

Ink Stings.

—That Russian girl who was caught with a bomb in her hair must have been setting a death trap for her rat.

—It was not a surprise that the Shamokin man who tried to commit suicide by drinking a bottle of nuncage should get stuck on his job.

—JOHN OLEWINE has been suffering for the past week with what he is pleased to call lumbago. It is probably gout superinduced by the automobile rate of living.

—If the reformers are going to put the "Pink pills for pale people" out of business we suppose all there will be left for the pale people to do will be to use rouge.

—PLUMBES doubtless now can understand that their prosperity does not depend upon the Republican party. The past winter seems to have settled that question for them.

—Isn't it soon time to hear something about the Delaware peach crop? And, come to think of it, Prof. SURFACE hasn't been doing his duty on the "San-Jose" scale publicity propaganda lately.

—Both Mr. QUIGLEY and Mr. WOMELSDORF have announced themselves for the Senate leaving matters look as if we might have a little fun out of politics in this county during the summer after all.

—MITCHELL CUNNINGHAM having withdrawn from the contest for water superintendent and there being no other applicant to cause him further alarm Supt. SAM RINE is no longer on the anxious bench.

—The glory of that extra, quarter million dollar session seems to have gone into decline very early. Its only about three weeks since it quit business, and the people are already wondering what good it was any way.

—We sincerely hope the court does not intend dallying with the licenses this year. There could have been only one reason for holding them all over until the 17th and that for the purpose of disposing of them all finally at one time.

—The Czar of Russia took a nap after reading the biography of the Hon. THOMAS BRACKET KEED then decided that a national legislative body need not necessarily be as Democratic in its functions as the name would imply.

—The new council has been organized and surface indications are to the effect that every member is satisfied and happy. Let us hope for harmony in the work of the body and if they have that they will have efficiency and economy.

—Now Doctor, put the streets in better condition than they have ever been, keep the crossings clean, build what sewers are necessary and spend less money than your predecessors have done for the same work and you will be making good some.

—Unabushingly the Philadelphia Record on Wednesday sent to the world the following head line over a column of news matter: "Cow Peas in the Spring." If she keeps her health she will probably do the same thing in the fall and in the summer, maybe.

—Our up town contemporaries who worked so hard to give Bellefonte a Republican council have doubts already if the new is going to be any better than the old. The victory that they boasted so loudly about, don't seem to have been what they thought it was at all.

—In Spain they have sent an editor to prison for eight years for saying harsh things about the King. In this country when we are forced by conviction to say harsh things about the President one half the people say: "Give 'im—h—" and the other half call us "liar."

—Say Judge, what are we going to do when the fishing season opens, if we can't buy a half-pint to take along? If you are going to cut that out the only way you can make good is to turn yourself into a modern St. Patrik and drive all the snakes away from the fishing streams.

—And the President has had to call another Democrat to his aid. First it was that anarchist (?) TILLMAN. Now it is BAILEY the brilliant Texas to whom the President has turned for additional support in his fight to make the corporation owned Senators of his own party pass the railroad rate bill.

—A man from Liberty, Oregon, who says he was "nipped" in a mining scheme a year ago and has felt like a burned dog ever since, has written to New York to find out whether it is true that "ROCKY FELLOW" has skipped and Standard oil is all to the bad. And, to think, Oregon is in the United States.

—With characteristic lack of back bone the Governor will probably allow the Philadelphia "Ripper" repealer to become a law without his signature. This will be indisputable proof that the Governor's heart and conscience was not in the work of the extra session in so far as it attempted to undo any of the pernicious measures of the last regular session.

—The old council needs no defence in the eyes of the majority of people in Bellefonte. Its works are its defence and no such public improvements have been made in Bellefonte since the borough water service was inaugurated. Of course the whip-snappers will continue their clatter, but no one pays any attention to them and the town moves on as if their yelp had never been heard.

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Corrupt Practices Act Signed.

