

Talk Sitings.

—Local politicians are beginning to look forward to the spring elections.

—If there were no hills in Pennsylvania worthy of mention what has the Governor called an extra session of the Legislature for?

—Mayor McCLELLAN declares he didn't spend a cent to secure his election as Mayor of New York. Possibly that is one of the reasons HEARST thinks he isn't elected.

—When the devil was sick the devil a monk would be. When the devil was well the devil a monk was he. How many sick devils there are now trying to get under the cloaks of the purists in the Republican party.

—If some of the lady school teachers of Centre county were as progressive in their school work as they appear to be in the art of millinery and dress making Centre county would soon be furnishing a horde of mental prodigies to the world.

—Governor ODELL, of New York, may have made the plunderers return his \$75,000, but the trouble with so many other people who have been robbed is that they are not in the possession of the same kind of a sandbag that the Governor used.

—Really, to square things off just right, the people of Pennsylvania ought to give us Democrats license to have a little fun with the State Treasury. Just think of the many years the rascals on the other side had it all their own way now all we get out of it is reform.

—What has become of the PRUNER orphanage? Nothing has been heard of it for some time and now the rumor comes down from Tryone that the income of the estate has not accrued sufficiently to even settle for the collateral inheritance tax. Is this true, Mr. Waring?

—Sir THOMAS LYPTON has two great regrets in his life. One is that he has not been able to lift the America's cup; the other, that he has never been married. The latter he might be able to remedy, but even then he would find there are as many slips twixt the cup and the lip as there have been twixt his ship and the cup.

—State Treasurer-elect BERRY could have made no wiser selection of a special counsel than that of Mr. HOMER L. CASTLE. Aside from its being a recognition of the signal service Mr. CASTLE rendered to the recent reform contest in Pennsylvania it secures the services of an able, fearless and aggressive agent of right in whom the public has learned to have confidence.

—It is positively unkind for the Chester county delegation in the Legislature to refuse to take pay for their services during the extra session because they believe it would be wrong for them to take pay for undoing what they had improperly done. Such a precedent will prove unpopular among the grafters, while the few honest men of the last session need not feel it a duty to follow it.

—No matter how innocent of intention to do physical harm those Ohio college boys who thought to frighten a fraternity initiate by tying him on the railroad tracks, where he was ground to pieces by an unexpected train, ought to be punished to the full extent of the law. No manner of excuse will make amends for the life they took or explain away the foolhardiness of their act. College men who have no better sense are a menace to society and should be put where they can perpetrate no more such fendish tricks.

—A reapportionment of the legislative districts of Pennsylvania at this time might result in giving Centre county but one Representative and then, should the Hon. PHIL WOMELSDORF decide to drop his senatorial aspirations, and stand for a return to the Legislature, where would Mr. JOHN KNISELY come in? Such an eventuality would naturally line Mr. KNISELY up for Mr. WOMELSDORF for the Senate, but they say Mr. QUIGLEY has aspirations to represent this district in the upper branch of the Legislature, so there you are. Right up against a problem that somebody else will have to solve.

—The drift of public sentiment seems to be toward the breaking down of party lines in all contests except those affecting national issues and party principle. This would mean the gradual elimination of parties in all elective contests except those for Legislators, Congressmen and President. It would also mean a laxity in party organizations that might make them less efficient in the national campaigns. However the result of such an eventuality it would carry its measure of good because it would make it necessary for all parties to consider most carefully the personal character and fitness of the men they name for office.

—If the Governor had included in his proclamation for a special session of the Legislature a clause calling for the repeal of the QUAY monument construction he would have gone farther toward making the public believe his intentions good. It is probably true that if QUAY had lived the revolution of last week would not have occurred, yet it was none the less the fruit of QUAY methods and Quay corruption. Had QUAY never lived possibly such a revolution in Pennsylvania would never have been necessary and the only reason that it occurred when it did was because he left no lieutenants as crafty and deep in the science of political plundering as he was himself.

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The Greatest Need of Reform.

