

Isak Siliaga.

—Today is Good Friday. Can as much be said of you?

—Talking about grafters. The orchards are full of them these days.

—Who is going to keep politics a movin with this new "corrupt practices" act a movin up behind you all the time?

—The first thing JOE BAILEY knows he will talk himself into a nomination for President and, if he does, ROOSEVELT will have to support him.

—The new spring hat seems to be nothing more than the old "fried egg" with a few feathers on it—worn with a very decided tilt toward the nose.

—An autograph letter of Senator DEWE recently sold for eight cents. It looks bad to the public but it probably made CHAUNCEY feel like thirty.

—It is interesting to know that ROCKEFELLER "did not wear his wig" when he emerged from his three months seclusion at Lakewood on Monday.

—The scarcity of young men who are willing to learn good trades is a question that is going to give this country more than a little concern ere long.

—What you are reading these days about the way old Vesuvius is carrying on might be saved for future use in describing the meetings of the Bellefonte council.

—Naming an American battleship before Congress has appropriated money for its construction looks a good bit like buying the baby carriage before the stork arrives.

—The Easter eggs that will be given the baby Sunday morning will not have all the colors of the rainbow on them, but mamma's new hat will make up for all that are missing.

—The proposed retirement of RUSSELL A. ALGER from the United States Senate won't cause many tears to flow from the boys who ate the embalmed meat at Cuba and Puerto Rico.

—The British government owns more than twenty-five thousand camels. Should the American jingoes find this out they will be after Congress to get a hump on our Uncle SAMMY.

—Every one will be glad that MAXIM GORKY, the Russian patriot, has found an asylum in this country; that is, if it is his health he is here for and not to stir up the socialist propaganda.

—The coal situation is just where it was a week ago—between the devil and the deep blue sea—and neither the strikers nor the operators are willing to admit that they are the devil in the equation.

—DOWIE, self styled ELLIAH II, has announced that hereafter he is to be MOSES II. It is probable that when he gets through those bull-rushes that are growing for him in Zion City his real name will be DENNIS.

—In a Chicago church all the women of more than forty years of age have been asked to resign their membership in certain societies of church work. It is not surprising to learn that up to this time no resignations have been received.

—The Connellsville Courier says the Uniontown Tribune is giving away \$1.00 worth of garden seeds with each \$1.00 subscription to the paper. We rise to inquire whether the editor of the Tribune was ever in Congress, for it was all explained.

—If Judge JOHN STEWART leaves the Supreme court bench to run for Governor on the Republican ticket he will prove himself untrue to the confidence reposed in him when he was made the unanimous choice of Pennsylvania for the high office he now fills. He will not do it.

—If for no other reason the people of Delaware county ought to send the Hon. TOM COOPER back to the Legislature just to see what he will try to do to the Penny for taking up the pass he has enjoyed ever since he became a quantity in State politics and that was shortly after the ark landed.

—It is all right for ANDY CARNEGIE to let on that he didn't want those kisses that the Atlanta women bestowed on him on the occasion of his recent visit to that city, but his denial looks rather weak since he confesses he didn't "throw up his guard" until all the damage had been done.

—A Johnstown girl ate raw camphor to cure a cold with the result that it acted on certain nerves of her stomach in such a way as to start her laughing, and she nearly laughed herself to death before physicians could be summoned to counteract the effects of the camphor poison. It would be interesting to see camphor tried on a few of the old sour-balls around Bellefonte.

—The semi-official announcement that the Hon. WILLIAM ALLISON, of Spring Mills, is to be a candidate for Congress will make our friend Judge LOVE sit up and take notice. Mr. ALLISON has hosts of friends in the county and though he have never been able to reconcile ourselves to his political views, yet candor compels us to say that when representing this county in the General Assembly his actions were always guided by his own conception of the right and never by the crack of a boss' whip or the subtle snazion of graft.

