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St. Patrick was a good old soul...

Here's hoping that the visiting Senators will appreciate Bellefonte's need for a hospital.

Today ends the reign of the ground hog. Let us hope that spring really is only four days off.

Oh, no, KUROPAKIN has not retired. Every report received confirms the fact that he is still on the road.

It may be pip, it may be grip, I care not what you call it, a day or two will surely do for any one that gets it.

We are so glad that Gen. CHARLES MILLER gave COLONEL that pony before he decided to retire from the National Guard.

If our Republican friends find that they can't get rid of ABE MILLER any other way, why there is Dr. OSLER's way out of it.

There are many reasons why trouble never comes single handed. The best one is that it is usually married and has a large family of little troubles.

It matters little how orderly the Russian flight from Mukden was made the Japs will cause the usual disorder again, just as soon as they get good and ready to do it.

Russia may not have any generals who are better than KUROPAKIN, but it might be a source of satisfaction to her to find out how many of them are worse.

Green is to be the very ultra color for men's clothing during the coming season. And the probabilities are that the greener the man is the greener will the clothes be.

The Russian council of nobles in deciding to "continue the war to the bitter end," might just as well have left the word "bitter" out of it. That would have been thoroughly understood.

Is it to be an increase of valuation, an increase of millage, a county debt, or a new board of Commissioners? These are the questions that \$98,378.22 of county expenditures bring right to the point.

The machine seems to be on the run at Harrisburg. If the opposition only doesn't get frightened at its own strength now some fair results might be reasonably expected of this body ere it adjourns.

When ANDY CARNEGIE wrote that Pan American railway commission that he wanted to see the North and South Americas bound together with bonds of steel he might have had in mind a new market for a little U. S. S. common.

We wonder if out of the twenty-three million dollars the P. R. R. expects to spend for improvements during the coming summer she will be able to take enough to plant a few posies in the deserted beds at the station in this place.

The fact that the present session of the Legislature has made so few laws up to this time isn't worrying the people of Pennsylvania. What they are afraid of most is that the body might waken up to some misguided effort to earn salaries.

It was no wonder poor old KUROPAKIN didn't know where he was at for a few days after the battle of MUKDEN. The loss of those twenty-three cart loads of maps was 'enough to make anyone feel like a ship without a rudder in strange seas.

It is now said that Judge LOVE regrets that he allowed his name to be connected with the movement to impeach Judge SMITH. There are people who can never see a foul thing until their attention is called to it by the smell caused by putting their foot in it.

If as Centre countians we don't rank first in many matters, we can at least throw back our shoulders and point to the amount of money we expend for 'ordinary county affairs. \$98,378.22 is a sum which compared with the expenditures of other counties of equal population and necessities, makes them look insignificant indeed.

Newspapers can continue publishing columns on the unmistakable evidences of prosperity, public speakers may continue argument on the same theme, but the only real, deep, convincing evidence of such a condition of affairs is to be found in the condition of the pocket of the individual. Everyone measures prosperity by his own standard.

The \$98,478.22 that the County Commissioners expended last year in the management of county affairs, is calculated to paralyze the belief some people have entertained that these gentlemen, as public officials, don't know any more than the law allows they should. In the matter of getting away with the public moneys, the figures show that they know just about all there is of it.

While it is not probable that there will be any serious opposition to the selection of Mr. QUIGLEY as chairman of the Republican county committee there are a few of the old men of the party who are not mining words in expressing their opinion of the plan. Since the death of Col. REEDER the Republicans have been without organization or leadership and it is possible that Mr. QUIGLEY can furnish both; as for reconciling the LOVE and HASTINGS elements, he ought to be able to do that without much trouble for he has succeeded in taking care of both waters up to this time very nicely.

The Santo Domingo Treaty.