The action of the Governor in calling an extra session of the Legislature and referring to it the consideration of a personal registration law opens up the whole subject of ballot reform. The will of the people has been made so plain of late that even the most callous supporters of the present laws, the most corrupt of those who have profited by them, feel the uselessness of resistance. It may be assumed that the Legislature will enact a personal registration law. But the people of this Commonwealth have awakened to a consciousness of their power. Like the subjects of the Czar they have been educated to a realization of their opportunities. What would have seemed to them, a short time ago, to be freedom itself, appears now but its shadow. They demand its very substance. The time has passed when they will be satisfied with a personal registration law alone. They insist upon further measures to protect the sanctity of the ballot upon which the whole structure of our civilization, our boasted liberty, depends.

If we understand the meaning of the vote in the recent election the citizens of this Commonwealth have determined that crimes against the ballot shall cease. Chief among these crimes has been the purchase and sale of votes. The present law allows any voter to take in with him into the booth any person whom he names to "assist" him in preparing his ballot. This feature of the law enables the man who buys a vote to see that it is delivered. It is due to this provision that money has wielded so great an influence in elections. The repeal of this section is as important as the enactment of a personal registration law. If the purchaser of a vote is prevented from making sure of the delivery of his purchase he will lose his eagerness to buy. Even one who is so blind to his country's welfare as to be willing to buy votes will readily see that he cannot trust the honor of one who is so dishonorable as to be willing to sell. The inducement to commit the crime will be gone as soon as the "assistance" is prohibited.

There are other features of the election laws which need amendment, but this seems to us the most important.

We are confident that what we have said but voices the deep-seated and widespread opinion and will of the voters of our State. We have scarcely the faith to believe that this Legislature will heed, but if it should it will be the most patent evidence of its earnestness in the endeavor to reform.

Plan of a Fool or Knave.

Governor PENNYPACKER's remedy for the treasury ills is characteristic and absurd. He would increase the interest rate and drive all the conservative and substantial banks out of the competition for the service. He would make the wildcat institutions which practice the frenzied methods the State depositories and while they would possibly pay three or four per cent interest, they would be practically certain to default when demand was made for the principal. It is the remedy of an ass or a knave. Mr. PENNYPACKER's friends have a right to indicate which class he belongs in. Meantime we have our own well settled opinion on that question.

Any public official with reasonable intelligence and average integrity would have suggested a vastly different process for dealing with existing fiscal problems. There are fifteen to eighteen millions, including the sinking fund, to exorbitate the cupidity of the fiscal officials of the State. This money ought to be wisely expended in public improvements and the taxes reduced so that there would be no future redundancy of revenues.

A balance of half a million in the treasury is ample and a surplus of over a million ornamental.

Money taken from the people in excess of the amount actually needed for maintenance of the government is simply robbery.

In disbursing the vast surplus care should be taken to accomplish the result at the smallest expense in evil consequences.

The presence of the surplus is a menace to public morals.

It invites graft and breeds greed.

But the evil may be multiplied in getting rid of it. In other words the unwise appropriation of the money to useless or evil purposes will work great harm. Promoting education and building highways are the safest methods but it should be understood that there will be no future occasion for such distribution of State bounties. The Governor's plan is the worst of all because it only aggravates the evil.

The weather this week has been plenty cold enough for anybody and if it continues this way until next April there will be no cause for complaint as to the shortness of the winter.

—Subscribe for the WATCHMAN.

The Extra Session.

Governor PENNYPACKER's belated repentance, as expressed in his call of the Legislature into extra session, will deceive nobody who is not mentally blind. It is simply a subterfuge intended to divert the public mind from reform purposes. In his marvelous vanity he imagines that everybody takes him seriously and that his professions of reform will be accepted as evidences of a change of heart. But in this he is gravely mistaken. No sane man will be fooled by such transparent hypocrisy. PENNYPACKER is simply trying to help the machine out of the hole. He has no interest in the people and doesn't care whether they are plundered or not.

