

Democratic Watchman

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Spawls from the Keystone.
—John Shelow, of Tyrone, who is totally blind from having both eyes shot out in front of Petersburg, Va., during the Civil war, recently had his pension increased from \$72 to \$100 per month.

Ink Sling.
—Boston is said to be worried over the high price of coal. President BAER has no sympathy for Boston. Let them burn beans.

—The Texas coon who is setting up the claim that he is 150 years old is evidently a left-over descendant of the original Ananias.

—If other crops are showing badly, the political plum crop at least, is giving promise of an abundant yield at its next gathering.

—When Governor PENNYPACKER gives his dinner to the Justices of the Supreme court we would suggest sour grapes as a fruit quite appropriate for the spread.

—Rhode Island is to hold a "first voters rally" soon and all of Philadelphia is decrying it as an outrage because it offers no glory to the fellows who vote a second and a third time.

—General FUNSTON now declares that he did not swim the Bag-Bag, but the General was very careful not to make this revelation until after he had gotten all the brag-brag possible out of the incident.

—We may not get back much of the \$10,000,000 of gold put into that canal, but we can feel pretty certain that a very large proportion of the laborers sent down to dig it will come back to us—in boxes.

—A Republican exchange announces the fact that its editor will vacate the chair and purposes turning his attention to the lively stable business. We presume when he throws dirt hereafter he will do it with a fork.

—The young man who wanted to know at what hour they turned the water on the cascares at the St. Louis exposition had things almost as badly muddled as the woman who wanted to see them feed the lagoons at the Chicago fair.

—HOMER DAVENPORT, the cartoonist who is on the lecture platform now, is said to be under contract with the Republican National committee for the campaign this fall. It is not likely that he will brand himself with the \$ mark, as he did the late MARK HANNA, but his change of base indicates that someone has put the \$ mark on him, all the same.

—Yes, to be entirely honest we must acknowledge that the negro of the South does not have equal privileges with his brother coon of the North. For instance, down there he is allowed to vote but once on the same election day, while in Philadelphia he has the privilege of voting as many times as he can reach voting booths in which to exercise that right.

—From the wriggling that Mr. Attorney-General HAMPTON L. CARSON has been doing to have the constitution mean what it declares it does not mean, one would take him to be not a very distant descendant of the genus BATRACIA, otherwise and more commonly known as tadpole. There are times, scientists say, when acts more than shape indicate the exact ancestry.

—Ain't someone somewhere forgetting something? Really, we have not heard, nor have we seen it charged by anyone as yet that the discharge of the thousands of his employees, by the Pennsylvania railroad company is attributable to the danger of the election of a Democratic President. Surely the Republican press is forgetting or neglecting an important part of its work.

—Yes, it does seem not only mean but real little in so many of the fellows who voted themselves into Senator QUAY'S political pocket to be trying to crawl out while the "old man's" coat is hanging on the chair back and he occupied with the effort to reduce that over-abundant liver of his. But we should remember that it takes a little fellow to get into another fellow's pocket in the first place.

—So brother NEWTON BAILEY has jumped into the Republican arena after a nomination for Prothonotary. Whoever persuaded him to do that ought to be bumped. The Republicans of Centre county have no use for a Temperance man like Mr. BAILEY. They are going to nominate GEORGE E. LAMB, of Philipsburg; because GEORGE is just the very reverse of a Temperance man and Judge LOVE is counting on him for lots of votes.

—Here's our hat off to the historians of Kansas! They have eliminated from their public school histories the rot about FUNSTON having swum the Bag-Bag river amid a rain of shot and shell and in the face of the entire Filipino army and explain that the soldiers properly to be credited with this feat of gallantry are two privates—TREMBLY and WHITE. It usually takes the truth some time to catch up to a lie, but to do it in a Kansas atmosphere in the short space of three years is really astonishing.

—On Monday six hundred more men were laid off in the Altoona shops, bringing the total number of suspensions under the retrenchment order up to two thousand in Altoona, alone. With a similar reduction all along the line business prospects are evidently not regarded as being bright by the Pennsylvania Railroad company. It is well to remember that such conditions prevail before the opening of the next presidential campaign, for the slump that is inevitable will certainly be pronounced upon by Republican self-binders and held up to a credulous public as being merely occasioned by the uncertainty of the outcome of the election.

