

Ink Sittings.

There has certainly been sufficient grounds for talking about the weather.

Vote your convictions next Tuesday, but be careful about how you are convicted.

Don't get mad if you get licked next Tuesday. Remember that both of you can't be elected for the same office.

ALFRED BELT, the South African mining King, is said to have an income of \$100 per minute. How nice it would be to be ALFRED'S only son.

The surest sign of WILLIAM JENNINGS BRYAN'S greatness as an American citizen is indicated by the concern his every public utterance gives our friends, the Republicans.

ABE HUMMEL, the notorious New York lawyer, is just beginning to realize that while the law can be made to work many ways it sometimes happens to work the right way.

Congress is showing signs of becoming safe and sane. Reports from Washington indicate that it will decline to follow the President in the effort to secure a world-coasting navy.

February is a short month but she produced both LINCOLN and WASHINGTON and every four years makes it possible for some of the *passé* ladies of the land to get in business for themselves.

When fraudulent President HAYES retired from office he went to raising chickens. When PENNYPACKER goes out of the gubernatorial chair he will have to go back to Schwenksville to raise bugs.

Young Mr. ROCKERFELLER may advise his Sunday school class to 'start right,' but we'll bet he doesn't tell Attorney General HADLEY, of Missouri, that his daddy is cruising away off somewhere in a yacht for.

Pittsburg is to have a greater Fourth of July celebration over becoming a greater city. A greater amount of fire works and red liquor will be consumed than ever before and, of course, a greater number of casualties reported.

Miss IDA TARBELL, the woman who wrote up the Standard Oil monopoly, declares that "lying is a national vice," and both JOHN D. ROCKERFELLER and HENRY RODGERS would have us believe that IDA has contracted the germ herself.

One by one the Postoffice Department rascals at Washington are finding their way to the Mountville penitentiary. On Tuesday GEO. W. BEAVERS, once the most powerful bureau chief in the Department, went South for a two years stay behind the bars.

They may call BEN TILLMAN "fire-eater," "pitiful folk" or whatever they will be, nevertheless, one of the very few men in the United States Senate who has the brains to say something that the public takes cognizance of and the ability to stand up and say it.

Judging from the amount of fuss that is being made everywhere about the unfair advantage the great carrying corporations have taken over the public in the past every person who can command enough hearing to make a fuss must have been riding on a pass heretofore.

Mrs. CHARLES S. HENRY, of Shropshire, England, recently gave a dinner to all the voters in the district who helped elect her husband to Parliament. Such a thing would be impossible in this country, for after a man is elected here he can never find anybody who wasn't for him.

The House committee on foreign relations has decided to report favorably on Hon. NICK LONGWORTH'S bill to spend \$5,000,000 setting up our foreign ambassadors in better style. Why couldn't NICK have saved us that expense by sharing his wedding presents with them.

For stealing nine cents DANIEL FITZGERALD and THOMAS COSTELLO were sent to the Auburn, N. Y., penitentiary for five years. But then DURHAM, LAMBERT and the rest didn't technically steal when they took all that insurance money from Pennsylvania policy holders.

There is skating on the roof of the Bellevue-Stratford hotel in Philadelphia, which the press of that city speaks of in most complimentary language. How is it that the ubiquitous reporter has nothing to say about the "skating" that is done in the grill room of that great hostelry all the year round?

"Fashion," a \$1500 brindle terrier, is to be one of ALICE ROOSEVELT'S wedding presents. The donor is sending a complete wardrobe for the precious pug-fur-blanket, manicule set, silver brush and comb and all. Insect powder is not included because "Fashion" is a blue-blooded terrier and not an entomologist.

The "corrupt practice law" which is up to the Governor for his signature or veto defines very clearly what money may be expended for legally in the conduct of elections, and it might result in good, but article 6, which reads "for the payment of persons actually employed in canvassing and soliciting votes" furnishes an avenue of escape for the briber. Under such a provision every purchasable voter in a district might be legally employed to canvass or solicit votes for a candidate or set of candidates and in that way receive pay for his own vote. The old law covering purchasing of votes is satisfactory. All that is needed is its enforcement.

