

Local Slings.

The St. Louis fair will open to-morrow. So will the public's pocket book.

The fellow who shook his flannels Monday will be buried next week. Pneumonia is doing it.

Probably Mr. BRYAN would not object to WILLIAM JENNINGS BRYAN, of Nebraska, as the Democratic nominee for President.

You would lose money if you bought dry goods by the measuring sticks some fishermen use when they are on a trout stream.

Sunday base ball in New York—or anywhere else for that matter—cannot but have a very unsalutary effect upon our great national game.

It is reported that the young Mormons are opposed to polygamy. That's natural. It's always the old fellows—Mormons or no Mormons—who are looking for pastures new.

The St. Louis judge, who has just handed down a ruling to the effect that eleven o'clock p. m. is time for any swain, no matter how ardent, to leave his innamorata's home, is evidently not a stock holder in any of the local gas companies.

In the language of the street gamin BOURKE COCHRAN "smear'd it all over" the Hon. JOHN DALZELL, of Pittsburg, in Congress last week—that is if the Pennsylvania Member is entitled to the title of "Honorable" after being given the lie without answering.

CARRIE NATION and her little hatchet are drawing three hundred dollars per week as curies in a dime museum in Chicago. It will not be long, however, before the manager of the place will have to do a little smashing himself and CARRIE's salary will be the first thing hit.

The Phillipsburg Ledger asks the question: "Shall we have a town clock?" How foolish! That town has about as much use for a town clock as we have for an elevated railroad. That new trolley line and CHARLEY ROWLAND's automobile is all they have any time to look at over there now.

If the Pennsylvania fish commission intends to undertake the business of making fishermen tell the truth about their catches it might as well close up the hatcheries everywhere in the State, for it will take all the money appropriated for their work to establish Sunday schools for the fish liars.

It is reported that Russia would welcome mediation as soon as she has won a decisive victory over Japan. Up to that time she could not, with honor, listen to any overtures regarding peace. It is not likely there will be any either. Unless the Russians get together and do something all the victories will be Japanese.

The Mayor of Philadelphia is a great man. Because of the high and mighty office he holds and because of the high and mighty feelings with which he is infused he has the power to cause the dismissal of a telephone girl who treated him like she would be compelled to treat any other patron of her employing company.

The fact that there has been a temporary hold-up in the construction of big battleships for Uncle Sam might be explained by the approach of a presidential campaign, when the Republican party usually raises an immense corruption fund. How easy it would be to fry fat out of the great ship-building corporations that have such a public graft.

Col. JOHN DALEY is wasting his time, his energy and his money, if he is spending any, in the effort to get the Republican nomination for Assembly. The Colonel should know, by this time, that his party has no use for the old soldiers about Howard, except for their votes. If it had he might be at St. Louis to day and H. C. HOLTER would be postmaster of that town.

It has been estimated that it costs from eleven to thirteen cents to make a gallon of whiskey, and it is sold at from eleven to thirteen times its cost. In Bellefonte water costs only five cents per thousand gallons and it is sold exactly at cost. Strange as it may appear there are many people who prefer the whiskey, even at the higher price. Possibly the water is too cheap.

The Johnstown Democrat, ordinarily a very sane and forceful journal, seems to have gone clear "dippy" on the matter of what happened to the Democracy as a result of CLEVELANDISM. Did it ever occur to Col. BAILEY to inquire as to what happened to the Democracy as a result of BRYANISM? While we intend no disparagement to either of these distinguished gentlemen it is certainly no more than fair to measure them by their works, and CLEVELAND succeeded twice where BRYAN failed.

Mr. BRYAN is gradually removing himself beyond the friendship of many of those who stood by him in 1896 and in 1900. While we are not yet ready to believe him capable of doing what he condemned others for doing when he was the head of the Democratic ticket we regret to observe that the appearances are very indicative of such a course. Based upon his Chicago speech on Saturday night Mr. BRYAN's fealty to the Democratic party appears to be more that of a disappointed carpet-bagger office hunter than that of the brilliant gentleman we have always regarded him as being.

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Good Work Approved.

