

Task Slings.

—Once more the fall of Port Arthur has lingered in the lap of the summary Russians.

—There is a rumor in circulation to the effect that Judge LOVE will be a candidate for the next vacancy on the Superior court bench.

—The probe that the President proposes to run into the Standard oil has probably been so well "greased" that it will not hurt anything very much.

—Mayor PRICE, of Wilkesbarre, who has just sentenced a tramp to two hours in a bath tub, makes it plain that there is no scarcity of water in Luzerne county.

—The pension roll has reached the highest mark ever attained. Still there are many off the rolls who should be there — and many on who should not be there.

—Whatever may be the actual terms upon which Japan has proposed peace with Russia it is only reasonable to suppose that the Mikado demands quite a large piece of something.

—Don't be foolish. Don't be tempted by the rise in U. S. Steel stocks. If you have a little money invest it legitimately. Nobody without great wealth has any business to gamble in stocks.

—Chillicothe, Mo., needn't swell up because it has a man who has contracted to eat a quail a day for thirty days. We have several right here in Bellefonte who could eat thirty quail in one day.

—In Kentucky the drouth has caused a very alarming falling off in supply of milk. This report is tantamount to an admission that they water their milk in Kentucky, which is more than they do with their whiskey.

Women's rights advocates will not be very prompt to jump to the front of the platform and claim MRS. CASSIE CHADWICK'S financial adventures as triumphs of womanly sagacity and business acumen.

—Admiral DEWEY wisely declined to mix in that north sea arbitration. If President ROOSEVELT had some of the Admiral's sensible notions about staying at home and minding his own business how safe we would all feel.

—Those banks out in Ohio that are failing with such unflinching regularity seem to have lost sight of the fact that ROOSEVELT was elected only a little less than a month ago. These are the promised prosperity times and we can't stand for bust ups.

—After living with a man for nineteen years only to have him desert her for another fair (?) enchantress we don't blame the "lady" who jumped all over a lawyer in the Centre county court on Tuesday because he addressed her as the wife of the deserting scoundrel.

—Judge LOVE'S last term of court in Centre county was only three days long. There will be no court next week because there are no cases for trial; a state of affairs not so much to be credited to moral reform in the county as to the diplomacy of the lawyers who for political reasons did not enter cases before the election.

—The indictment of JOSEPH LEITER for taking armed men into Illinois will probably not result in any severe punishment of the young millionaire. Were the law to take its course, however, it might be a warning to men of that class that under our form of government all men have equal rights that cannot be denied them at the point of the bayonet.

—When Secretary of Agriculture WILSON was handing out that compliment for the hens of the United States for laying twenty-billion eggs a year he might have said something about the roosters. While they can hardly be credited with directly effecting the egg out put—like the Republican party however they have a sharp eye to the infant industry.

—There seems no doubt as to who was elected Governor of Colorado, but Governor PEABODY has fallen so deeply in love with the office that he thinks of fighting before giving it up. The thing to do with PEABODY is to run him out at the point of a bayonet. That would be giving him a little of his own medicine.

—Though there are so few of us left, and the good Lord knows we need all the comfort and sympathy we can get, here comes the "most unkindest out of all" from a Pittsburgh woman who is suing her husband for divorce because he is a Democrat.

Without any of the offices,  
The plunder or the spoils,  
Lovely women often denies us  
Our matrimonial toils.

—The Nashville American is out with advice to boys not to leave the farm. It says: "The wise young man will remain on the farm. It is better than perishing by inches in the cities." The reopening of this question recalls to mind one of the effusions of our friend WILLIAM I. SWORE, when he undertook to butt into journalism in Clearfield county through the Raftsmen's Journal, some years ago. He had a lovely column leader one morning which he advised the young men to remain on the farm. About the only comment it ever occasioned came from the Falls Creek Herald and it was, naturally, CHARLEY BANGERT who was mean enough to ask the embryo editor if he had discovered his own mistake too late. The blow ended WILLIAM'S editorial career and he went right back to his old job of being "the Boy Orator of the Snsquehanna."

