

Tab Slings.

The world's fair at St. Louis should be kept closed on Sunday.

If Russia keeps on retreating she will soon have the Japs lured clear over into Europe.

The Delaware peach crop has been heard from and if reports be true it has died in infancy.

With former Governor PATTISON, of Pennsylvania, running as a dark horse, it might be a long shot, after all, that will win in the next presidential race.

What more laudable ambition could the Pennsylvania Democracy have than to do at St. Louis "that which, in their wisdom, seems best for the party and the country?"

Just to keep the pot boiling there is a revolution on hand in Hayti. Let us see if the President jumps to the recognition of another band of usurpers as speedily as he did in Panama.

St. Louis hotels will require guests to double-up during the continuance of the fair. This does not necessarily mean that the diet will be principally green apples, cucumbers and watermelon.

Certain it is that when names were selected for those towns in Manchuria and Korea that are just now occupying the top-notch of notoriety in the war news columns there was no partiality shown for any particular letters of the alphabet.

The first explanation of the stupendous scale on which the Panama canal is to progress is made in the announcement that Mr. WALLACE, of Chicago, is to be the general superintendent at a salary of twenty-five thousand dollars a year.

JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER, the Standard oil octopus, says that when he was a boy he could milk a cow. He didn't say, however, that as he has grown older he has learned to milk bulls and bears and everything else that he can get his digits to encircling.

Russia having cabled for twenty-thousand square feet of exhibit space at the St. Louis exposition the public is naturally filled with wonderment as to whether it is her army or her navy or both that she wants to stow away beyond the reach of the Japs.

The receipts from customs having fallen off \$21,000,000 during the fiscal year just closed and those from internal revenue having made an increase of only \$3,000,000 during the same period we might find ourselves reduced to the extreme of borrowing money for our expensive President.

Philadelphia has decided to permit the Liberty Bell to be removed to St. Louis for the exposition in that city. Inasmuch as \$15,000 have been appropriated to pay the transportation of the historic old bell there will be margin enough to provide spirits even more exhilarating than those of '76.

Now that the real big political boss LOVE has made DALE, QUIGLEY and chambers all get out of the road for REEDER, let us see whether he will force DALEY and DALE out of the legislative race to make the running smooth for WOMELSDORF and KNISELY. The latter are in with the machine and the machine is LOVE and LOVE is going to run it to make his own path way as easy as possible.

The Atlanta Constitution is filled with concern as to who will keep the buttons sewed on for the summer girl of 1904 who, Dame Fashion decrees, must wear suspenders. The Constitution ought to be old enough to know that a girl has no use for buttons, unless they be brass ones on a soldier's coat. Pins and strings do all the work for her that man accomplishes with buttons and nails.

Again you are wrong, Col. BAILEY, of the Johnstown Democrat, the Democrats of this country never made a platform that they invited Mr. BRYAN to occupy. He was the builder of both the platforms on which he stood and if our memory serves us right he refused to occupy the second one at all, unless it was built just to his liking. We are not opposed to Mr. BRYAN, but we do insist that he has no right to be calling the kettle black as long as the pot is taking on soot as rapidly as it is.

The Reading preacher who made himself more or less conspicuous in a hunt for an ideal wife has announced that his search is over. He found the kind he was looking for in Newark, N. J., and strange as it may seem none of the many requirements that he had set up for her to fulfill embraced the one that a would-be Bellefonte benedict prescribed in his advertisement for a wife. He wanted one that was "well built," while the Reading preacher thought of everything else than her physical structure.

The Pittsburg Dispatch says that a woman clad only in a night robe chased a robber across the Smithfield street bridge in that city at twelve-thirty Wednesday morning and when a policeman had arrested the man for her she went to the station house, where she left a forfeit for her appearance against him in the morning. Inasmuch as the Dispatch seems sure that all she had on was a night robe we are led to wonder at what forfeit she could have left, unless it was that precious bit of lingerie, itself. How shocking.

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Mr. Palmer's Pretense.

