

Ink Stings.

—Now to see what the new council can do.

—It will be less than a month until spring is upon us again.

—If the coal strike is put off a few weeks longer it won't matter much to the public whether the miners strike or not.

—Yesterday was the Hatchet and Cherry Tree story day, but we didn't notice that it made a bit of difference in the general untruthfulness of our Republican contemporaries.

—And now the trouble with so many of our Republican friends is to know just which of the many factors of that party it is best to tie to. And really we are unable to advise them.

—Think of it: a clean Democrat for Mayor of dirty and demoralized Pittsburgh. And this year, too, of such grave importance at the coming elections. Verily there is a "God in Israel!"

—With Rev. BROWN, Dr. LAURIE and JOHNNY "Sunshine" gone from our pulpits there will not be many ecclesiastical s-k-y-rockets going up until the new comers get onto the mysterious ways of Bellefonte.

—Hereafter Clearfield and Centre will constitute the 34th senatorial district, and Clinton will be a part of the 26th. In this revision of things Mr. HENRY CUTE QUIGLEY ought to be able to see his political finish without the aid of a magnifying glass.

—Wouldn't it be nice if labor leader MITCHELL and labor leader DOLAN would go out behind the barn and jaw it out there. With ALICE and her LONGWORTH in retirement, and these two wind workers out of hearing the public might find a few hours rest.

—Is it any worse for capital to divert the water of the Niagara river to commercial uses, thereby drying up the wonderful falls, than it is for capital to denude our beautiful mountains and wooded areas. Both are plain cases of turning nature's beauty spots to man's profit.

—The Methodist missionaries in China seem to have brought Mr. Roosevelt's purposed war with that country to a sudden and very premature ending. There are times when it don't take much of a jab to collapse an over inflated wind bag, and the missionaries evidently knew just when that time was.

—The principal events of the ROOSEVELT —LONGWORTH wedding seem to have been that NICK wore a moonstone in his scarf, ALICE had a train twelve feet long to her gown and they kissed every body in sight after it was over. The future alone will tell us whether they are going to support the President's anti-race suicide pronouncement.

—We always had an idea that a Democrat is a little better than a Republican —and just a little nearer Heaven, too —but the present Legislature evidently thinks otherwise. Under the new senatorial apportionment bill it requires one hundred thousand Democrats to get a Senator, whereas every eighteen thousand Republicans are given one.

—Captain FRED REES ought to call the humane society to his aid in running down the heartless wretches who stole the "fodder" from his famous West ward blind horse the night before the election. Had you seen the captain's lieutenants standing around the polls all day dolefully humming Empty is the Stable Boccie's Gone, you would have felt like buying them a drink yourself.

—The scientist who has just invented a machine which will measure down to one-seventy-millionth part of an inch, has probably placed it within the power of the people of this State to ascertain just how much PENNYPACKER's quarter of a million dollar special session advanced the reform ideas they voted for last fall. Nothing short of an instrument like this could tell the difference between "before and after."

—Our unique Governor is heading the Congress on uniform divorce laws in session in Washington, D. C., this week. He made the opening address before the delegates assembled and reitected a little from "Bingen on the Rhine," told about the Shumanite woman whom KING SOLOMON had his eye on and repainted HOVENDEN's famous picture "Breaking Home Ties," but he didn't even allude to the divorce that the Pennsylvania Legislature secured from PENNYPACKER's pet bosses last November.

—Under the new primary election law that is to go into effect on November 1st next the function of county conventions in making nominations will be done away with entirely. Every person who wants to be a candidate for office will make application by petition and his name will be put on the official ticket, no matter what his party standing may be. The new law will have the effect of destroying much of the usefulness and efficiency of party organizations, but it need not necessarily eliminate them entirely, because a convention may still be called for the purpose of giving the party endorsement to a particular set of candidates whose names could thereafter be placed on the official ticket. Whatever the working of the new bill may be it is certain to take considerable of the interest and excitement away from the game of politics as it has been played in the past.

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A Monumental Fake.

