get Us Into It?

Recent movements in the far east, on the suggestion of Admiral Evans, approved by the Navy Department, seem to show a concern by the American authorities to get nearer the seat of war and ready for some kind of interference when it may be ordered from Washington, or on the impulse of some naval officer commanding in some distant quarter of the world. Early in the Asiatic war the battle ships of the Asiatic fleet were gathered near the Philippines, on the idea that presence nearer the scene of hostilities would be regarded as an unbecomingly move by one or the other of the belligerents. But this has been changed by a bulletin from the Navy Department authorizing the admiral to permit his squadron to cruise at discretion, in a more northerly direction, that is, going nearer the seat of war.

No purpose of intervention is declared by our government, but the diplomats at Washington are reported much concerned about it, apprehending that the United States is disposing of its sea power for the summer in such a way as to be available if needed to back up any national policy. In connection with possible trouble for the United States the dispatches from St. Petersburg tell of Russia's fear of active intervention apprehended by the probabilities of China engaging in the war between Japan and Russia. In this way the United States may be drawn into a more active part in the Russo-Japanese war than has hitherto been deemed probable. Russia's determination to promptly act against China should the Chinese turn in as the ally of Japan is accepted abroad as an assured fact. All the Americans have been acting on the theory that their interference is most improbable, and so it has seemed to all Americans who have kept close watch. But there is no telling what a day may bring forth. Should China become embroiled, and war follow between Russia and China, the interests of the United States, of England and even of France, may become involved and the eastern war take a different shape from what has appeared as at all possible in the recent past. Especially would this be the case should Russia threaten intervention. In such emergency England would make more pronounced her alliance with Japan.

It is not unlikely, certainly not an impossibility, that the Russo-Japanese war may involve other nations, as it has been expected and predicted from the start. It is certainly one thing the United States should steer clear of, but it is to be kept in mind that we have a very unsafe man at the head of the affairs in Washington.

Not Citizens but Calves.

That remarkable acrobat performance by which the Governor assigned to the future, became the supreme judge of to-day and the Governor of to-day, assigned to the supreme bench continues Governor for yet awhile, has aroused the amused and sometimes the excited comment of the journals, all of whom see in it the vast versatility as well as controlling power of the great magnate Quay who has long been saying thumbs up, but who has outdone himself in this case in the "Presto, change" business. We sincerely trust that our Republican fellow citizens are instructed, as well as entertained, by this magician style of their party government, for we still have trust that when they are sufficiently saturated with appreciation of the fact that under it they are not citizens, but calves, they will try to do something about it.

Spawls from the Keystone.

—The inter-collegiate debate, in which the following colleges: State, Franklin and Marshall, Swathmore and Dickinson participated ended Friday night in a victory for Franklin and Marshall. The latter first defeated State. On Friday night Dickinson met F. and M. with the above result.

—George Hildman, of Montandon, 18 years old and six feet tall, who graduated with honors from Bucknell University, Lewisburg, last year, has been sent by the Northumberland county court, to the state insane asylum at Danville. He had smoked ten boxes of cigarettes per day, which with overstudy unbalanced his mind.

—The third attempt was made Wednesday night to burglarize the Evangelical parsonage at DuBois. Hearing the noise at the kitchen window, the pastor, Rev. A. J. Beal, secured his revolver, as the robber was entering the window the preacher fired two shots at him. The midnight intruder fled, but left a trail of blood behind.

—A telegram from Harrisburg announces that an order has been issued from the headquarters of the National Guard of Pennsylvania, to the effect that the divisional encampment will be held at Gettysburg July 23-30. An order was also issued announcing that the current season for rifle practice was opened on April 1st, and will close on October 31st.

—The office of the Williamsport Nail and Iron works was broken into at two different times Tuesday evening. By the means of two large wrenches the lock on the door to the vault was broken and the papers and contents of the different drawers were ransacked. The robber then climaxed the affair by setting fire to the papers in the vault. The fire was extinguished by neighbors with buckets of water.

—Mrs. Edward Koons, of Hughesville, while visiting her daughter in Jersey Shore, placed a pin in her mouth, and swallowed it as she reached above her head for something. Since that time Mrs. Koons has constantly experienced a choking sensation and it is believed the pin has punctured and lodged in her windpipe. Physicians have thus far been unable to remove the pin. Her condition is becoming alarming.

—Cornelius Cotter, of DuBois, is preparing a framed exhibit that is novel and unique. He will have his wholesale liquor license for the nine years that he was in business arranged in chronological order and then end on his door, and which terminated in ending him. The picture will be entitled "A History of the liquor business, and will have a place in the Y. M. C. A. rooms.

—Grave fears are entertained by many of the farmers and other residents along the river between Lock Haven and Oak Grove that the new bridge being built at that point by the New York Central railroad, will be a serious menace to the passing out of the ice in the spring. The piers are so close together that the ice is almost certain to gorge, with the result that the back water will flood all the districts westward, including the city.

—The Pennsylvania railroad company will this year plant 100,000 trees in furtherance of its plan to grow its own crosses at points convenient for use. Last year 60,000 locust trees were planted, 13,000 near Conowingo and 17,000 at Newton Hamilton, on the Middle division. On the subject of timber and providing for the large needs of the company in this direction a special report has been prepared. It will be submitted to the general manager at an early date.

—The Pennsylvania railroad company will pay to its shopmen at Altoona this month the sum of \$912,000. It is the biggest pay in the history of the company, exceeding previous records by almost \$50,000. The Juniata shop employees received their pay on Saturday and the other shops Monday. The big pay is the result of the rush to get much needed work out. In many of the departments the men were compelled to work overtime and in this way swelled their checks by many dollars.

—Pierce Horr, a traveling salesman for a pulley company in Wisconsin, developed a case of small-pox while stopping at a Williamsport hotel. He was locked in his room until the sanitary hospital was made ready for his reception in the afternoon. The room was thoroughly fumigated, and every precaution has been taken to prevent a spread of the disease. Horr has been traveling in the anthracite coal regions, where the disease is prevalent. The Williamsport people were just congratulating themselves that the city was free from small-pox.

—A peculiar damage case was placed on trial at New Castle before Judge W. D. Wallace. Counselman Robert H. Whaley, of that place, wants the Citizen's national bank to pay him \$15,000 for alleged permanent injuries which he claims he received from an electric shock while leaning against a brass railing in front of the bank. The plaintiff says that the employees of the bank would touch a button whenever they saw any one leaning on the brass fixtures and that the sidewalk would be sprinkled in order to create an effective current.

—The verdict of \$8,000, which was some months ago awarded Herman Fulmer, of Jersey Shore, by the court of Lycoming county, in his suit for damages against the New York Central and Hudson river railroad company, was reversed by Judge Dean, of the Supreme court, sitting in Philadelphia on Monday. Fulmer was a car repairer in the company's employ and while working underneath a string of cars on the repair track, other cars were pushed in upon the same track and as a result Fulmer had his left leg injured so badly that amputation was necessary.

—The State Highway Department has put in a busy winter preparing for a still more busy summer. Fifty-eight applications have been received from twenty-seven different counties and covering nearly 115 miles of roads. Contracts have been signed or awarded for five different pieces of roads, bids are being asked at the present time for five more with the plans in course of preparation for several more. Still the applications continue to arrive, five having been received during the past few days from Erie, Venango, Crawford, Lycoming and Chester counties. None of the supervisors in this section of the State have as yet been moved by the spirit of progress to try and better the condition of bad roads. If we once get a few samples of good roads the demand for more would soon be overwhelming.