Where Mr. Newlin is in Error.

The persistency with which Mr. J. W. M. NEWLIN, of Philadelphia, pursues a wrong course in the matter of testing the validity of the judicial salary bill excites the suspicion that probably, after all, he doesn't want an honest judicial deliverance on the question. His petition for an injunction to restrain the State Treasurer from paying the salaries under the new law, heard in the Dauphin county court recently, was predicated on two averments. The first was that a Philadelphia and Blair county judge couldn't sit on a Dauphin county court, which is absurd. Every lawyer and most laymen know that under the laws the calling in of outside judges to determine a cause in which the local judges are interested is not only proper but just.

His next contention was that the Dauphin county court, Von MOSCHIZSKER and BELL on the bench, having by mandamus directed the State Treasurer to pay the judicial salaries under the act of 1903, it is the duty as well as the right of the Dauphin county court, other judges in the seat, to restrain the State Treasurer from complying with its own previously declared mandate. Clearly that would be another absurdity and the two absurd propositions enabled Judge WEISS, of the Dauphin county court, to hold Mr. NEWLIN up to popular ridicule and allow the question of the constitutionality of the judicial salary law to go untouched. All that was necessary was to point out the fact that Mr. NEWLIN's point was not well taken and then "flip" it out of court.

That the salary law is unconstitutional is so plain that no intelligent man can fail to see it. But Mr. NEWLIN's plan of bringing the matter to a test is not the right one. If instead of filing a new bill Mr. NEWLIN had taken the VON MOSCHIZSKER opinion to a higher court by appeal, the result would have been all that he pretends to desire. That machine-made judge declared the law constitutional notwithstanding the fact that it is not only in direct and flagrant conflict with the fundamental law as clearly expressed in section thirteen of article three, but is directly opposed to the intent of the members of the constitutional convention as revealed in their speeches and the proceedings of that illustrious body.

—The tide of affairs in the Orient seems to have turned against the Japs. While the reverses may be of only a temporary nature the conservative observer cannot be brought to figure anything but an ultimate Russian victory out of it.

Pickwickian Litigation.

Little attention need be paid to the statement that Attorney General KNOX intends to begin legal proceedings in the federal courts of Philadelphia to dissolve the coal trust for the reason that it is a conspiracy in restraint of trade under the provision of the SHERMAN anti-trust law. It is a conspiracy all right which not only restrains trade but regulates products and prices. More than that it, is a crime against public policy and political morals. But KNOX ain't going to do anything to it that could be in any way tortured into an unfriendly act. If he did anything of that sort ROOSEVELT would have a conviction fit. A good proportion of the campaign corruption fund is to be dug up out of the recesses of that organization's inside pockets.

It is not only not improbable but for that matter it is altogether likely that Attorney General KNOX will begin proceedings against the anthracite coal trust and that the performance will be in the federal court of Philadelphia. There is no place else that General KNOX could bring it, unless he might take a notion to use the federal court of this District sitting in Harrisburg or Scranton and if he wants a pleasant few days at intervals now and then from this date to the time of the election at a minimum cost, he will take it to Harrisburg. But he has no intention of dissolving the coal trust. That's too soft a snap for the Republican machine. It's altogether too liberal in campaign subscriptions to be subjected to so cruel treatment.

What General KNOX will really do is to begin proceedings against the anthracite coal trust in a Pickwickian sense. That is to say he will approach the trust in the most threatening manner, calling it opprobrious names and stamping his feet like a savage for the purpose of making any credulous people who may happen to be looking on believe that he is going to tear it into tatters. But he will simply repeat this procedure at regular or irregular intervals until after the election and then he and the magistrates will drop into a convenient place and "pour a libation" to friendship out of a sparkling bottle of the best brand of champagne to be had and the litigation will be allowed to lapse by default.

—If the town council purpose putting in the West ward sewer, erecting the new wall along Spring creek and making the contemplated extensions to the Bishop street sewer this season, wouldn't it be well to be getting about it?

Cortelyou for Chairman.