The work of the Democratic state convention is receiving encomiums in every direction. The platform has been almost universally commended. A Republican paper here and there, and one now and then which is somewhat tainted with the virus of Populism, protests against it, the former on the ground that it goes too far and the latter for the reason that it doesn't go far enough. But the "sane and safe" journals of both parties admit that it is both strong and timely in its declaration of every subject pertinent to the impending election. The choice of the candidate for Supreme court justice is commended with equal unanimity and enthusiasm.

But the feature of the labor of the convention which commands most earnest praise is the character of the gentlemen chosen to represent the Democracy of Pennsylvania in the coming national convention at St. Louis. The aim of the leaders of the party was to select the strongest and most representative men from each of the Congress districts and that purpose was admirably achieved in every district in the State with the possible exception of this one. From Colonel GUFFEY, who heads the list of delegates-at-large to the gentlemen who will represent the Thirty-second district, they are men of the highest character for intelligence, integrity and independence. There isn't a weak brother in the lot or one who will fail to perform his duty faithfully and well.

In view of these facts how absolutely absurd it is to say that the delegation will be traded off or used as political merchandise by any one. When delegations are wanted for trading purposes strong men like Senator JAMES K. P. HALL, ROBERT E. WRIGHT, B. F. MEYERS and A. J. PALM are not taken. QUAY didn't select that sort of men for his delegation. On the contrary he took weak men who have neither the brains nor the understanding to oppose his will in anything. But the gentlemen who will represent the Democracy of Pennsylvania in the St. Louis convention will be men who know what they want and have the courage to assert it.

The Russian Coast.

The Czar of Russia has declined the good offices of his imperial uncle, EDWARD VII, of Great Britain, and his royal grandfather, King CHRISTIAN, of Denmark, which has been preferred for the purpose of mediation to establish peace with Japan. He will settle the troubles in his own way, he says, and after his victory will treat with the enemy himself. He wants no foreign interference, he adds, and no repetition of the Berlin Congress. When his enemy has been conquered, the inference may be drawn, he intends to settle on his own terms and make what reprisals he likes. It is a safe conjecture that if things turn out his way the penalty will be plenty, if he is permitted to proceed without restraint.

There is an old adage drawn from the highest authority that it is safer and better to boast when taking the armor off, rather than when putting it on. The tone of the Czar's answer to the kindly message of his royal relatives creates the impression that he is confident of ultimate and complete victory. But it is possible that he is measuring his strength by his size instead of by his skill. In other words, he is ignoring the lesson taught by the experience of DAVID and GOLIATH and may be reckoning without his host. Japan is small compared with Russia. Her army is weak measured by the proportions of that of the antagonist. But "the race is not always to the swift, nor the battle to the strong."

Thus far the military and naval operations don't justify the confidence of the Czar. It is true that the resources of the vast Russian empire have hardly been touched as yet. It is certain that the "Great White Bear" has scarcely been aroused. But he must show better capabilities in using his resources and greater activity in moving his ponderous body after he is thoroughly aroused, if he will ever be able to dictate terms of peace and levy reprisals on the little island empire which has so pluckily engaged him in war. It would be a cruelty to conquer the Japanese, who refrained from hostilities as long as possible, but there appears to be no immediate danger of such a result.

That the present management of the Bellefonte Central R. R. is most efficient for the interests of the stock holders of that corporation is shown by the last report of the Auditor General, which has just been published. Supt. Thomas shows a net surplus for the year of \$24,230.33; an increase of 31.5 per cent in the passenger traffic and of 34.6 per cent in the freight.

Roller towels, old linen or muslin, new unbleached and white muslin, dust pan and brush, small trays for nurses tables, and oil stove for heating water in operating room are some of the things that are needed at the hospital that you might give to it.

An Honorable Career.

In the career of JOSEPH FOLK, of St. Louis, there is more inspiration to the youth of America than in that of any American of recent times. Other men have met with greater success. THEODORE ROOSEVELT, for example, who was a discredited and disliked assistant secretary of the navy in the spring of 1898 was President of the United States with unlimited possibilities in the fall of 1901, having meantime served a term as Governor of New York State. But ROOSEVELT is an opportunist and is indebted to his own efforts and merits for nothing. Lucky during a brief service in the army he returned when the public was in a state of frenzy and got the benefit of the delirium. But Mr. FOLK had no such help in his promotion.