The extra session of the Legislature has adjourned and it may be aptly observed that "the mountain labored and brought forth a mouse." In other words, after a session of exactly a month, at an expense to the taxpayers of nearly a quarter million of dollars, a few measures of innocuous legislation have been enacted, nearly all of which is likely to be repealed before becoming effective. Senatorial and representative apportionments have been adopted, it is true, and the mandates of the constitution to that extent fulfilled. But at an expense of a greater infraction of the fundamental law. It divides Lancaster county, when the constitution expressly prohibits the division of a county unless it has sufficient population to be entitled to two senators. Its political unfairness, and the general gerrymandering resorted to, is shown by the fact that 400,000 Democrats are assured of but five districts while 500,000 Republicans are given forty-five.

The Greater Pittsburg bill was enacted and a new source of litigation opened up. It is of interest to the people of that city, no doubt, but without any concern outside. The Philadelphia "ripper" has likewise been repealed but it wouldn't have gone into effect until after the next regular session so that there was neither necessity nor expediency in considering it at this time. The bills fixing the salaries of the Secretary of the Commonwealth and the Insurance Commissioner are of doubtful merit because of questionable validity. In any event they can't take effect until the expiration of the terms of the present incumbents and the regular session could have disposed of them by that time.

There may be ample reasons for a uniform primary election law and a well considered measure on that subject would have promoted political morality no doubt. But the bill adopted is absolutely without merit and if it is not repealed by unanimous consent at the next session we shall be greatly surprised. Its effect will be to stifle the voice of independent voters entirely and vastly augment the power of party machines. That result was not desired by the sponsors for the measure and they may be surprised that it is achieved. But as a matter of fact, the law as enacted excludes from the primary ballot all names except such as represent the regular party or else those who have been put on at the instance of the fellow who is a persistent office seeker.

The State civil service law was defeated in the House and it deserved no better fate, having been made unconstitutional by absurd amendments. The Philadelphia civil service bill, like the Greater Pittsburg bill, is of local interest, and of doubtful value. The civil service of the city has been classified and subject to examination for years and might have continued so without impairment of public interests for another year when the Legislature in regular session could have taken the subject up in deliberate manner and made the needed improvements. The legislation on the subject of bridge building is defective if not actually vicious. It provides for the expenditure of a given sum annually and the authorities may be depended upon to spend the amount, whether needed or not.

The corrupt practices bill might have been made to serve a good purpose if it had been carefully considered and wisely digested. But it is deficient in various particulars. For example, it leaves loop holes for all sorts of corruption in the provision which exempts the candidate or committee from making public expenditures in sums of less than \$10. Thousands of dollars can be disbursed to purchasable voters and it may be said that the bulk of the bribery complained of is effected in small sums, while all sorts of iniquities are possible with the "blocks of five" system in vogue and the "crisp \$2 bills" in abundance. But such transactions are made secure by the bill which falsely assumes to prevent just such things.

The personal registration bill is partisan and practically worthless, moreover, while that for the regulation of the deposit of State funds is positively vicious. It subverts the constitution in vesting in an extra-constitutional commission the duties of the State Treasurer and perpetuates the evil system of favoritism by authorizing the unconstitutional body to award the favors, not according to the strength of the bank or the value of the securities it offers but in obedience to the inclination of the members of the commission. The existing law is infinitely safer and better for in addition to quite as ample securities there is a guarantee in the personal responsibility of the State Treasurer and the security of his bondsmen which is absent from the new law.

Altogether, therefore, the extra session of the Legislature has been a flat and expensive failure for which the Governor and the party in the majority in both branches should be held to account. The purpose of the session was, not to effect reforms,

but to deceive the people by false pretenses and placate public indignation which had been aroused by the exposures during the recent campaign. Whether the people have been fooled remains to be seen but it is certain that in so far as it was possible the majority in the General Assembly has nullified the reform victory at the polls last November.

And for this kind of work the tax-payers are robbed to the extent of a quarter of a million of dollars.

The Governor is Thankful.

