

Ink Blots.

The moon's away 'round in the north, which means more cold and snow...

Democratic Watchman

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Work of the Convention.

The Democrats of Pennsylvania may justly "point with pride" to the convention which served its purpose in Harrisburg on Tuesday and the work of the State Central committee the day following.

A Shabby False Pretense.

General GROSVENOR, of Ohio, imposed a rather shabby false pretense on the House of Representatives the other day. That is to say under the rule which permits Representatives in Congress to print undelivered speeches in the Congressional Record by unanimous consent, he got in an autobiography of the President.

Who Will Get New York?

Assuming, for the sake of argument, that Judge ALTON B. PARKER, will be made the Democratic nominee for President by the St. Louis convention, public attention and political speculation naturally turns to the probable outcome of a contest between PARKER and ROOSEVELT in New York, which is regarded as one of the three pivotal States in presidential elections.

Pennsylvania Democrats Send Delegates Bound by Unit Rule.

HARRISBURG, April 19.—The Democratic state convention, which was held here to-day, refused to instruct the national delegates from Pennsylvania to vote for the nomination of Judge Alton B. Parker, of New York, for President.

Spawls from the Keystone.

Mrs. Harriet Hunter, of Milton, celebrated her 104th birthday anniversary the other day, and is remarkably well preserved for her age. Rafting logs out of the boom at Williamsport began Monday. There are about 25,000,000 feet of logs now in the boom.

There are a lot of big men in the Democratic party in New York, but at this writing DAVID B. HILL looks like the head-liner. We are having the April showers all right enough, but we betide the May flower that has the hardihood to push its blushing face to the wind.

There are indications that the Czar of Russia will deplete his forces faster by chopping the heads off his commanders than the Japs will do in battle. There is only the difference of one little letter in HILL and bell, yet TAMMANY wasn't really in a position to discern any difference at all in what it got at Albany during the fore part of the week.

The Bellefonte council has essayed to do some very wonderful things, but will the people please keep their eyes on this latest plan to reduce the taxes and at the same time raise enough money to pay off a floating indebtedness. The entire commerce of Korea amounts to only fifteen million dollars a year, yet Russia and Japan are spending almost that amount every week they fight over it.

As a result of most careful observation a Washington scientist announces that the sun is changing its shape. There has been every indication for some time that Old Sol is not in his usual good form and is proving anything but the warm member he used to be. So far as the disposition on the part of Clearfield county delegates to be fair to the other counties of this congressional district is concerned, they might just as well have had their meeting at home and said nothing to the rest about it.

The fact that the birth rate has declined in London from 32.2 per thousand in 1881 to 28.5 in 1902 is conclusive evidence that children are no longer popular with the English. This being so we are constrained to inquire where JOHN BULL expects to get his soldiers should another PAUL KRUGER appear on the horizon a quarter of a century hence.

State Treasurer HARRIS has "weared of well doing" or else he has been called off. At any rate, he proposes to let the end of his term expire without completing the only real meritorious service he undertook since he entered upon the duties of his office. To be exact he has determined to let drop his purpose of putting to the test the constitutionality of the judicial salary bill enacted during the last session of the Legislature which considerably increased the salaries of judges in commission, notwithstanding such a thing is specifically forbidden by the fundamental law of the State.

State Treasurer HARRIS declares that he is still convinced that the law in question is invalid. That being true, his failure to continue the resistance to its operation is plainly a mistake. He is sworn to "support, obey and defend the constitution." That instrument in the plainest terms forbids the increase or decrease in the compensation or emoluments of any public official during the term for which he is elected. But the law which Treasurer HARRIS proposes now to let take its course increases the salaries of public officials and in yielding before the last expedient of resistance has been exhausted is not defending the constitution.

The machine selected the judges to sit on the question of the validity of the law because it was understood that if they knew the law they would conceal the knowledge in the interest of politics. Judge VON MOSCHISKEK is one of the newly created Philadelphia machine judges and Judge BELL, of Blair county, already stands charged with the commission of offenses against the law which are not compatible with the dignity of the position he holds. But because such judges have decided adversely to his contention in the lower court he declines to carry it to a higher tribunal. It looks as if HARRIS had been called off.

The Centre Hall Reporter complains that the telephone service in Penns Valley once extended by the local Commercial company is being more and more restricted by the United Telephone and Telegraph Co., by which the Commercial was absorbed, some time ago. Exactly so. What else could have been expected? As long as an undertaking is weak and struggling it bows and bends, and struggles to please everyone. But let it get strong enough to stand on its own legs and it will always have a leg not in use with which to kick the very people who helped it to get any legs at all.

The street track for wagon roads that is being seriously discussed in some western States would not suit in most sections of Pennsylvania, where steep hills would make it impossible for a team of horses to hold back a heavy wagon in a descent. The Democratic Platform

Seldom in the history of the politics of this State has a convention declared so wisely on the fundamental questions in issue between the parties as did that which assembled at Harrisburg on Tuesday. It has been said derisively that the Democratic party has no issues this year. No intelligent observer of events will read the platform adopted on Tuesday and continue in that belief. As a matter of fact because the issues are so numerous, for the reason that the causes of complaint against the dominant party are so abundant, the platform was necessarily drawn out to unusual length, but it is neither diffusive nor ambiguous.

