

Local Slings.

—Have you picked out your fishing stream for the fifteenth.
—The lawn mower is beginning to make goo-goo eyes at the front yard.

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Grangers and Platforms.

Our esteemed friends, the Grangers, are "at it again," so to speak. That is to say, in pursuance of a long established and consistently followed custom, those farmers who are affiliated with the Grange have held a meeting this year, as usual, and formulated a platform. It is only just to add that it is an admirable declaration, let us say of policies rather than principles, with respect to corporations and taxation.

But what's the use? If the Republican party maintains its majority in the Legislature it doesn't matter what platform promises were made or how earnestly the candidates pledge themselves to this or that policy. The machine managers will direct the actions of the party in the future as they have in the past and upon questions of grave importance to the corporations few Senators or Representatives will have the courage to act independently.

Take the record of the last regular session, for example. One or twice upon questions of no great concern to anybody and none at all to the railroads, there was a revolt, as on the Judges retirement bill. But whenever the interests of corporations were involved the Republican representatives of agricultural constituencies were quite as certain, though less enthusiastic, in obeying the order of the bosses as the others. Probably it wasn't an agreeable servitude. They may have felt inclined to assert their manhood and independence.

For these reasons our esteemed friends can make platforms until the end of time, and as the pastoral poet expressed it, "resolute 'till the cows come home," and they will achieve nothing so long as they vote Republicans into the Legislature. Possibly a considerable number of Republican candidates for the General Assembly are in full accord with its policies expressed in the admirable platform adopted on March 2nd at Harrisburg, and may be even a greater number would sign the pledges prepared for them at that meeting. It may even be assumed that they would like to vote them into the Legislature of the State. But when the party whip begins crackling about their ears and the sting of the machine lash is felt on their legs, they will soon forget their pledges and as the late THADDEUS STEVENS put it, "throw conscience to the dogs and help their party."

President GOMPERS, who for many years has been at the head of the Federation of Labor, one of the strongest and most efficient labor organizations of the country, threatens to break into politics. Neither he nor his associates relished the scolding which President ROOSEVELT gave them the other day, and the flat refusal to consider the question of adopting the eight hour rule among laborers on the Panama canal added to their irritability, consequently they are now talking of organizing a labor party which is probably the one thing of all others which will please the Republican machine.

There is nothing so conducive to the success of the dominant political party as the organization of a separate party which will attract if not exactly satisfy the public discontent. The late Senator QUAY had such faith in it as an expedient to prevent grave political dangers that he used to pay organizers and the expense of organizing labor, socialist or other political parties. It keeps voters who are suffering from maladministration or discontented with conditions incident thereto from going over to the other strong party and averts all danger of their action. Its just like firing a shot in the air.

One of the troubles with the labor organizations is that their leaders betray them purposely or through faulty judgment. JOHN MITCHELL, for example, has settled two coal strikes on terms which bound him to help the Republican party without giving any advantage to his own side except a little glory for himself. It looks now as if GOMPERS is likely to make a similar blunder, by organizing his labor party. If he wants to give ROOSEVELT and his party leaders a genuine shock let him say that he is going to vote the Democratic ticket and influence all others that he can to the same course. That would mean business.

Graft in Public Funds.

We like above all things to follow Mr. LINCOLN STEFFENS in his exposure of graft and incidentally in his worship of the greatest fraud of all the influential grafters, President ROOSEVELT. There is no language as caustic as that of Mr. STEFFENS, no sarcasm as keen and no inconsistency as amusing. In his last syndicated article, however, that of last Sunday, he is simply charming. He must have had a lucid interval which he wisely employed in writing it, for he appropriately leaves the President out of the consideration. If he had done otherwise he would have spoiled everything for in condemning the grafters and commending the man who fosters and protects them he would have made himself absurd, just as he did when he denounced Speaker CANNON and praised President ROOSEVELT because CANNON and ROOSEVELT had found a combination to control legislation through the use of patronage.

