

Democratic Watchman

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Governor Stone's Notion.

Former Governor STONE, of Pittsburgh, publishes in one of the newspapers of that city an elaborated argument in favor of the division of the State of Pennsylvania into two Commonwealths. The State is at present too large in population and too great in Commerce and industries for a single State, he believes, and therefore he would sever it as nearly in the middle as possible. "A line starting on the northern border of the State," he declares, "between the counties of Bradford and Susquehanna and extending south to the Wyoming county line, thence along the line between Bradford, Wyoming, Sullivan and Wyoming, Luzerne and Sullivan and Columbia and Lycoming to the Susquehanna river to the south boundary of the State, will divide the State naturally and geographically and nearly equal so far as population is concerned and so far as its present congressional, legislative and senatorial districts are concerned."

We regret beyond measure that we are unable to coincide with the former Governor's ideas on this important question. He argues with much sophistry in favor of the proposition and while admitting in a way that the influencing cause of the suggestion is the preponderance of Philadelphia in the politics and official life of the State, he reasons so as to create the impression that this is only a secondary matter. The equity of such a division is really the only cause that brings him to the consideration of the proposition he endeavors to prove and in that effort he shows that the division line which he proposes would leave the proposed new States almost exactly alike in size with respect both to population and area and adds, inferentially, that each of the new States would have about as much influence on public affairs as the present State exercises. It would really be a great multiplier of offices.

We greatly fear, however, that Governor STONE was not exactly candid in his statement of the reasons which led him to his present frame of mind. That is to say, his complaint about the usurpation of power by Philadelphia is probably true, but when it is remembered that this dominance practically began during his term of office as Governor his attempt to pose as a martyr does not quite appeal to popular fancy. But even if it did it is not the real reason for Governor STONE's attitude on the subject. Before his term of office was half over he began yearning for a seat in the United States Senate and he knows that unless the State is divided he will have no more chance of realizing that ambition than the proverbial cat will have of a regular supply of ice cream in school. With the division he proposes he and Judge ELKIN would be practically the whole thing in western Pennsylvania and that is the "milk in his cocoa-nut."

The President is Back.

President ROOSEVELT has completed his vacation in the Rocky mountains and returned to civilization and his official duties. The result of his sojourn in the vast hills was ten bears, according to the press reports. There may have been a few wildcats, probably a wolf or two and maybe some smaller game. But no mention is made by the press agents of any game except the bears and we are even left to conjecture as to how many of them TEDDY slaughtered under what conditions they were taken. That is to say, we have not been enlightened as to whether they were corralled for him by the guides or whether he followed them into their lairs and took them by force.

We are glad the President is back, however, and that he enjoyed his sojourn in the mountains. He has plenty to do in Washington and the reinvigoration which he acquired during his absence will be of infinite advantage to him now that he is back. It is not that the routine work of his office has increased during his absence, for as a matter of fact it hasn't. But it is that Judge TART, heavy as he is, wasn't able to keep the lid down and the result is that the atmosphere of Washington is simply burdened with scandals. ROOSEVELT may be able to crowd it back and, silence the gossip now current regarding it. But we have doubts on that subject and anyway, it will require his best efforts to do so.

It is a trifle singular that ROOSEVELT keeps about him men who are so susceptible to suspicion and gossip. While he remains at his post little is heard of such things but the moment he goes off on a trip of considerable duration rumors of venality burst out in all directions and they can't be suppressed. During his trip to the Yellowstone park two years ago the Postoffice Department scandals alarmed the country and it taxed all his energy and resources to prevent a thorough investigation. He did prevent it, however, and by making a scape-goat of one or two unimportant fellows his administration was vindicated. But it looks as if the Venezuela affair would make great trouble.

A Suggestion Suggested by Tuesday.

Was it morbid curiosity or love of excitement that brought the great crowds of strangers to Bellefonte and caused our people to throng the streets as though in celebration of some popular fete day on Tuesday. Industries were actually suspended and a base-ball game was heralded as the afternoon attraction, after the hangman's gibbet had no more victims to be prated about and talked of as though the feat of being hanged by the neck until dead were something akin to the looping the gap act in the circus ten days hence.

