

# Democratic Watchman

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NO 6.

Spawls from the Keystone.

—There are rumors of a second gasmen factory to be started in Philipsburg in the near future.

—The State recently bought ten thousand acres of land in Clinton county to add to its forest preserve.

—The thirty-eighth annual convention of the young Men's Christian Association of Pennsylvania, will be held at Washington, Pa., February 22-25.

—Beginning this week the Clinton county commissioners have decided to be in session but two days a week, Wednesday and Thursday, with the exception of court week.

—The Pennsylvania Railroad will erect a four-story brick and steel shop building, at Altoona, to cost \$300,000. It will be occupied by the frame, casting, tin and electrical departments.

—Lewis G. Carland, a bar clerk at the Columbia hotel, Altoona, died at the hospital Saturday afternoon, of hemorrhages, caused by the bursting of a blood vessel in the head while sneezing.

—Last week was the banner week for recruits at the naval station at Erie, twenty-six young men entering the service. Many more made application but were unable to meet the requirements.

—Governor Pennypacker has granted a respite to James Selerno, of Williamsport, who was to have been hanged yesterday for the murder of his stepdaughter, in order that the authorities may inquire into his sanity.

—Frank A. Heish, of Altoona, who recently bought the A. G. Morris property on Lincoln and Cameron avenues, has sold that portion on Cameron avenue, 62 x 252 feet and double frame dwelling, to Dr. G. W. Burket, of Tyrone.

—Attorney H. H. Myers, of Ebensburg, Saturday bought in the plant of the Gallitzin Times which was put up in bankruptcy sale. Mr. Myers, it is understood, was acting for J. Bert Denny and other creditors of the paper. The price paid was \$75.

—The mild weather in January started the sap in the sugar maple trees, and David Keim, of Elk Lick township, Somerset county, took time by the forelock by opening his sugar camp, and succeeded in gathering about 300 barrels of sugar water.

—The Wellsboro Advocate says that Mrs. Ida M. White, the only female rural delivery carrier in Tioga county, has resigned her position and announced that she was married to Nathan Heysham of Nelson, at Tuscarora, N. Y., December 16 last.

—Destructive forest fires are raging on Broad mountain, northwest of New Castle, Schuylkill county. Much valuable yellow pine used for the tar pitch industry has already been destroyed, and it is feared that the huckleberry bushes will be burned out entirely.

—In a fire that consumed a shack in which foreign laborers made their home, at Enola, two men lost nearly \$1,000 a night or two ago. One man, with visions of a happy return home, had saved \$700, and another had started his fortunes for a similar purpose with \$100.

—Iron and steel mills at Coatsville turned out 331,552 tons in 1905. The West Brothers company leads with 171,552 tons, while the output of the Lukens Iron and Steel company was 100,000 tons. Both plants are being enlarged and Coatsville is often referred to as the "Little Pittsburgh of the East."

—In order to see his father alive, Edward Good, of Pittsburg, missing connections at Tyrone hired a special Bald Eagle train Friday night, made a fast run to Williamsport reaching there at daybreak Saturday. The exhilaration due to the arrival of his son caused the sick man to rally and the doctors say he will recover.

—While walking through his orchard a day or two ago, Jacob G. Shaeffer, of Ephrata township, Lancaster county, was surprised to find apples hanging on a number of trees. The fruit was in good condition and had a fine "bouquet" flavor. The absence of continued freezing weather saved the apples from the usual fall fate.

—Announcement has been made of the fact that the Cambria Steel company will shortly commence the erection at Gallitzin of 100 coke ovens. These ovens will be constructed north of the town and will give employment to a large number of men. Residents of Gallitzin are highly elated at the prospect of securing this industry.

—The libel suits brought against Rev. Dr. Lawrence M. Coffelt, of Philadelphia, editor of the *Pennsylvania Inquirer*, a semi-weekly paper published at Bedford, and Joseph F. Biddle, editor of the *Everett Press*, by Associate Judge William Diehl were settled in court at Bedford, last week. The suits were the out-growth of the political campaign.