At the outset the platform reprobates the attempt to dishonor and discredit the Supreme court of the State, as revealed in the catapulting of a politician into that tribunal. The scheme to transfer Governor PENNYPACKER from the office he now occupies to one of longer tenure and more generous emolument having failed, the machine has adopted an equally hazardous experiment by putting a discredited politician without judicial experience or established reputation for legal learning in the position. In resentment of that audacious and dangerous scheme the convention declared that the Republican party "makes the highest judgment a mere pretense of a corrupt machine."

The platform covers with equal directness and intelligence every phase of the existing political conditions. It demands in unmistakable language "decent ballot legislation." It charges that the bronco busting President is a "standing menace to constitutional government." It declares that the Democratic party stands for the principles expressed by JEFFERSON, accepted by JACKSON and supported by TRUMAN. In fact it is an ideal presentation of the political issues of the present and such a declaration of principles as may be supported with zeal and energy by every lover of good government.

New York at the presidential election this fall will poll not less than a million and a half of votes, with an excess of votes in the municipal divisions of the State. The Greater New York alone at the mayoralty election in 1903 polled nearly 300,000 votes, with a Democratic majority for McClellan of 62,706. The Democratic hope and expectation of carrying New York this fall therefore rests on a solid basis of ascertained facts in late election results. Republican admissions and the general tenor of political and personal drift in the matter of probable candidates—supposing them to be ROOSEVELT and PARKER—afford strong ground for hopeful Democratic expectations.

At a meeting of the directors of the Y. M. C. A. held on Tuesday evening the matter of letting the contract for the first improvements to the property was considered. A number of bids were received and opened and upon motion it was decided to turn the awarding of the contract over to the building committee for final consideration; with power to place it to the best advantage. The improvements contemplated at this time include the erection and equipment of the new gymnasium and the remodeling of the interior of the old building, but no changes to the front elevation or to the office property lately vacated by Blanchard & Blanchard.

While both of the gentlemen who will represent this congressional district in the National Democratic convention are entirely worthy of the honor and capable of making dignified delegates it is not to the credit of Clearfield county that she insisted on having both of them. It is neither good politics, nor fair play to be a piggy bank simply because you can. And the day may come when Clearfield will regret its avariciousness in taking both representatives for this district. Furthermore, it can be added with truthfulness, that many of the votes that were recorded in the Democratic column in Clearfield county last fall, and upon which the apportionment of delegates was made, were secured through influence and work that emanated from Centre county.

The design for the soldier's monument and Curtin memorial has been selected and the work of construction will be begun just as soon as the artist makes a few desired changes. The design of the Van Amringe Granite Co., of Waverly, Mass., was selected over that of the Smith Granite Co. It is to cost about \$55,000 when completed and will occupy a position just back of where the angel fountain now stands in front of the court house. Gov. Pennypacker, Gen. Beaver or Senator Patton were not present at the meeting of the committee when the design was selected.

The following were elected division chairmen making up the State Executive committee: First, John E. Walter, Lebanon; second, E. S. Doty, Bedford; third, John B. Keenan, Greensburg; fourth, Wm. H. Kuebe, Erie; fifth, J. L. Spangler, Bellefonte; sixth, H. E. Spyer, Lewisburg; seventh, William T. Creasy, Catawissa; eighth, John F. Ancona, Reading; ninth, Charles P. Donnelly, Philadelphia. The only changes among the division chairmen is in the First district, of which Dauphin is a part, where Mr. Walter succeeds T. Z. Minehart, of Chambersburg, and in the fifth, where Mr. Spangler takes the place of Daniel J. Driscoll, of Ridgway.

The executive committee will meet in May, and Dauphin county's Democratic affairs will be reviewed. The Czar of Pennsylvania. From the Bedford Gazette. The Pittsburg Times, a stalwart Republican paper, in discussing the supreme court deal, speaks "right out in meetin'." as follows: "Mr. Quay sprang his surprise without consulting even so close a lieutenant as Senator Penrose. Penrose is a wrathful, Lieutenant Governor Brown is disgusted, Mr. Elkin is more chagrined than pleased, State Treasurer Harris is on the warpath, and all up and down the State there is a feeling of irritation over this most surprising demonstration of absolutism in party management. With Senator Quay so unquestioned in authority and secretive in method, it is idle to speculate upon the future of Republican politics in Pennsylvania."

Like Banquo's Ghost. From the Clearfield Republican. Judge Love of Centre did not strengthen himself before the people of his county by granting over a half dozen liquor licenses along the Moshannon. They will all come back to haunt him in November. The fellows who have those licenses will not be worth much to him, when it comes to getting votes. Jail at Sunbury Closed. SUNBURY, April 18.—At a meeting of the county commissioners here to-day, it was decided to close the doors of the county jail to all prisoners, except those charged with felony. Visitors are also barred. This action was taken to prevent the spread of smallpox, which is now epidemic in some sections of the county. The April and May sessions of court were postponed indefinitely by Judge Sawidge.

Former sheriff CYRUS T. BRUNGART, of Centre Hall, was sergeant-at-arms of the Democratic State convention at Harrisburg on Tuesday. Subscribe for the WATCHMAN.