If no great moral lesson is to be drawn from the fearful last act of such an awful tragedy as the story of the CONDO murder then it were better that capital punishment be abolished and men who have taken the lives of their fellows be spirited away, never to be heard of again.

We have tried to force the belief that it is the American love for an outing—blind to the sad occasion—that made Bellefonte what it appeared to be on Tuesday. And that it was not a base desire to see men die.

The execution of GREEN and DILLEN was the fifth to darken the illustrious pages of Centre county history and while that may be said to be a small number for a county that celebrated its centennial anniversary five years ago we look about us and wonder that any have been necessary. From our lofty mountain tops there are wafted into our peaceful valleys Nature's sweetest songs. The church and the school house dot the landscape like finger-boards of hope. There is a plenitude of all things that make for the betterment of society, but some of those who run will not read.

Within the jail all was carried out with that solemn dignity that the majesty of the law and the awfulness of its mandate required but without there was a scene that sickened the hearts of sober men. Drunks lolled about with maudlin speculation as to how far necks would stretch and little children gathered the impression that only great men could occasion such a demonstration. All day long the streets were thronged with gossips and the innocent were drinking in every detail of their slipshod comment on the gruesome affair.

Some were sober and deeply impressed, however, with the seriousness of it all and to these we direct the question as to whether it would not be better for Pennsylvania to have a prison to which all persons condemned to death could be sent and there, without any knowledge to the outside world of the time, the ends of justice could be accomplished with that seclusion that would end such days as Tuesday.

A Menace to Our Navy.

CHARLES M. SCHWAB has undertaken, according to current reports, to supply Russia with a new navy within a few months which will make all the other navies of the world practically worthless. That is, if the statements concerning the matter which have been corroborated by himself are accurate, he has engaged to build a number of ships with the fighting qualities of battleships and the speed of cruisers. The present battleships are immensely powerful as destructive agents but slow. In a race of eight hours the other day while a number of them were returning from target practice at Pensacola, the fastest record was about twelve knots an hour. The record for cruisers is about twenty-two knots an hour.

Commenting upon the information of SCHWAB's agreement one of the most capable of our Rear Admirals said the other day that the fulfillments of that undertaking would reduce the other navies of the world to the value of the ships as scrap iron and that includes all those which are now in process of construction. In other words, the costly ships which are now being built for the navy are condemned before finished as worthless, for even the dullest landsman knows that a nation which has ships of the destructive power of battleships and the speed of cruisers will be able to send those of every other power to the bottom of the sea almost as quick as they could be brought into action. There would be no resisting them.

This information confirms an opinion we have long entertained to the effect that money spent for a large navy is money wasted. There are improvements being made every day not only in warships but in all other things, and warships that are not the best type and highest order of efficiency are absolutely worse than useless. Everybody knows that Spain would have been infinitely better off without any warships in her recent war with this country. The calamity to her fleet off Santiago following the even greater disaster to her fleet in Manila bay not only discouraged her people at home but actually destroyed her credit and borrowing power abroad. If SCHWAB's sea terrorists materialize our best ships will be no better than the worst of Spain's bad bunch.

The cash offer of \$10,000 is now looking about five times as big as the Pruner orphanage.

The "Ripper" Approved.

Those of our contemporaries who expected that Governor PENNYPACKER would veto the Philadelphia "ripper" have been disappointed. As a matter of fact he announced on Friday evening that he had approved the only one of those infamous bills which amounted to a row of pins and he accompanied the announcement with an apology which is as stilly as he is absurd. Power concentrated in the executive might work harm, he says in substance, if the executive happened to be a bad man, which is true. But power diffused so as to be exercised by a lot of bad men without responsibility would be infinitely worse, though of course the vain old idiot refrains from reference to that fact.

The Governor signed the Philadelphia "ripper" because he had no alternative. The corrupt machine which procured his nomination by fraud and bribery "put the screws to him" and he was obliged to obey. That it makes him a partner in the atrocious white slave trade made no difference to his perverted mind. That it contributed to the promotion of vice and protection of crime was inconsequential to his degenerate heart. The facts are that he is not a free agent and that when Durham pipes he is obliged to dance, and however iniquitous the service he has no alternative but to obey the mandates of the boss who literally owns him, body and soul. No other State has ever been cursed with such a condition.