Two years ago he was elected District Attorney of St. Louis. He was a good lawyer, of course, and a man of ability, necessarily. But he had had no training in public life and no family or other influence to promote his interests. If he had followed the course which most men take under such circumstances he would have enjoyed a rather easy and profitable office for a period of three years and retired with an improved standing at the bar, probably, and an increased bank account, certainly. But that would have been the end of his political career unless he had joined in with the looters in which he might have secured another term and a vastly augmented income. But he sought out and followed a better course.

The public life of Missouri and St. Louis was rotten to the core. In fact it was almost but not quite as bad as that of Pennsylvania and Philadelphia. When JOSEPH FOLK entered upon the duties of District Attorney he discovered the condition of affairs and at once set about to improve. He began by prosecuting the bootleggers in the councils of St. Louis and after he got most of them in jail and the rest into refuge, he turned his attention to the bootleggers in the Legislature. The bigger the game the more attractive the fight to him and within a short time he had forced the Lieut. Governor and several Senators and Representatives to resign. Now he is certain to be the next Governor of Missouri and is talked of for President of the United States.

Senator Hale is Awakened.

Senator HALE, of Maine, chairman of the Senate committee on Naval Affairs is learning, it appears, from the lessons of the far eastern war. In reporting the conference agreement on the naval appropriation bill, on Monday last, he observed that if both Houses had not already agreed to the item providing for an expensive battleship, he never would consent to it, in view of what has happened at Port Arthur. In other words he has now come to the conclusion which his Democratic colleagues reached long ago, that battleships are not worth what they cost in naval warfare, for a torpedo boat which costs less than a twentieth of the amount can blow the best of them to pieces in less than it takes to tell the story of the disaster.

Every other country in the civilized world has learned long ago that expensive war ships are worthless in modern conflict. We demonstrated ourselves during the Spanish war how quickly a splendid fleet may be sent to the bottom of the sea and if our antagonist had been any other than a weak and driveling force the fortunes of war might have been on the other side. It is certain that such would have been the result if Great Britain or France had been our competitor and it is more than likely that Germany would have had the same advantage for during the past dozen years or so other nations have been developing torpedo boats, while we have been wasting money in costly battleships and cruisers.

Senator HALE has been chairman of the Senate committee on Naval Affairs except for one or two brief intervals for a quarter of a century, yet he says that the truth never dawned on him until one after another of the expensive Russian battleships were sent to the bottom by pesky little torpedo boats in the navy of Japan. Yet he has been warned repeatedly and cautioned time and again against the waste of building battleships. But our naval lords want luxurious ships to splurge in and our expensive President wants splendid ships for his pleasure trips and because of these desires and for the additional reason that Senators and Representatives are entertained on board the money goes.

To-night the annual debate for the Free Lance prize, will be held in the auditorium at The Pennsylvania State College. The question to be debated is: "Resolved that the United States government was justified in recognizing the independence of Panama."

—And talking about nice letters! We certainly had them this week. In fact we feel so puffed up and rich that we can scarcely get down to good, hard work.

Abuse Without Reason.

More or less esteemed Republican contemporaries are saying all sorts of mean things about Representative CLAUDE KITCHEN, of North Carolina. The cause of their fury against that exceedingly amiable gentleman is that he made a speech the other day in which he quoted from one of President ROOSEVELT's books a statement to the effect that Representative GROSVENOR, of Ohio, "is a champion of foul government and dishonest politics," and from an interview with GROSVENOR, published in a New York paper, in which the present President was denounced as a mountebank, a bronco-buster and various things which are not complimentary.

One of the most idiotic of these esteemed contemporaries declares that Mr. KITCHEN's speech was "demagogic," and that "it was vituperative from beginning to end, a stump speech of a character that should not be permitted in the House." We are inclined to agree with that estimate, but justice compels us to absolve Representative KITCHEN from blame. In other words, GROSVENOR is so foul-mouthed a wretch that probably the quoting of an interview of his does amount to a breach of decency, and until within two or three years ROOSEVELT was so careless of his statements that to quote him may be a dangerous proceeding.