The Hon. HENRY W. PALMER, Representative in Congress for the Luzerne county district of this State, in announcing his candidacy for renomination makes a very significant and rather startling statement. He says that he "will neither buy the nomination nor bargain for it." He reaffirms the principles of politics which he uttered when he first became a candidate for the place, which we recollect the matter was that he would adhere to party tenets of the earlier and better days of the organization and would reserve the right to independence in thought and action under the direction of conscience. His neighbors who knew him better than he knew himself, however, weren't frightened by that declaration. They knew he would be "all right" and elected him.

That they were not mistaken in their estimate has been substantially proved by his record in the House. He has been the ready and usually an adroit supporter of every partisan iniquity that political exigencies have forced into consideration. When the CONNELL-POWELL contest was before the House he was particularly rank in his partisanship and censured Representative SHIRAS, of Pittsburgh, because that gentleman, influenced by conscience, protested against the outrage of giving CONNELL a seat to which he was not elected. Mr. SHIRAS is a Republican but he couldn't stomach that iniquity and because of that fact HENRY W. PALMER held him up to ridicule as a sentimentalist rather than as a partisan which political interests required him to be at that time.

But a change appears to have come over the spirit of Mr. PALMER's dreams. In his announcement of his candidacy made public the other day he says "bribery in elections offends against good morals and good citizenship and unless checked will one day ruin the Republic." He never uttered a truer statement and probably never spoke more insincerely, though insincerity is one of his conspicuous characteristics. He probably is unwilling to buy votes because though well-off he is somewhat "neat" and he made his statement, likely, because he hoped it would serve the same purpose as buying votes and come much cheaper. Mr. PALMER knows that his party has been kept in power for a dozen years by bribery in elections and yet he acquiesces in the result every time.

Roosevelt's Wants and Plans.

The President has indicated to a few friends what kind of a platform he wants the coming convention to promulgate and it may be said that his statement of the matter is peculiarly ROOSEVELTIAN. That is to say Mr. ROOSEVELT is characteristically pharisaical in describing the sort of a code of principles which he would have the convention declare. As a matter of fact he wants votes and he doesn't care a tinker's "cuss-word" how he gets them. If it is necessary to stuff every ballot box in the country in order to guarantee his success he would promptly recommend the operation and gladly contribute all the patronage at his command toward compensation for the work. Since the beginning of the government there has been no man in a really distinguished public office so absolutely regardless of moral obligations.

But with a hypocritical pretense of virtue the President announces that he demands at the hands of his party a platform which will represent the highest virtues in government. Besides that he ostentatiously adds that the platform must be "inclusive, decisive, concise and precise." In other words he would have it candid and honest in the expression of the purposes of the party. In that event it would be necessary to condemn the iniquities of the past. The bargain with the Mormon church to give a seat in the United States Senate to the polygamists of Utah, entered into four years ago and substantially renewed recently in the postponement of the expulsion of REED SMOOT, would have to be denounced in unequivocal terms and the other shady transactions including the Postoffice Department frauds would necessarily be acknowledged.

Everybody who knows anything knows that ROOSEVELT doesn't want anything of that kind. Every intelligent man in the country understands that ROOSEVELT prevented an investigation of the Postoffice Department by corrupt methods in order to conceal the frauds and the suspicion is equally universal that the reason he prevented the investigation was because he knew it would show the expenses of his luxurious trips of last year were fraudulent, and with his consent, charged up to the account of the transportation of mails. ROOSEVELT wants candor at this time just as WM. M. TWED wanted it when SAMUEL J. TILDEN was pressing that arch rogue toward a prison cell and his false pretense and flamboyant hypocrisy fools nobody with enough brains to protect himself from a bunco steerer or a dealer in "green goods."

Quay's Vast Ambitions.

Senator QUAY may be a very sick man, as the Washington dispatches indicate, but he is not a man without ambition, according to a Harrisburg dispatch in the Philadelphia Ledger of Monday morning. The old man is very much in public life, if the statements of that correspondent are to be believed. He is suffering intensely with "cirrhosis of the liver" which is both a painful and dangerous malady. But he has his eyes on the main chance, nevertheless, and not only proposes to go up higher himself, but to fill the vacancy which the upward movement will cause by first the appointment and subsequently the election of his son RICHARD.

