

Ink Blots.

Stern clouds continue to hang over Bellefonte's council chamber.

The bituminous miners are again to profit by the troubles of the anthracite workers.

Will the Pike at the next great exposition have substitute its "Great Johnstown Flood for the recent Johnstown fire?"

ALICE and NICK certainly are on the toboggan to obnoxiousity. They are good for only two or three inches in the great dallies these times.

The water will likely be cold and high on the 15th. All the more reason why your bottle of "bait" should be a little longer than usual.

The Pittsburg Dispatch, a Republican paper, refers to the Philippines as "our white elephant." Surely the Dispatch is an audaciously independent paper.

If you didn't have the spring fever Monday and Tuesday you must be a chronic loafer and immune to the enervating effects of the first really spring days.

The Hague Peace Congress is to meet this summer. Strange it didn't have a single session while war was wasting and tearing at the vitals of both Russia and Japan.

The Delaware Judge who has just handed down a decision saying that it is not a crime to steal coal must have been running a railroad at some time during a coal strike.

If the striking miners become obstreperous—and we hope they wont—the public will have an opportunity of finding out what the new state constabulary is being paid for.

Some people move to save paying rent, some move in order to get new wall-paper, some move because they like it. But why the latter class no one but themselves will ever be able to figure out.

The Bellefonte Methodists have a new preacher, thank you! Not that they didn't love the old one, but fate decreed that they should not be clear out of all the hub-bub that is being raised about new ones.

The Russian elections, the first they have ever enjoyed, passed off quietly. The man with the bar! hasn't had time to get into Russian politics yet, but he'll be there ere long leaving his trail of corruption behind him.

The Republicans will control both branches of Pittsburg's newly organized council, but then it is hard to tell what the word Republican really means when applied to the kind of politics they have in the Smoky city.

The News states us with information that council has reduced the bonded debt from \$118,000 to \$110,000. Verily this is cutting it down some, but what became of the balance of \$109,890 of bonds we thought we had to pay.

It long has been a popular epigram that "nothing is sure but death and taxes." Judging, however, from the amount of the latter that remain unpaid in this town there must be a great many people who have their doubts about taxes being sure at all.

IDA GRACE MACOMBER, a patient in the Norfolk insane asylum, has been conducting such a flourishing and profitable matrimonial agency there the U. S. postal authorities have had to interfere and stop her business. An insane asylum is no place for such a woman. She should be on Wall street.

Gen. BLANCO, who succeeded "Butcher" WEYLER as Governor General of Cuba, is dead. He wasn't such a bad old Spaniard after all, and he was immensely amusing in his reports to his home government of how completely he was putting "the bug on" the American troops that were taking his island right out from under his very nose.

It is no wonder the Russian navy was licked. On Tuesday one of their torpedo boats struck a reef and was about to sink. At that time a snow squall broke and the cowardly sailors ashore were afraid to put out to the rescue of their comrades. They all drowned, of course. But they wouldn't had Capt. CASTRO of the Atlantic City fishing fleet been there.

It took three Pullmans and a diner to carry Governor PENNYPACKER and his paper soldier staff South, while the old boys who survived the awful carnage of Vixburg had to ride in "straight-backs" and eat out of lunch pokes. The Governor never mingled with the Vets, nor did he appear at stations where crowds had assembled to greet and cheer them and now the papers are saying he acted as if ashamed of them. However that may have been it is probably much nearer the truth to say that he was ashamed of himself.

JOHN ALEXANDER DOWIE, the false prophet of Zion, has at last been dethroned and stripped of every vestige of power he held in the city he has spent twenty years in building. All manner of stories are being told about his gross immorality and fraudulent business methods so that nothing is left to those who contributed to his fanatical scheme but the gall of disappointment and regret. He has been forbidden to again enter Zion City and even his wife and son have turned against him. What an old rascal "Elijah II" must have been, but what a cute rascal not to have been found out before.

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Senator Knox Disappointed.