Contrary to popular expectation Governor PENNYPACKER has officially approved the "Corrupt Practices Act," passed during the session of the Legislature. As late as Saturday of last week a man closely related to his official household and known to be in his confidence, predicted that he would either veto it or allow it to become a law without his approval. But on Monday evening he gave it his approval and it is now a law. In this he was a trifle tardy. That is to say, if he had signed the measure before the Spring election there would have been less corruption in the municipal contest in Pittsburgh. But on the principle of "better late than never," his delayed action will give general popular satisfaction.

Electoral corruption had become so frequent and enormous that restraining legislation was a necessity. In all the cities and in some of the country districts this evil had become so common that all other than rich men were practically excluded from public life. Nominations in some localities cost more than the salary of the office and successful candidates were compelled to graft to reimburse themselves or maintain themselves while in office from other sources of revenue. Such a condition of affairs is necessarily demoralizing and must have resulted ultimately in malfeasance in office. It is to be hoped that the passage and approval of the "Corrupt Practices Act," will remove that danger.

The measure as it passed finally permits a liberal use of money for campaign purposes and might have been improved by a closer pruning. That is, it is still lawful to expend money without limit for printing, traveling and personal expenses incident thereto; for stationery, advertising, postage, expressage, freight, telegraph, telephone and messenger service; political meetings and conventions and for the pay and transportation of speakers. The rent, maintenance and furnishing of offices, the payment of clerks, typewriters, stenographers and janitors are allowed and the employment of watchers and the cost of transportation of voters are provided for. There is certainly latitude enough in that to satisfy anyone.

The merit of the measure lies, however, in the provision for publicity. Within fifteen days after the nomination or election each candidate and the chairman of his committee if his campaign was conducted by a committee, an account of all his receipts and expenditures must be filed. This account must be in detail and sworn to and if there is any reason to doubt the accuracy or completeness of it five citizens may appeal to the court for an audit and if it is found that his account is inaccurate or money was spent for other than legitimate purposes, the Attorney General shall proceed against the candidate by quo warranto and if he has been nominated the nomination is declared invalid and if elected the office is declared vacant.

Fifty Millions More Wanted.

The President has asked for \$50,000,000 for coast defenses. In addition to vast improvements in and increases of the fortifications on our own coast lines he says that "in the insular possessions the great naval bases at Guantanamo, Sagig Bay and Pearl Harbor, the coaling stations at Guam and San Juan, require protection, and, in addition, defenses are recommended for Manila Bay and Hongkong, because of the strategic importance of these localities." The Panama canal also needs to be defended. The President adds, and all for the reason that "the increased wealth of the country offers more tempting inducements to attack."

Like DON QUIXOTE the President imagines that everything before him is an enemy. Upon his curious mind all the lessons of civilization are lost. The fact that the trend of the times is against war and toward the peaceful settlement of disputes "never touches" him. What he wants always are battleships and big guns. Our insular possessions have already cost vastly more than they are worth. The wisest statesmen of the country are patiently considering plans to get rid of them as soon as possible. But the President has no such thoughts in his mind. He desires to multiply the cost so as to increase in equal ratio the difficulties of unloading.

The curious passion of the President is not altogether vain, however. There is something more dangerous than that behind it all. The enterprises which the President recommends are enormously expensive. They have not brought poverty to the people as yet because conditions have been exceptionally favorable. But they have prevented the realization of the full benefits of prosperity and when adversity comes they will make poverty certain. That is the result which is desired by the imperialists and paternalists. They want to make the people helpless and dependent, and that achieved, any form of usurpation is safe. Starving men have little heart to resist wrong.

A New Bugaboo.

The Chinese Boxers are quite as certain allies of the supporters of militarism in this country now as the celebrated Cobden club of London was of the advocates of tariff robbery a few years ago. It will be remembered that up until within a dozen years there used to be immediately preceding every presidential election, the greatest concern about the influence of the Cobden club on the politics of this country. Articles prepared here, and asserting that the Cobden club had sent vast sums into the United States for the use of the Democratic party, would appear in some mercenary and obscure London paper, and subsequently be reproduced in the tariff-mongering journals of the United States. The result was that the tariff-grafters would dig down into their pockets and give millions to the Republican corruption fund, to pay the expenses of electoral frauds.