Last week the selection of CORNELIUS N. BLISS for the chairmanship of the Republican national committee, appeared certain. This week the indications are that Mr. BLISS will not be chairman at all, but that the late Senator HANNA's political mantle will be thrown over the shoulders of Mr. CORTELYOU, the Secretary of the Department of Commerce. The President himself thinks well of his newest selection, a Washington correspondent writes to an esteemed Philadelphia contemporary, but he will not declare the appointment until after he has had a conference with the "council of elder statesmen."

In other words the President would like well enough to have CORTELYOU for chairman but he is very much afraid that the old-line Senators would kick against such an arrangement. CORTELYOU has only been a Republican for a few years. During CLEVELAND's last administration he was appointed a stenographer, where he became so subservient and sycophantic that President MCKINLEY soon afterward promoted him. Subsequently after the calamitous death of MCKINLEY and the elevation of ROOSEVELT to the highest office, CORTELYOU became so painfully and persistently a cringer that everybody felt inclined to kick him.

But the principal reason why ROOSEVELT wants CORTELYOU for chairman is that he knows that we are to have a boodle campaign and that his Secretary of the Interior will not be restrained by any considerations of conscience. He is essentially a political pirate and doesn't care what expedients are invoked as long as they bring victory. When he was a Civil Service Commissioner ROOSEVELT thought differently about such things. Then he thought that politicians like GROSVENOR, of Ohio, and CORTELYOU were "champions of corrupt government and vile politics" and would have nothing to do with them. Now he thinks the contrary and hesitates to associate with others than the toughs of the machine.

Changed Fortunes of War.

A turn in the tide of war in the far East has materially altered the prospects of a Japanese victory in the pending conflict with Russia. During the early operations the Japs showed such skill and energy in their military and naval operations as to create the impression that their campaign in Manchuria would be something in the nature of a triumphal march. On the water their attacks were made with such expedition and exactness as to appear to be irresistible. On land they smote with equal effectiveness and more than made up in courage and capability what they lacked in numbers and resources. But during the past week conditions appear to have been reversed.

For some hardly explainable reason the sympathies of the American people have gone out freely toward the yellow-skinned combatants in the conflict. Naturally it was expected to go in the other direction, for the kinship of race was there to draw us toward the Caucasian. Besides Russia is our hereditary friend. That is in all our troubles she has stood ready to render help and resent injuries toward us. Her blind adhesion to the methods of medievalism, however, has probably produced an antagonistic spirit, while the spirit of progress in Japan has operated in the opposite direction with respect to American sentiment toward her people and government.

The recent reverses on the banks of the Yalu and the misfortunes in the harbor of Port Arthur may not forecast final disaster to the Japs. The loss of one of her best battleships, involving the obliteration of one-fifth of her naval strength, and the repulses sustained on land, are hard jolts, however. But as resourceful a people as the Japanese may be able to recuperate in a short time and even under such adverse conditions the tables may be turned again before the vast empire of the north is able to transplant its resources to the scene of active operations. Russia is far from the theatre of war and "the race is not always to the swift nor the battle to the strong."

Roosevelt's Blind Confidence.

To any other than a vain egotist the Republican political situation would be most discouraging, but THEODORE ROOSEVELT appears to see nothing admonitory in the palpable signs of the dissolution of that party. Last week the Republican state convention of Wisconsin broke up in a row and after separating into fragments nominated two tickets. In Illinois, after fruitless balloting for nearly two weeks, the convention, adjourned last Friday without making any nomination at all. The contention is to reassemble next week and the hope, probably, that a compromise will be effected meantime. But the feeling between the factions has become so intense that a reconciliation can hardly be expected.

The Republican state convention in Ohio last week elected delegates to the Chicago convention who, with the exception of Sen-

ator FORAKER, would be glad to see ROOSEVELT defeated, and they were not instructed for him. In Indiana the hostility against him could hardly be kept from open expression. In New York the delegation is equally divided for and against him and the man chosen by them to present his name to the convention, former Governor BLACK, is an avowed opponent. They will all vote for him and BLACK will "damn him with faint praise." But in the face of such adverse conditions the President is going forward blindly, confident of his election.