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NO 7.

Borough Finances and the Borough Council.

From the statement in some of the town papers it is to be inferred that the borough had no debt until the present council came into existence.

Some of this debt was paid somewhere between 1893 and 1899, when the balance \$95,000.00 refunding bonds were issued, bearing interest at 3 1/2 per cent.

Table with 2 columns: Item, Amount. Includes Bonded indebtedness, Other indebtedness, Total, and Deducting the assets.

Leaving a net indebtedness of \$102,921.48

During 1902 the council made the new loan of \$25,000.00. This \$25,000.00 was simply changed from a floating debt owing to various persons to a funded debt bearing 4 per cent interest.

The borough statement for the year ending March 2nd, 1903, shows that the debt of the borough less all assets was \$104,319.25. Up to March 1903 the majority of the members of the council were Republicans, and whatever debt the borough had up to that time, was created under their administration.

It is not necessary to go into the showing of annual statements further than to say that the one for the year ending March 6th, 1905, shows that the net indebtedness of the borough, is \$110,415.77. The taxes for 1905 for borough purposes not including water tax amount to \$20,255.31, very little higher than in 1902, and some increase was caused by the fact that from the time of the issuing of the \$95,000.00 of refunding bonds there never had been a sufficient tax levy to meet the interest and the requirements of the sinking fund conditions of these bonds.

The purpose of the tax levy is to meet the annual current expenses of the borough and the interest and the sinking fund, and if these were all paid within the year for which they are levied there would not likely ever have been any increase in the debt over the old debt of \$95,000.00.

The valuation of all property in the borough taxable for borough purposes is \$1,621,364.00, seven per cent of this is \$113,495.48. While these figures make the debt near the limit it will appear when the next statement comes out that the limit has not been passed after deducting the assets.

There is another side to this. The majority of the council organized in March, 1903, were and are yet Democrats. The longest period that council has been under the control of the Democrats is 45 years. How did things stand when they took charge of borough affairs?

The wall and walk along Water street were down, the street a mud puddle most of the year. No sewer in the West ward, and the people besieging the council to put down a sewer to lead from High street, at or near Thomas street, below town, so as to save them from contagious disease and make their homes habitable.

The people of a portion of east Bishop street doing the same thing for the purpose of keeping their cellars from being flooded by every heavy rain that passed over the borough. For the purpose of clearing the foundation for the soldiers monument it became necessary to also put a sewer down High street.

These sewers were all put in, and cost quite a sum of money. The people in these several localities are gratified over the work of the council.

The walls along Spring creek, that never had been anything but irregular, unsightly, crooked, tumble down piles of stone, have been replaced by good walls. Water street raised, graded and widened, and a walk put down that will last as long as the borough will need a walk. The improvements made were absolutely necessary. Everyone now commends the work. It has added beauty to the town and value to the property of our citizens.

The streets of the borough are in better condition than they have been for a generation. True there may be some faults found with the manner of repair, but this is caused more from the want of money, to hire and pay an engineer, who fully understands the making of permanent roads, and to pay for the roads than anything else.

High street from the jail to the creek, had been covered with coal ashes time and again by former councils, within the last 40 years. The ashes were washed down by the heavy rains and carted away by the same crew that put them on the street.

What has been done by the present council to improve the borough, to protect the health of the people, and better the streets has been in the nature of lasting and permanent improvements. The people have full consideration in what has been done for every dollar expended. Then we have the improvement to the water works. The only improvement made that is of real worth to this plant in a whole century. We have a better water supply, and we more and better water, at less cost, than the people of any other town in the State.

This is only a brief statement of the work done by the present council. The work has been well done and these men deserve well from their fellow citizens, and if any of them are again candidates, they should be heartily supported, not for what they may do, but for what they have done.

A CITIZEN.

Unconstitutional Apportionment.