The debate of the Santo Domingo treaty is now in progress, having begun on Monday, with present prospect of a prolonged discussion. Left to their own inclinations and influenced by their own judgments, as Senators were until within a few years, there would have been no doubt of the result of the vote when it is reached. But simultaneously with the opening of the debate on this question the process of log rolling was inaugurated and it may be expected that the agents of the executive will be constantly in the lobby trading government patronage for votes. It is even possible that the President will take a hand in the operations himself as he did about a year ago when the question of a congressional investigation of the frauds in the Postoffice Department was the issue. Then he sent for Senators and Representatives and openly proposed bargains with them.

Under these circumstances the Senate may yield to the extraordinary proposition expressed in that treaty. That is to say, it may ratify a treaty which will invest the President with the authority of an international policeman, debase the government of the United States to the level of a bill collector for European usurers and pledge the people of the United States to the payment of forty or fifty millions of debts, two-thirds of which are fraudulent and little or none of which can ever be repaid. Such an injustice has never before been attempted in this country. Probably no other living man in the same position would have thought of it. But the inordinate lust for power which is literally consuming the vain broncho buster in the White House leads him into all sorts of absurdities and this criminal sacrifice of the American people is the limit.

There is still good reason to hope the Senate will refuse to be bribed into concurrence in this palpable iniquity. WALTER WELLMAN stated in a letter to the Philadelphia Press the other day that if all the Republican Senators voted in the affirmative they would be two short. But two of them, MITCHELL, of Oregon, and BURTON, of Kansas, are under criminal indictment and can't vote. That leaves them four short and the distinguished correspondent adds that the probabilities are that two of them will vote in the negative. This increases the shortage to six and as the same authority estimates there is no possibility of getting more than two Democratic Senators to support the measure, the chances are that it will fail. We earnestly hope this prediction will be fulfilled.

We can conceive of nothing that could happen which would be more inimical to the interests of the people than the ratification of this treaty.

After Controller Larkin.

The atrocious Pittsburg machine has determined to nullify the power of City Controller JOHN B. LARKIN even if it can't defeat him at the polls. Mr. LARKIN was elected to that important office three years ago by a fusion of the Democrats and decent Republicans against the candidate of the machine. Subsequently the magnoetic power of public plunder brought a considerable number of the seceding Republicans back to the machine and last month an herculean effort was made to defeat Mr. LARKIN for re-election. But it was unsuccessful. His splendid record appealed so strongly to the good citizenship of the city that he got a much larger majority than before.

Political plunderers are exceedingly resourceful, however, and the machine managers have conceived a plan to minimize Mr. LARKIN's influence on the government of the city. That is to say, they have determined to deprive him of one of his most important prerogatives by legislation and a bill aiming for that end has been prepared and will probably be well on its way toward final passage by the time this issue of the WATCHMAN reaches its destination. It is a piratic undertaking and an infamous expedient. But the machine doesn't mind such things as that. It wants the plunder and its managers would resort to the methods of the highwayman if they were not afraid of the consequences.

Here is the scheme. The city charter of Pittsburg provides that when for any reason a special appropriation is desired the Mayor and City Controller shall unite in a certificate to council the existence of an emergency which requires such a remedy. It is now proposed to amend the instrument so as to make it necessary for only the Mayor to sign the certificate. One of the complaints against LARKIN is that he refused to assist emergencies which didn't exist and thus saved the taxpayers vast sums of money and deprived the machine managers of much graft. But that power will be taken from him if the machine influence in the Legislature is sufficiently potential.

The Bituminous Record, of Philadelphia, is now issuing twice a month instead of weekly.

The Republican Party Endorses Vice.

The Republican majority of the Pennsylvania State Senate has formally thrown the mantle of its protection and sympathy over the vice and crime under police sanction in Philadelphia. That is to say, on Monday evening last Senator HERBST, of Berks, introduced a resolution reciting the facts and proposing a committee of five to make a thorough investigation of the matter and it was promptly voted down, every Republican Senator present participating in the outrage. Senator SCOTT, of Philadelphia, expressed surprise that such a resolution should be offered and remarked that the authorities of Philadelphia could take care of their own affairs. But the records reveal the contrary.