—Newberry fishermen are endeavoring to bring about the stocking of trout streams this spring. They have sent in the names of the streams which they wish to be stocked and have asked the state fish authorities for cans of fry which will be distributed. Among the streams to be stocked are the tributaries of Locoming creek, the branches of Hoagland's run, Pleasant stream, Wolf run and Gray's run.

—Daniel B. Zimmerman, the well known Somerset coal operator, has just closed a deal for 35,000 acres of coal lands in Fayette and Westmoreland counties, lying in the Indian Creek and Donegal valleys. A railroad will soon be built up Indian Creek valley and will likely connect with the new Pittsburg, Westmoreland and Somerset railroad. Mr. Zimmerman's new coal fields are separated from the famous Jefferson coal field owned by Attorney Wm. H. Ruppel only by the Laurel Hill axis.

—Charles Ward, a civil war veteran 70 years old, and his wife, aged 65, who have traveled in a one-horse wagon overland all the way from Butte, Mont., about 1600 miles says a Uniontown, Pa., dispatch, spent the night in Uniontown and continued on their way to Harrisburg, where they will visit their son. They left Butte October 13th. Mr. Ward was formerly a veterinary surgeon and his wife a school teacher. Their worst misfortune on this trip was at Barfoot, where a lantern exploded and the entire top of the wagon and \$48, nearly all the money they had, went up in smoke.

—Tuesday morning was one of the kind that made the ground-hog sit up and take notice.

—The thermometers in this section seem to vary as much in their stories as some of the leading politicians.

—We suppose when the Presbyterians finally decide to call their new minister he will say "That's good."

—Even the passes over the Bellefonte and Centre Hall turnpike have been annulled. This is too much.

—This is the kind of weather that makes us all sit up and take notice of the stories of the impending coal strike.

—The "pickings" in the Pennsylvania insurance commissioner's office certainly make the pay look like thirty cents.

—Japan needs a big navy now far less than millions of her wretched, starving populace need enough rice to subsist on.

—The Russian rebellion, TOM LAWSON and Judge LOVE'S congressional boom seem to have been lost sight of for the time being.

—Farmer STONE didn't absorb the p. a. habit from his brother, the former Governor. He told all he knew without an after thought.

—What engineer WALLACE says of Secretary TAFT in public leads us to believe that what he says in private wouldn't be fit to print.

—Is DURHAM probably has no family connection with the New York McCURDY'S but he certainly has a powerful business likewise to them.

—In Greenland women paint their faces blue and yellow. In this country lazy livers make them yellow without painting and then they look "blue" enough.

—Dr. SCHAFFER'S idea of teaching the young to shun cigarette smoking sounds too much like theory to have been the deliberate utterance of such a practical educator.

—The dispensary is to be abolished in South Carolina. This does not mean that the Colonels are going to stop drinking but merely that they have grown tired of so much red tape in doing it.

—The young fellow who married the widow YERKES, before the grass had begun to grow on her late husband's grave may have made an ass of himself, but he made a few millions on the side.

—If the President is really so keen for a good engineer for that Panama canal of his why doesn't he go up to Mars and get one. Our scientists have been fussing about the great canals the Martians have for years.

—Since the Legislature is to quit on February 15th and only one of the bills it was called together to act upon has been disposed of we rise to ask: If it were so soon to be done for what in the world was it ever begun for?

—The western convict who won a \$25,000 prize for guessing the exact number of people who attended the St. Louis exposition ought to have guessed again before he decided to give half of it to his lawyer for representing his claim.

—If we ever hope to get square with this insurance graft we had better adopt the idea that is advanced in one of the latest songs. This is: Let the insurance companies pay us while we're living and we'll pay them while we're dead.

—Latest reports that come from New York are to the effect that Tammany and Mayor McCLELLAN have broken and that WILLIE HEARST will be the tiger's candidate for Governor next fall. Politics do make strange bed-fellows, sure enough.

—The group of bad men who were deported from Manila sometime ago and expressed a desire to be shipped to Philadelphia evidently left before the news of last fall's election in the Quaker city reached our new section of territorial expansion.

