

Ink Slings.

—Gesture language is said to still exist in some parts of Australasia. Can it be the new Jew-rusalem?

—Secretary TAFT needn't be in so much of a hurry about deciding a presidential nomination. He hasn't been nominated yet.

—Canada fell off nearly a million dollars in the consumption of spirituous liquors last year. She probably spent the saving keeping the water-wagons brightened up.

—It is rumored that Messrs. JENKINS, FENLON and WISE have given up going to council during Lent, at the end of which period they expect the habit to have become fixed.

—Fifty years from now the sole survivor of the present Panama canal squabble will be telling his curious friends that "a half century ago the great ditch was just about as near finished as it is today.

—JOHN OLEWINE has bought himself an automobile. If his works like most of the others around here it is probable that JOHN will need "doin over" when we Methodists have our annual revival next fall.

—After all that love-making a year ago it begins to look as if both France and Germany were insincere when they were hanging on each other's necks and kissing the kiss of everlasting and undying friendship.

—There is such a thing as rejoicing too soon. It may have been a season of hard luck for the plumbers, but the ice man still has his "anti" in the "pot" and there is no telling what it may cost to "see him."

—The Phillipsburg Ledger has formally announced the candidacy of the Hon. Fillip WOLKENDORF for Senator. This is the honey stolen from the bee that has been buzzing around the head of HENRY CUTE QUIGLEY Esq.

—The Lenten season is on now and a few of the ladies of Bellefonte who have been doing little else than play cards for months past will have time to get acquainted with their families and do a little brushing up about the house.

—In twenty days gentle spring will be here. Think of it; the time when the odor of the fragrant moth ball is wafted through the house filled with sticky fly-paper and the whirr!!! of the lawn mower is dulcet music to all—but the man behind the gas.

—It is well Uncle SOLLY has decided not to go back to Congress. The House committee on Agriculture on Tuesday decided to cut off the appropriation for free distribution of seeds and with that occupation gone there would be absolutely nothing for the nice old gentleman to do in Washington.

—Prof. SAMUEL P. LANGLEY, the noted scientist died on Tuesday, at Aiken, South Carolina. He was a leader in mathematics, astronomy and physics, but in his air-ship experiments he was just like the rest: usually tangled up in a mess of wreckage immediately under the elevation from which he undertook to fly.

—The Japs are considering scientific means of increasing their stature. They think they can do it by thought and improved diet. The end might be accomplished in this way but it will take centuries to do it; whereas the men who are floating the new Japanese bonds will be able to pull the Jap leg out to any desired length in a very short time.

—The forthcoming county statement, which has been somewhat delayed because of the length of time it took the auditors to finish up their work will be mighty interesting reading for the taxpayers of the county. It will show the county indebtedness to be over \$32,000 over and above all its assets and will make it a matter of necessity, just as the WATCHMAN predicted, to increase both the valuations and millage.

—Where are our Republican friends who have made themselves hoarse yelling "fire brand!" "anarchist" and every other epithet they could hurl from their ignorant tongues at the Senator from South Carolina. He seems to have been the only member in the upper House of Congress whom the President could trust with his railroad-rate bill which is supposed to be the most important piece of legislation of the ROOSEVELT administration.

—Young JOHN ROCKEFELLER has assured his Sunday school class that JOSEPH did the smart thing when he cornered the corn of Egypt and took the lands of the famine stricken in return for it when they were in distress. We are not going to criticize JOSEPH but we must commend the cleverness of the son of the Standard oil pirate in finding such a biblical parallel as an apology for what his sire is doing with the oil of the land today.

—There is only one way this question about JOSEPH'S smartness in cornering the corn of Egypt can be settled. If young Mr. ROCKEFELLER could get word to Pa LEITER and have him look JOE up his experience with his own JOE while on earth makes him a very competent judge as to whether the JOE of the Pharos was really in a class with the modern corner artists. Of course this means of finding out will not be effective if JOE and Pa LEITER are not both up there and if ROCKEFELLER JR. is not in communication with PEETER'S realm.

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Apportionment Bill to be Attacked.