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The Cabinet Dinners.

The President has issued a new social regulation in Washington. That is to say the "cabinet dinners" which have come to be regarded as a conspicuous feature of the social life of the National capital are to be conducted on lines different from those laid down by his predecessors. The cabinet dinners of the past were given in turn by each of the cabinet ministers and the guests were the President and his wife and the cabinet colleagues of the host of the occasion. The cabinet dinners of the future will be given in the order of their official rank by members of the cabinet and the principal guest will still be the President. But the other guests will be practically chosen by the President himself.

The reasons for this change are left to conjecture and various have been given. An esteemed Philadelphia contemporary suggests that the influencing cause was the absence of mental fertility which requires that one joke can serve on several occasions. Another insinuates that the scarcity of finery in female dress made the old-fashioned cabinet dinner monotonous and still others have advanced other theories more or less plausible. But to our mind the reason which worked the result is that vanity in the President which makes him covet opportunities for parade. Nine dinners in one season limited in personnel to the members of the present cabinet would beyond question grow stupid and the absence of the gay trappings of the diplomatic corps would be intolerable to ROOSEVELT.

The first of these functions will be "pulled off" in a few days, according to the Washington correspondents, and will be at the residence of Secretary HAY. Necessarily the principal diplomatist of the city will be present and it will afford the President a splendid chance to show his intellectual powers. The foreigners will be adorned with all sorts of costly decorations and we wouldn't be in the least surprised if even ROOSEVELT were to appear in the uniform of the army or navy with medals and gilt braid fixed about him in the most attractive manner. This first event will of course set the pace for those to follow and as the participants get used to the new conditions the pace will increase in velocity and become more striking in color.

The Republican voters of the Bedford-Blair congressional district must have had serious and numerous doubts as to JNO. M. REYNOLDS, their candidate for Congress. The vote given him was just thirteen thousand less than that given to ROOSEVELT in the counties comprising the district. But even with this snub the Bedford county renegade will march back to Washington with the same strut and assurance that he entered the capitol city as Mr. CLEVELAND'S assistant commissioner of pensions, and will belie his whole life time professions by voting for the steals and wrongs that he so bitterly and vehemently denounced, when he was thought to be an honest and an honorable man. There are people so lacking in their general make up that they do not know when they befool themselves, and the Bedford congressman is an excellent specimen of that class.

O'Dell and Platt.

We get information from the New York newspapers that Senator PLATT and Governor O'DELL of New York "don't speak as they pass by," now. There has been a quarrel on between them for more than a year and it has been increasing in bitterness. But during the campaign they worked together like "brothers at a husking bee." It is surprising, therefore, to hear so soon after the election that they don't even nod to each other but simply look the other way. Even the cohesive force of public plunder fails to keep them in harmony.

There is very little about Governor O'DELL to admire. He is essentially a selfish politician and spoilsman. There is a good deal in Senator PLATT, moreover, to dislike. He is likewise a politician of the mousing variety. But it is said that he has the virtue of fidelity to friendships to recommend him and that certainly "covers a multitude of sins." He has made a good many political leaders, including O'DELL, and has never betrayed any of them. His "Me Too" response to CONKLING'S resignation had the sound of the voice of a hero.

Still we can't find it in our hearts to sympathize much with him in his present quarrel and certain defeat. He knew, unless he has degenerated into the most hopeless idiocy, that the success of O'DELL'S candidate for Governor meant his own immediate political sacrifice. He knew that ROOSEVELT had joined with O'DELL in the fight against him and yet he stultified himself by begging his friends to strengthen the hands of the opposition already at his throat. That is politronery of the basest sort and stifles sympathy completely.

Pennypacker's Month Sealed.

The Governor intends to urge obedience to the constitution with respect to the matter of the reapportionment of the State into senatorial and legislative districts, according to a recent letter from the Harrisburg correspondent of the Philadelphia Press. The constitution requires a reapportionment of the State after each decennial census and as there has been no change in the senatorial districts since 1874 the mandates of the fundamental law have been shamefully neglected. It is gratifying, therefore, to learn that Governor PENNYPACKER intends to take the matter up. It is even more comforting to discover that he intends to scold the recreant Legislators for failure of their duty.