As a matter of fact, the Cobden club never contributed a penny to any campaign fund in this country. The Cobden club was an organization maintained for the purpose of disseminating economic facts, and, to use a homely phrase, was "as poor as a church mouse." It was founded by RICHARD COBDEN and his friends and admirers and composed of men of meagre resources, for there like here, the wealthy men were all, or nearly all, protectionists. But the story was "a good enough Morgan until after the election," quadrennially, and it was worked to the limit. There was more or less surprise that people could be fooled so frequently and some doubt as to whether or not anybody was fooled at all. In any event, however, the story bobbed up in every presidential campaign for more than a quarter of a century and it brought the desired results every time. The tariff-mongers became liberal at once.

The Chinese Boxers bob up a little more frequently, but they are becoming just as transparent a fraud. About the time Congress assembled annually the gravest reports come from China of the dangers of American missionaries and other American residents in China as a result of an uprising of Boxers. Nothing will save their lives, it is regularly asserted, except an increase of the army and finally public sentiment is so excited that Congress feels obliged to vote whatever additional amounts for the support of the service that the most profligate militarists imagine necessary. As soon as the appropriation bill is passed the excitement abates and the atrocious Boxers turn their attention to their own business until the same time of the following year. As Poek puts it, "What fools we mortals be," or it might better be said, what rogues the politicians are.

Tillman Disappoints Them.

As we predicted last week the selection of Senator TILLMAN, of South Carolina, as floor manager of the "rate bill" in the United States Senate has proved a disappointment to those who brought it about. Being regarded as the President's "pet" measure such superficial politicians as Senators ALDRICH and ELKIN imagined that the selection of TILLMAN as its champion would be fatal. TILLMAN is an inveterate and inflexible opponent of some of the absurd and unconstitutional policies and methods of the President. Therefore, measuring the South Carolinian by their own standard, he must be an enemy of the President, they responded, and as an enemy he will kill the President's "pet" piece of legislation.

Senator TILLMAN, of South Carolina, may have his faults and no doubt has his weaknesses. But he is not narrow, like the corporation agents and trust empires in the body of which he is a member. In other words, it doesn't follow that because he is diametrically opposed to certain policies and notions of the President he will antagonize a measure that he believes to be right for no other reason than that the President favors it. On the contrary TILLMAN is likely to welcome the President as an ally and while opposing him with undiminished energy in the things that are wrong support him with cordial enthusiasm in matters in which he is right.

We are not entirely in accord with the pending rate bill. We thoroughly understand that the railroads have been abusing their privileges and ought to be put under proper restraint. But the right remedy is not in a violation of the federal constitution and the subversion of the fundamental principles of the government. An application of the penal provisions of the existing laws would bring the corporations to terms without the dangerous expedients embodied in the pending measure. Nevertheless we own a measure of satisfaction at the miscarriage of the plans of ALDRICH and his associates in the Senate.

With all his faults TILLMAN is worth more than the entire outfit.

—March hasn't been doing bad for variable weather so far. Coming in like a lamb it rained a perfect deluge last Saturday with Sunday and Monday cold, mild on Tuesday and a little snow Wednesday.

Truth and Its Effect.

Justice GAYNOR, of the Supreme court of New York, touched a salient point in an address the other evening. His theme was "Incorporate Abuses," and while he named no names he made himself thoroughly understood. "What would a decent man here in this community do?" he said, "if he heard an officer was looking for him to subpoena him to court to testify? Would he hide in his house and have his wife and children and servants lie and say they did not know where he was? Would he hurry into some other State or go aboard his yacht, if he had one, and put to sea to escape service? Or would he come forward like a decent man and say: 'I am here.'" Unquestionably he had JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER, the Standard Oil magnate and process dodger, in mind.

It is a wholesome sign when men in the position of Judge GAYNOR thus execrate one of the greatest evils of the times. For months Mr. ROCKEFELLER has avoided process servers by one expedient or another, for the reason that he knows that if he testifies he must either criminate himself or swear to lies, which is perjury. In other words, the richest man in the world understands that he has acquired his wealth by illegal methods and that if the facts are judicially proved he must go to jail. Yet he is precisely in the same position as most of the railroad presidents and other trust magnates who have gained immense fortunes by devious methods. One may have been more successful than others but it is only a question of degree.