Senator KNOX made an able speech on the rate question the other day, but it was disappointing. That is to say, he failed to refute Senator BAILEY's assertion that the lower federal courts are creatures of Congress and amenable to restraint by Congress, and that is what he set out to achieve.

It may as well be admitted that a rate bill which allows the inferior courts to suspend the rate by injunction is of no earthly use. Everybody knows that every rate made by the Commission will be held up indefinitely by the courts and completely nullified.

Besides, the railroad lawyers in the Senate have practically admitted Senator BAILEY's proposition. That is to say, they have expressed a willingness to put some restraints on the courts or at least put a limit on the time within which an injunction may hold.

That the consensus of Democratic opinion favors an early State convention this year admits of no doubt. It is expressed in most of the newspapers of the party faith and endorsed by the party leaders with practical unanimity.

In 1895, when the late Senator QUAY discerned signs of a political revolution against the iniquities of the machine he compelled his State convention to make a false pretense of ballot and other reforms and completely fooled the people.

The people of Pennsylvania demand improved civic conditions. They have endured the evils of political piracy as long as possible. They are determined to look to the Democratic party for the reforms and our party should be ready to meet the expectation.

At a meeting of the Bellefonte school board Monday evening Hard P. Harris was elected a director to serve until the next regular spring election in place of Thad. Longwell, who resigned when he moved to West Virginia.

The Centre county wheat fields are said to be looking much better since the snow has gone than they did before it fell.

An Absurd Extravagance.

In the matter of the 19,000-ton battleship Congress has touched the limit of absurdity. There is no more use for such a monster than there is for two tails on a pet dog. We have no war on hands and none in prospect.

The 19,000-ton battleship is therefore an expression of senseless bragadocio. It is the JOE CANNONIZATION of Congress. England built a 17,000-ton battleship and the CANNONS in Congress and throughout the country interpreted it as a challenge to "do as well or better."

We have no reason for such fighting machines. We have no reason for any war ships other than such as are necessary for the yachting purposes of the President and the Secretary of the navy.

An Object Lesson.

Japan has just emerged from a successful war with a signal victory. Recent experience reveals no more signal triumph. From beginning to end of the operations she never lost a battle or even sustained a serious delay or reverse.

In this experience of Japan there is a lesson which the people of this country ought to study with great care. We are drifting toward the militarism which leads to misery and want.

Bellefonters who usually migrate Atlantic City-wards during the summer season will be interested in learning that Mrs. J. D. Hall has moved from the Hall-woode, to the hotel Pitney, on New York avenue, near the beach.

The railroads and express companies are already beginning to reap a harvest from the traffic of beer kegs to and from Bellefonte. Since we have no wholesale license or no brewery agency, every Tom Dick or Harry, whether of age or not, telephones to a brewery and gets a keg of beer.

What GERTRUDE ATHERTON lets us understand about New York society must certainly be things unfit to print. In her article in the April Cosmopolitan she quotes authors from the inside to prove her statement that what is known as "society" in New York is a body of people so arrogant, ignorant, brutally selfish, immoral that really decent persons couldn't tolerate.

Good Democratic Doctrine.

The Granger's platform to which we referred last week is not far removed from good Democratic doctrine and might well be adopted in whole or in part by the Democratic state convention.

The enforcement of the constitution has always been a Democratic tenet. Strict construction of the fundamental law as against a too careless interpretation was among the early differences between the parties and the Democrats held to the literal observance.

The other propositions expressed in the Grange platform are developments of the new economic and civic conditions, but have been from the first accepted as Democratic policies.

The proposition to authorize trolley railroads to carry freight, for example, has been urged on the Legislature by Democrats for the last ten years. "Farmer" CREESEY, of Columbia county, has been the champion of this policy from the start and during the last two regular and the special session he had the unanimous support of his party associates on the floor in his contention.

Upon the question of a just division of the resources between the State and county governments there can be no doubt of the attitude. Vast treasury balances have always been abhorrent to the Democratic mind as needless tax burdens have been reprobated.

Roosevelt Backs Down.