Mr. STEFFENS' latest article is on the subject of the deposit of public funds in favored banks for the benefit of the banks, regardless of the interests of the public. He shows that it is one of the most prolific sources of graft, though he fails to touch the feature which involves the worst evil. That is, Mr. STEFFENS sees in the operation no greater evil than that it enables the favored bankers to make money for themselves out of money that doesn't belong to them and encourages them to debauch the politics of the country by bribing voters in one way or another. But he shows enough and even sheds some new light on the subject because he quotes letters of Secretary GAGE and language of Secretary SHAW which shows that they favored bankers because the money had been increased in the way he reprehends. In other words, President STEWART and Vice-President HERBURN, of the Standard Oil bank, frankly demanded public funds because the bank had contributed to the corruption fund and got the money.

Mr. STEFFENS completely explodes the absurd pretense that banks can't afford to pay a fair interest for the use of public money, moreover. This feature of his article is peculiarly interesting to Pennsylvanians because of the recent discussion of the subject during the special session of the Legislature. He shows clearly that banks can afford to pay an interest of two and a half to three per cent. to the federal, state or county treasury direct for funds because they do pay that much in campaign contributions or graft for the money. During the discussion of the subject in the Legislature the Republican leaders unanimously protested that an interest rate of more than two per cent. would exclude all the strong banks from competition for the money. The public knows, however, and Mr. STEFFENS supplies proof of the fact, that the strongest banks can and will pay more and that they do so in the form of graft.

Chairman Andrews in Danger.

Mr. WESLEY K. ANDREWS, chairman of the Republican State committee and Senator PENROSE's secretary, has undertaken to annul one of the votes of the recent special session of the Legislature. Mr. ANDREWS is in the habit of taking liberties with things which the average man holds to be sacred for the reason that he believes the PENROSE machine will support him in anything he does. He is a great favorite of the organization and if it hadn't been for the defeat of last fall he would have been the unanimous nominee of the party for Governor this year. But in annulling an act of the Legislature he is going a step too far and may lead to disaster.

The law which Mr. ANDREWS proposes to distinguish by an expression of his contempt for it that apportioning the State into Representative districts. The rules of the Republican party of the State provide that "the delegates to the State convention shall be chosen in the manner in which candidates for the General Assembly are nominated," and "one delegate shall be allotted to every legislative district for every 2000 Republican votes and an additional delegate for a fraction exceeding 1000 votes, each district to have one delegate." If the election were conducted as previously under the new apportionment it would be valid. But Mr. ANDREWS has ordered that the election be under the old apportionment, which is a violation of the new law.

Of course there is a strong probability that Mr. ANDREWS will never be called to account for his action. It is certain that if the machine is as powerful as it once was, he is in no danger for any delegate or claimant for a seat who would venture such a less majestic would be incontinently kicked out. But as HAMLET would say, the uncertainty is "the rub," and if some fellow would make a real fuss about the affair, ANDREWS might be sent to jail, for the rules of the party are laws of the land and the order of ANDREWS is a subversion both of the rules and the law. The outcome will be watched with curious interest.

An Equivocal Decision.

The decision of the Federal court in Chicago, Judge HUMPHREYS presiding, giving immunity to the meat packers is as absurd as it is surprising. The claim for immunity was based on the statement that the packers themselves had given the incriminating testimony under compulsion, and that prosecution would violate the provisions of the constitution, which absolves a defendant from incriminating himself. But there was no evidence that the packers were compelled to testify against themselves. It was asserted that the commissioner, Mr. GARFIELD, had promised immunity to those who would give evidence and that the promise induced the testimony. But it was voluntary, notwithstanding, and there is no law, organic, statutory or common, which forbids a man from pleading guilty.

Besides, in the case in point, the obvious purpose of the packers in giving incriminating evidence was to trick the government. They justly and wisely reasoned, it may be assumed, that under the law interpreted by the Supreme court the other day, they could be compelled to give the evidence in a form which would afford them no protection. In other words, the prosecution had both the legal and moral right to demand the books, contracts and agreements of and among the packers, and that those documents would cause a conviction. Such conviction under such conditions, moreover, would have been speedy and destructive of the trust. Therefore they were willing to be coerced for the reason that it would guarantee immunity from criminal prosecution and practically enforce their fraudulent operations for an indefinite period.