There can be no misinterpretation of the language of Justice GAYNOR. It simply means that JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER, president of the Standard Oil company and reputed to be the richest man in the world, is a criminal and a fugitive from justice. Possibly that won't amount to much if he were treated like other criminals. But unfortunately he isn't, and for the reason, not that he is less culpable, but that he is more successful. As a matter of fact if Mr. ROCKEFELLER were to come to this town this evening, notwithstanding he is a criminal and fugitive, everybody would be anxious to pay him deference. In this fact lies the danger. If we were all ready to set the truth as Justice GAYNOR spoke it, there would be no ROCKEFELLERS and little danger.

Reform Defeated by Republicans.

At the close of business on the last day of February there were nearly \$12,000,000 of the general fund in the State treasury and about \$3,000,000 of the sinking fund. As there are no extraordinary payments to be made between this time and the first of May it may be assumed that the balances under the recently elected State Treasurer enters upon his duties, May 1, will be substantially the same. In other words, when the new State Treasurer is inducted into office there will be in the neighborhood of \$15,000,000 subject to transfer from the present depositories to others, or to remain in the present depositories, subject to the pleasure of the board of revenue commissioners, composed of the State Treasurer, the Secretary of the Commonwealth, the Auditor General and the Commissioner of Banking.

The rate of interest on this money under the law enacted during the special session is two per cent. Money may be worth four per cent, or even more and it is said that plenty of safe and sound banks are entirely willing to give three per cent. But the State will never get more than the two per cent, provided by law and the money will go to the banks favored by a majority of the revenue commissioners, Messrs. McAPPE, SNYDER and BERKEY, machine politicians and adherents of the QUAY conspiracy. The difference between two per cent, and three or four will be used hereafter as it has been heretofore, as a corruption fund for debauching elections. By the law enacted during the special session, therefore, the reform victory achieved last November has been converted into a defeat.

There is no political evil greater than taxing the people in excess of the needs of the government. There is no greater danger to political morality than a treasury surplus. Yes every effort to reduce the present enormous surplus during the special session was defeated. Representative CREESE introduced a bill providing that personal and license taxes now paid into the State treasury be hereafter paid into the county treasuries. Such a diversion of taxes would not only have lightened the burdens of local taxes but reduced the surplus in the State treasury. But it was defeated by the practically unanimous vote of the Republicans in both branches of the Legislature in order that the surplus in the State treasury might be continued for the evil purpose it has heretofore served.

—Prof. H. A. Surface, of State College, state economic geologist, is out with a bulletin in which he makes the announcement that this is the year for the appearance of the seventeen year locusts.

—Subscribe or the WATCHMAN.

Mr. Belmont Right For Once.

From the Harrisburg Star Independent. Every Democrat will agree with Perry Belmont, who objects to the Democratic club of New York, referring to President Roosevelt as "a born Democrat." In a letter to a member of the club Mr. Belmont says in part: "President Roosevelt does not cherish a single principle of government which the founders of the Democratic party taught. He has always been and is now a true and consistent disciple of Alexander Hamilton. He has always been an active and bitter Republican partisan, unwavering in his criticism of all Democratic leaders from Thomas Jefferson to the present day. Mr. Belmont's indignation is justly aroused, but it should not be directed toward the president. If Mr. Roosevelt is at all sensitive he suffers quite as much by reason of overmuch adulation as Mr. Belmont witnesses under misrepresentation of his party. To write the president down 'a born Democrat' is more than untrue. It is an insult and a reproach to every real Democrat who has fought the party's battles. How any man can read the letter accepting the nomination for the presidency and then assert in the presence of men of sense that the president is 'a born Democrat' passes understanding."

Betraying the Filipinos.