In the political history of the country there was never seen an analogous situation. The dissensions in the Democratic party in 1860, when the national convention held at Charleston, South Carolina, adjourned without nominating a candidate presented something of a similar picture. But then there was not the same abandonment to defeat. In other words, the factions in that contest for mastery were earnest and hopeful to the end, whereas those in the present Republican family quarrel are without expectation of victory and by common consent propose to confer the nomination on a man whom they know can't be elected, and for the reason that the case seems so helpless.

Tariff and Dull Times.

The order curtailing the working force on the Pennsylvania railroad is not limited to that corporation. The New York correspondent of the Philadelphia Press informs the readers of that high tariff tax organ that it is a general movement throughout the country and that it is the result of a partial failure of the wheat crop which will have the effect of vastly diminishing revenues and earnings of railroads. Mr. JAMES J. HILL, president of the late Northern Securities company, the correspondent writes, returned from the "wheat belt," the other day, in an exceedingly disconsolate frame of mind, because the wheat crop this year will be "considerable less than an average harvest."

There is reason and logic in this proposition. Take what are known as the "Granger" railroads, those which traverse the vast west and northwest they are certain to suffer immensely if the wheat crop is less than an average. In fact the transportation of the wheat crop is their main source of revenue and if it is considerably diminished as compared with last year their dividends will be sadly impaired if not altogether wiped out. That will necessarily entail a check in the renewal of equipments and a paralysis in the industrial life of the country. This is not an imaginative condition. It is the real thing, as every intelligent observer understands.

But we are at a loss to know how the Republican papers and politicians will account for this slump in the industrial life of the country. They have always guaranteed us that no such thing could possibly happen so long as the sacred tariff endured. That panacea for all industrial ills, they have protested would keep the factories in motion and the wheels of commerce humming constantly whether school kept or not. But as a matter of fact there has been no disturbance of the tariff. It is still robbing the public according to its fancy and they must find some other excuse for the impending paralysis or acknowledge that they have been deceiving the people.

Inexcusable Blackguardism.

An American born resident of Tangier, Morocco, Mr. ION PERDICARIS, has been kidnapped by brigands or other outlaws and the government at Washington is preparing to send a fleet of warships into the harbor of the city to menace the lives and property of the peaceful people as a punishment. This is what the President calls "brandishing a big stick" for the purpose of frightening a helpless community. The ostensible purpose of the expedition is to coerce the authorities of Tangier into an effective search for the kidnapped citizen and his safe restoration to his friends. The search and restoration is desirable, beyond question, but the method is almost as reprehensible as the crime.

This is a new and strangely incongruous manner of creating popular respect for the American government. It is the manner the blackguard adopts to secure his own way among helpless associates. It is the system the ruffian pursues in intimidating his victims. It is the plan the bully invokes to compel obedience to his orders among those about him of inferior physical strength. But it isn't the method which the government of the United States has followed in the past. The traditions of our country have hitherto run along vastly different lines. Our systems have not been those of the washbuckler and the pirate during the period in which the country has been forging to the front in the achievements of civilization.

It is the duty of the government to exhaust all decent expedients to discover and recover the person of Mr. PERDICARIS, while it is not certain that he is at present a citizen of this country, though he was

born here. He has been a resident of Tangier for many years and intimately connected with the business of the community. He has grown immensely wealthy and lived in sumptuous style and the chances are that he has long since severed his allegiance to the United States and become a citizen of Morocco. But whether that be true or not the sending of a fleet of warships to menace the innocent of a city because a crime has been committed by the lawless is a piece of blackguardism.

Is Any State Law Valid?

From the Pittsburgh Press.
There will be general agreement among believers in law and in the binding impartiality of law with the recommendation of "The Philadelphia Press" and Wilkes-Barre "Record" that if the next Legislature fails to pass apportionment bills some one should take the initiative in testing the constitutionality of laws enacted by a Legislature so manifestly at variance with the requirements of the supreme law of the State. The mere suggestion of such a possibility should act as an incentive to the Members of the Legislature to do their duty manfully and without fear or favor. Public sentiment is to some extent aroused, and in a few counties the Republicans are organizing for the purpose of bringing pressure to bear on the Legislature, but the movement is not yet general. If the counties deeply interested in apportionment should band together and refuse to join in any other business until the commands of the Constitution are obeyed the defeat of the apportionment bills would not be so certain. In any event the test of all laws passed by an illegally constituted Legislature is a pertinent suggestion.