During the recent session of the Pennsylvania Legislature most of the subjects to which he refers in his proclamation were brought before that body. The question of the consolidation of the cities of Pittsburgh and Allegheny is purely local and absolutely unimportant. That of increasing the interest on treasury balances is absurd. What the people want with respect to that matter is security rather than interest and an intelligent man would suggest an adjustment of the revenues so as to balance with the expenditures rather than offer an inducement to wild-cat bankers to apply the methods of frenzied finance to the funds of the Commonwealth. The proposition to designate the amount to be expended each year in the building of bridges is equally nonsensical. It would be quite as wise to prohibit by law floods and winds. The matter of abolishing fees in the office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth and the Insurance Commissioner might have been left to the regular session because such an act if passed during the special session can't go into effect until the expiration of the terms of the present officials which will be some time after the next regular session.

In view of these facts it may justly be assumed that the only important matters to be considered in the special session of the Legislature are those designated as Third, Fourth and Fifth in the Governor's proclamation, namely to reapportion the State into senatorial and representative districts, to provide for personal registration and to repeal the Philadelphia ripper bill. These are certainly needed reforms but there was no use in putting the State to an expense of nearly half a million dollars to expedite them. The present Legislature, the most shameless and corrupt in the history of the State, is not likely to enact such laws on those subjects as the people want, anyway, and consequently, the suspicion is aroused that the purpose of the Governor is not to effect reforms but to confuse the subject by ambiguous legislation so as to make it difficult for a future Legislature to achieve the desired result. Possible good can come out of Nazareth but it is wiser to look for it from other sources. The present Legislature is hopelessly bad and it is foolish to expect genuine reform from it.

PENNYPACKER is an arrant humbug. Posing as an innocent and guileless child of nature he is, as a matter of fact, little less than a vile old hypocrite. When the people were striving to dethrone the machine he offered himself to make an apology for its iniquities and deliberately lied in an attempt to discredit the Democratic party. That is to say, he declared that the Democratic party had involved the State in debt without reason whereas he knew that the debt was the result of the construction of public works such as canals and highways and that it was not a partisan matter at all.

Thank heaven there are only two years more of PENNYPACKER.

Satan Rebuking Sin, So to Speak.

Out in Toledo, Ohio, according to published reports, a fanatic with more money than brains has recently erected a monument to His Majesty, Satan. The structure is of granite with an effigy of Belzebub, as tradition pictures him, adorning the top. The monument is located on the property of the idiot who conceived and executed the enterprise, but it has nevertheless excited wide-spread and deep-seated popular indignation. It is regarded as an insult to the christian spirit of the community and an outrage upon the civilization of the period. There is a disposition among the people, the papers say, to destroy it.

We are compelled to sympathize with the public sentiment which resents this rather ostentatious tribute to the Prince of Evil. There is a good deal of substance in the claim that in this land of liberty a man has the right to make all the kinds of a fool of himself that he has ever heard of or can imagine, and the contention already asserted by this particular idiot that one may do what he likes with his own property challenges some measure of approval. There is no law that we know of against worshipping images or erecting monuments to express any idea, however heretical. But nobody has a legal right to outrage common decency and we are inclined to believe that erecting a monument to Satan in

a christian community compasses that result.

But how much worse is this evil enterprise of the Ohio fanatic than the legalized scheme to erect a monument in the Capitol park at Harrisburg to the memory and in the honor of the late MATTHEW STANLEY QUAY. We are now in the throes of a reform movement. The Legislature has been called to meet in extraordinary session to enact some good laws which were not passed during the regular session and repeal some bad ones that were enacted. Yet there is a law on the statute books authorizing the erection of a monument in honor of a man whose whole life was a long continued carnival of political crime. While endorsing that enterprise we haven't much right to condemn the Ohio fool.

Wanted, a Leader or Something Else.