From the New York World. The best-sung and tobacco Senators alone could not have killed the Philippine Tariff bill in committee-room. There was an obvious desire to make trouble for the Administration. Malice and factional politics stand out all over the committee's vote. For three years Secretary Taft has advocated the bill as a mere matter of justice to the Filipinos. President Roosevelt has lent him every assistance. The Filipinos have been encouraged to believe that their rights were to be respected at Washington. Year after year they have been put off with false promises. This last setback, after the pledges made to them by benevolent imperialists, must appear downright treachery. It is bound to have a harmful effect not only on Filipino trade, but, more important, on Filipino sentiment toward Americans.

No really it shake confidence at home in the success of our experiment in foreign sovereignty when the petty politics of the Senate produces such a miscarriage of plain justice.

Where the Burden Falls.

From the Philadelphia Record. After the trusts are done with their grinding, what is left for us? The coal trust and labor trust are at odds about a division of the profits derived from the mining of coal. The labor trust refuses to delve unless its share of the profits is increased. When the dispute reaches a crisis likely to result in stoppage, the steel trust takes a hand. Having a 25-year contract with the coal trust the steel trust threatens to abrogate it unless the coal trust shall reach an amicable arrangement with the labor trust.

Upon this compulsion, as the matter now stands, it is believed that the coal trust will agree to pay the labor trust a 12 per cent, advance in wages. The first of April bituminous strike will have been averted. Thereupon hurrah, and hallelujah! Calamity is sidetracked. Glory to Theodore! The steel trust secures its soft coal snap. The coal trust gets its percentage. The coal production and the price of fuel. The rest of us foot the bill.

With It All the Poor are Growing Poorer.

From the Chicago Public. Every now and again the country is assured of the prosperity of the poor upon the basis of fat savings bank statistics. Also every now and again something happens to prove that these statistics are stuffed. The latest event of the latter kind was the discovery upon the body of a dead miser in New York, so the New York Herald of the 15th reports, of 29 savings bank books, showing a credit to him in half a dozen different savings banks of an aggregate of \$50,000. Divided among a score of poor men that would have yielded a tolerably comfortable average. But it wasn't divided among a score of poor men; it was owned by one rich man. Statistically, however, it has done noble duty in the computation of prosperity averages.

Should be Made Criminal.

From the Philadelphia Ledger. If there was one lesson which the people of this country should have learned from the bitter experience of the anthracite coal strike of 1902, it was the necessity of finding some means of putting it beyond the power of any set of men, whether at trades union or a combination of mine owners and railway managers, to cut off the fuel supplies from the homes and factories of the land. That the lesson was not learned is only too evident from the present talk in coal trade circles of a general cessation of operations on the termination of the agreements under which the coal mining of this country—bituminous as well as anthracite—is now being conducted. Under all the circumstances, that a general strike should be a possibility is a little less than criminal.

How Easily Regenerated.

From the Johnstown Democrat. It is really refreshing to find how great a man Senator Tillman has become in the estimation of many good Republican organs since he has mounted the Roosevelt bandwagon and taken the reins. He is now no longer the very bad man they once pictured him and he is being hailed as a statesman by the very people who were denouncing him as a vulgar buffoon only a fortnight ago.

—It is once again Burgess Richard Beaton, of Tyrone.

Spawls from the Keystone.

—Governor Pennypacker has issued his proclamation naming April 6th and April 20th as Arbor days.

—James H. Allport, of Barnesboro, is mentioned as a probable candidate for the Assembly from Cambria county on the Republican ticket.

—Frank Farrell, the slayer of Sammy Taylor, the Barnesboro policeman, and for whom a reward of \$750 is offered, is still at large.

—It is reported that Charles M. Schwab, the steel magnate, will build a handsome church and rectory for the Catholic congregation, at Williamsburg.

—Ellwood City doctors have organized a trust and hereafter it will cost \$20 instead of \$10 to be born in that town. This is enough to cause race suicide there.

—A plant for pulverizing paint rock, to cost between \$15,000 and \$20,000, will likely be erected in Williamsport. The raw material will be obtained within the limits of Lycoming county.

—Johnsboro business men have organized a company to start a new factory in that town for the manufacture of shirt waists. The company will have a capital of thirty thousand dollars. Application has been made for a charter.