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A Bad Quarter of an Hour

Senator DOLLIVER gave the railroad lobbyists of the Senate a real shock the other day. Senator DOLLIVER, whose term is about to expire, is anxious for re-election and though his heart is with the railroad interests, political exigencies require that he be with the President on the rate bill. For that reason he aspired to be the floor manager of the measure. His Republican colleagues had set their faces against that, however, and on motion of Mr. ALDRICH that honor was conferred on Senator TILLMAN, of South Carolina, not that he loved DOLLIVER less but because he hated ROOSEVELT more. The incident didn't contribute to DOLLIVER's amiability, however, and he has since been watching his chance.

There is a tradition that "everything comes to him who waits" and DOLLIVER's opportunity came to him the other day. The railroad Senators, as the corporation lobbyists are called, had been "chewing the rag," so to speak about the secret conferences between the President and Senators, favorable to his rate bill notions, for a couple of days, and finally DOLLIVER remarked that "he had as much right to hold conference with the President of the United States respecting used legislation as other Senators have to hold counsel with railroad presidents with a view to defeating that legislation." Then Senator BAILEY, who has nothing to fear, "wanted to know" and declared that if true the statement is a national scandal. TILLMAN, who is always free with news, added that he had seen President CASSATT go into a committee room which is inaccessible to most Senators, and with that information, according to a newspaper correspondent, "the subject was allowed to drop."

We have never had any sympathy with the habit which President ROOSEVELT has developed of hosing Congress. It is a subversion of the constitutional rights of a co-ordinate branch of the government and a menace to Republican institutions. But it is infinitely preferable to the exercise of the same power by railroad presidents who are under no obligations to the public and can have no purpose other than the selfish one of controlling legislation in the interests of the corporations. It is small wonder that Senator BAILEY protested. It is not surprising that the railroad Senators grow "red and angry."

But it is the people who should manifest such symptoms of righteous indignation.

An Uncertain Litigation.

A test case having been instituted in the Dauphin county court, it is probable that the Senatorial apportionment bill enacted during the special session of the Legislature will be declared invalid. Of its unconstitutionality there is no doubt. "No county shall be divided unless entitled to two or more Senators" is the exact language of the fundamental law. Yet Lancaster county is divided in the bill in question, a portion of it being attached to Lebanon county to form a district. The reason given for this palpable infraction of the constitution is that it was impossible to dispose of Lebanon county in any other way. The adjoining counties being Berks, Dauphin, Lancaster and Schuylkill, each, except Dauphin, containing a full ratio, it couldn't be added to either of the others, while containing less than half a ratio itself it couldn't be made a separate district. But it might have been attached to Dauphin county without injustice to the people or violence to the constitution.

For example, a Senatorial ratio, under the census of 1900, is 126,000 and a fraction. The population of Dauphin county is 114,443, more than four-fifths but less than a full ratio. Dauphin and Lebanon together have a population of 169,270, 42,000 more than a ratio but 25,561 less than Laekawanna county, which is made a district with one Senator and nearly 5,000 less than Schuylkill, which is similarly disposed of. Besides, Berks county has a greater population than Lancaster while it gets one Senator and a little more than half of Lancaster gets one.

As a matter of fact, both the Senatorial and Representative apportionments made by the Legislature in extra session are unconstitutional, unjust and partisan. They reveal in every line the iniquitous spirit which is expressed in ballot box stuffing, false registration and the corrupt count of the vote, which has given the Republican party most of its majorities in the last dozen years, and is responsible for the parody on manhood who is now masquerading as Governor of the Commonwealth.

—Queer, isn't it? Though the "no bottle" ruling is now in effect some stray bottles are still to be found on the streets and in doorways most every morning; and their appearance is very much like those strewn around before the first of April.

—The weather thus far has not been very favorable for garden making.

Gordon May Guess Again.

In an address delivered before the Independence club of Philadelphia, on the occasion of a dinner in honor of the memory of THOMAS JEFFERSON, the other evening, former Judge JAMES GAY GORDON declared that if he were asked "to name the typical real Democrats of the present day," he would "write first the name of THEODORE ROOSEVELT." The distinguished young jurist is not likely to find many Democrats who will agree with him in that matter. In fact, taking the text of his speech on the occasion as a standard of measurement, it will be found that he disagrees with himself most radically.