But after all doesn't it look as if Governor PENNYPACKER is straining at a gnat and swallowing a camel. It is literally true that the constitution requires the reapportionment of the State into legislative and senatorial districts immediately after each decennial census and that the obligation has been grossly and criminally neglected. Every Senator and Representative in the Legislature at every session since has subscribed a solemn oath to "support, obey and defend" the constitution and unless he has performed his part in the work, he has committed perjury. But even if the worst comes to the worst Governor PENNYPACKER has no moral right to censure him. The Governor has no license to point the finger of scorn at anybody.

The one point upon which the constitution of the State of Pennsylvania is particularly explicit is that of filling vacancies in the office of Senator in Congress. Article 2, section 4 of the fundamental law of the State reads: "In case of a vacancy in the office of United States Senator from this Commonwealth, in a recess between sessions, the Governor shall convene the two Houses, by proclamation on notice not exceeding sixty days, to fill the same." Instead of fulfilling that mandate upon the death of Senator QUAY, "in a recess between the sessions," Governor PENNYPACKER allowed the President of the Pennsylvania railroad to fill the vacancy and he is therefore as much perjured as if he had gone into court and given false evidence in a cause at war.

Pennypacker Against Reform.

Governor PENNYPACKER will give no moral or material support to the movement begun by some Philadelphia clergymen for ballot reform legislation. He doesn't believe that political conditions are as bad as they have been described and that anyway he must be convinced by evidence that the registry lists have been padded before he will recommend legislation to prevent the padding. SAMUEL SALTER wouldn't have been so absurd. He wouldn't have questioned the padding, for it is so notorious that school children discuss it. But in other respects Mr. SALTER would have probably done just about what the Governor did.

Governor PENNYPACKER doesn't want honest elections any more than Mr. SALTER wants ballot reform legislation. Both gentlemen want machine victories by majorities so vast that the most disreputable men may remain in public life. The Governor has never gone to the length of stuffing ballot boxes, but that is probably for the reason that it wasn't necessary, rather than because he is opposed to that method of conducting elections. But he is in no material respect different morally from SALTER and if he were less stupid and more courageous he might have been chosen by the machine managers to perform some of their crooked work.

There is no evil so great and so palpable as election frauds, but no legislation of a preventive character is likely to be enacted during PENNYPACKER'S term of office. He still cherishes the ambition to sit on the Supreme court bench and will give the remainder of his term in the office of Governor to the basest uses that can serve the machine in consideration that he will be put upon the bench at the expiration of his gubernatorial tenure. That being true it was a waste of time for the clergymen to invite his co-operation. He has nothing in common with them. The SALTERS are in his class.

Huntingdon county boasts of a Shirleysburg citizen who, at the recent election, cast his sixty-sixth vote, and people over there think it a matter worth talking about. It might be if there was not other places that can discount this work many many times. It took the Huntingdon county veteran eighty-seven years to vote the number of ballots stated, while the SAM SALTERS, and other Republican majority makers of Philadelphia, think it a poor days work if they don't get in that many at every election.

Treasurer MATTHEWS is out with the biennial bluff that the Treasury will not stand any extravagant appropriations by the next Legislature. The next Legislature, however, will plunder to its heart's content, the condition of the Treasury being a secondary consideration.

Profligacy in the Air.

If the congressional program for the coming session of Congress remains unchanged, there will be a big hole punched into the treasury reserve during the next fiscal year. Every Department asked for increased appropriations this year as compared with last which broke all previous records and now we are informed that Representative BURTON, of Ohio, chairman of the committee on rivers and harbors, intends to introduce a river and harbor bill which will make its more or less profligate predecessors "look like thirty cents." In fact BURTON intends to contribute to every community which has a stream of any kind.