Our friends the enemy are likely to have an interesting scrimmage on their hands in the near future upon the question of the leadership of their scattered and demoralized forces. All sorts of conjectures are current respecting the matter and some of the gossip is characterized more by acerity than amiability. Former Governor STONE, for example, remarked concerning the extra session that it "looks to me as if inspired by the leaders of the late State organization, who entertain the vain belief that by it they can regain the confidence of the Republican people of this State." Chairman LESLIE, of the Allegheny county committee, has uttered a cry for Senator KNOX to assume the leadership while others are calling for DON CAMERON, Representative OLMSTEAD and so on through a long list.

The credulity of these politicians as revealed in these expressions of hope and fear is most surprising. They appear to imagine, if they are sincere in what they say, that all that is necessary to restore the party to harmony and power is for one of the former leaders to blow a blast on a bugle and march forward at the head of a triumphal column. By common consent PENROSE and his mad ANDREWS are eliminated from the equation and it is assumed that they will accept the expatriation in the most cheerful manner. PENNYPACKER and DURHAM and all the legates of QUAY's political estate are expected to be equally submissive to the orders of the new and as yet unnamed boss. But these cheerful and convenient expectations are likely to be disappointed. And it is not certain that the new boss will be able to command a following at that.

Whether Governor STONE is correct in his estimate that the call for an extra session was inspired by PENROSE and DURHAM or not, it is certain that Governor PENNYPACKER doesn't intend to relinquish his claims to consideration in the reorganization of the forces. In fact there are reasons to believe that the purpose of the Governor was not to rehabilitate the PENROSE machine but to organize a machine of his own with himself as the central figure and Attorney General CARSON and Secretary of the Commonwealth McAFFEE as the satellites. Governor STONE is yearning for a return to power and wants to use Justice ELKIN as a "jimmy" to pry open the door, and while it would be characteristic of his family for DON CAMERON to return to the arena nobody need expect that the public is crying for him.

There is an important element, moreover, which all of these calculators appear to have overlooked. That is that political success isn't always dependent upon the leader. There must be a following as well as a leadership to win victory and at the present time the Republican party is about the most demoralized force that "ever came down the pike." No leader that has been named could command the fidelity of a tenth of the rank and file and most of them would simply organize an intestine war that would guarantee defeat. STONE is ready to plunge a butcher-knife into PENNYPACKER and PENNYPACKER would promptly caress CAMERON with a battle ax, while each of the others is anxious to use a club in all directions. In fact it's something else than a leader the Republican party wants.

Pennypacker Disappointed.

During a speech delivered in Philadelphia the other evening Governor PENNYPACKER stated that while he was being urged to become a candidate for Governor he was assured that he would be able to make white in office half a million dollars. He didn't indicate how far that assurance influenced him to become the candidate but from the tenor of his speech it may be assumed that it was the potent force. Half a million dollars is a large sum and goes a long way toward feeding even an aggravated case of cupidity and when the Governor whined that he is poorer now than when he entered the office, he plainly revealed his disappointment.

Nobody knows better than SAMUEL W. PENNYPACKER knew when the proposition to run for Governor was presented to him

that the salary of the office is \$10,000 a year and that there are no perquisites. Four years at \$10,000 a year aggregate \$40,000 which is less than one-twelfth of half a million. To make up the half a million, therefore, it would be necessary to "graft" enormously, and the fact that he became the candidate justifies the presumption that he intended to make the most out of it. If his expectations have not been fulfilled, it may be presumed that the opportunities for "graft" were less abundant than he hoped they would be.

That PENNYPACKER is not poorer now than when he became Governor may be assumed. According to the best information attainable he has lived a very frugal life in Harrisburg and his vacations have been spent on his Montgomery county farm. The State pays for most of his servants and all repairs as well as the lighting and heating of the Executive mansion are paid out of the contingent fund of the board of public grounds and buildings. Therefore his living expenses while in office may be estimated as well within half his salary and though the "graft" may not have materialized, it is safe to say that the Governor has done fairly well.

For the WATCHMAN.

SVOBODA!