Governor PENNYPACKER has forwarded to every Senator and Representative in the Legislature an epistolary felicitation on the result of the special session. "I want to express to you," he has written to them severally, "my very high appreciation of the meritorious work accomplished by the Legislature at the recent extraordinary session, and to thank you for the part you took in making it a success. The fact," he continued, "that you participated in a session of such importance, I am sure, will ever be a satisfaction to you." This is both interesting and unusual. It indicates that the Governor imagines that he is "the whole thing" and that the Legislature was simply serving him.

The Governor stops short of his full duty, however, in that he fails to indicate what constitutes "the meritorious work" of the Legislature. There is a good deal of uncertainty on that point now that the people have had time to analyze the legislation of the session in question. For example, we learn from the Philadelphia papers that the atrocious machine of that city has built upon the SHERN bill which prohibits political activity on the part of municipal officials, a lively hope of its restoration to power. Is it that which makes the Governor grateful, or is it the fact the corrupt practices bill was not passed in time to stop hoodluming in Pittsburg at Tuesday's election? The Governor ought to have been more specific.

Of all the bills passed "at the recent extraordinary session" we have the opinion of an eminent lawyer, less than a half dozen will stand the constitutional test under judicial examination. If that is true, what is there to be proud of in "the work accomplished." Every Senator and Representative who participated was under sworn obligation "to support, obey and defend the constitution." Are they to be proud of the fact that this obligation was interpreted in a Plowickian sense and that there is merit in perjury? It isn't the fashion among honest men to so treat such questions and congratulating men for doing so is to insult their intelligence and asperse their morals.

Uncle Joe Cannon's Error.

The Hon. JOSEPH G. CANNON, Speaker of the House of Representatives at Washington, is becoming alarmed at the present tendency toward centralization. "If the Federal government continues to centralize," he declared in a speech before the Union League of Philadelphia, the other evening, "we will soon find that we will have a vast bureaucratic government, which will prove inefficient if not corrupt." The Speaker is forced to this forbidding apprehension by recent incidents. The tendency of the citizens "of the respective States" to look, not to the state governments but to the federal government for redress for all evils, is the basis of his fears.

"Uncle Joe" is only partially right. The danger which he apprehends is present, beyond question, and it has been with us for some years. When labor troubles assume unusual proportions the President intervenes and when "a son of a distinguished sire" had his nose broken in a football game a few weeks ago, the President undertook to lay down rules for the conduct of that exhilarating pastime. But it is hardly the fault of the people, as Speaker CANNON alleges. It is the weakness of the President. That extraordinary and most reprehensible lust for power which has characterized THEODORE ROOSEVELT through his whole life is to blame and that alone.

"Uncle Joe" is equally at fault in his inferential suggestion that the citizen should go to the State government with every trivial grievance he may have. That is paternalism, another and equally obnoxious form of centralization. The tribunal which every citizen ought to keep constantly in mind is common sense, an essential feature of which is exact justice. The citizen should cultivate self-reliance instead of dependence on government, state or federal, and when public men hold that mirror up to the view of their constituents, they will be rendering better service than in mouthing insincere platitudes which have no meaning.

—It don't look as if our up town contemporaries who were going to olick everybody who wouldn't pledge themselves to favor the PRUNER orphanage, got in very effective work. Evidently a cog slipped in the greasing of the little machines they thought they were running.

Either Fish or Flesh.

We continue to follow Mr. LINCOLN STEFFENS with increasing interest and disgust. In his syndicated article in the papers of last Sunday he continues his justification of President ROOSEVELT for precisely what he condemns in others. He shows clearly that legislation is purchased by appropriations for public buildings and other official favors within the gift of the Speaker of the House or the President, and confesses that it is the most reprehensible misuse of power. He proves that such misuse of power is the essence of bossism. He protests that the President is no boss. He "has elected to go along" with the system "as far as he can," but Mr. STEFFENS expects him to stop at the right moment.