The Senators and Representatives in the Legislature which has been in extra session at Harrisburg during the month which ended yesterday have expressed a curious notion of their constitutional obligations. That is to say, that they have violated an unequivocal mandate of the fundamental law of the State in order to fulfill a provision of the same instrument the burden of which is at least open to question.

In other words the General Assembly in extraordinary session has reapportioned the State into senatorial districts agreeably to one provision of the constitution in a manner which is specifically and emphatically forbidden by another clause. They have perpetrated a greater evil in order to avoid the lesser.

For example, Section 18 of Article II of the constitution declares that "the General Assembly at its first session after the adoption of this constitution, and immediately after each United States decennial census, shall apportion the State into senatorial and representative districts agreeably to the provisions of the two next preceding sections."

The last United States decennial census was taken in 1900 and there is no doubt that the obligation to make the apportionment was on the General Assembly which sat in 1901. It might be held that the Legislature of 1903 was still within the limits of the obligation.

Section 16 of Article 11 of the constitution, one of "the two next preceding," enumerated in that above quoted, positively asserts that in making a senatorial apportionment "no county shall be divided unless entitled to two or more Senators."

Yet in the apportionment made during the extra session which has just closed Lancaster county which is entitled to only one Senator is divided in order to help Lebanon county which is not entitled to a Senator at all to get one.

In view of these facts there is no escape from the conclusion that our General Assembly "choked on a gnat but swallowed a camel."

An Exposure Inevitable.

That the railroad corporations will be brought to an accounting no longer admits of doubt. It may be that the CREESEY resolution introduced in the Legislature the other day will fail of its purpose. It is possible that as president BAER of the Philadelphia and Reading asserts, the corporations of that class are sheltered under rights vested before the constitution was adopted.

It is not unlikely either that the resolution introduced in the House in Washington by Mr. GILLESPIE, of Texas, and the movement inaugurated in the federal Senate by Mr. TILLMAN, of South Carolina, will prove inadequate. Powerful corporations are potent and it takes time to bring them to terms.

The CREESEY resolution will fail, if it fails at all, because the Governor and the Attorney General are servile instruments of the corporations. The Attorney General will report that Article 17 of the constitution is not automatic and that in the absence of legislation it is without force or effect.

The same reasoning will produce the same result in Washington. But able lawyers than the Attorney General at Washington and Harrisburg allege that the constitution of Pennsylvania and the anti-discrimination law of Congress supplemented by the common law will achieve the purpose desired. In other words the violation of the laws by the railroads is a criminal conspiracy and can be stopped.

The immunity which the railroads enjoy through the favor of the law officers of the State and the United States, is therefore, only temporary. The time will come, and it may be in the near future, that such an investigation of the railroads of Pennsylvania will be made as has recently exposed the rottenness of the insurance companies of New York. Suppose for a moment that the president of the Pennsylvania railroad was compelled to tell, under oath, of the favors which that company has given as the president of the New York Life and the Mutual insurance companies were compelled to do. We don't say that the results would be the same but we do say that the public would be surprised.

There is no sign of ANNA GOULD'S going "down for the Count" in that fight of hers with the recalcitrant CASTELLANE.

Lincoln Steffens' Fall.

Mr. LINCOLN STEFFENS is rapidly spoiling an admirable reputation. For years he has been assailing the iniquities of public life with a courage and intelligence that has challenged popular endorsement and praise. Aiming over the heads of the small criminals and dependent hoodlums he has fired his shafts at the big rascals and shown that the public venality and political immorality under which the country is suffering is ascribable, not to the miserable wretches who accept bribes for sinister services, but to the wealthy and powerful bribe givers who induce them to thus prostitute themselves.

But he appears to have fallen under the influence of ROOSEVELT and become as great a sycophant as the others. For two or three weeks Mr. STEFFENS has been publishing articles in the metropolitan Sunday papers on the public life of the National capital. From the first of this series his purpose seems to have been to laud ROOSEVELT and condemn everybody else.

The sense of justice which has hitherto kept him away from political discrimination and held him to the line of exact fairness has been abandoned in this Washington exposure. As an instance he states in the article published last Sunday that the President "made a deal" with the Speaker. "Not content with the constitutional method of recommending legislation," he adds, "he had recourse to an understanding (most informal, of course, but definite) with Mr. CANNON to use their united powers to 'jam through' certain measures."