—According to the latest reapportionment of the State Centre and Clearfield are to make a senatorial district and Elk, Cameron, Forest and Clinton will be put together. Centre and Clearfield will be anybody's district. A good Democrat or a good Republican would stand like chances of carrying it.

—ANNA GOULD is not entitled to much sympathy in her marital troubles with BONI DE CASTELLANE. The French toy husband her millions bought a few years ago. We will all give her credit with having inherited some of the GOULD good sense, after all, if she only sticks to her avowed purpose of divorcing the libertine.

—There is considerable talk of the Hon. HARRY CURTIN'S becoming an aspirant for congressional honors. If he should decide to enter the contest there would be something doing among the Republicans of the county for the next few months for HARRY has some friends who are workers and he played the political game so well that he represented a Democratic county in the Assembly in 1895.

—The big dailies that can find nothing more about Miss ROOSEVELT and her promised husband to talk about and have gotten down to descriptions of her poodle dog and the way the tom cats frighten it, must be very nearly at the end of their string on the ROOSEVELT subject. But come to think of it, they haven't told us yet the kind of a post Miss ALICE'S poodle has, or how often he uses it.

### Work of the Extra Session.

The record of the special session of the Legislature completely justified our estimate at the outset. When the call was promulgated we said that the purpose was neither just nor worthy. It was inspired, not by the desire for improved political morals or better government, but in the hope that a false pretense of reform might restore the machine to power. There never was an intention to enact reform legislation, however. The Governor had no such purpose in mind. The subjects chosen for consideration is overwhelming evidence of that fact and the way in which the measures have been treated is cumulative proof.

The first subject named is the matter of consolidation of Pittsburg and Allegheny City. That may be important from a local standpoint but it wasn't urgent. It might have been left for the regular session without the impairment of any interest or principle.

Another subject was the repeal of the Philadelphia "ripper" enacted at the last regular session. There was certainly no urgency for that. The "ripper" didn't become operative until the spring of 1907 and it could and would have been repealed very early in the regular session of that year. It provided no excuse for the extra session which will cost the people half a million dollars.

The reapportionment of the State into Senatorial and Representative districts as required by the constitution is important but the banditti from Philadelphia and Pittsburg who compose the vast proportion of the present Legislature refused to perform that duty during the regular session and they only consent to it now because they imagine that behind a reform mask they may commit outrages which would be intolerable in the open. And they are proceeding on that vicious idea. That is to say, they are forcing to passage bills so outrageous that even the boldest booneer in the bunch blushes as he votes for them.

For example the Senatorial apportionment bill which has passed the Senate and is scheduled for concurrence in the House, gives the Democrats four Senatorial districts and the Republicans forty-six. Putting facts on political conditions there are 400,000 Democrats in the State against 600,000 Republicans. Justly measured, however, it may be safely claimed that there are 450,000 Democrats in Pennsylvania and the fraudulent voter estimated, not more than 500,000 Republicans. Accepting the worst estimate, therefore, it will be seen that a ratio for a Democratic Senator is 100,000 and that for a Republican Senator a fraction over 13,000. Can any man not entirely destitute of honesty and honor justify such an iniquity?

The apportionment of Representative districts is equally atrocious. The constitution requires that "every city containing a population equal to a ratio shall elect separately its proportion of the representatives allotted to the county in which it is located. Every city entitled to more than four Representatives, and every county having more than 100,000 shall be divided into districts of compact and contiguous territory."

How has this constitutional mandate been observed by the bogus reformers in the present Legislature? Exclusive of Philadelphia and Allegheny counties there are fourteen counties "having a population of over 100,000." Of these nine contain cities of "population equal to a ratio." But the Republican majority in the Legislature simply divided Lehigh and York counties because the division of those counties afforded an opportunity to get Republican representation from Democratic districts.

The personal registration has been perverted quite as decidedly. That is it provides for registration under conditions that will enable the Republican machines of Philadelphia and Pittsburg to pad the lists in the future as freely as in the past. In other words, in most of the registry districts in those cities the Democrats will be without representation on the registry boards and the facilities for putting on bogus names will be as abundant as before.

Of all the other measures the same can be said. That is the trend of the legislation. It is partisan and vicious and the public will get no return for the vast expense of the session.