The particular vice to which Senator HERBST referred in his resolution was that of beguiling young female immigrants into lives of shame. The process is to meet those young women when they come ashore and promise them lucrative employment. Unacquainted with the language and without knowledge of the customs of the country thousands of them are perfectly helpless victims of the conspiracy. The promise of employment allures them and they are literally sold to brothel keepers who starve or frighten them into acquiescence in the life of shame and degradation. If they resist the police admonish them to obedience. The police are supported in this atrocious action by those higher in authority.

The return which the criminals engaged in this nefarious traffic give to the machine is shelter for fictitious names registered to be voted on at the elections. For example, one of those dens of iniquity was broken up a few days ago and it was discovered that twenty men had been voted from the house at the February election though there was not a male resident in the place. Some of the policemen get a direct "rake off" for their services in intimidating the girls but the main consideration is the aid in fraudulent voting. It is no longer a local infamy, however. The vote of the State Senate on the HERBST resolution makes it a matter for which the Republican party is responsible.

Republican Party Favors Election Fraud.

The defeat of the motion of Representative SHEATZ, of Philadelphia, to discharge the committee on elections of the House from the further consideration of the personal registration bill fixes the responsibility of future ballot frauds. It can no longer be said that SAM SALZER is any worse than his party. He is precisely like the rest of his political associates. He is a self-confessed ballot box stuffer and they are promoters and abettors of the crime. Every man of the 125 Republicans in the House of Representatives who voted against the motion knew the significance of his action. Unless he is worse than a fool he understood that his vote meant two years more of corrupt elections.

We congratulate the decent Republicans of Centre county on the fact that Representative WOMELSDORF voted with three other Republicans for honest elections. That is, he voted to bring the measure out of committee for consideration on the floor. But there were just enough of the exceptions to prove the rule. Representative WATKINS, of Lackawanna, Representative BOULTON, of Clearfield, and Mr. SHEATZ, of Philadelphia, composed the roll of honor. That is to say, that quartet of Republicans joined with the eleven Democrats present to make up the fifteen affirmative votes. But the action of the 125 who voted in the negative fixed the standing of the party on the question.

After the vote was taken many members who voted "no" said that they were in favor of the bill but opposed to taking it from the committee. In that statement they lied for the purpose of deceiving their constituents. They knew precisely what their votes meant. They understood the significance of their action and if they favor personal registration their votes against discharging the committee from further consideration marked them as petroons and wretched cowards who were afraid to express their sentiments because it might offend the machine which owns them body and soul. But they can't fool the people with such subtleties. They only mark themselves as fit subjects for popular contempt.

Republicans already in the field as candidates for the nomination for the various county offices are for sheriff, HENRY KLINE; treasurer, ISAAC UNDERWOOD; recorder, EDWARD C. MCKINLEY, C. T. HALL and H. H. HEWITT; register, C. C. TUXEN; commissioners, A. V. MILLER, JOHN G. BAILEY and H. E. ZIMMERMAN. H. C. QUIGLEY has announced as a candidate for county chairman and HARRY KELLER as a candidate for delegate to the State convention.

During the past week petitions have been circulated in this and adjoining counties asking for the renomination of Gen. James A. Beaver as a candidate for Superior court judge.

Work of the Legislature.

Less than a month of the legislative session remains and little has been accomplished. Three or four unimportant measures have reached the Governor, two of which, the pure food bill and the LEWIS and CLARK exposition have been vetoed. Those who are directing the work profess confidence that the appropriation bills will all be passed and probably they will as no serious opposition is made to anything, however bad, and the appropriation bills have been endorsed by the machine. But it is scarcely likely that any other important legislation will be enacted. In fact it is certain that none of the reform bills will get through.

Every day brings forth new evidence that the elections of Philadelphia are controlled by the grossest frauds. A couple of weeks ago it was shown conclusively that in one division of the Thirteenth ward 200 ballots were placed in the box before the polls were opened for the February election and the votes thus cast were counted for the machine. A week later it was proven that gangs of repeaters cast nearly as many fraudulent votes at one poll in the Third ward. It is well understood that the same systems of fraud were practiced in nearly every division in the city. It is equally certain that the system of registration is responsible for all this infamous corruption.