One would suppose after having read, Mr. STEFFENS' article on the corruption of Philadelphia, St. Louis, Cincinnati and other cities that he would be vehement in his denunciation of such a "deal." He does condemn it in mild phrases. But after quoting the President's contemptuous opinion of Congress he adds "there is a just rebuke for us in that. If our representatives aren't what they should be, we ought to send men here who are."

Because the President enters into a corrupt bargain with the Speaker of the House to stifle the representatives of the people and convert our deliberative legislative body into a boss-ridden rascal controlled by bribes in the shape of patronage, the people are to blame and the culprit is entitled to praise.

Mr. LINCOLN STEFFENS has simply written himself down a hypocrite and sycophant.

Secretary Taft's Subterfuge.

The Secretary of War has asked Congress for a special appropriation of \$100,000 for the purpose of increasing the military force in the Philippines. Two regiments in addition to the present strength of the army of occupation is needed, he gravely alleges, because of threatened disturbances in China. The inference is that he wants to be ready at all times to take a hand in all Asiatic affairs on the slightest provocation and at the earliest moment. He lays himself open to the suspicion of insincerity, however. There is nothing in the news from China to indicate impending trouble of a serious nature. The government of China appears to be able to take care of its own affairs.

The truth is that the Secretary of War is merely indulging in a subterfuge when he offers the troubles in China as an excuse for increasing the army in the Philippines. The greater force there is required to keep the Filipinos in subjection. The unalienable right to self-government is being asserted or at least felt more generally in the Asiatic tropic as education becomes more widely diffused. The public schools are doing the work for them which the spirit of inquiry did for the American colonies previous to the Revolution and are likely at any moment to produce a new Declaration of Independence.

It is to prevent such a result that Secretary TAFT wants an extra \$100,000 for the military establishment in the Philippines. He intends to maintain peace by killing or co-ercing any who contemplate war, just as the British sovereign in 1776 undertook to preserve the peace in the American colonies. He probably feels that it wouldn't be safe to state the facts in plain terms. There is a good deal of old-fashioned integrity among the people of the United States and a plain statement of the facts might make trouble. For that reason imaginary disorders in China are given as a reason for more troops in the Philippines.

Though up until the first of February the outlook was that there would be little if any natural ice this winter with the beginning of the shortest month in the year the ice king began his reign and since that hundreds of tons of first quality ice have been harvested by the ice men on their various ponds near here and if the cold weather will continue a few days longer all the ice houses in town will be filled and everybody be assured of ice cream and cold drinks next summer.

The Gazette's attack on tax collector J. KENNEDY JOHNSTON last week was entirely without warrant and decidedly untruthful. It charged him with not having settled his 1903 duplicate, whereas the facts are that it was all settled some time ago except the school tax and he has had the money in readiness to pay the treasurer of the school board the moment the board passes on the account.

Governor Pennypacker, last Thursday, sent to the Senate for confirmation the appointment of Col. Lloyd B. Huff, of Greensburg, as a member of the board of trustees of the Pennsylvania State College.

Just What the Extra Session Was Called For.

Bank Commissioner Berkey, who has just been most opportunely uncovered in the correspondence to lure the suppositions heirs of the imaginary Baker estate, is one of the proposed board to superintend and control the distribution of the enormous Treasury surplus. In other words, the design of this bill, which has passed the House, is to confer upon the derelict, Auditor General Snyder, Secretary of the Commonwealth McAfee and Bank Commissioner Berkey, power to nullify the decree of the November election by wresting from State Treasurer Berry the guardianship of the money of the Commonwealth.

The passage of this infamous bill (already too plainly menaced by the sinister action of the House) would outweigh all the good that this extra session can accomplish. It would raise in the mind of every honest citizen of Pennsylvania the just suspicion that seizure of the public Treasury was the real motive behind the extra session, with its head roll of more or less urgent reforms. Many of these reforms could have been safely postponed to the regular session of the General Assembly, in January, 1907. But there could be no postponement of this bill to keep the machine in control of the State Treasury after its ignominious repudiation by the people.