### A Fraud from Beginning to End.

It must be plain to the most obtuse observer, that PENNYPACKER'S half million dollar extra Legislature was called more for the purpose of deceiving the people than to secure reform. So far it has done nothing in the way of reformation. Its proposed apportionment bills are grossest frauds designed only to aid the Republican party. Its uniform primary election law is so cumbersome and expensive that no reasonable person can endorse it. Its suggestions for new treasury laws are more to cover up the wrongs of the past and to take

from the newly elected State Treasurer the power of reforming things in that office, than they are to secure better methods and surer safeguards for the people's money. Every movement so far on the part of the Republican majority has tended solely and alone to benefitting the Republican party. And PENNYPACKER endorses it all.

From beginning to end this half million dollar session can be written down a fraud.

### Beef Trust Exactng the Bond.

Those members of the Beef trust who have been indicted for violation of the anti-discrimination law are threatening to call Attorney General MOODY to testify in their defense. They are not in much danger of any penalty for the offenses against the law which they practically confess. But they are sensitive souls and don't feel quite like being anathematized as criminals. That is precisely the position they occupy, of course, but they assumed the part for the good of the party and now want to be released from the predicament. It may be necessary to call MOODY to accomplish that result and we are now assured that in such an event he will be called.

During the Presidential campaign it was necessary to create the impression that ROOSEVELT had been "doing things" in the way of restraining trusts. He had been blathering about it for so long and pretending so vehemently, that people who had gumption began to think it was all a joke. Thereupon the administration got busy and dispatched young Mr. GARFIELD to Chicago to get a few victims. He went to the trust magnates and assured them that the Grand Old Party would go "to the demnation bowwows" unless he succeeded. Mr. ARMOUR wouldn't suffer the party to lose for anything and finally agreed to allow a few of his young men tell enough of the secrets to guarantee a true bill against the packers, provided, of course, that they were assured of immunity against punishment.

This was a novel proposition to put up to the agents of the government by a hand of malefactors but it had to be met. Young Mr. GARFIELD was entirely willing. He would have probably been willing to asperse his own family to keep his job. But the packers wouldn't trust him and insisted that some one "higher up" give the pledge. Then MOODY had to "go up against it," and he gave the guarantee. Now the question of maintaining "honor among thieves" is up and he is inclined to demur. But the packers insist on the fulfillment of the bond and threaten to summon him as a witness and compel him to "acknowledge the corn" or perjure himself. The public awaits the issue with interest.

### Hypocrisy of Legislative Leaders.

The insincerity of the pretense of reform is shown in every measure which has been scheduled for passage during the extra session of the Legislature. The apportionment bills are outrageously unfair. Instead of providing for a vigorous minority in the legislative bodies and giving the nearly half of the voters who are of Democratic faith a just representation, the aim appears to have been to reduce the Democratic membership in each House to the minimum. But the full measure of hypocrisy is shown in the bill "to regulate the deposits of State funds to prescribe the method of selecting State depositories, to limit the amount of State deposits," etc.

The bill which was introduced by Representative JACKSON, of Armstrong county, and is said to have been drawn by Attorney General CARSON provides for a flat rate of interest of 2 per cent and authorizes the "State Treasurer with the approval of the Revenue Commissioners and the Banking Commissioner or a majority of them," to select the depositories. The Revenue Commissioners are the Auditor General, the Secretary of the Commonwealth and the State Treasurer. For the present, therefore, the depositories would be selected by Auditor General SNYDER, Secretary of the Commonwealth MCAFEE and Banking Commissioner BERKEY. The State Treasurer would be in the minority and have little influence in the matter. The refusal to determine the question by competition, as an amendment offered by Mr. CRESAY provided, shows that the purpose is to continue the favoritism which has been so demoralizing in the past.

Competition would have completely eliminated favoritism from the transaction. For example, ample security for the funds having been guaranteed, the awarding of deposits to the highest bidder would have given all banks able to give the security equal chance for the money. There could have been no risk in such an operation for unless ample and approved security were provided the bid would not have been received. But with the security, the highest bidder would have obtained the deposit, whether friend or foe of the officials charged with the award. There was no reason for defeating the amendment unless it was to allow the majority of the Commissioners to award the money to favorites.