Few thoughtful citizens will be surprised to hear that the constitutionality of the senatorial apportionment law enacted during the special session of the Legislature is to be tested in the courts. Notice was given during the consideration of the measure that such action would be taken in the event of its passage and the defects were pointed out. But the protests were disregarded. The Governor had asked for legislation on the subject and the machine legislators behind reform masks refused to listen to any other voice. The constitutional mandate must be obeyed, they said, and the manner of obeying made no difference to them. In fact it is not certain that some of them would know a constitutional provision if it took them by the throat. That the senatorial apportionment bill passed at the special session is unconstitutional admits of no question. Section 16 of Article II of the fundamental law declares that "no county shall be divided unless entitled to two or more Senators." There is nothing uncertain about that. There is no ambiguity in that language. It means precisely what it says. But notwithstanding that mandate the county of Lancaster, with a population of 159,241, is divided. Of course that is unconstitutional and the court will be obliged to so declare. But it was necessary to the exigencies of the machine. A number of the political serfs of Lancaster county were necessary to hold the independents of Lebanon under subjection.

The Representative apportionment bill enacted during the special session is equally worthless. For exactly similar reasons the fundamental law of the State was disregarded in the preparation of that legislative monstrosity. The counties of York and Lehigh were divided according to the constitution because such division would impair Democratic interests. But Fayette, Erie, Dauphin, Cambria, Lancaster, Montgomery and other counties having "over 100,000 inhabitants," were not divided according to the constitution, and therefore the measure is not only unjust but invalid. The machine members of the General Assembly understood that Governor PENNYPACKER either doesn't know the organic law or doesn't care for his oath of office and therefore the matter would be left to the courts. Experience with the courts, moreover, justified their confidence that the constitution doesn't count and the unjust bills were passed because they helped one party and harmed the other.

If the appeal to the courts is insisted on, however, the expectation may be disappointed. We don't say it will because we have in mind the perjured bench which declared the Judges' salary bill of 1903 constitutional. But we do assert, without the fear of contradiction, that any just court which passes on the question will declare both the Senatorial and Representative apportionment bills unconstitutional.

Expensive and Extensive Superannuaries.

During a debate on the army appropriation bill in the House of Representatives in Washington the other day, somewhat startling statements were made. "With an army of 60,000," remarked Representative Prince, of Illinois, "there are now 903 officers on the retired list drawing an average of \$3,000 a year, or a total of \$2,700,000." Of these, three are lieutenant generals, twenty-one major generals, two hundred and forty-five brigadier generals, seventy-six colonels, seventy lieutenant colonels, two hundred and twenty-six majors, one hundred and sixty-nine captains, fifty-five first lieutenants, eleven second lieutenants, sixteen chaplain majors and eleven chaplain captains.

There would be little or no cause for complaint in this expensive and extensive list of military superannuaries if it were the result of legitimate processes. That is to say, if the roster of that army contingent was made up of men who had grown old and infirm in the service of their country either in the field or the rendezvous. But according to the same authority, sixty-two of the brigadier generals on the retired list had only served one day actively in that rank, while another Representative inferentially declared that any man in the service might secure promotion at any time by agreeing to retire immediately at the higher rank. In other words, the price of promotion in the army is consent to enter a conspiracy to loot the treasury.

This is anything but a flattering condition of affairs but it is the natural and logical consequence of the ROOSEVELT system of favoritism. The President wants to get his own personal friends into the control of the army and it is said that no veteran of the Civil war, however worthy, can get promotion to the rank of brigadier general unless he will give assurance of prompt retirement. The grizzled fighters of the war of the Rebellion and those who won distinction in battles with Indians on the plains get no consideration at the hands of the President. It is his comrades of the comparatively bloodless battles in Cuba that receive his favors.

An Absurdity Brushed Away.

Mr. PERRY BELMONT objects to the statement of a club committee that President ROOSEVELT is "a born Democrat." The statement is made in what might be called the prospectus of the "Democratic Club of New York," which aspires to the title of the National Democratic Club. As a preliminary to this expansion enterprise a circular was issued in which the objectionable phrase occurred. Mr. BELMONT as a member of the club protested against such use of the President's name or to any use of it in that connection for various reasons. In the first place, he says it is inaccurate and inappropriate. "President ROOSEVELT's father," he writes, "was an honored office-holder under a Republican administration and the President himself has always been an active and bitter Republican partisan."