Where Will Republicans Find Such a Man.

From the Wilkes-Barre "Record." It is as sure as the unalterable decree of fate that the voters of Pennsylvania will next fall elect no candidate for Governor who does not appeal to their honest convictions. In the past the unthinking citizen, ignorant of the corruption that has been tributary to their neglect, accepted the offered candidate as a matter of party duty and the result has been a series of conditions. That time has passed away. The blindness of the past has given way to the light of a better understanding. Citizens realize that genuine party fealty means adherence to the high and unswerving principles of party and not to the corruptists who manage under the party name.

If such men have reached a prominent place in its ranks then the duty of a released citizenship is to drive them out. That is why, during the coming campaign, it is so necessary to nominate a candidate for Governor and candidates for the Legislature who have something better to recommend than that they have been party workers all their lives, unless for the advancement of true Republican principles. It is necessary to nominate and elect men who are honest enough and independent enough to be their own bosses, to stand first of all for real party principle and for the sentiments of their constituents.

The Difference.

From the Lincoln, Neb. Commoner. The smiling financier merely turned in the witness chair and refused to obey the court's command to answer the question.

"I refuse to answer by advice of counsel," he said. "The court insists that you answer." Silence having reigned five consecutive minutes the court adjourned. But immediately after the court convened again the laboring man who had struck for shorter hours and better wages was hailed before the same judge.

"You have violated the injunction issued from this bench!" thundered the judge. "I—"

"Your honor, I plead not guilty," replied the prisoner. "I have faithfully obeyed the court's order and I have not—"

"The court is enough for you, sir!" ejaculated the judge. "You are fined \$100 and sentenced to jail for thirty days. The orders of this court must be obeyed."

Having signed the commitment papers the judge sent a polite little note to the financier saying that he was within his constitutional rights when he refused to answer, and assuring him that the court would protect him from further indignities. In the meantime the workingman was in jail.

Lawson on to His Job.

From the New York Press, Feb. 11.

Thomas W., of Boston, is traveling about the country in his private car holding consultations with Governors and Senators. He and La Follette have put their heads together even in the lobby of the "System"-owned Senate, and he has launched with "Uncle Joe" and John Sharp Williams. Evidently there is "something doing" on the Lawson side of frenzied finance, and Thomas still wears the cap which Henry Rogers sought to take from him.

The fact that Lawson's baggage consists mainly of trunks full of proxies from policy holders in Big Three life insurance companies must make all this going up and down the country a matter of irritating possibilities for the McCurdy, the McCalls and the Ryans.

Thomas, of Boston, is a creature of infinite resource and dramatic surprises, and though the System may bag him at last, he will give them a run for their money. His appearance in the insurance scandal loaded for bear is a guarantee of coming amusement for the public and trouble for the grafters.

Spawns from the Keystone.

—Easton sportsmen are going to try importing quail from Kansas for propagation.

—Silk making is becoming an important industry in Pennsylvania. There are now 292 mills in the State.

—There are twenty less applicants for liquor licenses in Clearfield county than there were last year.

—The state pure food agents spread their dragnet in Clearfield and vicinity a short time ago and it was a big net for they gathered in 29 dealers on the same charge.

—The Northern Cambria trolley line, connecting Patton, Carrolltown, Barnesboro, Spangler, St. Benedict and other smaller towns in that section, has finally been placed in service.

—The Mount Union silica works have spent \$25,000 in improvements within the past year. Their capacity will be doubled when the kilns and tunnels now being erected are completed.

—Eleven days' absence in thirty-nine years is the record of Miss Emma Murr as a Middletown school teacher. This break in the record of continuous service was due to a fall down stairs.

—Shamokinites who want a federal building insist that it shall cost not less than \$100,000. Chief Burgess Shuster says Congressman Samuels is working hard for the bill and has assurances it will pass.

