

Ink Slings.

—My, wouldn't a little rain help. —All roads appear to lead Senator BURTON to prison. —The poor Pennys is having troubles of its own these days.

—The Russian Douma is about all that is being done in the new Russian movement for popular government.

—Pittsburg has had more Knights this week than any other week of her existence, and most of the nights were turned into day.

—In New York when a fair passenger alights from the train she is greeted by the caddy with hansom, lady, while in Philadelphia it is P. and R. cab.

—By the way! What has become of ALICE and NICK? Has any one heard of them lately? Their looks like the old case of the rooket and the stick.

—The town of Fairbanks, Alaska, has been destroyed by fire. How strange! It seems to us that the name, alone, ought to have kept the place too cool to burn.

—As between the Prohibition and Democratic parties making a State ticket, the action of the former at Harrisburg yesterday seems to be a case of the tail wagging the dog.

—One year's work on the Panama canal is to cost us twenty-six million dollars. That isn't so much, but then the estimates don't say how many years it will be before the ditch is dug.

—About the time we have another exposition of any pretense some enterprising manager will capture the Russian Douma, in toto, and have it on the Pike doing legislative stunts at 25 cts. a throw.

—Judging from the number of men who are going after the nomination there are evidently some Republicans in Pennsylvania who still cling to the idea that they have a chance to elect the next Governor of the State.

—Whatever of scandal, trickery or backtracking the rate-bill controversy attaches to men high up in our government it must be said to the credit of the Senator from South Carolina that he is absolutely without taint.

—The value of printers ink is sworn to in RICHARD PEARSON HOBSON'S certification of the expenses he incurred in defeating BANKHEAD in the Sixth Missouri district. He spent \$1723 for printed matter and it landed him.

—Mr. BREMAN, of chewing gum fame, and a millionaire many times over, is trying to have his pension increased to \$12 per month. This is a hopeful sign. It looks as though the slattern habit of chewing gum is abating in the land.

—If BERRY and CREASY accept the nominations of the Prohibitionists for Governor and Auditor General respectively there will be little left for the Democratic State convention to do in June, because we will be practically compelled to endorse them.

—All that the WATCHMAN has said in the past concerning a deal between the Republican national committee and the Mormon church of Utah seems to have confirmation in the announcement made in Washington, on Tuesday, to the effect that the President is opposed to having Mormon REEF SMOOT put out of the United States Senate.

—"Old JIM MAURER," unfit as he proclaimed himself to be before the Socialist convention that named him for Governor of Pennsylvania, was a grand example to other self seeking incompetents. Had PENNYPACKER had the honesty to make such a declaration four years ago Pennsylvania would not have a blot on her escutcheon that time will never wear off.

—Unlike JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER or his fellow plunderer RODGERS the Pennsylvania railroad officials are telling about all they know. It is probable that the exhibition of memory they are giving by their testimony on the stand is only part of a great advertising scheme for the Pennsy. Any system should be well run that is manned by men of such active brains.

—A great many people said unkind things about IDA TARBELL and TOM LAWSON when they started writing magazine articles, but to those two persons, more than to any other known agency, belongs the public gratitude for having uncovered the graft in the insurance, rail-road and government circles that has so astounded the country during the past few months.

—The Hon. HARRY ALVAN HALL, of Ridgway, is being talked of as a probable successor to the late Hon. C. A. MAYER as president judge of the Twenty-fifth Pennsylvania district. Should he decide to accept a nomination the people of Clinton, Elk and Cameron counties will be burbling for two HALL'S, for in all probability Hon. J. K. P. HALL will be a candidate to succeed himself in the State Senate.

—San Francisco, like every other city that has been in distress and had to call for public aid, is coming to the fore with scandals already. Automobiles used the first ten days after the disaster cost \$157,599 and there were only one hundred and twenty-nine of the machines in service. It is deplorable that such things do occur for the public belief that they probably will have a decidedly deterrent effect in contributions in times of such disasters.

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Candid But Not Too Easy. Senators BAILEY and TILMAN are candid men, we may easily believe, but that they are not "easy marks," we must infer from recent incidents in Washington.

When the President invited them to cooperate in an enterprise in which he had no legitimate concern, they carefully measured the probabilities and possibilities of the alliance. The President has neither legal nor moral right to participate in legislation, they reasoned, and his "butting in" is a dangerous precedent.