Mr. BELMONT might have "rested" his case there, as the lawyers say, and made good. No man deserves to be called "a born Democrat" who has such a record. But he goes further and strengthens his position. He adds that the President has ever been "unwavering in his hostility to Democratic principles and unsparing in his criticism of all Democratic leaders from THOMAS JEFFERSON to the present day, including Mr. CLEVELAND and Mr. BRYAN. The President and his cabinet officers for him," Mr. BELMONT continues, "proclaim upon every suitable occasion that he is an orthodox organization Republican." Clearly, "any Democratic committee would stultify itself in the eyes of the country by asserting that the President is in reality a Democrat." It may be said that that is "drawing it mild."

But Mr. BELMONT is not content even with that overwhelming proof of his proposition. In conclusion he declares that "President ROOSEVELT does not cherish a single principle of this government which the founders of the Democratic party taught." His position on the railroad rate question "is merely an agreement upon a policy and not upon a principle," while he "has made other concessions to the railroad interests which a Democratic President would not have made." His constitutional advisers from Secretary of State ROOT down, and "his most enthusiastic, earnest, persistent and effective supporters not holding official positions, have been and are today, men who represent and are in control of the great railroad systems of the country." This ought to put an end to the absurd rubbish about ROOSEVELT'S Democracy.

Carson Agrees With Ammerman.

Attorney General HAMPTON L. CARSON is of the opinion that the actuarial fees collected by Insurance Commissioner DURHAM to phantom employes, or persons who rendered a service, can also be recovered for the State, but there is nothing to be gained by criminal proceedings, the Attorney General adds. There is no evidence of conspiracy in the operation, for though one commissioner followed the precedent of another, it was not the result of collusion while the penalty for malfeasance in office, the only charge that would lie, is dismissal from office and the guilty officials are already out.

When the question of investigating the Insurance Department was under consideration during the special session of the Legislature, Representative AMMERMAN asserted both in his resolution and speech that the salient point was the recovery of the money belonging to the State and improperly diverted to the use of individuals. He contended that under an act of Assembly, all fees and perquisites received by officers and employes of the State must be accounted for to the Auditor General and that the Actuary of the Insurance Department is an officer or an employee of the State. In this opinion the Attorney General entirely concurs and recommends equity proceedings to enforce the provisions of the law. His opinion is a vindication of Mr. AMMERMAN'S position.

But there are reasons to apprehend that the vindication comes too late to be effective. In other words, the time that has or will necessarily intervene before legal processes can be completed will give the delinquent officials ample opportunity to prevent recovery of the money. If Mr. AMMERMAN'S resolution, which provided for a searching and adequate investigation had been adopted, there would have been no chance for escape from the responsibility. Not only that but the full measure of culpability would, in that event, have been revealed, and the conspiracy between the Insurance Commissioner and his subordinates established. That is probably the reason that the AMMERMAN resolution was rejected, however, and that of Mr. PUSEY adopted.

—If there is anything in the weather prophet's predictions that the last Friday governs the following month March ought to be nice enough for the most exacting, as last Friday's weather was ideal for this time of year.

Pennypacker Still for Fraud.

An analysis of the vote of Pittsburgh at the recent municipal election shows that 7,000 fraudulent votes were cast for the Republican machine candidate for Mayor and that but for the vigilance of a temporary Superintendent of Police, Mr. ROGER O'MARA, the number would have been increased to 10,000, a sufficient number to have compassed the defeat of the admirable Democratic and Reform candidate. The most elaborate plans had been perfected for this purpose and the fact that Governor PENNYPACKER withheld his approval of the Corrupt Practices act, passed during the special session of the Legislature, shows that the state machine and the state administration were in sympathy with the iniquity.

For weeks previous to the February election the Republican machine of Pittsburgh was notoriously engaged in a campaign of force and fraud. The profligate and immoral millionaires of that city were known to be contributing fabulous sums for purposes of bribery and other forms of corruption. HENRY C. FRICK, whose vast fortune has been acquired through special favors and graft, had cast the full influence of his money and power into the contest. His associates were giving all the time they could spare from their immoral pleasures and domestic scandals and were equally liberal and earnest in support of the machine. Nevertheless Governor PENNYPACKER failed to interpose his prerogative in the interest of decent government and pure politics.