That this is not a matter of conjecture is amply proved by the circumstances attending the litigation. It is nearly two years now since Commissioner GARFIELD acquired the evidence and made his report condemning the packers. But during all this intervening time the packers have continued their unlawful practices and pursued their criminal methods. If the incriminating testimony, whether enforced or voluntary, had been the result of contention, the criminal methods would have been abandoned at once. But so far from that having been done the facts are that the trust manager drew the reins together on the public and made their criminal operations more unbearable than ever. Judge HUMPHREYS may imagine that his decision is according to law but the public will continue of the opinion that the packers are criminals and ought to be in prison.

Senators Too Sensitive.

Senator SPOONER, of Wisconsin, himself a railroad lobbyist in Congress, became very indignant the other day because Senator TILLMAN, of South Carolina, intimated that some Senators, including KNOX, of Pennsylvania, "are more interested in the welfare of the railroads than they are in the people." It was a great outrage on KNOX, the Wisconsin statesman protested, and ought not to go unrebuked. "I made the statement right here in the Senate when the Senator from Pennsylvania was present," pleaded the South Carolinian, "and he is able to defend himself." "I know you did," responded Mr. SPOONER, "but the fact that you made it at all, and that it was necessary for the Senator from Pennsylvania to deny it, shows the wickedness of this whole whirlwind of accusation and suspicion."

This was indeed a touching episode in the public life of the country. Nobody on earth could feel more keenly the approbrium of being called a railroad lawyer than Mr. SPOONER and few deserve the epithet as little as Mr. KNOX, who protests with heaving bosom that he never got a fee from the Pennsylvania railroad in his life. Obviously that is true. How could he when all his legal practice has been in Pittsburg where JOHN DALZELL, Representative in Congress, is counsel for that corporation and never divides with anybody. Besides Mr. CARNEGIE and other beneficiaries of government kept Mr. KNOX so busy devising schemes by which they could fleece the government and evade the penalty of the law that he could hardly have found time to serve the Pennsylvania railroad, even if he had been invited.

Nevertheless Senator TILLMAN wasn't far from the facts when he said that Senator KNOX represents the Pennsylvania railroad on the floor of the Senate. Probably he doesn't get fees direct as DALZELL is paid or in the shape of campaign subscriptions as the late Senator QUAY is said to have done and Senator PENROSE does. But he was "antipulated" into the Senate by the president of the Pennsylvania railroad, but whether the action was induced by favors expected as Senator or results feared as Attorney General is open to conjecture. The truth is, however, that as Attorney General KNOX had begun proceedings against the coal trust and CARROLL had him appointed Senator to stop the proceedings. His expectation was fulfilled but whether the books have been balanced is a question.

—The many admirers of the writings of WARNER H. BELL, formerly of the Altoona Gazette but later on the North American, of Philadelphia, will be pleased to learn of his advancement to a member of the editorial force of the New York American. Mr. BELL is a thorough newspaper man and a versatile as well as forceful writer.

"Peace in Jolo."

From the New York World. The treaty with Spain which saddled us with the Philippines was signed more than seven years ago. During half of that period we have been assured that the war by which alone we could gain actual possession of our theoretical dependency was "over." Only last week Secretary Taft assured us that the Moros in particular were quite pacified. Then came the news of the further "pacification" of the Moros of Mount Dajo. A population less than that of Waterbury, Conn., living in an island only a trifle larger in area than Greater New York, in their ignorance and in their love of liberty to set the power of the United States at defiance. Six hundred of them, perhaps nine hundred, were killed in a four days' battle. We are told that "women and children mingled with the warriors during the battle to such an extent that it was impossible to discriminate, and all were killed in the fierce onslaught."

From their own viewpoint, which we cannot either in fairness or in policy disagree, these Moros died bravely in defense of their village homes against a foreign aggressor. However generous our plans for aiding them might be—how generous they really are the repeated failure of a Philippine tariff reduction reveals—we can never aid the dead. We can never convince six hundred or nine hundred corpses that our ways are better than their own.