The biographer of QUAY may not be as devoted to his subject as BOSWELL was to JOHNSON but he is certainly partial in his estimate of the capabilities and possibilities of the old man. He frankly tells us of the plans of the Senator which are, considering his health, surprisingly ambitious. He will be re-elected to the United States Senate next February, he states, though why that won't be achieved in January, considering the unanimity which he assures us, prevails, is left to conjecture. But after he is elected this biographer assures us that he will resign, dramatically, name his own successor and then step "into the cabinet of President ROOSEVELT as Secretary of State to succeed Mr. HAY."

We are really somewhat surprised at some of the statements of Mr. QUAY's biographer and inclined to think that after all he may be only a "space-writer" who has imposed on our esteemed contemporary. As a matter of fact we have not been inclined to agree with the common estimates which invite the Senator with something like, superhuman powers and make all things possible to him. That he is a shrewd manipulator in politics is true beyond question. But he is hardly able to do anything that his fancy suggests and we believe that if he undertakes to catapult his son RICHARD into his senatorial seat he will provoke an opposition too potential to be overcome.

"Bertie" Adam's Ignorant Blunder.

The Hon. "BERTIE" ADAMS, easily the most talented Representative in Congress for Philadelphia, made a characteristic "break" during the closing hours of the session of Congress which has just drawn to a close. Representative JOHN SHARPE WILLIAMS, of Mississippi, was at the time addressing the House and took JOHN DALZELL to task for the spirit of no nothingness expressed in his reference previously to BOURKE COCHRAN's foreign birth. "The gentleman from Pennsylvania" he observed, "who made his eloquent peroration tirade last week against foreign born hoodlums, does not live far from the field of Gettysburg. During the last war the Sixty-ninth Pennsylvania, 'Owens Own' as it was called, was in evidence in defending Pennsylvania soil."

This aroused the Hon. "BERTIE," "Will the gentleman permit me?" he inquired. "Certainly," replied Mr. WILLIAMS. "Only for a correction," added the Hon. "BERTIE," "That was the Sixty-ninth New York regiment," said "BERTIE" in conclusion and with a self-satisfied air. "It is quoted in this book 'the Sixty-ninth Pennsylvania,' 'Owens Own,'" responded Mr. WILLIAMS, "and I expect this Federal officer knew what he was talking about," whereupon the Democratic side of the House properly broke out in uproarious applause.

Of course the Hon. "BERTIE" was speaking in ignorance and made an egregious ass of himself. The regiment which performed such distinguished service at Gettysburg was the Sixty-ninth Pennsylvania, a Philadelphia organization, and probably a considerable portion of it were residents before their enlistment in the Congress district now misrepresented by the Hon. "BERTIE." But what difference is it whether those heroic Irishmen who offered their lives for the preservation of the Union lived in one State or another? The contemptible Know Nothingism expressed by JOHN DALZELL was an insult to the memory of them in any event and the Hon. "BERTIE's" effort to rob his own State of the distinction which those Irish heroes conferred on it was characteristic of him and his party.

And now A. A. DALE Esq., has announced for the Legislature, that is to say he has joined forces with Col. JOHN A. DALEY in an effort to see whether the Republican party in Centre county has any use for its old wheel horses who were helping it fight its fights and bearing its burdens long before either WOMELSDORF or KNISELY were heard of.

The Republican announces JOHN G. LOVE, of Bellefonte, as a candidate for President Judge of this district. Let us see—where have we heard that name before? Oh yes, he is the man HARRY WASHINGTON is booming.

Tariff Taxes and Prices.

Labor commissioner CARROLL D. WRIGHT has issued a bulletin comparing the present prices of necessities with those of the past thirteen years. He includes in his list of articles food-stuffs, clothing, manufactured products and what he calls "raw commodities" which include beans, eggs, milk, rice etc. In food articles the increase in price during the year 1903 amounted to something like fifty per cent. In clothing the increase is twenty per cent. Manufactured products are higher by twenty-one and a-half per cent., and the raw commodities have increased in price a matter of thirty-three per cent. In metals, which of course includes farm implements the increase is thirty per cent.