"Bless Me, the Thing is Hollow."

From the Lincoln, Neb., Commoner.
Several years have passed by since Mr. Roosevelt made his somewhat famous "backing of cunning" speech at Minneapolis. Since then he has been elevated to a position giving him ample power to "shackle cunning as we have in the past shackled force," but he has utterly failed to make good the implied promise. The Rooseveltian promise to curb trust rapacity recalls the story of a man who had never seen a ship, but who was elevated to the proud position of Secretary of the Navy. One of his first official acts was to visit a battleship lying at anchor at the nearest navy yard. After acknowledging the salutes of the officers and men he walked across the deck and peered down an open hatchway. Starting back with a look of surprise he exclaimed: "Bless me, the blamed thing's hollow!" During the three years of Theodore Roosevelt's administration the people have made the same discovery concerning his promises of trust busting that the Secretary of the Navy made concerning his country's battleships.

The Slaves and the Bell.

From the Omaha World-Herald.
Newspaper dispatches tell us that the Liberty Bell, accompanied by an official committee from Philadelphia, will make a pilgrimage to the St. Louis Exposition. Newspaper dispatches also tell us that among the interesting features at the St. Louis Exposition will be 100 Moro slaves brought from a territory under the jurisdiction of the United States and whose people are presumed to be under the protection of the American flag. The Exposition management expects that both of these features will be attractive. The management thinks that thousands of people will be anxious to gaze upon these 100 slaves, and also that thousands of people will be anxious to take a look at the Liberty Bell. The World-Herald suggests that the two features be placed side by side at the great Exposition.

A Democratic Duty.

From the Philadelphia Record.
While Pennsylvania cannot contribute an elector to the Democratic nominee for the Presidency, there is not the least doubt that in a vigorous campaign the Democratic voters if properly led might hope to carry a few of the Congress districts now represented by Republicans. The present year is always a year of overturn in the Congress, and there are special reasons for change in the Pennsylvania delegation, which for years past has shown conspicuous evidence of dry rot. By naming men of ability and character who are fit to speak for this great State in the national councils the Democrats can at least give the voters the opportunity of a wholesome change. In this field of effort, and in the selection of a decent State Legislature, the Democratic state organization can find room and verge enough for strenuous and hopeful assiduity.

How You Can Continue Them.

From the Savannah (Mo.) Democrat.
The Republican press is now getting busy. The latest is that President Roosevelt, if re-elected, would at the first opportunity send a tariff reform message to Congress. Well, the President has had several splendid opportunities to do this for some time, but he has graciously let them pass by. Tariff reform is the only remedy with which to curb the trusts, and if you rely upon Republican promises, the trust you will have with you always.

Considerable "P" But Still Plausible.

From the Fort Worth, (Texas), Record.
Some alliterative genius says that the Democratic slogan will be Parker and Poverty. He might have unloaded a carboy of P's on his own gang and said that the Party in Power is a Predatory Pincrocery of Piferous Public Plunderers, Post-Philiteres and Papsuckers, whose Platform is Polygamy, Pelt, Pensions and Piracy.

—A corps of ten engineers are at work surveying a route for a trolley line between Johnstown and Ebensburg, a distance of 21 miles. The route will follow the line of the old Portage railroad almost the entire distance, thereby avoiding violent grades and deep cuts.

—The tenth reunion of the Eleventh Pennsylvania cavalry will be held in the rooms Post 9, Grand Army of the Republic, Gettysburg, Tuesday and Wednesday, June 7th and 8th. This is the same time as the state encampment of the Grand Army will be held, thus giving the boys the benefit of excursion rates.

—Judge Stewart, in court at York, has handed down a decree in which he decides that all court records in the clerk of courts office, prothonotary's office and other offices in connection with the courts of York county are open to the inspection of the public. The decree also states the clerks must produce any records of the courts for inspection of any citizens, without charging fee for such service.