In other words, as a result of the wise caution they revealed in the beginning the falsehood has been fastened on the White House under circumstances which preclude relief from the obliging LOEB.

Secretary Taft's Wise Purpose. We can easily understand why Secretary TAFT is determined to buy supplies for the Panama canal in foreign markets but it is not so easy to reconcile his purpose in that particular with his silent acquiescence in the robbery of the public through tariff taxation.

The Secretary is not only wise but just in his determination but he shouldn't put all the blame for the difference in cost on the American builders of suction dredges.

But as indicated above we can't quite see why Secretary TAFT imagines that it is wrong to saddle such an additional charge on the government and right to put it on the citizen. If any of us here should happen to want a couple of suction, sea-going dredges we would have no great choice in the markets in which to purchase.

—Acting on the WATCHMAN'S suggestion last week the Street committee put men to work on Monday morning to repair the High street bridge over Spring creek.

Chandler Resents an Asperation. Former Senator CHANDLER, of New Hampshire, declares that he will never again represent President ROOSEVELT in political or parliamentary negotiations.

Obviously the President didn't know CHANDLER when he attempted to use him as a stalking-horse. He is willing enough if approached in the right way and not over particular as to methods.

It is intimated that Mr. CHANDLER is likely to lose his job because of his contumacy, but that danger doesn't appall him.

Representatives Creasy and Garner. Representative GARNER, of Schuylkill county, declared to a group of his constituents, the other day, that he had literally "sold himself, body and soul," to the atrocious QUAY machine during his service of three terms in the Legislature.

One of the greatest evils of present public life is commercialism in legislation. It used to be called "log rolling" and was abhorred to every moral sense even when it involved no greater wrong than voting for one man's fairly meritorious measure in exchange for his vote for yours.

Contrast his record as expressed by himself with that of Representative CREASY, of Columbia county, and ponder the lesson it presents. Mr. CREASY had cherished measures of legislation in the interest of his constituents and he labored earnestly and assiduously for their advancement.

—Though Spring creek contains some very big trout in its waters it does not boast of such monsters as the thirty-seven inch seven and a half pounder alleged to have been caught near here in a story going the rounds of the press of the State.

Tawney's Note of Warning. Representative TAWNEY, of Minnesota, who is chairman of the House Committee on Appropriations, is considerably alarmed on account of the enormous expenses of the navy.

We believe in a substantial navy. That is to say, we believe in a navy of sufficient strength to meet the commercial requirements of the government and of the highest efficiency.

The \$10,000,000 battleship which Congress has authorized is, therefore, an expensive and menacing vanity.

We learn with more or less surprise that some prominent Democrats and a few newspapers of that political faith, are protesting against fusion with the LINCOLN Republicans and other elements in the political life of the Commonwealth.

The aim of the Democratic party, as we understand it, is not to harvest the spoils of the office. It stands essentially for the conservation of the interests of the people.

—The Prohibition party at its State convention in Harrisburg on Wednesday, nominated WILLIAM H. BERRY for Governor and HOMER L. CASTLE for Lieutenant Governor.

—During the past week fire has been raging on Muncy mountain between this place and Curtin's gap as well as on the north side of the Bald Eagle valley in the foothills of the Alleghenies.

And There Are Others. From the Pittsburg Gazette-Times. When Andrew Jackson was President a political leader called at the White House one day to urge the appointment of a certain candidate to an important official position.

The story runs that that candidate did not get the appointment, the office was not abolished and the country still survived. The opinion which his indorser held of him is that of a good many men concerning themselves.

From the Reading Telegraph. The secretary of the Democratic Congressional Committee, Charles A. Edwards, in a Washington letter, makes an astonishing explanation of the sudden switching about of President Roosevelt on the railway rate bill.

It is nothing less than the charge that John D. Arobbold and H. H. Rogers, of the Standard Oil company, made a secret visit to the White House at night, closed themselves with the President and told him, at the last, that if he did not immediately break with the Democrats and accept the broad court review feature for which the corporation Senators were then contending, they would "open up on him and tell the whole story to the country."

Some weeks ago President Roosevelt made a speech in which he discussed somewhat the proposition that the people ought to control the vast fortunes of the country in such a way as to prevent those vast fortunes from controlling them.