For example, Judge GORDON appropriately estimates the Declaration of Independence, written by JEFFERSON himself, as an expression of the basic principles of the party founded by JEFFERSON. The keynote of that immortal document, as Judge GORDON states, is the proposition that "all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. That to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed." In other words, according to JEFFERSON, governments have no power other than that which conserves the life, liberty and happiness of the citizen, and only that with "the consent of the governed."

Under that construction of the duties and powers of government how, in the name of Heaven, can Judge GORDON call ROOSEVELT either a foremost or hindmost Democrat. He is the assiduous and insistent advocate of centralization and paternalism in government. He aims to dominate everything from the foreign policies of Europe to the rules of sport in the public high schools, and he has no more regard for the consent of the governed than a coal bank mule has for the crop reports. He has consented to, and still encourages a war of extermination to enforce government upon an unwilling people.

Judge GORDON has another guess.

Aspect of the Rate Bill.

The consensus of opinion in Washington is that Senator BAILEY's proposition to so restrict the power of the courts in reviewing the rates fixed by the Interstate Commerce commission as to make the legislation on the subject effective, will be defeated. The railroad managers are a unit against the amendment and the railroad Senators are vehement in their opposition. It would be a palpable outrage, they say, to cast such an aspersion on the courts. Public confidence in the integrity of the courts, they add inferentially, must be maintained at any hazard, and the only guarantee of such a result is to all of them absolute freedom in their service to the railroads.

We are not in sympathy with the scheme of the President and the Socialists for government control of the railroads to the extent of fixing rates. That discrimination, whether in the form of rebates, terminal charges or private car service, ought to be prevented, is beyond question and there is no doubt of the right of Congress to legislate on the subject. But it is not necessary to usurp powers in order to achieve that result. Effective penal legislation will work the purpose. But if there is to be a rate bill enacted at all it should be of a character to accomplish the purpose for which it is designed and the BAILEY amendment to the pending bill is essential to its efficiency.

As a matter of fact, however, the deliberations of the Senate on the subject is degenerating into a broad farce. Senators BAILEY and RAYNER have shown the folly of legislation which can be held up indefinitely by the courts and the special pleas of the railroad Senators have simply served to confirm the opinions they expressed. But we have the President "bunting in" on one side and the railroad magnates on the other until the subject has become so confused as to be beyond understanding. It might as well be abandoned as once, if the Knox plan is to be carried out, for the legislation proposed by him would be absolutely worthless.

—While the law provides April 15th as the opening of the trout-fishing season it also prescribes a penalty for fishing on Sunday and as the 15th this year falls on that day all fishermen are aware of the fact that trout cannot be legally taken until the morning of the 16th, Monday morning next. At that time, however, there is no doubt but the usual large number of disciples of Isaak Walton will make their customary pilgrimages to their favorite streams. The outlook for the opening day as well as for the coming season is hard to predict. Some fishermen say that the trout will be very scarce while others aver that they have seen just as many in the streams this spring as in past seasons. The present high water, however, will likely cause the opening day catch to be quite small.

Don't be Too Certain.

We would caution "the rural public," as the Philadelphia newspapers usually characterize the people of the interior of the State, against placing too much confidence in the reform councils of that city. Both branches of the municipal Legislature were organized the other day on a reform basis, according to the estimate of those who believe that the extra session of the Legislature cured all the ills of the State. But we have since learned through the same medium, that the reform effected is of the spurious variety and that as a matter of fact, it simply turned out the servants of one firm of contractors and put in those of another.

The truth of the matter is that the reform that has been exploited so loudly, both in the city of Philadelphia and throughout the State, is a bogus sort assumed for the purpose of recovering lost power. We would not be understood as saying that there are no honest reformers among the Republicans who deserted the machine standard last fall. So far from it that we know that some, and a considerable number of them for that matter, are as sincere and unselfish as it is possible for men to be. But the pretense of the managers of the Republican machine that they have determined on a new course with respect to public affairs, is fraudulent and misleading.