The facts in the case may be briefly stated. The President wants certain legislation. He has certain patronage and the Speaker of the House has vast power over legislation. No appropriation for public improvements can go through without his consent. Therefore the President and the Speaker of the House get together and subsequently the hint is dropped that votes against the President's legislation will not be given and legislative favors, while support of them will secure all that is wanted. In this way the majorities against the Philippine tariff bill, the omnibus statehood bill and the railroad rate bill was "converted into a minority," overnight, and the opponents of those measures never found out what mysterious influence produced the result.

We cordially agree that such things in New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Ohio are iniquitous. But why aren't they equally abhorrent in Washington? Boss COXE, of Cincinnati, Boss DURHAM, of Philadelphia, and other bosses in various cities perpetrated the same crimes against popular government and just administration and we all rejoiced last fall at their overthrow. In fact most of us freely gave Mr. LINCOLN STEFFENS a good share of credit for his admirable work. But what is the difference between a President who does such things and a Governor or municipal official or boss? It is the system that is to be reprobated rather than the individual and to our mind greater harm results from such conduct in the President than if a less important official is responsible.

Aburdly Fulsome Praise.

The fulsome praise which has been bestowed on Governor PENNYPACKER by the newspapers of the State on account of what they are pleased to call the success of the extra session, would be interesting if they were not so inconceivably absurd. The tone of these eulogistic writers implies first that the measures enacted by the Legislature are the perfection of reform and that the public is indebted for their passage entirely to the Governor. As we have shown in another article, the measures are not reformative in the least and it can be positively asserted that Governor PENNYPACKER had little influence in procuring their passage. That result, wise or otherwise, was due almost entirely to the efforts of the Democratic minority in both chambers.

That Governor PENNYPACKER had neither expectation of nor desire for reform in calling the extra session is clearly proved by his actions before, during and since the extra session. He assembled a notoriously corrupt Legislature to make such changes in certain laws as might appease public indignation and take the contentment over them out of the campaign next fall. After it was shown that he had failed to include in the subjects for consideration the most urgent measures of reform,—the correction of our present infamous election laws,—he issued a supplementary call, not to correct his fault, but to cover legislation intended to hamper State Treasurer-elect BERRY in certain reform plans which he had adopted.

In other words, the second call was to prevent rather than promote reform. The most meritorious bill enacted during the extra session is that known as the Corrupt Practices act, and the value of that measure is in the opportunity it afforded to prevent the outrageous bribery of voters known to have been in progress at the time in the municipal contest in Pittsburg. For that reason it was made to take effect immediately after approval by the Governor. This approval might easily have been made public on Thursday last week as the Greater Pittsburg bill was approved the day it passed. But it was held until after the election for the obvious purpose of giving the Republican machine one more chance of carrying an important election by fraud.

As a matter of fact, PENNYPACKER is not now, and never has been, in favor of honest elections.

—PHILLY WOMELSDORF's boom for the Senate seems to have been switched over to the slow freight tracks since the changes in the appointment was made.

called ADAMS bill, increasing the national appropriation to Agricultural Experiment Stations from \$15,000 to \$30,000 per year at once with a subsequent increase of \$2,000 per year until the total amount of the appropriation reaches \$30,000, was passed by the U. S. House of Representatives on Thursday, February 15th. The Experiment Station at State College is one that will be benefited by the passage of this act.

Whatever the cause may be there are still many dead fish to be found in the waters of both Spring creek and the Bald Eagle. The fish are mostly suckers and it is a puzzle what is causing their destruction.

How He Worked It.

From the Lincoln (Neb.) Commoner. "Sir, I have just been released from the penitentiary after serving seven years for stealing \$3,000 from a man. You are rich, and I ain't how you tell me how you worked it. I want to reform."

Feeling in an unusually benevolent and charitable mood the Successful One wheeled about in his chair and looked for a few moments upon the cringing form of Bill the Bug, ex-No. 2347. "I am always willing to help the deserving," said the Successful One, "and I will help you. You made the mistake of taking all of yours from one man. I do it differently. I merely secure the passage of laws which enable me to take a few cents from each man, and as there are some 20,000,000 or 30,000,000 of them the net gain is worth while. If I were to take dollars instead of cents they would protest and make trouble. But as it is only a matter of a few cents at a time they give it no attention."