But why should our contemporaries assail Representative KITCHEN because General GROSVENOR is a blackguard and ROOSEVELT was a ruffian not long ago. They may say because KITCHEN accused President ROOSEVELT of counseling lynch law as a penalty for stealing ponies in the West. As a matter of fact, however, Mr. KITCHEN made no such accusation. What he did do was to read from one of ROOSEVELT's books a recommendation that persons guilty of stealing cow-boy ponies be lynched and to express regret that such barbaric views should be expressed where they might mislead the people of the North on the subject of lynching.

John Dalzell Filly Rebuked.

The interesting event of last week's proceedings in Congress was the masterly rebuke administered to JOHN DALZELL, of Pittsburg, by BOURKE COCHRAN, of New York. Mr. COCHRAN was addressing the House in reply to a partisan speech of Mr. HEBURN, of Iowa, and DALZELL "busted in" with a remark that in a recent political campaign the eloquent New York orator had been paid for certain speeches delivered by him. Mr. COCHRAN resented this aspersion with becoming indignation and after thrice demanding the authority upon which the statement was made opened the flood gates of invective with the result that the Pittsburg trust lawyer was literally overwhelmed.

Mr. DALZELL is a rich gentleman who represents the steel trust and one or two other monopolies as solicitor on the floor of the House for which he draws salary from them as regularly as when he represents his clients in court. Out of his opportunities from this sort of practice in Washington and ordinary practice between sessions at home he has grown very wealthy and he is in the habit of holding himself aloof from even the ordinary Congressman. His ability as a lawyer and his social advantages, the results of his money, together with his long experience in the House, has given him a substantial position among the leaders and he has fallen into the habit of lecturing members of less experience.

But on the occasion in question he overstepped the mark. Mr. COCHRAN is quite as good a lawyer as himself and infinitely superior as an orator, so that when he applied his usual tactics he got a different result. When the charge was made COCHRAN moved down the aisle and confronting the offender he declared "that statement has been made wherever there has been found a mouth foul enough to utter words behind which there was no conscience." Then approaching closer he added: "I challenge him and all the cohorts of vice and crime in the Republican party to show that the national committee ever contributed as much as my railroad fare during that campaign."

About fifty trout from the Bellefonte hatchery were started away from here on Saturday en route to the St. Louis exposition. The car went from here to the Corry hatchery, where the rest of Pennsylvania's piscatorial exhibit was to be taken aboard. The twenty-two inch brown trout which was caught near the creamery of the Howard Co. on Phoenix street, at the time of the flood in January, that was to have been a feature of the exhibit, hurt itself in transit from the hatchery to this place and as it showed signs of dying it was taken off the car here and given away.

—Just to fool the ones who thought spring had come for sure on Monday old Boreas blew his icy breath this way and thermometers registered only 10° above the freezing point at 7 o'clock Tuesday morning.

Death Rides in Storm's Wake.

Thirteen Persons Killed by a Hurricane that Swept Through Indian Territory.

FAIRLAND, I. T., April 25.—Half a dozen business blocks were destroyed by a tornado that swept through here yesterday, killing seven persons outright and injuring a number of others. Three of the injured will die.

The dead: Mrs. Mary Lamar, Mrs. Jno. Lemster, Arthur Brought, a child of N. J. Honck, Elijah Russell, his wife and child.

It is estimated that the tornado caused property damage to the extent of \$10,000. Four miles east of here the tornado was even more severe. Farm houses and barns were completely demolished and farm stock was killed.

PRYOR CREEK, I. T., April 25.—Reports from this section show that six were killed by the tornado and a number injured.

The dead: John Abbott, wife and two children, Albert Dealy, aged 6 years; Lucy Biting, aged 8 years. The injured: Albert Dealy, probably fatally, Leopold Biting, both legs broken.

The storm started near Chouteau, on the Missouri, Kansas and Texas road, eight miles from here, and swerved to the northeast, cutting a path from one half to a mile wide and about 20 miles long.

The Abbott home was demolished and the five members of the family instantly killed. The storm then struck the Dealy home, blowing it to pieces, killing the young son and probably fatally injuring the father.

At Grand River, eight miles farther on, the Biting home was demolished, the toral killing Lucy Biting and breaking both the legs of her father, Leopold Biting, a farmer. The tornado then passed into the Flint Hills, east of the river, and tore a strip through the woods as clean out as though made by wood choppers.