But there will be no legislation enacted during the present session to remedy the evil. Almost at the beginning of the session two bills were introduced providing for such personal registration as would have made this corruption impossible. We believe that eighty per cent. of the voters of the State, irrespective of party are in favor of honest elections. Yet the representatives of these people in the Legislature, controlled by the twenty per cent. who are venal or influenced by some other sinister agency refuse to pass either of the bills so that for two years more at least this carnival of corruption which makes the State a reproach to the Republic will continue.

An Impending Danger.

Governor PENNYPACKER was wise in admonishing the Legislature the other day of the danger that private water companies organized for speculative purposes will ultimately absorb the water supply of the State and work infinite harm on the community. "There are now pending before me," writes the Chief Executive of the State in a special message to the Legislature, "twenty-nine applications for the incorporation of private water companies. All of them have been presented within the last three days, each of them has but three incorporators and in all except three the amount of money paid to the treasurer of the corporation is \$500."

The purpose of this movement is obvious. As the population of communities increases in density the necessities for water multiply. Before the want is felt generally, therefore, these speculators are preparing to secure the water sheds and that accomplished prey upon the necessities of the public. It is a cruel process. It means future suffering and pestilence in the communities affected but it guarantees immense profits to the human wolves engaged in the conspiracy. They understand that the public must have water just as they must have air and when the evil day arrives they will fix the price for a commodity which ought to be free but must be had at any price.

There is probably no community in Pennsylvania or elsewhere as secure against such conspiracies as Bellefonte. Other towns are settled on larger streams but none on bodies of water so universally generous in supply and pure in quality. But because of our own safety we should not be indifferent to the probable danger of others. On the contrary, it is our duty to join in the protest against so iniquitous a conspiracy and in every possible way promote the remedy. Governor PENNYPACKER says that the remedy is in legislation depriving such companies of the right of eminent domain. Then let such legislation be enacted.

We have repeatedly called the attention of our readers to the very laudable object, the improvement of the Bellefonte Academy grounds in time for the celebration of its centennial anniversary in June and we desire once again to bring it to your notice. Quite a number of people away from town have subscribed liberally, and the people of Bellefonte who can afford to do so should be as open-hearted. There can be no question about the worthiness of the object. The Academy is a local institution of learning of which we all can justly feel proud. It is doing a good work and is deserving of all the encouragement possible to give it. Therefore send in your subscription to the ground improvement fund and when the centennial is held in June, in which you will all be invited to participate, you will be glad you were one of the many who helped to put the surroundings in proper shape.

Opening a New Field for Graft.

From the Johnstown Democrat. The armory bill as reported out of the committee at Harrisburg is calculated to open up unlimited opportunities for graft unless public protest shall be exerted to head off this scheme at once.

Under the terms of the amended bill an appropriation of \$900,000 is made, to be expended by a board known as the Armory Board of the State of Pennsylvania for the payment of its expenses and for providing, managing and caring for the National Guard of Pennsylvania. The commission is to exercise its own judgment as to where and when to buy or build armories and the particular companies or regiments to be so favored. The maximum amount to be expended for an armory for a company of infantry shall be \$20,000, and for a battery of artillery or a troop of cavalry, \$30,000.

Not only is the board to provide the armories; but it shall also see to their proper management, having power "to adopt and prescribe rules and regulations."

This huge preliminary expenditure, however, would of course be only a beginning. It is desired merely as the thin edge of the wedge. Two years hence the demand would be for a million. Ten years hence the demand might well be for five millions or even more. For militarism grows on what it feeds on.

Is Pennsylvania ready to enter thus upon a career of martial extravagance? Is she prepared to spend her resources in cultivating a spirit that is at best doubtful and at its worst is destructive morally and economically? The legislature seems ready to commit the State to a policy the end of which might be despotism and unless the people revolt we shall see a military fortress in every town of any size in Pennsylvania within a few years.