TUNE—"WARSAW."
Echoing the victors' cheer
The vanquished shout, Hurrah!
Instead of Bonapart, hear
The cry of SvoBoda!
For Liberty, through clouds of war,
Has made another avatar.
Farewell, Siberian night!
Farewell, the inhuman knout!
The messengers of light,
Could not be driven out.
And on oppression's sombre past
The day of freedom dawns at last.
The dawn—-but with storms:
The torch and bloody strife
Ere established are the forms
Of freedom's peaceful life,
Ere tyranny's old lions fall
And all shall operate for all.
C. C. Ziegler.

The Obvious Remedy.

Philadelphia Record.
State Treasurer Mathews admits the justice of public opinion as to the financial system of the Commonwealth in his lively description of the greed of rival bank presidents, cashiers and directors to obtain deposits of the public money. As a remedy for this system he proposes that the State should set up a fiscal agency of its own instead of farming out the surplus to favorite banks.

It is remarkable that amid the suggestions on this subject, extra session and other the potential cause of the financial evil is not recognized in the enormous Treasury surplus, now swollen (with the sinking fund) to nearly \$15,000,000. Let the Treasury surplus be brought into proper relations with reasonable State expenditures, and the financial scandal will disappear with what it feeds on. In other words, leave in the pockets of the taxpayers the enormous surplus in excess of public expenditures that has been gathered from them to be farmed by favorite banks at their great expense in more ways than one.

It was against this nefarious system that the voice of the people arose in thunderous protest in the late election. The remedy is so obvious that arguments to enforce it should hardly be deemed necessary for convincing the conscience-smitten machine majority in the extra session of the Legislature.

Something to Work For.

From Collier's Weekly.
Ballot forms win elections. Most of them are constructed to win elections for the ignorant, and their leaders, the politicians. Some are so arranged that the man who can read, who knows what he desires, and is master of himself, has the advantage, but ballots such as those are few. You can count the states with right ballot laws on your fingers, even if you have lost one arm. Here is something that all organizations for improving our politics can turn in and work for with some hope of immediate progress. They ought to be able to kill the blanket ballot by a short, decisive effort; the ballot that turns a man's brains over to his party organization and puts a premium on subservience and dullness. The wave of independence now rising throughout America is impeded by ballot laws and forms created in the days when machine government was more absolute than it is today. Sometime we shall vote by actual machinery, in such a way that cheating in the count is impossible; but an even more important and pressing reform is that we shall vote on a ballot which gives independence and an even chance. We want a ballot designed to facilitate the people's will not one designed to keep them in slavery to the professional politicians whose autocratic rule we are restive to shake off.

Our Transformed Australian Ballot.

From the Baltimore News.
The Australian ballot has undergone a great transformation in being applied to American political conditions. In the country of its origin it is short and simple, only two candidates, as a rule, appearing on it, and rarely more than three. The explanation is that popular election is confined to legislative representation, and all administrative posts are filled by appointment. Another principle that represses frivolous candidates is that candidates must pay the cost of printing the ballots. Our practice of putting the cost upon the public encourages the use of the ballot as a means of political propaganda.

Spawls from the Keystone.

—A movement is under way to organize a branch of the Young Men's Christian Association in Mt. Union.

—There have been seventy deaths in the borough of Clearfield since January 1, 1905, not including hospital deaths.

—D. G. Alter, Esq., caught a bass in the river at Port Royal recently that measured 19 1/2 inches and weighed 5 1/2 pounds.

—P. J. Kelley, of Lilly, has purchased the City hotel at Tyrone, the consideration being \$35,000 and taken possession of the same.

—The Demorest manufacturing company one day last week made a shipment of two hundred and eighty-eight sewing machines to South America.

—The Jersey Shore Herald says that in that town building operations have been very active the past year, and the amount expended in new structures will reach \$200,000.

—There were twenty-nine marriages, ninety-two births and fifty-one deaths in Johnstown during October, according to the returns made to the board of health in that city.

—At Barnesboro, on Sunday, Frank Farrell, a desperate character shot two men, one of whom was chief of police Samuel Taylor, tried to kill several others then made his escape.