Out of this generous measure of Congressman BURTON'S the city of Philadelphia expects to get a matter of \$2,500,000 for the purpose of deepening the Delaware channel to thirty-five feet. As we took occasion to say some months ago, there is a good deal of nonsense in this scheme for the deepening of the Delaware channel. The ostensible purpose is to promote commerce between foreign countries and our own metropolis. But the real idea is to create a fund out of which to pay for criminal political services. The same Congressmen who ask for so vast a sum to deepen the channel in the interest of commerce will vote against any tariff reduction which would increase the commerce vastly more and cost nothing.

No one would rejoice more over the commercial expansion of Philadelphia than ourselves. It has always been our pleasure to contribute in every available way to the prosperity of that city. But a community which not only tolerates but encourages political immorality of so gross a character as to attract the notice of the whole world hardly deserves the help of an outsider. Moreover the business men of Philadelphia have themselves driven away their best customers. There was a time when it was the supply station for the entire South and now a self-respecting Southern gentleman is ashamed to visit the city.

Roosevelt's Fair Promises.

President ROOSEVELT is promising all sorts of things to increase his personal popularity. Immediately after the election he said he would do everything possible to please the South and reconcile the people of that section to his election. On his way to St. Louis, the other day, he went a step further. He declared in a speech delivered in Richmond, Indiana, that his purpose is to be President of all the people, of all Americans, of whatever party. But when he reached St. Louis and had his vanity fed for a day or two the sheep's clothing fell off and the person of the wolf stood revealed.

ROOSEVELT will never be anything except a sectional President. It was he who deliberately incited race prejudice during the recent campaign. He knew that it might lead to a destructive race war and the sacrifice of a vast number of lives, but he didn't mind that. His inordinate ambition was vastly stronger than his love of country or kind and he proceeded with a policy which he accurately estimated would benefit himself and he didn't care what it cost. The lives of his countrymen and the prosperity of his country are matters of little concern to THEODORE ROOSEVELT. His personal ambitions are of great importance.

We are always ready to pay deference to the great office to which President ROOSEVELT has been chosen and in so far as opportunity presents itself, to pay respect to the man who occupies that office. Therefore if President ROOSEVELT will even measurably fulfill his obligations under the constitution and the law and in some part carry out his pledge to be the President of all the people, without distinction as to parties, we shall most cheerfully pay him the tribute of acknowledgment. But we have no such expectation. We look for nothing except the big stick and the bully and that will be disgraceful.

Don't Expect Anything There.

Governor PENNYPACKER don't seem to know anything about election frauds in Philadelphia. This is a matter that a Chief Executive of a great Commonwealth would naturally be supposed to be interested in, even to the extent of investigating and ascertaining for himself if there were any truth in the allegations. But not so with Mr. PENNYPACKER. He would hunt bugs in Wetzel's swamp from morning till night. He would delve into old cupboards and wade through attic dust to hunt up useless relics of by-gone days, but when it comes to looking up frauds against the election laws of the State that has honored him by making him its Governor, he dismisses the whole subject with the simple statement that the "proof must be furnished him," before he will "give any attention" to the charge.

It is a question whether a Governor with so little idea of what is due from him to

the State, or what his duties are when his attention is called to the disgraceful wrongs that are perpetrated against the Commonwealth whose honor has been placed in his keeping, is worth denouncing, even for a failure to perform a plain duty. And it is another question, whether the present Executive of the State would do anything in this matter were the most undoubted proof of all that has been charged about Philadelphia election frauds furnished him. PENNYPACKER has benefitted by these frauds. The politicians closest to him are the men who order and pay for their committal. The party that gave him the position he holds profits by them, and it is useless to look to him to either attempt to uncover or call public attention to them.

In the work of doing honor to the State, of purifying its elections, of making it better laws, or in any line calculated to elevate the public services, the present Governor is not to be counted in. His forte is not to do honorable things in an honorable way for the honor of the Commonwealth and the good of the people. It is rather to squeak at the newspaper for exposing frauds, to belittle all efforts at righting wrong, and to stand back of political grafters who have both hands in the public treasury, as he has been doing in one instance at least that can be named if necessary.

Many a man who has a fat bank account today will find it becoming mighty lean as Christmas draws near.

But It's What They Voted For.