A Big Job Even for Providence to Tackle.

From the New York Evening Post. If the politicians of any locality in America need praying for, they do in Philadelphia. We hope it will not be said that they are past praying for. Something should be expected from the fervent petitions of 500 ministers in behalf of Mayor Weaver, for praying has often been peculiarly efficacious in Pennsylvania. Not many years ago, for instance, a new brewery was erected in one little Pennsylvania town, and the local preachers, who were much opposed to it, prayed that it might be destroyed by fire from heaven. Sure enough, it was struck by lightning, and the brewer saw the relation of cause and effect so clearly that he sued the preachers for damages. Mayor Weaver and Director Smyth, though they fumed angrily over being prayed for, reported that they felt no unusual sensation of any sort. "How dare you ask such a question?" shouted the Mayor at one of his questioners. But for all that, it is not pleasant for the most hardened of public officials to know that the united pulpits of the city regard the situation as so desperate that only miraculous intervention can avert it.

The Machine protests, of course, that nothing is wrong with Philadelphia. But there are people who think differently and as they are not allowed to make their will effective through their votes—only last week the Machine sent its repeaters into wards hitherto uncorrupted—there is nothing left for them to do but pray.

Got Just What He Deserved.

From the Hughesville Mail. The sentence imposed by Judge Woods, of Huntingdon county, upon a "respectable" citizen who was convicted in his court of procuring liquor for men of intemperate habits—a fine of five hundred dollars and a year's imprisonment in the county jail—is a pretty severe one, but just, to the dot. The man who has no better conception of his duty to society than to supply liquor to men who are proscribed by law, men who cannot procure it themselves at the bar, is a very dangerous citizen and his prominence and social standing should cut no figure when he stands before the bar of justice.

After the Real Powers.

From the Milliford Times. We have not learned whether the prayers of the clergy of Philadelphia, for the conversion of Mayor Weaver, have been answered, but why not pray for the REAL Mayor—Lz Durham—and ask God to strike him down on the highway, as Saul was stricken on the way to Damascus, and keep him down till he promises to do the right thing.

Mystery of the Beef Trust.

From the Kansas City Journal. But just think of the money the packers were losing some years ago when cattle were higher and meats of all kinds were lower! How in the world they kept it up so long is an impenetrable mystery.

It Begins Early and will be Worked Late.

From the Portland Argus. If the spirit of boodle and of graft is to be found thus early in the Isthmian Canal Commission, what may we expect from the subordinate officials throughout the years of active operations?

When you see a man walking along these days with a fishing rod on his shoulder don't be fooled by thinking that the trout season has opened, it is only the snooker fisherman abroad. At the same time it is well to remember that every man who is out looking for snookers does not carry a rod. One man, on Tuesday, caught eight nice-sized fish up spring creek.

David O. Ekers, of this place, and Melford Fletcher, of Blanchard, are both bustling around in their canvases for the election as county superintendent. Though not an avowed candidate the present incumbent, C. L. Gramley, would accept the place for another term if it were given him.

Spawls from the Keystone.

The Clearfield county home farm produced \$6,498.62 worth of produce last year.

The domestic animals of Pennsylvania have a value of \$152,805,618, and produce products worth \$100,000,000 each year.

The employees at the Middletown tube works have been given a ten per cent. increase. The raise affects about fifteen hundred men.

Prof. H. Lynn Beers, principal of the Osceola schools, will resign at the close of the present term and move to Ann Arbor, Michigan, where he will take up the study of medicine.

The directors of the Newton Hamilton camping association are planning for their next camping. The date has not yet been definitely fixed, but it will likely be a little earlier than usual.

The Portage smallpox epidemic is being rapidly stamped out and no danger is anticipated of a further spread of the disease. There are but twelve cases in the hospital, and they are all convalescing.

The temperance people of Milliford county had a paper called The County Bulletin printed containing the names of all the signers of the applications for licenses within the county, and distributed copies through the post-masters.