In the matter of fuel and light there was an increase during 1903 amounting to 100 per cent. In the fuel and light class, or as Mr. WRIGHT designates it "group," there are only two items, anthracite coal and refined petroleum. These two products are controlled by the anthracite coal trust and the Standard oil company. For some time there has been a rather insistent demand for the enforcement of the anti-trust law against these monopolies. A week or so ago the Attorney General admitted the culpability of the anthracite coal trust but added that the evidence against it had been so adroitly concealed that it would be impossible to hold it to account. No effort has been made to compel the Standard oil company to obey the law.

In the matter of wages there has been no increase. As a matter of fact commissioner WRIGHT has not included labor among the commodities considered in his bulletin, but everybody knows that during the year covered by the bulletin the tendency of wages has been downward, notwithstanding the upward trend of the necessities of life. This fact invites an inquiry as to the effect of a tariff on wages. It is clearly shown by Mr. WRIGHT's figures that the prices of necessities of life are increasing materially under the influence of tariff taxation. That is the protected articles have shown the largest increase. But wages have declined regularly so that the earners have not shared in the prosperity of the tariff.

Discouraging Report from St. Louis.

Former United States Senator CARTER, of Montana, who is now chief of the United States commission at the St. Louis exposition is authority for a statement to the effect that the hotel and boarding house keepers of St. Louis have inaugurated a system of extortion which is more reprehensible than any kind of robbery that has been indulged in since piracy lost its position as the dominant force on the sea. They charge enormously, Mr. CARTER declares, both for lodging and meals, and their inordinate cupidity threatens to defeat the success of the great enterprise.

We sincerely hope that there is no foundation in fact for Mr. CARTER's accusation. The city of St. Louis has been splendidly favored by the press and public in this matter. Congress has supported the exposition by appropriations of princely liberality and the newspapers of all sections have urged their readers to attend the show and contribute to its success. But if those who take this advice are to be robbed by a lot of avaricious hotel keepers there is likely to be a vast change in the tone of the press within a few days. As a matter of fact some of the leading papers of the country are already hedging on the subject.

Most people who will attend the St. Louis exposition are intelligent searchers after information and knowledge. They realize that the exposition is a vast university, equipped with much that can be found nowhere else and that every department of it contains object lessons which it will be well for them to learn. Thus believing they will be willing to pay any just charges which may be assessed against them for the advantage they will receive. But they will not stand for extortion and the minute the people of St. Louis begin that there will be a call-off that will be heard from one end of this broad land to the other.

The Wheat Outlook.

Four weeks ago had you asked any farmer who came to town what was the outlook for crops he would have answered, "Not over a half a yield, any place, and in plenty of sections not a fourth of what they should be." Conditions have materially changed within the past four weeks, and now the promise is that in some sections an ordinary crop of winter grain will be harvested, while in most parts of the county a full half, if not over, is promised. There are farms down the Nittany valley that look as if 30 bushels to the acre would be gathered, but this is about the only section in which a good yield is promised. Elsewhere throughout the county, the fields are spotted—high spots where the snow was blown off and low spots where ice accumulated, showing no growth whatever.

Gen. Kuropatkin Orders Retreat.

Intends to Avoid Battle Until He Has Sufficient Forces to Meet Japs.

PARIS, May 9.—The Echo de Paris telegraphs as follows:

"General Kuropatkin has ordered a general retreat and no doubt intends to avoid a battle until he has sufficient forces. He actually has at his disposal not more than 150,000 men, exclusive of the garrison at Port Arthur which consists of 50,000, and the garrison at New Chwang of 15,000.

"A general who knows the secrets of the mobilization tells me that the last 1000 men making up the required 500,000 will leave Kasen July 1, adding: 'We will be very sick if the railway is not worked well. It is not likely that General Kuropatkin will fatigue his troops unnecessarily. If the Japanese press him, he will retire from Liao Yang to Mukden or even to Harbin. Retreat certainly is painful, but it is now indispensable.'"

RUSSIANS WILL LEAVE SUFFICIENT GUARD TO PREVENT PILLAGING.

SHAN HAI KWAN, May 9.—(6:30 p. m.)—The evacuation of New Chwang on the west side of the Liao river, and the Chinese are indignant at this procedure. A Japanese spy has been discovered at New Chwang. He was approached by the Russians, who pulled at his cue, which came off. He was taken prisoner, but subsequently escaped with the help of some Chinese, who distracted the attention of the Russians.