If there were any doubts as to the attitude of the Governor on the subject of political reform this incident removes them. The approval of the Corrupt Practices act, even as late as Friday before the election, and the Legislature adjourned the day before that, would have admonished Mr. FRICK and his criminal cronies against the frauds which they had in mind. But Governor PENNYPACKER declined to act before the election. He approved other, and less important measures on that day, and planned himself on his achievements for reform. But he let that measure go over until after the election because he wanted to give fraud one more chance for victory.

In that he made himself as culpable as any ballot box stuffer who was put in jail in Pittsburgh on that day.

Not an Unsatisfactory Situation.

The friends of the railroad rate measure pending in Congress have no reason to despair because Senator TILLMAN, of South Carolina, has been selected to manage the fight for it in the Senate. If that service had been assigned to Senator ELKINS or Senator ALDRICH, things might have been different. In that event a friend of the President but an enemy of the policy involved, would have been in control. But as it is the measure will be championed by a man who is cordially, conscientiously and earnestly for it whether the President changes his mind or not. In fact it may be said that if the President should default the champion would become the more earnest.

We have no doubt that Senator ALDRICH hoped to cripple the measure when he moved that TILLMAN should have charge of it. ALDRICH represents the Republican antipathy to legislation inimical to the trusts. He gets orders from the offices of the Standard Oil conspiracy and the Steel trust every day and he is a slave to those criminal combinations. He understood that there is a deep feeling of enmity between Senator TILLMAN and the President. TILLMAN is constitutionally opposed to hypocrisy and false pretense. Therefore ALDRICH moved that TILLMAN should have charge of the measure in the hope that such a condition would provoke a quarrel between the friends of the policy. But he is likely to be disappointed.

We are not entirely in accord with the principles expressed in the HEPBURN bill. HEPBURN doesn't believe in the measure himself and his support of it was a false pretense. But there should be some legislation to restrain the carrying corporations from discriminating against shippers and in the interest of favorites and the HEPBURN bill is better than no regulation. Therefore if ALDRICH has put the matter in the hands of enemies of the corporations, that is his look out rather than ours and the corporations which employ him should hold him to account. Meantime the friends of fairness in the matter of rate charges may rest assured that TILLMAN will do his duty and if there is a quarrel between him and the President he won't get the worst of it.

—John C. Miller, an old Bellefonte who got his initial newspaper training in Bellefonte, and who is now editor of the Barnesboro Star, was elected burgess of that town at the election last week.

—Beginning yesterday, March first, the Pittsburgh Post began the publication of an afternoon newspaper.

A Disappointing Investigation.

From the Girard (Kan) Appeal to Reason.

When Lincoln Steffens announced that he was going to Washington, and that he had traced the head of the "system" to that point, naturally those who had followed his series of magazine articles expected great things. Steffens has been the one man who has been able to lift the cover of municipal and state corruption and has described it so minutely and carefully and circumspcctly that there was no getting away from the great, big fact that he had laid bare the animal. But he was not satisfied. He wanted to put it in a cage. And so he tramped down to Washington, while an expectant multitude looked on admiringly. So far his letters have been a disappointment. They have described nothing that was not already known. It would seem that he has actually fallen under the spell of the hypnotic influence of the big grafters, and he talks about them just like the average Washingtonian. Everybody in Washington thinks things are all right. They are a snug set, comfortable, satisfied and well fed. They see only the glitter and tinsel—unless one is really on the inside. And then you never tell. Steffens admires Roosevelt—he even intimates that Roosevelt is going to do great things. That's it—always promising! Roosevelt is like a caged lion. A magnificent animal restlessly pacing up and down his cage—harmless. When he hears the bars he remembers that the bars are strong and then we move up closer and inspect his claws. Steffens is describing a caged animal when he talks about Roosevelt. And I rather think Roosevelt likes to be caged. It is very convenient to throw the responsibility on some one else's shoulder. There was the case of the investigation, for instance. Of course, Roosevelt started out with the very best intentions. But he tamed down considerably. Then there was the railroad merger a few days ago. It was nothing. But now it has been discovered that it embraces practically all the eastern railroads and that it has the whole country in its grip. Roosevelt could have known this—but he was engaged in playfully biting the bars of his cage. Let us hope that Steffens will exercise the same powers of discovery that characterized his work in the outlying districts.