From the Lancaster Intelligencer.

The president, on his way to close the St. Louis exposition, seems to be a president misapprehended, as there seems to be no particular reason for his attention to such a function. Nor would there be to any other president, but it is a constitutional need of our president to go whenever and wherever he fancies. He loves to be before the people and we can readily understand how great a temptation he has at present to be taking a triumphal march, as his descent upon St. Louis may be described to be.

His admirers claim that he was reelected by his personal popularity, and in default of any better reason this may as well be assumed to be the cause as any other. At any rate there is nothing and no one to dispute it and Mr. Roosevelt may be assumed to be the sort of president that the people like and that any performance he undertakes is under the protection of their approval. So that if he seems to be going to St. Louis, where he has no business to be and leaving Washington, where his business is, we may assume that he knows his business better than we do and that the people will believe that he is strictly attending to it.

Chance for Prohibition.

From The New York Press.

Steps have been taken which are destined to do more for the cause of temperance than Dr. Swallow and all his followers. Certain railroads, moreover, no doubt by the large number of railroad accidents in the course of the past year, have made regulations prohibiting to their employes the use of intoxicating liquors while on duty and the frequenting of barrooms at all times. Also insurance actuaries have been at work on figures which show that with no sentiment about the matter; but they will accomplish what the prohibitionists, who are all sentiment, cannot. They will place an every-day money premium in a concrete form upon abstinence, thus educating from the bottom and not like the prohibitionists, repressing from the top.

The railroads and the insurance companies are working for their own pockets, with no sentiment about the matter; but they will accomplish what the prohibitionists, who are all sentiment, cannot. They will place an every-day money premium in a concrete form upon abstinence, thus educating from the bottom and not like the prohibitionists, repressing from the top.

Advice that Democrats Should Heed.

From Judge Parker's Letter to Democrats.

"To accomplish much in this direction, [party success], we must forget the difficulties of the past, if any one suspects his neighbor of treachery let him not hint of his suspicion. If he knows he has deserted us, let him not tell it. Our forces have been weakened by divisions. We have quarreled at times over non-essentials. If we would help the people, if we would furnish an organization through which they may be relieved of a party that has grown so corrupt that it will gladly enter into partnership with the trusts to secure money for election purposes, we must forget the differences of the past and begin this day to build up wherever it may be needed a broad and effective organization. And we must by constant teaching, through the press and from the platform, apprise the people of the way the vicious tariff circle works."

A Baffling Cry.

From the Joplin (Mo.) Globe.

The democratic party is not disrupted by Tuesday's defeat. It is not disorganized. There is occasion for thanksgiving that it is not "reorganized." It is not republicanized. The country has one political party which is an organized system of spoils and venality, and one is enough. In the next campaign the democratic party will renew the battle for principles. It will find a candidate big enough to lead. It will adopt a platform that will be a pronouncement of principles rather than a bid for votes. It will strive to deserve to win. It will work for victory—because of the opportunity that victory brings, not for the material perquisites, not for "the leaves and fishes."

Spawls from the Keystone.

—Boggs township, Clearfield county, boasts of a man 55 years old who is the father of 16 children. And last Sunday there was a wedding in the township in which the bride was but 14 years old.

—The Pennsylvania Railroad Co. has had several thousand locust trees planted on land near Duncannon and are now having a similar number planted near Newport, to be used in later years for ties.

—The Pennsylvania railroad has a special officer running on the passenger trains on the Tyrone division. They are determined to break up the rowdiness which resulted in the assault upon conductor Snyder a few weeks ago.

—Ira Gray, of Spangler, Cambria county, was robbed at the world's fair the other day of a wallet containing \$300 and his railroad tickets and he caused the arrest of a saloon keeper named Thomas Fouchs on a charge of robbery.

—Charles Cors, one of the oldest practitioners at the Clinton county bar, died suddenly Monday morning at 10:30 o'clock at his home in Lock Haven. His death was due to acute indigestion and he had only been ill a few days.