The President has failed again at the crucial moment. That is to say, just at the time that a rate bill, that might have proven effective and beneficent, was possible, he has yielded to the railroad lawyers of the Senate and given his consent to a provision which will nullify the measure.

Of course this will make any rate adopted by the Interstate Commerce Commission an absurdity. In other words, no such rate will ever become effective unless it has the approval of the railroad managers concerned in advance, and no rate which is for the benefit of the shipper will ever have such approval.

The reason which influenced the President in this abject surrender to the railroads is that he has been led to believe that in the event of the passage of an efficient rate bill the credit of the achievement would go largely to Democratic Senators.

A delegation of millers from Blair county visited Bellefonte on Tuesday for the purpose of interesting Centre county millers in organizing a local millers association which shall have for its object the establishment of uniform prices to be paid for grain of all kinds and rates at which flour and feed stuffs shall be sold.

The West End Finance Co., whose advertisement appears in another column of this issue, has a rather novel proposition to offer persons who have small amounts of money to lend. They guarantee 11 per cent per annum and so far as we have been able to find out have been making good on it.

From the reeling condition of the usual crowd lounging around on the streets, Tuesday afternoon and evening, there was cause for deep speculation as to whether they had been able to lay in a supply of "Oh, be joyful" before the no-bottle ruling went into effect or, if not, where they were getting it now?

Sizing Up the Situation.

Maurice Spain, Washington Cor. Pittsburg Post. A glance over the political field shows there is good reason for the anxiety of the Republicans and the hopefulness of the Democrats at the outlook for this fall's congressional elections.

The attempts to inaugurate a new deal have disgusted or alienated the adherents of the old party in the old regime. It does not matter if the object of the new leaders is to cleanse and elevate party standards and eliminate the grafters and commercialists who have brought discredit on the name of Republican.

THE DISRUPTION IN NEW YORK.

In New York practically all the old leaders of the Republican party are on the toboggan slide, discredited or disgraced. Senator Platt, for more than a generation master of the party in the State, was displaced by the malodorous Odell, one of the worst of his own creatures.

NEW ENGLAND SORE ABOUT THE TARIFF. In Massachusetts and to some extent in other New England states there is discontent among the Republicans at the contemptuous treatment accorded the demands for tariff revision and reciprocity by the stand-patters.

MIDDLE STATE MACHINES BUSTED. In New Jersey there is a condition of affairs in the Republican party similar to the condition in New York. A strong element of reformers has forced the old corporation-serving leaders to make concessions to the new spirit of decency and patriotism.

Nearly all the New Jersey Republicans are straight products of the old machine, and if the Democrats put up strong men against them, the latter will gain two or three seats in the State at the November election. The way things are torn up in Pennsylvania need not be dwelt on here.

There is no State with a finer prospect of Democratic gains in this fall's congressional elections than in Ohio. One-half the delegation to the next House should be Democratic.

FACTIONAL FIGHTS IN THE WEST.

In Wisconsin will come this fall the final struggle between the La Follette faction and the remains of the stalwarts, who are in danger of utter extermination. The fight will be a desperate one.

Valuable clay deposits have been discovered not far from Jersey Shore which will likely be worked in the near future. Lewis Metzgar, of East Hill, has been doing considerable prospecting in the vicinity of Pewterbaugh mountain of late and struck a vein of clay of wonderful thickness.

Spawls from the Keystone.

Norristown's new \$75,000 government building was thrown open to the public on Monday.

The Susquehanna Sportsmen's association, of Northumberland, is arranging for a big spring tournament, on May 11 and 12.

Joseph Boccia shot and killed his child wife, Mrs. Annie Boccia, thirteen years of age, on the streets of Easton, Saturday night.

Paralyzed for twenty-three years by an injury in the Civil war that developed twenty years thereafter, Solomon Dark has just died at Shamokin.

The Bedford Hardwood company is a new industry which is about to start in the town of Bedford. The object of the company is to manufacture locust tree nails.