If the miserable old wretch had signed all the "rippers" without comment, the public might have come to the conclusion that he was mistaken but sincere. But he hasn't given us a chance for that charitable opinion of the matter. On the contrary, he vetoed two measures of the same import and expressing the same principle. But they were innocuous and the machine managers didn't care whether they were approved or not. The one which vested in councils the power to make the police departments a shelter for criminals and the police officials agents for the promotion and protection of crime, was essential to the preservation of machine power and he approved it for that reason.

One Candidate for Judge.

The efforts of machine Republican organs and assistant Republican papers to create the impression that Colonel GUFFEY or anyone else is trying to control the deliberations of the coming Democratic State convention for sinister purposes have failed. We have been told that certain conspicuous Democratic leaders have determined to nominate only one candidate for Judge of the Superior Court whereas they might nominate three and that Colonel GUFFEY has determined that that one shall be his friend and neighbor, JOHN B. HEAD Esq., of Westmoreland county.

As a matter of fact so far as we know Colonel GUFFEY has not expressed a preference as between one or three candidates or as to any individual candidate. We believe, however, that the vast majority of the thoughtful Democrats of the State favor the nomination of only one candidate for Judge for the reasons expressed in these columns last week. We can only elect one and the nomination of three would probably precipitate a contest within the party ranks among the friends of the several candidates. Moreover the convention might go further and fare worse than by nominating Mr. HEAD, who is certainly an ideal man for the place.

As the result of patient and persistent labor the Democratic party of Pennsylvania is at present in a splendid condition, so far as organization is concerned. To our mind it would be supreme folly to jeopardize that organization and sacrifice the opportunities which it affords to gain in local elections throughout the State this year and in congressional and legislative elections next year, by introducing vexatious questions such as would follow the nomination of three candidates for Judge. So far as we are concerned we favor one candidate and hope that Colonel GUFFEY and Chairman HALL will coincide with that view.

The faculty of the Bellefonte Academy are fast completing arrangements for the celebration of their centennial in June; and to make the event one of the importance it deserves the citizens of Bellefonte generally should co-work with the Academy faculty in not only getting all the surroundings into first class shape but in preparing for the entertainment of the large number of visitors and guests of honor who have already signified their intention to be present on that occasion. And the time to go to work in the matter is right now.

The list of soldier's names, published for correction, does not appear in the WATCHMAN this week, owing to the press of matter in connection with the execution of Green and Dillen. The next instalment of the names will be published in our next issue.

The Transformation of the Farmer.

From the Fulton (Mo.) Telegraph. The time has been when swindlers had a scheme to work, they immediately went to the small towns and did their work among farmers. It used to be when a "snoker" was to be caught, the "sharper" baited his hook and dangled it over the head of a tiller of the soil. All of this has changed. Years ago there were ten farmers swindled where one city man was "hooked."

Today they are caught by the score in the cities and only occasionally do we hear of a farmer being trapped. The get-rich quick artist, the vender of fake mining stock, the individual with a scheme to make money on the wheat market, no longer depend on the country men for their picking. The swindlers have found out that they will starve to death trying to work the farmers, and have turned their attention to the city chaps, who think they are the "wise guys," and they find business good with them the year around. Whatever may have been the condition twenty-five years ago in Callaway county, the country man of today is the equal in looks and intelligence of the city bred man. The boys and girls who attend the district schools come to college with minds just as bright as their city-schooled class-mates. Socially they wear appropriate clothing and understand the manners of polite people. Their parents, too, can no longer be classed as "jays."