—The Buffalo Valley Telephone company is the name of a local telephone company that has commenced to build its lines in Union county. The lines will extend through every section of the county now covered by the United Telephone and Telegraph company. John Ruhl is superintending the construction of the lines.

—A farmers' institute, under the auspices of the Pennsylvania State Board of Agriculture, will be held at Warriorsburg, on Friday and Saturday, Dec. 9th and 10th, 1904. An interesting and instructive program has been arranged. No admission will be charged and no collections taken. Everybody is cordially invited to attend.

—The Pennsylvania company last Friday announced that it had closed contracts for building of 5,000 freight cars. This is independent of the recent orders for 6,800 freight cars on its lines east and west of Pittsburgh, which are to replace the worn-out or damaged cars. The cars just ordered will be an addition to the equipment of the lines west of Pittsburgh.

—The 697 pupils at the Indian school last Thursday had a fine Thanksgiving dinner. An idea of the dinner can be had when it is known that 72 turkeys, 70 quarts of cranberries, 700 bananas, 7 bushels of sweet and 8 of Irish potatoes, 12 dozen bunches of celery, 40 pumpkins made into pies, 40 pounds cheese and 1,350 doughnuts were among the things that went to make up the dinner.

—Speculation concerning the existence of oil in Somerset county, a new field, is at an end. The fluid was struck at a depth of 3,000 feet late Tuesday afternoon of last week, three miles west of Stoyestown on the farm of D. E. Long, where the Lincoln Oil and Gas company has been drilling during the past fifty days. The product has averaged a steady output of six barrels per hour since the flow was struck.

—Wm. G. Glenn, one of the best coroners ever occupying the office in Blair county, died at his home in Altoona early Sunday morning. He had been in bad health for several months, and a week ago was stricken with pneumonia which caused his death. He was born in Chester, Delaware county, and was 69 years old on the 25th of March last. He had lived in Altoona thirty-four years and had been coroner six years.

—Roy Fraker, a native and former resident of Altoona and one of the most expert stenographers in Pittsburgh, committed suicide Saturday morning by shooting himself in the head. The deed was committed in a room of the republican headquarters building, Grant and Diamond streets, where he was found some time later with the revolver in one hand and in the other a farewell note. Domestic troubles are said to have been the cause for the rash act.

—The store of Bratton & Ross, at the mining town of Fauces, along the Clearfield and Southern extension of the New York Central railroad, was broken into at an early hour Thursday morning, robbed and then burned down. Goods from the store were found scattered about the woods. The fire spread to the surrounding buildings, consuming the station and offices of the New York Central railroad, the postoffice, warerooms, and numerous other buildings.

—The trouble existing between the Pennsylvania Coal and Coke company and the United Mine Workers of America over the matter of the former collecting 50 cents per month from the wages of non-English speaking miners who boarded in company houses with boarding bosses, has been settled. The company after several meetings with President Gilday and District President William Currie, of the miners' organization, agreed to abolish the practice.

—William Blessing and his brother were arrested at Lewistown last Friday night by Sheriff Bricker, charged with the larceny of a boat from the Juniata river near Petersburg. They were from Steelton and had been trapping along the river and creek banks in Huntingdon county. They had secured the pelts of more than 700 fur-bearing animals. They were under arrest accused of stealing the boat to carry themselves and their load to Harrisburg.

—More than one-half the school districts in Pennsylvania have been paid their share of the school fund for the fiscal year ending May 31st next. State Treasurer Mathews expects to pay all of them during the present year. The exact amount paid to the schools is \$2,381,358, leaving less than \$2,000,000 due them. Of the entire appropriation of \$5,500,000 for this year the public schools proper will get \$5,212,500; the normal schools, \$237,500, and the township high schools, \$50,000.

—On Wednesday morning last the Bituminous National bank of Winburne moved into and opened up and are doing business in their handsome edifice at that place. Both President Somerville and cashier J. Malcolm Laurie, two of the most popular gentlemen in Clearfield county, feel justly proud of their new handsome building. It is a nicely finished bank, all the latest and most modern furniture is to be found in it, the banking room proper with an elegant safe and the latest improved vault, also an office that is right up to date.