—The Galeton Democrat says that the B. & S. railroad people are preparing to bore a tunnel through Hog Back mountain some two miles long and that the work will cost \$1,000,000.

—The new Cresson theatre, which has just been completed at a cost of \$10,000, will be opened for the first time Thanksgiving evening, when a home talent production, "The Old Hickory Farm," will be presented.

—John Dietrick, of Ferney, paid a fine of \$25 for killing a bear on Sunday in violation of the game laws of the state. The hide of bruin has also been confiscated by the authorities and will be sent to the head of the State game commission for disposition.

—The Williamsport board of trade, with its \$462,000 guarantee fund, is preparing to boom the city during the coming year. President Ansbach of the Milton board of trade is getting his \$50,000 guarantee fund in shape to engage in the same business enterprise.

—Along with the building of the 125 new coke ovens at Tyler, the building of which has been commenced, comes the announcement that the coal company will erect fifty new houses to be used by the men who find employment about the works of the company.

—Burglars entered the general store of John Shonto at Cresson at an early hour Friday morning and carried off shoes, arctics and clothing to the amount of probably one hundred dollars. Entrance was gained through a rear door with the aid of a skeleton key.

—The improvement work on the P. and E. division of the Pennsylvania railroad below Lock Haven is progressing nicely and about two hundred men are now employed on the job between Pine and Aughenbaugh's. Two steam shovels are in use and the grading work is being rapidly carried on.

—A plume of forty-five feet at the coke ovens in the Franklin plant of the Cambria Steel company, at Johnstown, Wednesday afternoon, caused the death of Jonathan Smith, aged 55 years. In falling the unfortunate man struck the ground on his head and sustained a horrible fracture of the skull which resulted in instant death.

—It is reported from Altoona that Charles M. Schwab contemplates leaving Loretto and making his summer home at Williamsport. The people of Loretto report that he will sell his magnificent country home at that place and erect a mansion at Williamsport that will eclipse any residence in that section of the State.

—The Pennsylvania Steel company is negotiating for more than three whole blocks of Steelton real estate, including 50 houses. The property is wanted, it is said, for the establishment of a big addition to the company's plant, including six or more open hearth steel furnaces, a new beam mill and a bar mill. The company now operates 12 open-hearth furnaces.

—Mrs. Anna Madden, a widow, died at her home in Arden, Pa., Friday, of a broken heart. Her three sons, her only children, were not at the deathbed, for each of them occupied a cell in the Washington county jail. Grief and disgrace caused the imprisonment of her sons caused the death of the mother. The three boys were convicted of aggravated assault.

—A dispatch from Oakland, Cal., states that Arthur S. Miller, of Williamsport, was murdered in a hotel at that place by his wife who was violently insane. Mrs. Miller hid behind the door of their room in the hotel and shot him in the region of the heart when he came in the door. The shooting was witnessed by their young son, who says that the shooting was entirely unprovoked. The wife is now a raving maniac in an insane hospital.

—The attorneys in the case of New Castle against the bondsmen of the late city treasurer, John Blevins, whose death in 1899 has never been cleared and who was short in his accounts, reached an amicable understanding. The city agreed to accept \$11,500. The shortage amounted to about \$25,000, but there was a question in law as to whether the city could collect this amount. The settlement effected will put an end to considerable litigation.

—President Patrick Gilday, of District No. 2 United Mine Workers of America, scouts the idea of a strike next April, at which time the coal operators and miners meet at Altoona to adopt their wage scale. He says there is a spirit of general satisfaction among the working men throughout the bituminous field and he expects it to continue. And there has been an advance in the price of coal and the operators are apparently well satisfied with the conditions.

—A young man supposed to be William Smith, of Williamsport, committed suicide near Wellboro, on Sunday, by hanging. His body was found suspended from a tree by a farmer who was searching for a lost cow. He had used a piece of rawhide strap to end his life. On his person was found a valuable watch and an insurance policy made payable to his sister, Ella Smith, of Newberry. The coroner of Tioga county is trying to locate the young man's relatives.