—Dr. Robert M. Smith, a Williamsport dentist, while on a business trip to Clearfield, died on Wednesday at the Leonard house of heart trouble. He was aged 48 years, and is survived by his wife and one child.

—For eleven years, Patrick Rafferty, who conducts the Union Hotel, at Roanette, Potter county, has not taken a drink of water, and he probably never will, preferring tea, coffee and milk as his beverages.

—The board of control of the Newton Hamilton Camp association held a meeting at Altoona, last Friday, and arranged to begin camp meeting next summer on the 9th of August, and continue twelve days. Already seventy tents are engaged.

—One of Clearfield's business men three years ago purchased five hundred shares of Keystone Telephone company stock in Philadelphia for 75 cents a share and last week realized \$8,000 for his holdings. This would indicate that the telephone business must be a lucrative one.

—To overcome his wife's dread of burglars and fires, W. S. Pfeiffer of Roanette, near Coudersport, has fitted out his house with an alarm system elaborate enough for a city. Sixteen miles of insulating wire and a dozen gongs make up this system and Mrs. Pfeiffer isn't a bit scared any more.

—Northumberland county has 107 murders on the records and only one execution. The latest murder occurred on January 30th, when William Redinger, of Mt. Carmel, threw a brick at James Simmon, of the same place, inflicting injuries from which he died. The men quarreled over politics.

—After July 1st, 1906, there will not be a freight or passenger car run on the lines of the Pennsylvania railroad unequipped with air brakes. This order signed by General Superintendent of Transportation Trump, was sent out to the various headquarters along the Pennsylvania railroad last Friday.

—The Allentown Board of Trade at the beginning of last year resolved to locate a round dozen new industries during 1905 and in October last the last one of the twelve was landed safe enough. Allentown is said to have a Board of Trade which surpasses even Williamsport's noted Board of Trade in point of bustle and actual results.

—The Northumberland county court has been getting after the gambling dens in Sunbury. It is reported that one Sunbury man has lost \$11,500 in one of these resorts and that he is willing to testify that he can give the names of three hundred other men who have lost money in them. Three of the proprietors have pleaded guilty and the court will close up the places.

—Dependent over family affairs, Monroe Whary, aged 37 years, of Gowen city, near Shamokin, Tuesday evening about 5 o'clock chose a horrible method in which to end his life. He sat down, tied a stick of dynamite to his head, lit the fuse attached and when the spark reached the concussion cap there was an explosion and the suicide was instantly killed, the top of his head being blown off.

—A bill in equity, which may involve hundreds of dollars of expenses, has been filed in Greensburg. It was brought about over the alleged refusal to pay a bill of twenty-four cents. J. J. Ray, a resident of West Newton, it is claimed, owed the electric light company a bill of that amount and refused to pay, and the company took the light out of his house. The lawsuit is the result.

—Bald thieves cut their way into the station houses at Crabtree and New Alexandria, Westmoreland county, on Sunday morning. At Crabtree they secured \$14 in money and tickets, the value of which is not yet certainly known. At New Alexandria the agent, John Grey, had removed all but a little change from the cash drawer. Some tickets were taken, however, and several other articles, including a pair of gloves.

—The sons of John Walker, who was killed recently on the Allegheny Valley railroad near Arnold, will contest the will of the eccentric old man. Walker was a recluse and on account of Socialist doctrines he had been estranged from his family for several years. In his will he gave his three sons each \$1, bequeathing the remainder of his estate of almost \$10,000 to a society of Socialists. The sons allege that undue influence was brought to bear upon the old man while he lived in his hut near Valley Camp.

—"Do you suppose I could get a few cents on that at a pawn shop," said a waiter in a Philadelphia restaurant to the cashier on Monday, exhibiting an earring. The cashier said he thought he could tell him to go to the St. James hotel and show the jewel to Mrs. Roosevelt Shanley. The waiter did so and returned with five twenty dollar gold certificates. The earring was an emerald and diamond bangle valued at \$2,500, which Mrs. Shanley had lost on Sunday night and the waiter had found without even realizing its value.