"That's a good scheme, sir," said Bill the Bug. "Now tell me how to get the laws I need."

"Ab, that is my business secret—in fact, I might say it is my sole business asset," replied the Successful One. "You must excuse me now, as I have an appointment with Senator Graball and Congressman Liquehand."

No Good to Come From It.

From the Johnston Democrat. When it is all over the people will probably be looking around pretty much in vain for results really worth while. The reapportionment legislation, while scarcely less scandalous in its swindling of the majority out of its dues than the apportionment now in existence, will mark about the only substantial gain. The recommendations of the governor having included no actually vital subject. Personal registration will not reach the disease it is intended to cure nor will uniform primaries be of greater avail. The forces which have made for corruption remain unchallenged and in as strong a position as ever. Can it be supposed that these forces will not continue to reach out in their own behalf as they have been reaching out during all the years since Pennsylvania became the mere convenience of privilege? The railroads, the trolley corporations, the coal trusts, the fighting monopoly and all the allied forces of special privileges are as much in control of the situation today as they were before this legislative session was called and there has not been a single act in the slightest degree impairing their sway or in the least particular tending to relieve the Commonwealth from their dominating influence. All the extra session has done is to postpone the storm that is one day sure to gather and break.

No Party Will Be Safe.

From the New York World. What the bill would accomplish toward regulating rates and stopping rebates no one pretends to say. It is enough to celebrate it in song and rhapodize over it in high-pitched rhetoric. "This is what the President wants!" shouts Mr. Hepburn. "Let us give it to him and stick by it!" Bourke Cockran ventured the assertion that "it was a step in the direction of emancipating the industrial life of this country from the domination of forces which have begun to control and threaten to submerge its institutions."

If this were true the experiment might be worth while. But there is every reason for anticipating that federal control of the railroads will make them redoubt the national authority. The corruption of national politics will only proceed on a grander scale. A president and a commission will be the standing stakes that the great railroad interests have to play for. No party will be safe against their combined influences.

The Danger of It.

From the Chicago Tribune, Feb. 15. When a railroad works a coal mine the freight rate it charges itself for moving the coal to market is a mere matter of book-keeping. With a low rate the profits of the coal company owned by the road are made to appear larger and those of the railroad smaller. With the higher rate the coal company does not make so good a showing, but the railroad earnings are increased. To the independent operator the freight rate is a life and death matter. When he has to pay a rate fixed by a business competitor—a mine-owning railroad—he finds competition difficult.

To Keep Reform Alive.

From the Reading "Herald"—(Rep) There would seem to be no task more necessary, no work more important than the preservation of present legislative and political ideals. To allow the State to slip back into its former condition would be a supreme and paramount "ill of Pennsylvania." To keep the bosses out, to keep the machine down, to keep reform forces intact, to preserve the spirit of moderation and justice and good sense that now prevails at the Harrisburg capital, should be the aim and aspiration of all those who hope for good government.

Spawls from the Keystone.

—Five hundred eggs are hatching in the incubators in the Quincy orphanage.

—The Pennsylvania Telephone company will put up a building of its own in Clearfield.

—There are twenty less applications for liquor licenses in Clearfield county this year than last.

—A canning factory seems to be among the early possible additions to Huntingdon's industrial enterprises.

—Two hundred and fifty-four Pennsylvania couples journeyed to Binghamton, N. Y., last year to be married.

—In Wayne county choice apples are selling at \$6 a barrel, while the kind labeled only "fair" bring as high as \$4.50.

—A free library has been provided for Pottsville by Mrs. A. C. Milliken, who will furnish the funds for its maintenance.

—A Waynesburg physician whose practice last year netted him over four thousand dollars lost only one patient by death.

—Mrs. Annie B. Smith, the oldest resident of Jersey Shore, died at her home in that place last Wednesday, aged 92 years.

—The 10,000,000 trout now in the various hatcheries of the State are to be distributed in lots of 1,500 each to the 3,370 applicants.

—Since January 1, 533 mortgages have been entered for record in Schuylkill county, 244 more than were filed during the same period last year.