### A Bogus Investigation.

The insurance investigation at Harrisburg has developed the outlines of a colossal scandal and it may be said that it was never intended to reveal anything more. Excessive fees have been collected, vast sums of money misappropriated and phantom employes paid salaries, according to the evidence, without performing service. But these are trifling evils compared with the real crimes that have been committed and are being carefully concealed by the investigators. We do not accuse the Democratic members of the committee with culpability in the matter, however. Senators DEWALT and DANNER and Representatives AMMERMAN and McNEELY have been vigilant and earnest in the inquiry. But the committee was created to shield rather than expose irregularities and that purpose will be accomplished.

The testimony of the Deputy Insurance Commissioner shows that money was paid out freely without the warrant of law and that several names were carried on the payroll of men not connected with the department. The Auditor General testified that warrants ordered by the insurance department were issued without question. The actuary swore that he had divided his enormous fees with the Insurance Commissioner in several cases and with the son-in-law of the Insurance Commissioner in at least one instance. Phantom names admitted under oath that they had drawn salaries without performing any public duties and yet it is safe to predict that nothing will come of the investigation. The scope of the inquiry has been limited by the resolution so as to prevent any practical results.

Do the Republican managers in the Legislature imagine that they can deceive the public by such transparent subterfuges as these? The resolution for an investigation offered by Representative AMMERMAN would have opened up the subject to a complete and searching inquiry such as that which was recently held in New York. The people are not much concerned about which of two or three grafters got the bulk of the plunder and nobody cares whether CLAYTON ERB or Commissioner DURHAM realized most from the illegal taxation of insurance policy holders. But there is a good deal of interest in the question of what fees were illegal and to what uses the plunder was put. Such an inquiry would have been a public advantage but it was prevented when the PUSEY resolution was adopted instead of that offered by Mr. AMMERMAN.

### Dalzell's Status in Congress.

Probably the inquiry with respect to the pooling operations of the Pennsylvania railroad initiated in Congress the other day was inspired by revenge. The Pennsylvania railroad inaugurated the movement against passes for Congressmen and other politicians and the spirit of reprisal is a potent force in the human heart. But even if that be true we can see no just cause for quarrel with the results. Revenge is not a lofty impulse and it would be more creditable if reforms were predicated on a higher plane. But looking a gift horse in the mouth is a questionable process and if the enterprise works public improvement it is hardly the right thing to cast aspersions on the purposes which put it in motion.

There has been for some years a well settled suspicion that the Pennsylvania railroad, the Pennsylvania company, the Baltimore & Ohio, the Chesapeake & Ohio, the Norfolk & Western and the Northern Central railroads have been operating in collusion, in violation of law. The more incredulous observers have gone so far as to imagine that the Philadelphia & Reading railroad has passed under the control of the Pennsylvania. Such combinations are naturally, we might say even essentially, in restraint of trade and consequently, in the legal phrase, "contrary to public policy" as well as subversive of the anti-discrimination law. The destruction of such a combination is, therefore, not only a present duty but a patriotic obligation.

In view of these facts we were pained, on reading the proceedings in Congress which culminated in a resolution condemnatory of this conspiracy, to find that the leading, and as many people think, the only brainy member of the Pennsylvania delegation in Congress, the principal obstructionist against this manifestly reform movement, JOHN DALZELL, who occupies the seat of a member, and is nominally credited with representing a Pittsburg constituency, exerted all his power to prevent the movement. We have heretofore expressed our opinion of DALZELL.

He represents no part of the people of Pennsylvania. He is simply the hired counsel of corporations and trusts and his presence in the House is an outrage on the conscience of the public.

—Everything comes to him who waits said the ice-man when he looked at his pond Tuesday morning.

### A Traitor in Camp.

From Harper's Weekly. An officer of the army was one day referring in a humorous vein to the large body of "professional heroes" produced by our war with Spain, when he related the case of a western politician who endeavored to make capital of his "war" record in Cuba.