The largest river coal shipment which has left Pittsburg for months started South Sunday. The fleet contained about 2,500,000 bushels consigned to Cincinnati and Louisville. Another shipment of 2,000,000 bushels was made on Monday.

Four locomotives are required to haul a train of 45 loaded coal cars up the grade from Moshannon to Snow Shoe, on the N. C. C. railroad, but one engine will haul from 60 to 75 loaded cars from the head of the Susquehanna to Williamsport.

The extensive works of the Enterprise Sand company, at Vineyard, on the middle division, was entirely destroyed by fire Thursday morning. A large number of men employed by the concern will be thrown out of employment.

Ministers representing every church in Altoona met Sunday in a union prayer meeting in Grace Lutheran church. The greatest interest was manifested, and it was decided to continue the meetings and begin a systematic crusade for the betterment of that city.

Down in Philadelphia the ministers are praying for the corrupting that is running that city. Should Christian people of the Quaker City vote differently, then the good Lord might show some consideration for their prayers. Voting one way and praying another is not consistent.

Fire Sunday morning destroyed the plant of the Connelville Car & Machine company, causing a loss of \$150,000, with insurance of \$65,000. Martin Mullen, the night watchman, is believed to have been burned in the carpenter shop, which he was seen to enter a few minutes after the fire was discovered.

Elizabeth town, in Lancaster county, boasts of the tallest family in the Commonwealth. G. W. Kersey, six feet, ten and one-half inches in height and weighing two hundred and fifty pounds is the giant of the lot. His brother, S. J. Kersey, is six feet, four inches high, and a sister living at home with the brothers is six feet.

On March third a wounded deer was found in a field near Brisbin, which died shortly after having been discovered. It had been shot in the neck. The game warden at Clearfield was notified, and he is now looking for the violators of the game law. The deer was dressed and presented to the Clearfield hospital by the warden.

All winter long the United States mail on rural free delivery No. 2 starting from Blairsville, had been carried by Mrs. Devers, who is the regular rural carrier. Her daughter Mary is an assistant. Notwithstanding the intense cold Mrs. Devers has not missed a day, going the full route each day and making as good time as her male colleagues.

Adolph J. Bloch, the Canonsburg mill worker, who is in the Washington county jail charged on his own confession with the murder of Mrs. Kate Fatzinger at Allentown, Pa., more than a year ago, was released without a hearing. H. V. Schantz, district attorney of Lehigh county, telegraphed that he had secured proof that the man knew nothing of the crime.

A bold and daring highway robbery was committed in the central part of Altoona early Saturday morning shortly after the police had left their beats for the police station to go off duty after a night's work, when S. F. Geer, employed as a fireman at the Altoona car shops' boiler house, was struck down at Eleventh avenue and Ninth street shortly after 5 o'clock and robbed of \$30.

Frank O'Boyle, a Senator young man, was assisting a lady friend who had fallen while skating at Rocky Glen, when she fell again with such suddenness that one of her feet shot up in the air, a skate blade striking O'Boyle squarely in the face, inflicting a deep laceration from the cheek bone to the chin. It required several stitches to close the cut, and it is feared that the young man will carry the scar through life.

Winburne had a disastrous fire Saturday morning between 12 and 1 o'clock. It started in the barn of Dr. H. H. Thompson, totally destroying the same, together with three horses, buggies, cases of instruments left in the buggies, hay, feed, etc., the only things saved being a pony and buggy. The flames communicated to the adjoining barns of O. L. Schoonover and John Davis, totally destroying them, together with all the contents. Total loss will be over \$3000.

J. Murray Africa, civil engineer, in new quarters just established at Huntingdon, has a stone vault which is ten feet square and is a safe repository for Mr. Africa's many valuable surveys, etc. He claims to have about 30,000 papers pertaining to different surveys of Central Pennsylvania, dating back to 1755. He has a survey of every original tract of land in Huntingdon county, and a greater part of those of Bedford county, and portions of Blair and Cambria county. He has the field book of Samuel Findley, which shows the original survey in 1766 of the tract of land now occupied by the borough of Huntingdon, then known as Standing Stone place.