How the Old Thing Works.

From the Springfield Republican.

Ex-Congressman Robert Baker, of Brooklyn, gives a highly interesting example of how the tariff is made to work in connection with combinations of protected products. He tells of a man in New York City who is doing a large business in selling American-made watches in the American market at much lower prices than the makers offer them. It is a simple matter. Following a general practice among the tariff-protected combinations, American watch manufacturers are keeping prices at home up to the tariff limit, and selling abroad at whatever they can get for the product which cannot be sold here. Their foreign prices are said to be from 25 to 50 per cent. below what are charged buyers of watches under the new beneficent shelter of the tariff, and this New York dealer is able to maintain agents abroad to buy up American watches sold there, bring them back here and then offer them, at a profit to himself, at lower prices than the manufacturers will make for this market. The same trick could be worked to the discomfiture of most other protected combinations were their products as valuable in proportion to weight and bulkiness as is that of the watch manufacturers. This is protection for the benefit of foreigners, not Americans.

A Hero and His Achievement.

From the New York American.

Mr. Roosevelt is quoted by a contemporary as saying that there are two stories of his going up San Juan Hill; one that he went up San Juan Hill so far ahead of his troops as to be of no service, and the other story saying that he went up San Juan Hill so far behind them as to be disgracefully in the rear, and that the Democrats accepted both of these stories. Mr. Roosevelt is mistaken. The Democrats accepted his story, as filed in the report to the war department, that he did not go up San Juan Hill at all; he went up Kettle Hill. May not the Democrats believe Mr. Roosevelt's own story of the incident, including the accounts of how he shot the Spaniard in the back?

A Related Discovery.

From the Johnstown Democrat.

It is understood that the defeated Mr. Grosvener desires a position in the diplomatic service. The Ohio statesman should be sent to Switzerland, where he might imbibe a few of the principles of popular government. The only significant fact that he ever discovered as a result of his experiences as an American statesman was that there were bosses in this country—and he didn't discover that until as he said the "bosses licked him."

No, It's the Difference Between Remuneration and Profit.

From the Philadelphia Press.

It is a part of the funny logic of the railroads that they can carry people two ways for two cents a mile, but when they are taken but one way must charge three cents. Does this mean the difference between retail and wholesale rates?

A Timely Suggestion.

From the Helena State.

If this Republican congress goes into the business of subsidizing ships it should vote an open subsidy to the Republican organs, and perhaps to the Republican campaign committees.

—Two young men of Snow Shoe were arrested on Tuesday for trespassing on land on which "no trespass" notices had been put up. The young men were given a hearing before a justice and the prescribed fine and costs imposed.

Spawls from the Keystone.

—To the 7,500 men on its rolls the Bethlehem Steel works last year paid out in wages and salaries \$3,500,000.

—Coal is being taken out of the old Greenwood mine, near Tamaqua, in which fire has raged for nearly fifty years.

—John A. Mowery 53 years of age, a well known Lewistown citizen, died at 5 o'clock Friday evening at his home, No. 312 Valley street, death resulting from Bright's disease.

—Ridgway has a remarkable record. The Y. M. C. A. was organized only three years ago and last month a new building, costing \$45,000, was opened and dedicated. The membership is 400.

—Mrs. Elizabeth Woolridge, widow of the late William Woolridge, died a few days ago at the home of her daughter, Rebecca Shirey, in Bradford, township, Clearfield county, aged about 95 years.

—Bloomsburg Masons are preparing plans for a temple, which will be erected on the site of the Y. M. C. A. building. The building will be 70 by 150 feet, three stories high, and the estimated cost is \$40,000.

—Paxtang park at Harrisburg is to be improved at an expense of \$6,000. Railroad grade crossings at the entrance will be abolished, swimming pools and bath houses will be built and additional grounds will be opened.