The tornado was followed by a torrential rain.

Old Fellows Gathering was Marred by Rain.

But 1000 Members Paraded Over the Line of March. Mill Meet in Sunbury Next Year.

The Old Fellows from Bellefonte who attended the 20th anniversary association gathering at Montoursville Tuesday have returned home. They report that there was a large attendance, notwithstanding the almost continuous rain.

Elaborate decorations were a feature of the highly successful affair, which was an honor to the Old Fellows and to Montoursville people, for the citizens of the borough as a unit joined in giving a whole-hearted welcome to the visitors and entertaining them well. Private residences and business places floated the stars and stripes and "Welcome I. O. O. F." banners. The Odd Fellows, Firemen, P. O. S. of A. and Jr. O. U. A. M. had decorated arches most beautifully.

Rain could not dampen the ardor of Odd Fellows and their friends. There were over 5,000 in the borough. The parade in the afternoon got a late start and it rained continuously, but the spirits of the Odd Fellows was undimmed. At least 1,000 were in line, some fortunate enough to have umbrellas, but the majority without protection.

At the public meeting after the parade burgess Alfred Bower welcomed the Odd Fellows, C. W. Henry, Esq., responded on behalf of the visitors. Other addresses were made by president Wm. H. Kiese, attorney W. H. Spencer and Rev. B. H. Hart. In the evening a grand lodge session was held, followed by a meeting for scarlet degree members and by the Daughters of Rebekah.

The following named officers were elected: President, William H. Kiese, of Williamsport; secretary, H. B. Eberly, of Williamsport; treasurer, Abe Myers, of Williamsport.

Sunbury was chosen as the next meeting place. Canton and Danville both made efforts to secure the 1905 gathering of the association.

Doubt Big Vessels.

WASHINGTON, April 25.—Whether the President shall order the construction of the battleship provided for in the naval appropriation bill or wait until the war in the Far East demonstrates the comparative utility of the big sea fighter and the torpedo boat or submarine craft was a question raised in the Senate to-day by Mr. Hale, of Maine, on the adoption of the conference report.

It was developed that the language of the bill was permissive and that the President and Secretary of the Navy could defer action if they deem it advisable. Mr. Hale declared that if he were Secretary of the Navy he should not dare to go on now and commit the government to the building of an immense battleship, for it would not surprise him if events of the Russian-Japanese war demonstrated that the \$150,000,000 paid for big battleships were a bad investment for this government. Several other Senators counseled delay.

Russian Ships Attack Gensan.

TOKIO, April 25.—The cruisers Rossia and Gromoboi, of the Vladivostok squadron today participated in an attack on Gensan. They were accompanied by a third cruiser, not yet identified, and by two torpedo boats.

Later they entered the harbor, ordered the crew of the steamer Goyo ashore and then sank her.

The Japanese and many Koreans fled when the Russians approached. Late telegrams say that the Russian squadron remains off the harbor of Gensan.

Canal Ownership Has Been Settled.

PARIS, April 22.—The Associated Press is authorized to announce that the contract by which the ownership of the Panama canal passes to the United States is signed, sealed, delivered and complete.

The title to the canal route is now vested in the government of the United States.

Spawls from the Keystone.

—Amos Starr, one of Huntingdon's oldest citizens, died on Sunday last, aged almost 85 years. He is survived by his wife and four children.

—Dale Patton, who has been a terror to the people of Big valley, Mifflin county, for several years, was sentenced to four and one half years in the western penitentiary by Judge Woods, of Lewistown. He broke down and cried like a child.

—Ada Denshaw, 5 years old of North Bend, was shot in her left eye and also in one foot by the contents of a cartridge that her brother and another boy had exploded by placing in a newspaper and setting fire to the paper. The girl will lose the sight of one eye.

—John G. Wagner, of Williamsport, was taken to the Danville asylum, Monday. He took his cornet with him and entertained the passengers with concerts and played several concerts in front of the asylum before entering. He will become a member of the asylum orchestra.

—Verni, the 13-year-old son of J. W. Lundy, of Loyalsockville, Lycoming county, slipped from a loaded wagon, was trampled by one horse and run over by the wheels of the vehicle. His injuries were so serious that he died twenty-four hours after the accident.