REINFORCEMENTS FOR GEN. KUROPATKIN.

ST. PETERSBURG, May 9.—7:45 p. m.—The reinforcements prepared for General Kuropatkin are being hurried. The last statement of the mobilization of the Tenth and Seventeenth army corps has been signalled by the calling out of the reserves in the Moscow and Kharkoff provinces. They will go to the front, thus placing another 100,000 men at Kuropatkin's disposal.

The announcement of the mobilization of four army corps along the Volga, which will follow in July or August, is expected next month. The reserves of each army corps involve about 20,000 men, an army corps in times of peace numbering 20,000 men and in war time, 50,000. An army corps on a war footing includes three infantry divisions of four regiments each of three battalions; a division of cavalry, consisting of three regiments of six squadrons each; one Cossack regiment, a brigade of field artillery and also three detachments of engineers and sappers.

By the departure of these troops, the Russian European army will be six out of thirty-one army corps. The previous drafts of troops from European Russia, has been formed into Siberian rifle battalions, without changing the organization of the Emperor's force on this side of the Urals. The present units will be transferred bodily to Manchuria, retaining their present officers and staffs.

A Big Coal Deal Closed.

The Beech Creek Coal and Coke Co. Merged With the Pennsylvania Coal and Coke Co.

Official announcement has been made of a gigantic coal deal, involving nearly \$12,000,000 of capital, by which the Pennsylvania Coal and Coke Co. becomes the purchaser of the Beech Creek Coal and Coke Co., which has been more or less closely identified with New York Central interests. Negotiations for the purchase have been pending for a long time, but were not consummated until Thursday, when the formal transfer papers were signed.

In making the announcement, president W. A. Lathrop of the Pennsylvania Coal and Coke Co. said that there would be no changes in the personnel of the two corporations and that James Kerr would continue as president of the Beech Creek Co. The deal is of more than usual interest because the Pennsylvania Co. has principally used the tracks of the Pennsylvania railroad, while the Beech Creek Co. has shipped over those of the New York Central. Their consolidation now indicates the harmonious relations of these two great companies in the soft coal regions of this State. Through the addition of the Beech Creek Co. the Pennsylvania Coal and Coke Co. now controls upward of 117,000 acres of coal and surface, chiefly in Blair, Cambria, Clearfield and Indiana counties, containing upwards of 1,000,000,000 tons of coal. Upon these lands are located 44 operating collieries, with a daily shipping capacity of 25,000 tons. In addition the company owns 1,100 coke ovens, 1,200 houses, 1,000 railroad cars and numerous electric lights and water companies at various points throughout the region. The company also controls the Hooverhurst and Southwestern railroads and the North River Coal and Wharf Co., with docks at Port Liberty, in New York harbor. Upon the completion of the merger the total bonds of both companies outstanding will amount to \$11,302,000.

By securing the Beech Creek properties the Pennsylvania Coal and Coke Co. becomes the largest holder of soft coal lands in the country, and with the future development of its lands is ultimately destined to become the largest producer.

It is So.

From the Danville Intelligencer.

In a speech on the tariff on Monday, Senator Bacon proved that our sewing machines, sold for \$15 in England cost \$25 in this country, and that American steel rails could be bought \$5 a ton cheaper in England than in Pennsylvania or Alabama.

Spawls from the Keystone.

—Bezer Bros., of Clearfield, have purchased the old Mansion house site in that place and it is said will erect thereon a five-story hotel.

—The Sunbury water company has begun a filtration plant for their local service. Three million gallons of sand-filtered water will be supplied the residents of that town daily.

—While burning brush a spark ignited a celluloid collar worn by a colored youth named Fisher, who resides in Johnstown, and before it could be torn off the lad's neck had been quite severely burned. Results might have been worse but for a passer-by, who aided the frightened boy in getting rid of his hot collar.

—The DuBois Printing and Publishing company will about the middle of this month launch another morning daily paper. The company is incorporated and will use a telegraph service. The paper will float under the name of the Morning Journal and the publishers will make an effort to have it brimful of the latest news.