—Last year Scranton's police made 3,778 arrests and the city received \$13,350.95 in fines, an increase of \$3,000 over the fines of the previous year.

—Traffic on the Beech Creek division of the New York Central railroad has been reduced 500 cars a day on account of the strike in the DuBois region.

—Frank M. Dibert, a well-known dayman of Altoona, committed suicide Saturday morning by hanging himself with a halter rope to the rafters in his stable.

—Wilkesbarre is determined to provide playgrounds for the children of that city during the coming summer, and work upon the plans has been entered upon with vigor.

—The State school directors in session in Harrisburg last week favored an additional appropriation of \$50 a year to each district where the tax rate is insufficient to support the schools.

—Herman Reed, of Altoona, has been arrested and is held under one thousand dollars bail for trial for robbing the postoffice at Juniata on December 6th, when \$145 in cash, stamps and money orders were stolen.

—Cumberland county last year spent \$35,778.05 for the maintenance of poor at the poor house. The number of inmates was 157. The auditors believe a great saving can be accomplished by the purchase of supplies in large quantities.

—Anna M. Brannard issued a public appeal to the women of Scranton to claim a right to vote at the recent election, declaring that "no state law can withhold from them those privileges conferred by the United States of America."

—Nearly every preacher in Kittanning has used gambling as a theme during the last week, saying that playing cards for silverware, cut glass, pictures and other prizes is as much gambling as poker, playing, wheels of fortune, crap and similar games.

—A rich vein of anthracite coal on Iron mountain, in the eastern part of Lycoming county, has aroused much excitement in the village of Hughesville. A slope of nearly 100 feet in depth has been sunk in the mountain and it is said that a bed of fire clay has been struck.

—A motion for a new trial in the case of Dorris vs. Morrisdale Coal Co., tried in the Clearfield courts in September, and which created so much interest at the time, has been refused. The verdict, however, was reduced to \$21,000. It is probable the case will be appealed to the Supreme court.

—Edward B. Garber, a well-known resident of Juniata township, Bedford county, died very suddenly in the court house in Bedford on Wednesday morning about 11 o'clock. Mr. Garber was sitting on a chair in the county commissioners' office at the time and seemed to be as well as usual, when his head suddenly dropped and he expired without a struggle.

—Mistaken for a burglar as he tried to deliver a belated valentine to his sweetheart at Mahanoy City, through her window, which opens on the roof of a one-story extension, onto which he had climbed by means of a ladder at 11 o'clock Saturday night, John Truhis, of Honey Brook, was tapped heavily on the head with a wooden mallet by the father of the girl, as the daring lover was in the act of raising the window.

—Hon. Alex. Billmeyer, of Washingtonville, who has a large game preserve, says that this winter has been a very good one for deer and other denizens of the woods. Last winter he lost heavily from young fawns succumbing to the extreme cold weather. This winter he has not lost one. The birds are also faring well, and Mr. Billmeyer predicts that another year like this one, and there will be more game than usual. If this is true in regard to the fish, the trout should be more plentiful than for some years.

—The Logan Iron & Steel Co. consummated a deal last Friday whereby they sold to the State Forestry association 17,000 acres of land, known as the Greenwood Furnace and Old Edward Furnace properties in Huntingdon county for \$56,537. The sale of the Greenwood Furnace gives the State almost an unbroken forest reservation from Barre to the Susquehanna river, and includes all of Stone Mountain from Greenwood Furnace to Alleventie. The Old Edwards Furnace property is located in Shirley township, Mifflin county.

—With throttle wide open and the driving wheels turning under full boiler pressure, an Erie locomotive pulling a fast freight train ran twenty-five miles Friday morning, passing through the city of Elmira, N. Y., with the engineer, J. H. Lesley, of Susquehanna, Pa., hanging dead from the cab window. While leaning from the window at Corning, N. Y., Lesley's head was struck, probably by a girder of a bridge, and his skull was crushed, causing instant death. The locomotive pulled the train through Elmira at a high rate of speed, and when passing the station Lesley's body was seen hanging half out of the cab window.