—Miss Flossie Tremley, of Almedia, near Bloomsburg, a young lady of 19 summers, last week caught at Silver Spring the largest trout caught in the State for a long time. It was of the rainbow species, measured 23 1/2 inches in length, weighed 3 1/2 pounds and from tip to tip of jaw measured six inches.

—The New York Central engineering corps are measuring the Susquehanna river from Williamsport to Lock Haven for the benefit of the Governor and at his request. This work is in line with the investigation being made in the matter of building the additional bridge piers in the river west of Oak Grove.

—The 6-year-old daughter of Grier Flack, of Chambersburg, met with an accident Saturday evening that may prove serious. She was playing in the kitchen near a foot-tub containing boiling water. In some manner she fell into the tub and before she was rescued was frightfully scalded on both legs, the left side and one of her hands.

—In a head on collision at Mitchell, on the New York Central, on Sunday morning about daybreak, two engines were badly used up and 15 cars derailed, a number of which were loaded with coal. A mistake in orders caused the wreck. The engineers were Magee and Tribley and fortunately no one was hurt on either train.

—At Clearfield on Saturday in the case against the "Alley Popper" railroad Judge Smith rendered a decision in favor of the bondholders, who are composed very largely of Phillipsburgers, and if the company fails to arrange for the mortgage of nearly \$350,000 against the road by June 1st, the property will be put up at sale, and likely bought in by the bondholders.

—Fish warden Dougherty at Renovo on Sunday arrested three boys for illegal fishing—Flumer Anderson, George Saltsman and Peter Clark. It is alleged they caught trout less than six inches in length in a stream at North Bend. Anderson caught nine trout illegally and was fined \$90. Saltsman was mulcted of \$190 for 19 fish and Clark yielded up \$20 for two. The aggregate amount of the fines is \$300.

—Wallie Dunlap, of Montoursville, was found in his room in the European hotel, Williamsport, Sunday, on his hands and knees breathing heavily. He died five minutes later. Mrs. William Sanders tottered into the office of Dr. W. P. Logue, in Williamsport, Saturday night, gasping for breath. She feebly exclaimed, "Doctor, I want something to make me breath." She was dead in five minutes.

—The Somerset Standard says that a man representing himself as a state detective has swindled people of Greensville out of \$260. He called upon druggists and accused them of illegal selling, fished a pair of handkerchiefs and showed papers for their arrest. Rather than be taken into custody they settled. At Sandy Lake he tried the same scheme, but the druggists were "wise" and ran him out of town; but they would have been wiser had they run him into the river or to jail.

—Frank Rothermel, a farmer, who resided near Madison, Westmoreland county, met with an awful death on Saturday morning. Mr. Rothermel was plowing and was driving a spirited team of young horses. He wrapped the plow lines around his waist and the horses took fright and ran away. The farmer was dragged to and fro across the field. At noon his lifeless body was found by a member of the family. Mr. Rothermel's skull was fractured by coming in contact with stumps and stones.

—Governor Pennypacker was met at Sunbury last week by a reception committee. He was later ferried across the Susquehanna river to Shamokin dam, where he turned the first shovelful of dirt in the making of the first of the "good roads" under the last Assembly act. A large crowd, residents of Snyder county, witnessed the Governor tossing ground and heard him deliver a brief address on the necessity of good roads, after which he went to lunch and later returned to the State capital.

—Attorney General Carson Saturday furnished an opinion in which he says that he will maintain the position taken by his predecessor, John P. Elkin, that the Commonwealth is not obliged to rebuild a county bridge unless it be destroyed by flood and that means a total destruction. The Attorney General also says that a bridge which may be built by the State immediately becomes the property of the county, and that the material resulting from the wreck of such a bridge belongs to the county.

—The Pennsylvania railroad company suffered a \$10,000 loss and the destruction of rolling stock to the value of \$50,000 was threatened by a fire which totally destroyed the engine house at the Southwest branch junction, one-half mile east of Greensburg, Saturday night. The origin of the fire is said to have been a spark from the cinder dump, which has been smoldering for years. The blaze was discovered by a night operator and trackmen in the vicinity were successful in getting three "dead" locomotives from the burning structure in safety. The conflagration was the most spectacular seen in years, the structure being of frame, 40x 120.