—While sleeping in a drunken stupor, Rose Wythowalk, aged 46 years and the mother of five sons and two daughters, was so fearfully burned by upsetting a kerosene lamp Monday morning at 4:30 o'clock at her home in Shamokin, that she died in great agony a few hours later. The burned flesh hung on her arms and hands in shreds and a Mrs. Garborish, at the request of the sufferer, used a pair of scissors in cutting off the blackened strips of skin.

—The organization having Clearfield county's centennial celebration in hand held a meeting Saturday night and changed the date, which was first fixed for Fourth of July week. It was decided to hold the celebration on the 26th, 27th, 28th and 29th of July. The change was made largely because many communities in the county want to have their own Fourth of July celebrations and picnics, and the dates as revised will not interfere, allowing all to go to the county centennial.

—The monthly report of the Employees' Relief fund of the Pennsylvania railroad company's lines east of Pittsburgh and Erie shows that the payments for April of benefits to its members who have died amounted to \$142,717.93, of which \$75,250.80 was on account of death and \$67,467.13 on account of disability from sickness and accident. The payments thus far made have amounted in the aggregate to \$12,121,636.01, of which \$5,058,066.31 was on account of death of members and \$7,063,569.70 on account of disability.

—Judge Ermentrout, of Berks county says teachers have a perfect right to whip pupils who persistently refuse to obey the rules under ordinary means of punishment. A teacher of that county was arrested and brought to trial by an irate father whose son had felt the correcting influence of a fair-sized strap. It was shown the boy was inattentive to his studies, disobedient to the point of defiance and refused to be moved by kindness. The strap was then resorted to but not with undue severity. The court directed a verdict of acquittal.

—The Wellsboro Advocate tells of a case of neck dislocation at Blossburg, Tioga county, caused by eating candy. The Advocate says: Grace, the 6 years' old daughter of Mrs. Arthur Smith, of Blossburg, met with a peculiar accident. She was engaged in eating a piece of flexible licorice and pulling it from her mouth, the extensor of the head was great, when suddenly the licorice parted and her head flew back, dislocating her neck. She fell to the ground. The pressure of the bone on the spinal cord paralyzed her entire body. It took a doctor some time to reduce the dislocation. The girl will probably recover.

—"Black Spot," the negro condemned to death for killing foreman John Williamson, of the B. and S. railroad company near DuBois, on the 29th of last September, and who was refused a new trial by the Supreme court, has made a confession of his guilt, and confesses to three other murders, one of them on the new work of the Wabash railroad, in Washington, not long before going to DuBois. His confession was dictated to deputy sheriff H. M. Carlisle Tuesday morning, and that was as far as he would talk of the past. He had a friendly feeling for sheriff Staver and his deputy, the latter having charge of the prisoners much of the time, because of the fair treatment which he received since being placed in jail, and he was willing to talk to his keeper when he was not to anybody else.

—The people who are given to squirm and scold and complain at little inconveniences that cross their paths in life will please stand up and listen for a moment: When T. S. Coon, of Ridgway, went to his stable to milk the other morning he found his best cow, worth \$65 lying dead, a passing freight train having killed her in the night. This unfortunate accident set Mr. Coon to counting up the hard knocks he has had in the last nine months. Last September a daughter was taken with appendicitis, and had to be taken to the hospital and operated upon. In January last another daughter went through the same operation, and on the 2nd of March a little son was taken to the hospital with typhoid fever. On Tuesday morning last, a passenger train hit and killed a fine Plymouth Rock rooster weighing 12 pounds, and then the prize cow was killed.

—For more than a year Thomas H. Hartley, of Morrisdale Mines, has been experiencing peculiar trouble with his stomach, and frequently, especially while at work in the mines, the evidences were very clear to him that he was carrying about in his stomach a living object. He had consulted physicians, who thought he must be mistaken, as it would be difficult for anything to live very long in the stomach. A few days ago he began to fast and placed himself in the hands of Dr. H. A. Collins, of Morrisdale, for treatment. The effects of the latter Thursday resulted in the removal of a lizard fully four inches in length. The medicine administered had presumably killed the little critter, as it was dead when removed. Mr. Hartley feels very much relieved, as a natural consequence. Dr. Collins will preserve the lizard in alcohol.