Titusville, it is claimed, will have a wireless telegraph station. It will be completed and in running operation for the receipt and sending of messages by July.

Mules are in great demand among the farmers of Lancaster county, who prefer them to horses, as high as \$575 being paid for a team at a recent sale, while very few teams bring less than \$400.

The town of St. Benedict, Cambria county, has been passing through the throes of an epidemic of diphtheria. Fortunately the disease has not been particularly fatal, only two deaths having occurred. It is thought that the worst is over.

Mount Pleasant, Westmoreland county, is to have a new industry known as the Wonder Manufacturing company. The proposed plant will cover two acres of land and it is estimated that it will involve the expenditure of \$300,000.

Two more coal plants are planned for Indiana county by the Iselins. One will be located on Yellow creek, above Homer City, and the other in Centre township. The investment of the Iselins interests in that county aggregate \$10,000,000.

The output of Somerset county's famous product—maple sugar and maple syrup—promises to break all records and before the season is half over dealers are complaining that the market is glutted with the usually highly prized table luxury.

Grant Davis, of Milton, sustained a severe loss a few nights ago when fire destroyed his chicken house and 150 chickens which were in it. It is thought the fire started from the explosion of a lamp which was in one of the brooders.

Joseph Rager, who was arrested recently for the murder of "Cap" Donahue, at Barnesboro, has been released as the result of habeas corpus proceedings. He will be tried on the charge of manslaughter at the June sessions of the Cambria county criminal court.

The Clinton county auditors Saturday placed their report in the hands of Judge Hart. Among the items they refused to allow were those for bounties on wild animals other than wolves and wildcats, thus saving the county about \$900 under the law repealing the bounty act.

O. D. Cully, of Millersville, has given up his occupation as an lineman for a pipe line company and accepted a position in Palo Alto, Franklin county. Cully worked as a lineman eleven years and in that time traveled 46,000 miles, or nearly twice the circumference of the earth.

Over at Connoquenessing, in Butler county, a man concluded to put an oil well down in his back yard. He did so, and today, as well as for ten days past, he has been reaping some twenty-five barrels an hour from it. As oil is worth \$1.58 a barrel, that back yard is an acre of diamonds to its owner.

Edward B. Morgan, aged 23 years, a farm hand working near Eldorado, Blair county, was found early Sunday morning partly submerged in a pool of water near his home, with his skull cracked and numerous bruises about the body. He died in the Altoona hospital Sunday night. He is believed to have been the victim of footpads.

The Homestead Business Men's association held a meeting one day last week and decided to cut out programme advertising and stick to the newspapers. It was shown that some merchants pay \$300 a year in programme advertising, which brings them no returns. An agreement will be drawn up and signed.

One day last week the largest hemlock log ever cut in Potter county was taken to the Austin mill. The log was forty feet in length, forty-six inches in diameter, and from the butt to the upper end it varied only two inches in diameter. It was cut on the Thomas Fee job on Lyman Run, and it is said will produce \$120 worth of timber.

Thomas and John Keenan, sons of Thomas J. Keenan, a well-known contractor, of Johnstown, formerly of Hollidaysburg, fell into the swollen Stony creek while playing on its banks Saturday evening and were drowned. The body of John Keenan was recovered, but that of the other child floated down the stream and was lost to sight.

Luke A. Byrne, who owns the old grist mill at Garmans Mills, received a verdict of \$3,365.83 in his suit at court last Friday against the Clearfield and Pennsylvania railroad companies. Mr. Byrne alleged that damage resulted to his mill race and dam when the defendant corporation ran its road near his place and deflected the course of a stream of water.

Robert Pugh, a Baltimore and Ohio railroad brakeman, Sunday evening shot Mrs. Charles Witt at her home on Bedford street, Johnstown, and sent a bullet crashing through his own brain. Mrs. Witt was wounded in three places but will recover. Pugh died instantly. The couple had been schoolmates, and Pugh, it is said, was engaged to Mrs. Witt at one time but was jilted. For some time Mrs. Witt has been parted from her husband.