—Rev. D. A. Winter, of Lehighon, who has been collecting old stamps for years and selling them for missionary funds, has shipped 381,000 of his market this week. He has collected more than 3,000,000 stamps since he began the work.

—On account of the establishment of the rural free delivery route in Nittany valley, the postoffice at Roto will be discontinued. Farmers and others in that section who are not near the route will hereafter get their mail at the Salona postoffice.

—It is estimated that 500 foreign miners have already left the DuBois coal district. Many, fearing a strike and having accumulated money, will spend the summer at their homes abroad, while others have gone to British Columbia and West Virginia.

Thomas Barnes, of Barnesboro, has sold his coal field in Green and Pine townships, Indiana county, to the Pennsylvania Steel company. The territory embraces about 6,000 acres. It is not known whether the territory will be developed soon or not.

—Clearfield's board of trade has appointed ex-Congressman James Kerr, E. A. Leitzinger, H. J. Flegal, W. W. Howe and Matt Savage a committee to examine silk mills at Patterson, N. J., with a view of having some of the concerns locate at Clearfield.

—Harry Walters, aged about 19 years and a resident of Drury's Run, Lycoming county, killed an immense catamount Friday. The animal measured four feet, six inches from head to tail and made the eighth that this young man has killed within the past two years.

—Fire recently destroyed the plant of the Dunbar Firebrick company at Pechin station, Westmoreland county. The fire started at 7:45 o'clock and in an hour the works were in ruins. The loss is placed at \$75,000. One hundred and thirty-five men are thrown out of employment.

—State Health Commissioner Samuel G. Dixon, acting for the state department of health, will at once prosecute a number of teachers in different parts of the State who have absolutely refused to comply with the vaccination law and who in defiance of this law are admitting unvaccinated children to their schools.

—A number of improvements are being made at the camp meeting grounds at Newton Hamilton. Ten new cottages will be erected and furnished by the association while twenty-five kitchens will be built. A number of other improvements will be made to the grounds, which will be opened to the public about July 1.

—Edward Horn, of Williamsport, was robbed of \$900, a gold watch and a pair of trousers while he slept on Saturday night. Mr. Horn is a produce dealer in the market house at Williamsport and he has been in the habit of taking his cash home with him on Saturday night and depositing it on Monday. The thief evidently knew this and acted accordingly. Nothing else in the house was disturbed and the burglary was undoubtedly the work of an expert.

—Jacob Lippman's department store at Portage was broken into Thursday morning about 3 o'clock and merchandise to the amount of a couple of hundred dollars stolen. Among the lost articles are \$75 worth of watches, about \$25 worth of watch chains, a considerable quantity of other jewelry, some clothing and a valise containing \$60 worth of jewelry samples, the property of a Mr. Schultz, who was there on business and had left his belongings in the Lippman building.

—Some excitement has been aroused in and about Clearfield by the appearance of several representatives of oil and gas interests and their activity in the matter of getting leases on farms and out-over timber lands in the county. Two years ago several thousand acres were leased by the Phillips company of Butler, and its men are about to put down a test hole within two miles of the town on the Mt. Joy ridges, in the southern end of the county. The agents are also reported as very active in getting leases of large tracts. The drilling is expected to begin in a few days.

—A unique social function was held at the St. Charles hotel, Lock Haven, last Friday evening. Sheriff J. Harris Musina and A. L. Lichtenwalner, having only a pair of arms between them, conceived the idea of giving a banquet to the other one-armed men of the city. They forthwith issued invitations to the other seven one-armed men of the city. Only seven whole hands were in the party. The nine men lost their arms as follows: T. M. Stevenson lost his in a threshing machine when a boy, W. R. Johnson and J. Caldwell were crippled in railroad accidents, W. R. Charles had an arm shot off, John W. Blesh and Richard Emerick had theirs torn off in threshing machines, R. W. Pedigree had an arm cut off by a boloman while on picket duty in the Philippines, J. W. Musina was knocked off a coal car while unloading coal and was run over and A. L. Lichtenwalner had his shot off in a hunting accident last fall.