The government of the city of Philadelphia and that of the State of Pennsylvania will never be greatly improved until the Republican party is voted out of power, or at least until all the grafters are relegated into private life or public prisons. It would be easier for a leopard to change his spots, and infinitely more likely, than for men who have reveled in graft for years to change their habits of life.

When Philadelphia councils are organized against all corrupt contractors there will be some hope, and when the legislative delegation is made up of patriotic citizens rather than banditti, that hope will be fulfilled.

Go On With the Inquiry.

Though the Governor vetoed the resolution of Representative CREASY, of Columbia county, providing for a legal inquiry into the relations of the railroads and coal mining companies of this State, and with both to the constitution, there is nothing to prevent the Attorney General from proceeding with the investigation. Article seventeen, section five, of the fundamental law declares specifically, as recited in the CREASY resolution, that "no incorporated company doing the business of a common carrier, shall, directly or indirectly, prosecute or engage in mining or manufacturing articles for transportation over its works."

Several of the railroads practically admit that they are violating this provision of the constitution but contend that they are exempt from any penalty, for the reason that the Legislature has neglected to enforce the provision by appropriate legislation as provided in section twelve of the same article. But section ten of Article seventeen provides that "no railroad, canal or other transportation company, in existence at the time of the adoption of this article, shall have the benefit of any future legislation by general or special laws, except on condition of the complete acceptance of all the provisions of this article."

Both the Pennsylvania and the Reading railroads have had the benefit of legislation, both general and special, since the adoption of the constitution and have therefore, inferentially accepted the provisions of the constitution and are amenable to its restrictive conditions. That being true, if the Attorney General finds upon inquiry that the provisions of Article seventeen, which forbids carrying corporations from engaging in mining articles "for transportation over its works," he may abrogate the charter or inflict any other penalty which seems to him just and proper. Therefore, the Attorney General ought to go on with the inquiry.

—It is a matter of considerable gratification to the many friends of Rev. Morris E. Swartz to note the continued advancement he is making in the ministry as well as in the Central Pennsylvania conference. His transfer from Panxutawney to Clearfield was a raise, but the fact that he was assigned to the pastorate of that new fifty thousand dollar church, which was dedicated but a short time ago, is evidence that he merited the appointment. An old Bellefonte boy, he carved out his own career, and is deserving of all the nice and congratulatory things that are being said about him now.

—Owing to the coal strike and inability to get a coal supply sufficient to run them the Scotia ore mines have been closed temporarily. It is to be hoped, however, the shut down will not be of long duration.

—The West Branch M. D's were in their element on Tuesday.

Is There to be Another War?

From the Harrisburg Independent. A surprising piece of information came from Manila on Saturday, to the effect that the United States battleship Wisconsin had sailed at midnight under rush orders to join the American fleet at Shanghai. The reason for this hurried departure for the Chinese port is left to the imagination of the reader, who has not heard of any disturbance in China that makes necessary the presence of any American warships.

So far as the public is aware nothing has occurred to disturb the friendly relations of the United States and China. There have been some minor disturbances, it is true, but persons on the ground who were in position to speak from knowledge of the facts, have said again and again that those disturbances were not anti-American in their character. Nothing to the contrary has reached the public through any source. If American prestige is to be maintained at Shanghai, certainly it will not cost more to keep an idle battleship there than anywhere else. But if the Chinese government demands an explanation of the presence in Chinese waters of a formidable American squadron, what answer will the Americans make? How can the rush order to the Wisconsin be accounted for? What will the battleship do in Chinese waters?

Of course it is a matter of common knowledge that Washington is war crazy, that it sees a war behind every tree stump and arm and navy in every bush, and that it wants to make itself feel safe by pouring the public money into the pockets of favored contractors. But even that does not throw any light on the mission of the Wisconsin. What is doing in China, or at least in the Navy Department of the United States?

When "Jags" Must be Plentiful.

From the Scottsdale Independent.