Can we convince the living? How? And how soon? By more battles, by more sickening effusion of blood, during another seven years, or twice seven? The Spanish tried it for 300 years. The Dutch in Sumatra have tried it for more than thirty. And neither the Filipinos nor the Achinese have been convinced. Are not Americans tiring of this costly and demoralizing attempt at methods as despotic as those of Russia to conquer and to rule an alien and resisting race? Do we quite enjoy a situation which leads the president of the United States to congratulate our boys in blue upon "upholing the American flag" by the unsparing slaughter of women and children? Is it possible that there is no way for us to escape from this unfortunate entanglement and to renounce the project of forcing our civilization by the sword upon a brave people with whom we have no just quarrel and no legitimate concern?

Where They Failed to Catch on.

From Collier's Weekly. It is possible to be both right and successful, yet altogether happy. The Administration was eminently right in urging the passage of the Philippine Tariff bill. It is also successful in getting the bill through the House by the superficially handsome vote of 258 to 71. But the little wormhole in the core of the apple of victory is the fact that the triumph was won by Democratic votes. The boast of Chairman Payne of the Ways and Means committee, that the Republican party would accomplish this act of justice without asking any favors of the minority was not fulfilled. Fifty-seven sugar and tobacco Republicans voted against the bill, and the Democrats joined them, one of the administration's measures would have been beaten in a House containing a Republican majority of nearly two-thirds. And the only hope of making the measure a law lies in the uncertain chance that the Democratic Senators may be as liberal and sagacious as the Representatives who followed the lead of Mr. WILLIAMS. If this hope can be realized, the Filipinos will have the benefit of the free admission into the United States of all their products except rice, sugar, and tobacco, which will have to pay only one-quarter of the Dingley rates, and, after April 11, 1909, there will be free trade in everything, both ways—provided our sugar and tobacco men do not help the anti-imperialists to out the painter before that time. Speaker Cannon was wise in bringing on the first battle with the insurgents on the Philippine instead of the Statehood question. He caught them at their weakest point, both tactically and morally. In fighting the enforced soldiering of Arizona to New Mexico, the Babcock Indians have an issue upon which they can command both arguments and strong allies. Had the battle begun there it might have left the administration lines a wreck.

Thinks He Ows Them.

From the Philadelphia Record. Republican state chairman Andrews has troubles of his own. No doubt out of consideration for the feelings of the sixty-seven Republican county chairmen in the State, who do not care to be paraded as the stooge pigeons of the defeated gang organization, he has refused to furnish the Pittsburg Dispatch a list of their names. But the Dispatch does not take this view. It cannot bring itself to believe that "the chairmanships are the private and personal property of certain political dictators, to be used solely at their dictation and for the benefit of their schemes." Later on the Dispatch will find that the old organization, while it has been discouraged, has not been unburied. It is doing business at the old stand, substantially on the old lines.

Making It Hard for Kickers.

From the Washington Post. It is asserted that the price of shoes will be advanced again unless Congress removes the duty on hides. Still, the standpointers may figure that the people will not be able to kick so hard if it is made impossible for them to buy shoes.

—Come here for good Job Work.

Spawls from the Keystone.

—During 1905 4,313,655 tons of coal were mined in Patton district of northern Cambria county, a record which beat all former outputs.

—The Standard Steel company, near Lewistown, pays every two weeks to its employes over \$100,000; the Logan Iron and steel company pays to its men about \$40,000 in the same period, making nearly \$300,000 paid each month by these two companies.

—A saw mill, two houses and 100,000 feet of lumber were destroyed by fire at Lumber City, six miles up the river from Carversville, Clearfield county, Friday afternoon last. The property burned belonged to Wise Bros. & Co., and the loss will be quite heavy.

—Auditor General Snyder has announced the appointment of E. C. Dewey, of Clearfield, to be auditing clerk of the department a position which the auditor general has created. Dewey is at present assistant cashier of the State Treasury and will enter upon his new position on April 1st.

—Charles Fultz, a well known citizen of Mill Creek, Huntingdon county, is dead, aged 69 years. He was a member of the famous Bucktail regiment, company B, Forty-ninth Pennsylvania Infantry, serving his country four years and two months and participating in thirteen battles.