The farmer of 1905 is well posted on affairs of the day and can meet and converse with the leading men of the State without being referred to as "a man from the sticks." On stock sales day in Fulton, a stranger cannot distinguish the average farmer from the city dweller. He wears the largest out in clothes, soft leather shoes, cares for his hair and beard and walks with an independent dignity that proves his intelligence. The truth of the matter is that the city is beginning to realize that the country is the place to find conservatives, honest intelligence, a place to find men who have good, hard common sense, backed up with the bravery necessary to do the fair and honest thing in the face of all obstacles. From events of the past few years it was not for the "country element" this great and glorious American nation would have gone to the devil socially, morally, religiously, and politically, if it had not been for the men who breathe the pure air of the country towns and the farms. The "hayseed" of a quarter of a century ago has disappeared, and in his place stands the stalwart, sinewy man of the country, who is as hard to be hoodwinked politically as he is to be faked with a gold brick.

Better Abandon Them.

From the Address of Rear Admiral Melville, before the Academy of Political Science in Philadelphia, April 8th.

"During the past eight years there have been three inheritances that we have acquired, each of which is likely to prove a Pandora's box of evils and disappointments to this nation. So long as the responsibility of administering these three inheritances remains with us, so long there will be a progressive increase in military and naval expenditures, and so long will it be necessary for us to weigh well the important necessity of naval conflicts.

"The first inheritance that was thrust upon us by some evil genius was the Philippine Archipelago. These islands have been a tax upon the resources of every nation that ever possessed them. "The second inheritance that was either assumed by us or bequeathed to us by political necessity, was the obligation to build the Panama canal. "The third inheritance from which we will never receive an income or substantial benefit is our attempt practically to assume the receivership of republics whose treasuries are empty as a result of national business conducted by intolerable administrative methods.

"It will conserve our financial, naval, commercial and national interests to recognize the fact that there should be no hesitancy to give up distant foreign possessions which we could not hold in time of war against any possible enemy."

Just What Was to be Expected.

From the Pittsburg Post.

The action of Governor Pennypacker in one way is most surprising and in another it is not surprising at all. When we reflect that he is the same individual who, shutting his eyes to the facts of history and ignoring the common knowledge of all intelligent citizens of the State, declared that M. S. Quay was a greater man than Clay or Webster, and a statesman, a patriot and an honest man; that he is also the same man who accepted as a great honor a nomination for Governor which was secured for him by methods which were of the vilest and most dangerous character; that he is also the same man who rejoiced when a band of armed ruffians broke into the Union party convention and pretended to give him the indorsement of that body, and that he is the same man who prostituted his official message to the Legislature to abuse the honest newspapers of the State and to demand their punishment; when we reflect on all this then there can be no surprise that Governor Pennypacker should have signed the most infamous of the Philadelphia ripper bills.

Meningitis is Not Infectious by Touch.

Dr. Curt Kreuschner, the noted expert in mental ailments, endeavors to allay anxiety about the spread of the epidemic. He says since meningitis has been known to have never appeared in such devastating form as yellow fever, plague or cholera. Further consolation is that isolated cases occur at widely separated spots without being followed by an epidemic.

Spotted fever has undoubtedly existed for centuries, but until 1895 doctors classed it as typhus. The first epidemic in Germany occurred in 1863, then, as now, in Silesia, and since then sporadic outbreaks have proved that the disease has come to stay. Neither climate nor the nature of the soil has any influence in furthering the spread of the disease. Dr. Kreuschner holds there is no evidence that it can be communicated directly by one person to another.

Spawls from the Keystone.

—There are now 47 cases of smallpox at Mt. Union. The quarantine of the majority of them will be lifted May 15th.

—The faculty of the Altoona schools have entered a protest against Pawnee Bill's show exhibiting in that city on Memorial day.

—Fifty girls are now employed in the Jersey Shore silk mill and twenty more hands will be added next week. This will make a force of nearly one hundred.

—Dr. C. W. Fox, of Roaring Spring, Blair county, has been elected Junior Warden of the State Encampment, I. O. O. F. of Pennsylvania. There were six candidates and out of 1720 votes cast, the doctor received 1340.

—The survivors of the Ninth regiment, Pennsylvania cavalry, will hold their thirty-sixth annual reunion in Altoona on June 8th. Preparations are being made to give the veterans a warm welcome during their stay in the Mountain city.

—G. B. M. Welliver, of Lock Haven, who two years ago was barred by the National Trotting association, for cause, from entering horses in his own name in the races, was reinstated by the board of review at its last meeting.