It is said that climate has a good deal to do with drunkenness. We are told that a raw, dull climate predisposes to drink. Thus the northern counties of England are more drunken than the southern, Scotland is more drunken than England, and the west coast of Scotland is more drunken than the east. The vigorous, predominant races of Europe, if not of the world, seem to have been always given to strong drink. While reading on the subject of the drinking customs of England the writer was astonished to find the past ten years England has spent on drink \$875,000,000. Its average annual expenditure on drink amounts, therefore, to a sum that is more than the entire annual revenue, that is equal to all the rents of all the houses and arms in the kingdom, and that is only a little less than the cost of the South-African war. Nearly five-eighths of this goes in beer, about a third in spirits, and one-thirteenth in wine. The expenditure per head, on the basis of the whole population works out a little over \$21 per annum; but it is reckoned that there are in the United Kingdom nearly 3,000,000 abstainers and about 14,000,000 children under the age of fifteen. Deducting these, the number of actual consumers is estimated at 24,000,000, whose annual expenditure per head thus comes out \$33. It is also calculated that the English working-class family spends almost one-sixth of its income on liquor. No wonder there is so much poverty and suffering in the mother country, and the trouble is there seems to be no means of changing these conditions.

The South in the Senate.

From the Springfield Republican.

It is a great mistake to assume that the whole south has taken up with men of the Arkansas "Jeff" Davis type for its United States Senators, and that this indicates a general public sentiment in that region regarding fitness for high public station. The same period which has placed Tillman, and now apparently Davis, in the Senate has also placed there such brilliant men as Bailey, Culbertson and Carmack, all young men of the ablest sort. The north has sent no one to Washington in recent years better qualified intellectually and oratorically for Senatorial service than the three Senators named from Texas and Tennessee. Mr. Bailey and Mr. Culbertson make Texas one of the most strongly represented States in the Union. "Jeff" Davis, too, while of the type of Tillman in his early phase, may develop in Washington much of the same power that the South Carolinian now exhibits. Governor Davis is certainly not effeminate in his character, whatever else may be said of him. As a whole, the south's representation in the Senate has not lost in vigor, force and intellectual power during the past fifteen years.

Beginning to Show What They Were Created For.

From the Johnstown Democrat.

The real purpose of Pennypacker's Cossocks is becoming very plain just now and perhaps some of those labor organizations which turned down the suggestion that this new military force was created for some other purpose than that of protecting labor's interests are beginning to open their eyes. The latest move of the Cossocks has been to enter the homes of miners at Yatesville and to search the premises for firearms. That this is a wholly illegal and unconstitutional proceeding does not seem to affect the sensibility of the Cossocks. Nor did it affect the sensibilities of Bell's militiamen in Colorado two years ago. The shooting of ex-Congressman Butler, who resented this invasion of his home by the militia and refused to surrender his constitutional right to bear arms, is still fresh in the public mind. The Colorado experience with a relentless military despotism may not be so far away from us here in Pennsylvania as some people imagine. To all appearances the State constabulary is learning fast. Maybe labor will learn too.

Wouldn't It Fix Us Nicely?

From the Connellsville Daily News.

The department of agriculture announces that it has succeeded in growing the puckerless persimmon. Now if it gives us an odorless onion, melleless ice, and a frost-proof peach we will be satisfied.

Spawls from the Keystone.

—After being dry for thirty years a license has been granted in Williamsburg.

—Not a dollar has been spent on repairs to the main street at Athens since it was paved 10 years ago.

—Bedelia David, an Arabian girl, 15 years old, was killed by a Pennsylvania railroad train at Latrobe, Pa.

—Forty-three building permits issued in Harrisburg in March represented building operations of \$285,725.

—The Knox Inn, one of the best-known hotels of New Castle, Pa., closed its doors because it was refused a license.

—Seventy saloonkeepers of Schuylkill county were arrested last Sunday for violation of the license law by selling liquor on Sunday.

—Rev. Alexander M. Rich, of Baltimore, has accepted the rectorship of Trinity Episcopal church of Tyrone and took charge last Sunday.

—The city of Williamsport is rigidly enforcing the cigarette law, and it is claimed that the cigarette smoking habit has been cut down 30 per cent.

—While building a cofferdam in the Susquehanna river at McCall's Ferry, for the McCall's Ferry Power company, three men were drowned on Saturday.