—The property of the Keystone Boiler and Radiator works at Huntingdon, known as the car works property, was sold on Wednesday for \$25,000 to A. W. Duff, of Pittsburg, who represented the stockholders of the company. It is understood the plant will be put in operation as a foundry at least by Pittsburg manufacturers.

—C. W. Renart, who recently died near Burnt Cabins, Fulton county, at the age of 45 years, weighed 355 pounds and was the largest man in that section of Pennsylvania. His waist was 24 inches deep, 28 inches wide and 8 feet long. Eight stout, robust men had all they could do in carrying the remains and depositing them in the grave.

—Miss Sadie Kemper, 26 years old, living near York, is dead at her home, a supposed victim of a patent headache powder. The young woman was complaining with headache and took a patent headache remedy. In nine hours after having taken it she was a corpse. She was to have married George Kerns, of Green Mount, in April.

—William Englehart, of Woodvale, is the possessor of an egg laid by one of his black Minorica hens which he thinks will be hard to beat for size. The egg measures 8 1/2 inches around the long way and 6 1/2 the other way and weighs over four ounces, or a quarter of a pound. Mr. Englehart would like to hear from any person that can produce a bigger specimen.

—There is a fine herd of 107 head of cattle at the State hospital for the insane at Warren. The production of milk is almost sufficient to meet the demands of the situation and thousands of dollars are saved annually in the careful management of the farm. One Holstein cow has broken all previous records and for the year the record shows she has produced 10,000 pounds of milk. The average production for one cow for a year is not to exceed 6,000 pounds.

—Holidaysburg and Altoona capitalists have completed arrangements for the organization of a company to supply electric power at long distances. An organization has been effected under the name of the Bedford Water Power and Electric company. The power houses will be at the headwaters of Yellow creek, at Loy's Gap, Bedford county. The cost of the plant is estimated at \$150,000, and the object is to furnish electric light and power to all the surrounding towns.

—George P. Brock, former cashier of the Doylestown Pa., National bank, was convicted in the United States court of misapplying the funds of the institution. Pending applications for a new trial Brock was permitted to enter bail in the sum of \$10,000. The case had been on trial for over a week and the jury consumed four hours and a half in arriving at a verdict. Brock was indicted for embezzling, abstracting and misapplying about \$84,000 of the funds of the bank.

—Mrs. William Shuman died at her home near Elysburg recently. Her husband, being her only surviving relative, decided to offer the household goods for sale and seek a home elsewhere. The sale was scheduled for Wednesday. While taking up carpets and collecting old articles about the premises Tuesday night he was astonished to find a large roll of bills of various denominations. He continued the search and found additional wads of money in out of the way places until he had \$8,000.

—John Port, aged about 50 years, was burned to death in his home in Huntingdon early Saturday morning. He had been on a visit to Lewistown and had returned to his home. It is supposed that in some manner he overturned a lamp and thus the house was set on fire. Neighbors who had congregated at the scene did not know he was in the building until after they entered it and his body was found wedged between the stair balustrade and a wardrobe. He had evidently been overcome by smoke and fallen.

—The four men suspected of implication in the tragedy at Portage, Cambria county, on July 31, 1904, when Superintendent Patrick Campbell, of the Puritan, Coal Co., was nearly shot to death, his driver, Charles Hayes, killed, and about \$4000 in cash stolen, were given hearings before Alderman Leven, mayor in Johnstown, last Friday afternoon. Marrio Immesf was discharged, Francesco Dieste was admitted to \$1500 bail, and the two other men, Giuseppe Constantino and Francesco Impia, were held for court without bail.

—Twenty enterprising citizens of Reynoldsville have formed a syndicate and will build a \$40,000 opera house. Work will start on the structure as soon as the weather permits as it is the intention to have the new theatre ready to open with the theatrical season next fall. The building will be of brick 60x135 feet with two store rooms in front and a 12 foot entrance to the theatre, which will be built in the rear. The stage will be 40x60 feet and the seating capacity at least 1,000. Dwelling apartments will be built over the store rooms.