—The Pennsylvania railroad has awarded the contract for the construction of seven miles of track on the Possum Glory branch of the Cherry Tree and Dixonville railroad to Charles A. Sims. The new line is an extension and will run from Two Lick creek to Yellow Lick creek, in Indiana county. The line is being jointly constructed by the Pennsylvania and Vanderbilt interests.

—Charles A. Hess, of Lewisburg, had a portion of a needle removed from his arm this week, which became imbedded in the flesh when he was a babe, 35 years ago. It could not be located then. It moved back and forth, and recently the arm became sore. The surgeon had trouble in finding the needle, for even after freezing the arm and making an incision, it moved about as though it were alive.

—P. A. Strand, a man of about 60 years, living at the settlement called Little Sweden, near Peale, while despondent from drinking, retired Tuesday night, not to rest, but for the purpose of taking his own life. He accomplished this end by putting a dynamite cap in his mouth, which exploded and blew his head off. A wife and family survive. He was buried on Thursday. Another warning of the consequences of drink.

—The Presbyterian church of the borough of Indiana have concluded to erect a new church on the site now occupied by the old one. At a congregational meeting held at the close of Sunday morning's service the building committee and trustees were authorized to let the contract. As soon as the contract is let steps will be taken to remove the old and make ready for the new. The estimated cost of building and furnishing is \$65,000 of which a little over \$25,000 is pledged.

—Retrenchment orders are being put into force on the New York Central railroad, but the Pennsylvania division will not suffer a great deal. Several yard clerks, however, have been laid off at Jersey Shore and in the motive power department division Supt. Walton will cut his pay roll \$2,000 a month. The Oak Grove shops will not be affected by the order, but eight laborers in the junction car shops were dismissed. The remainder of the curtail will be made at various places along the division.

—Friday afternoon last officer Bathurst, of Huntingdon, arrested in that town several lads between the ages of 14 and 18 years who were pitching pennies for keep. They were taken before mayor Petrikin, where a severe reprimand was administered, giving them to understand that a recurrence of the crime would mean thirty days imprisonment and \$10 fine. Officer Bathurst and mayor Petrikin were entirely right in the opinion of persons of sound ethics; but how about the boys who shoot marbles for keep?

—The canceling machine in the World's Fair post office was put into operation Tuesday, and the first letter to be canceled was addressed to President Francis, from Farron Zerbe, of Tyrone, chief of the souvenir coin department. The envelope bore a three-cent stamp designed especially for the Philadelphia Centennial, in 1876; a two-cent stamp of the Trans-Mississippi Exposition at Omaha in 1898; a two-cent stamp of the Pan American Exposition at Buffalo in 1901, and the Louisiana Purchase Exposition stamp of 1904.

—Mrs. Sherman Jamison was released from the Clinton county jail Monday afternoon. Sheriff Shearer secured some clothing for the woman and her two children, William and Harry Thomas, purchased railroad tickets for them to Huling's tower, their former home, and put them on the 3:40 afternoon train. The trio were loath to go as the sheriff and his wife had treated them during their stay more kindly than they had ever known before, but as there were no legal grounds for holding them longer it was thought best to discharge them from custody.

—Desperately wounded by the fangs of a mad dog and intent upon saving members of her family from similar misfortune, Mrs. David Keckler, living near Waynesboro, Franklin county, struggled with and conquered the animal on Saturday. Mrs. Keckler's dog had been away for several days and returned Saturday afternoon, barking and snapping at objects and giving all evidence of being mad. Suddenly it sprang at Mrs. Keckler and bit her hand, its teeth sinking deep into her flesh. With remarkable nerve she caught the dog and forced him into a summer house and imprisoned him there so that he could not hurt others. The woman was taken to Baltimore for treatment.

—The Liberty bell will be taken to St. Louis. This was decided upon Thursday when both branches of the city councils of Philadelphia passed a resolution appointing a special joint committee of 24 to escort the revolutionary relic, and appropriating \$15,000 to defray the expenses. The start will be made early in June, but before the old bell is placed in the Pennsylvania building at the World's Fair it will have passed through the principal cities of the Louisiana territory. The bell will remain at St. Louis until the close of the exposition, and will be under a constant guard of Philadelphia policemen. President Francis, of the exposition, will be asked to name a special day to be known as "Liberty Bell Day."