—Caught driving through the smallpox infested town of Tuscarora, several miles east of Pottsville, two insurance agents were stopped on Sunday by the health authorities and compelled to submit to vaccination. Both men were innocent of knowledge concerning the spread of the disease in the town.

—A. J. Black, a well-known coal operator of Broad Top, has bought a tract of land near that place, underlaid with good veins of coal. The price paid was \$40,000. Mining is to be carried on extensively. Fifty new houses are to be built in the spring and an electric plant will be erected to haul the coal and for other necessary uses.

—Rev. Charles W. Wasson, formerly a United Brethren preacher but who some years ago entered the Central Pennsylvania M. E. conference, serving the High street M. E. church in Williamsport during the past five years, has been transferred to Grace M. E. church in Oakland, Cal., the Rev. A. B. Blades coming from Oakland to the High street church.

—Thomas O'Brien, of Gallitzin, the man who was frightfully injured in getting from a train at Spruce Creek Sunday, Feb. 25th, died in the hospital at 4:45 o'clock Saturday afternoon. It will be remembered that O'Brien after having been hurt, crawled away from the railroad to a copse of brush where he was found several hours after the accident was discovered.

—F. G. Merrill, aged 24 years, a New York Central brakeman, fell from his train and under the wheels on the road between Mahaffey and Patton at 11:20 o'clock Saturday morning and had one of his legs so badly crushed that it was necessary to amputate it below the knee. The young man resided in Painesville, Ohio, and had only been in the company's employ a short time.

—A letter was sent out by State Highway Commissioner Hunter to the county commissioners throughout the State, calling their attention to the provisions of the new road law, which made it the duty of the commissioners to furnish the supervisors of each township, on the first Monday of March, with the latest valuation of the township property taxable for road purposes. It is on this valuation that the supervisors are authorized to levy the road tax for the ensuing year.

—At a meeting of the board of trustees of the Indiana State Normal school last week plans for a new boys' dormitory were adopted and arrangements were made to proceed with the work at once. The new building will be located on the same site as the old dormitory but it is the intention of the board that the new building will face the campus, instead of the south, as the old one did. It will be 150 feet long, 433 feet wide, three stories high and will contain sixty rooms.

—Undertaker E. J. Bearer, of Barnesboro, had a peculiar experience the other day with the funeral of a foreigner. The grave prepared for the reception of the body contained the usual rough box. When the funeral party arrived at the North Barnesboro cemetery Mr. Bearer discovered to his surprise that the rough box had been stolen from the grave. In consequence the funeral party was obliged to wait until Mr. Bearer could return to his establishment and secure another.

—Wm. H. Woolverton, of New York, and William Thompson, of Philadelphia, who built the Memorial Library at Alexandria a few years ago, of which town they are natives, are keeping up their good work as philanthropic citizens by bearing the expense of enlarging, repairing and beautifying the Presbyterian church in the village, which was erected many years ago, but according to the high ideals of the gentlemen referred to, is not in keeping with the Alexandria of the present day.

—A combination of independent fire brick manufacturers will be formed with a capitalization of \$12,000,000. A meeting was held in Pittsburgh Monday and the plans were approved. The new combine will include 60 independent companies, with a daily capacity of 10,000,000 bricks, and will take in about 90 per cent, of the fire brick plants in the country, including the Harbison-Walker Refractories company, which has a daily capacity of 1,000,000. Options were taken on each plant and extend over a period of six months. The concern will be known as the American Refractories company.

—The Pennsylvania railroad bridge over the Juniata river at Ninth street, Tyrone, being now completed and in use, there is a probability that in the near future a new freight route will be adopted, having for its terminals Altoona and Williamsport, using the Pennsylvania, Bald Eagle Valley and the Philadelphia and Erie railroads, making a through run without change of about ninety-four miles. The freight traffic over this route from and to the west, north-eastern Pennsylvania, New York, Canada and the New England states, is very heavy at present and is increasing rapidly which requires considerable shifting and transfer work at the Tyrone and Lock Haven yards, all of which can be avoided in making the through run now under contemplation.