—A large leather wallet in the hip pocket of Robert Bingham, of Chambersburg, saved him from a bite from a vicious dog, which made an attack upon him on the street. The pocketbook shows deep imprints of the animal's teeth.

—Five dozen quail, supplied by the State game commissioner, were liberated on Monday in the woods near Shamokin. They were in fine healthy condition and good results are expected of them in the way of propagation.

—Senator J. Henry Cochran, of Williamsport, has authorized the announcement of his candidacy for State Senator in the twenty-fourth district. Mr. Cochran has already served three terms in the Senate, having been first elected in 1894.

—John W. Kephart, a Cambria county attorney, has secured options on eight farms in Juniata township, Huntingdon county, for the ostensible purpose of starting a game preserve, though it is the general belief that this is not the real object.

—Huntingdon borough receives interest from local banks for every dollar of funds it has on deposit. The county has also made the same arrangement, and its revenues will be the gainer to the sum of \$350 on the interest account for this year.

—The Cambria Steel company at Johnstown advanced the wages of the men employed in its rolling mill mine beginning with April 1st. The miners will receive 59 cents per net ton. The wages of other laborers will be increased proportionately.

—Among the new court rules which have gone into effect in Luzerne county is one providing that a deposit of \$50 must be made with the prothonotary by any person who wishes to sue for divorce. The institution of proceedings is conditioned upon this payment.

—The Quemaoning Coal company has purchased 300 acres of coal land from Jere Berkey, of near Stoyestown, the consideration being in the neighborhood of \$12,000. Several other farmers in that vicinity have sold their lands to the same company. Early development of the field is looked for.

—A. G. Graham, of Clearfield, is probably the heaviest timber dealer of the present winter. He made fifty-three timber rafts and succeeded in getting 41 of them to the river, some of them being hauled a distance of 6 miles. The timber was cut on what is known as the Goodyear lands and is said to be of the quality of "ye olden time."

—David Braden Pore, chief of police of Mount Pleasant, who was shot Thursday night by Andrew Lindsay, died Sunday morning in the Memorial hospital, Mount Pleasant. The commissioners of Westmoreland county have offered a reward of \$250 for Lindsay's arrest, making a total of \$500, the council of Mount Pleasant having offered a similar amount.

—Former Congressman A. C. Hopkins, of Lock Haven, has placed his favorite driving team on the retired list, one being 27 years old and the other 28. They will spend their declining years in pastures on the Hopkins farm in Woodward township, never again to feel the harness. Mr. Hopkins owned the team 22 years, and the horses are as lively and frisky as 2-year-olds.

—The sixteenth annual tournament of the Pennsylvania State Sportsmen's association, which will be held this year at Milton under the auspices of the Milton Rod and Gun club May 15th, 16th, 17th and 18th, promises to eclipse anything in the shooting line that has ever been held in Pennsylvania. The program will be out early in April and will contain many items of historical interest to every shooter of the State.

—Samuel Nogel, aged about 30 years, employed at the saw mill of Kulp & Co., at Lewisburg, was fatally injured Thursday morning just before noon. He was attempting to replace a swift running belt, which had slipped from the wheel, when the stick used to lift the belt caught in the wheel and broke. One end was thrust into his body, just above the heart, inflicting an injury from which he died five minutes later.

—The American Gas company has secured control of the Kittanning Consolidated company, an auxiliary of the Standard Oil company. The property consists of over 30,000 acres of gas territory, 100 producing wells, and pipe lines running to Kittanning, Manorville and Ford City. The consideration is said to approximate \$1,000,000. The same company absorbed the Manufacturers Gas company a few days ago, paying \$55,000.

—Mike Shanley, owner of a sugar grove of 4,000 trees in Jefferson county, says that he can now with his new "pocket" sugar pan, he can beat anything in that section of the county boiling sugar. He has 2,100 keelers out, and from these he gathered the other day 100 barrels of sugar water, and he boiled the entire amount in less than 10 hours. Mr. Shanley says the runs of the first part of the week were the best of the season, and he thinks the crop this year will be well up to the average if it does not exceed it.