

# Democratic Watchman

BY P. GRAY MEEK.

## Ink Slings.

—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 nuxilage 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 super-induced 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.

—PLUMBERS 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-José" scale publicity propaganda lately.

—Both Mr. QUIGLEY and Mr. WOMERSDORF having announced themselves for the Senate leave matters look as if we might have a little fun out of politics in this country 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—MITCHELL CUNNINGHAM having withdrawn from the contest for water superintendent and there being no other applicant to cause him further alarm Sept. SAN 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 delaying 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 A BRACKET REED 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.

—Unblushingly the Philadelphia Record on Wednesday sent to the world the following headline 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 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 'em—h—" and the other half call us "iar."

—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. Patrick 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 Texan 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 backbone 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.

# Democratic Watchman

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NO 10.

## 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 satify 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, Subig Bay and Pearl Harbor, the coaling stations at Guam and San Juan, require protection, and, in addition, defences are recommended for Manila Bay and Honolulu, 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 envious 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 vanity, however. There is something more dangerous than that he bids 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.

—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.

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

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Subscribe or the WATCHMAN.

From the Johnstown Democrat.

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izations since he has mounted the Roosevelt band wagon and he is being hailed as a states-

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## Sparks 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 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.

—Johnsonburg 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 4:15 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.

—Undertake E. J. Beamer, 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. Beamer 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. Beamer 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 gentleman 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 Pittsburg 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 Harrison-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.