—The body of Edward F. Koenig, an Altoona, was found floating in the waters of the Monongahela river at Pittsburg Saturday morning. How the body came there or when Koenig was drowned is a mystery, but the body was in a bad state of decomposition.

—While temporarily insane as the result of long ill-health, 19-year old Ella M. Sloan committed suicide by drowning herself in Lycoming creek on Wednesday of last week. The rash act was committed some time between 11 o'clock in the morning and 3.15 in the afternoon.

—While plowing in a field in Brunswick township, Berks county, Alexander Bowersox, a farmer's helper, turned over an old stump, under which he found an old box containing gold coin to the value of \$400. The coin was apparently buried about seventy-five years ago.

—Miss Florence Payne, daughter of E. E. Payne, of Williamsport, recently returned from New York where she cleaned up \$80,000 on a deal in American Smelter. While a guest with her father at the Waldorf-Astoria, she was given a tip and acted promptly. She sold on a recent rise.

The will of Thomas H. Forcey, late president of the County National bank, at Clearfield, provides that the bulk of this fortune, about \$1,200,000, remain in the bank for 20 years, during which time his four sons will receive the income. Then they are to get 10 per cent. of the principal yearly until it is all withdrawn.

—Trout fishermen who have been angling along Fishing creek report that they have seen numbers of mangled trout in the stream near Colby's gap, which has been dynamited supposedly by foreigners, who failed to get all the fish they killed. The matter will no doubt receive the attention of the fish warden.

—John Puff, of Centre Hall, has shipped a quantity of huckleberry bushes to Jared Osman, of Butler, Mo., who will try to raise the berry in that state. Huckleberries are one of the few things that are not grown in Missouri, but if they grow there at all they will probably be two or three times as large as the Pennsylvania article.

—The Baltimore and Ohio railroad company officially announced Wednesday the contracts for 10,000 freight cars that will cost in the aggregate about \$12,000,000 and which is the largest single order for cars ever placed by any railroad in the country. Most of the above order will be filled by Pennsylvania car building firms.

—President Stahr, of Franklin and Marshall college, states that a letter has been received from Andrew Carnegie offering to give the college \$50,000 for the general endowment fund or \$37,500 for a new building of the academy on condition that the college raise an equal amount for the same purpose. The board of trustees have decided to accept the \$37,500 proposition and will at once endeavor to raise their share.

—The Jamison Coal and Coke company have purchased the holding of the Alexandria Coal company at Crabtree, the consideration being \$1,250,000. The deal is one of the largest ever consummated in the coal fields of western Pennsylvania. The plant embraces a number of excellently equipped mines and 1,700 acres of Pittsburg seam coal of the best quality. The Jamison Coal and Coke company now own 6,000 acres of coal, all practically in one body.

—Miss Lila Gates, of Tyrone, sold to John W. Gates, millionaire and railroad magnate of New York, a cane that was given to her father by the proprietor of the Bingham House, Philadelphia, sixty years ago. The cane contains a sword on which is engraved a man's head and face. Miss Gates valued it at \$1,000, but John W. thought it worth a much larger sum and sent her a draft for \$5,000. The cane will become the property of one of Mr. Gates' friends now in Europe.

—The contract has been let by the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad company for the construction of the largest reservoir in the State. This great dam, which will be located at Griffins, 35 miles from Pittsburg and 23 miles from Conowingo, will have a capacity of 30,000,000 gallons. The dam will be 268 feet long, 54 feet high and 39 feet through. It will be necessary to construct 8,450 cubic yards of concrete to hold so great a body of water. The dam will be one of the longest and heaviest pieces of stonework ever constructed for such a purpose. The contract price approximates \$52,000.

—J. J. Yoder, a Cambria county farmer living near the Somerset county line says: "If there is a man in the country who can beat this let me hear from him. I was 48 years old Sunday, and Thursday of last week my wife presented me with a fine daughter, making a grand total of 26 children—11 boys and 15 girls." Mr. Yoder is a native of Bedford county and was married when but 14 years old. To this early union 15 children were born, 10 of whom are living. His first wife died and he married again in 1835, and to this union 11 more children were born, six of whom are living.