This politician, shortly after his return to the United States after being mustered out, became a candidate for a minor office in the gift of the State of Indiana. He made many flamboyant speeches, in which frequent references were made to the effect that he had always "been in the forefront of the fight." Furthermore, he dwelt with emphasis upon his own bravery in two battles in Cuba that were fought the same day. At this point some unfeeling and skeptical person arose and asked the speaker how such a feat could have been possible, seeing that the battles referred to had been fought at places some 65 miles apart.

### Tried to Whip the Editor.

From the Kansas City Journal. Down in Izzard county, darkest Arkansas, they do things up brown, says Bent Murdock. An editor called a member of the Legislature a "lop-eared liar," and the member went into the office to lick the editor. After a minute's conversation the editor man threw the "lop-eared liar" out of the window on to a shed roof, which was rotten, and the Legislature man fell through to the porch below, lighting on a sleeping dog. The dog rose up and bit the man on the arm, whereupon the "lop-eared liar" kicked the dog. At this moment the owner of the dog, hearing a commotion, rushed around the corner, very mad. It is not safe to kick an Izzard county dog, so the owner of the dog kicked the "lop-eared liar" off the porch into a convenient horse trough. About this time the member of the Legislature concluded that he was a lop-eared idiot and went home.

### One Good Bill at Least.

From the Milton Record. The pure politics bill introduced by Senator Calpin, of Lackawanna county, is just such a law as is needed in this and every other State. The use of money at both primary and general elections has become a menace to popular government. The fitness of a candidate to fill a position and his claims for the support of the people count for little against the fellow who dispenses the "hookie." But the candidate is not the only pernicious factor in the case. The voters themselves by accepting money for their vote or influence become a party to the debauchery and are equally culpable. If this bill should pass and become a law it will mark the passing of the ward politician and heeler, and the Lord knows he can be dispensed with. A hard will not be needed to run a campaign, and a big bank account will not be an essential qualification in determining a candidate's availability.

### The Ship Subsidy Scheme.

From the New York Herald. The kernel of the entire question of a mercantile marine lies in the simple fact that Americans cannot be found to work on shipboard at such low wages as are accepted by foreigners. In other words, foreigners are doing the work of carrying ocean freights cheaper than it can be done by Americans, and the latter cannot and will not compete with them. There is some American capital invested in shipping, but a foreign flag flies over such investments. Everybody wants American shipping. Instead of trying to tax the needs of our men to go into the business under existing unfavorable conditions why not try the experiment of removing these conditions? Leave capital as free to buy ships where it pleases and as free in the hiring of labor to work ships as it is in the hiring of labor to build or work railroads, and the American flag will soon dot the ocean.

### Doubts His Honesty.

From the Wilkesbarre Record. There is not wanting the suspicion that the scheming Penrose aims to get control of the delegates by having them instructed for so eminent and independent a man as Justice Stewart and then spring some other candidate just before the assembling of the convention. A scheme of this nature might work very well if the people would yet vote for any old rake that machine delegates might name. But these are different times. The candidate who is nominated must appeal to the people, and not only to the politicians. The Lincoln party is yet in the field, and it stands ready to support the machinations of the Penrose clique if the reform element cannot support its nominations, if it is able to dictate any.

### Gradations of Theft.

From the Peoria Star. Stealing a million—genius. Stealing \$500,000—sagacity. Stealing \$100,000—shrewdness. Stealing \$50,000—misfortune. Stealing \$25,000—irregularity. Stealing \$10,000—misappropriation. Stealing \$5,000—speculation. Stealing \$2,500—embezzlement. Stealing \$1,250—swindling. Stealing \$100—larceny. Stealing a ham—war on society.

### Just Like a Novel.

From the New York Tribune. In order to secure some token by which to remember a great aunt to whom she had been much attached Miss Bertha Chevanne, a young French woman, attended a sale of the old lady's effects. The girl was poor and most of the articles were beyond her purse. A shabby old book—a book of devotions—was, however, put up. Nobody bid for it except Miss Chevanne, and she bought it for next to nothing. In turning over the leaves she came across a folded paper. It was a will bequeathing her the whole of her great aunt's estate, valued at \$80,000.