From the Harrisburg Star-Independent. The House of Representatives at Washington last week passed the Naval Appropriation bill which carries \$99,764,000. This is almost double the entire average annual cost of administering the Government before the Civil war, although at that time the United States was second only to Great Britain as a naval power.

From the Easton Sentinel. The declination of Judge Stewart to be a candidate for Governor seems to suit Mayor Weaver, of Philadelphia, who has been itching to run as a reform candidate for some time.

Spawis from the Keystone. —Cows are bringing good prices in Chester county, a car load having recently sold at Kennett Square at an average of \$49 a head.

—The Survivors' association of the Third division, Ninth corps, Army of the Potomac, held its annual reunion at Harrisburg yesterday.

—Charles Habberly, a well known business man of Lloydsville, a suburb of Latrobe, was attacked by highwaymen, who took his watch and over \$50.

—Twelve girls dressed in white were the bearers at the funeral of Mrs. Frank Epler, of Mohnsville, Berks county, who was buried in her cream satin bridal dress.

—The will of the Rev. Charles Wood, late of York, gives his fine library for public use and provides for the establishment of a day nursery and children's hospital.

—Colonel James E. Barnett, of Washington, ex-State Treasurer, is in a Philadelphia hospital, where he has just undergone an operation for a disease of the throat.

—A Pennsburg, Montgomery county, fisherman, has just captured the four largest catfish out of the Perkiomen this season. They measured from 13 to 14 inches each.

—Lewistown has made a contract with a water company for the rental of water for fire hydrants at the rate of \$6 a year for each hydrant, superseding a contract made in 1852.

—No body can now be disinterred from any cemetery in Pennsylvania until after October 15th. The law put a limit upon the work for sanitary reasons. The season in which bodies may be exhumed is Oct. 15th to April 15th.

—The imprint of a hand from which two fingers are missing is expected to aid in the arrest of the murderer of Mrs. John Morrison, of Cumbola, Schuylkill county. The imprint was left on the window of a saloon near Cumbola.

—Fire destroyed the home of William Yodis at Glen Lyon on Saturday night and two little daughters, Anna aged 5, and Colla aged 2, were burned to death.

—Fire in a portable mill located about four miles above Salladasburg Sunday afternoon destroyed the mill, the property of William Engel, formerly belonging to Messrs. John and O. W. Good, of Williamsport, besides a quantity of piled lumber estimated at between 300,000 and 400,000 feet, the latter owned by John Coleman, of Williamsport.

—Between 9 and 10 o'clock Saturday night the plant of the Burley Heating company, situated along the Pennsylvania railroad just west of Tyrone, was totally destroyed by fire of incendiary origin.

—It is estimated that more than \$500, representing the savings of fifteen Bohemian quarrymen employed at the quarries of the Derry Sand company, back of Derry, was burned up Tuesday afternoon when the boarding house in which they made their homes, and in which they had placed their money for safe keeping, was destroyed by fire.

—Because of some business differences with the board of trustees of the school, Andrew Thomas Smith, principal of the State Normal school at Mansfield, has resigned, the same to become effective at the close of this term of school. There are 800 students in the school. Dr. Smith has been principal seven years. There is a salary of \$2,500 a year to the principalship.

—Patton is to have another Roman Catholic church. The Slavish residents of the town of that denomination have secured possession of the old St. Mary's Catholic church, which was used by that congregation prior to the erection of the present handsome structure, and will soon have a priest of their own who will minister to them in the language of the fatherland.

—The Orbisonia artificial stone company has been organized to manufacture building and paving brick, sewer pipe, fence posts, and other articles under the patent recently issued to utilize furnace slag for such purposes. Out of the slag it is proposed to manufacture brick, building blocks and other articles after the manner of concrete blocks, but more of the nature of artificial stone.

—The Venango county Republican candidates are beginning to file their expense bills, as required by the new law. General John A. Wiley, who was given Venango's endorsement for Congress, paid out \$150, of which sum the newspapers received \$96.65. One defeated candidate for District Attorney is out \$172.33 and another \$267.50. The last named aspirant paid \$121.50 for "workers."

—As a result of a peculiar accident Harry Gilbert, aged 35 years, lies in a critical condition at his home in Somerset. Gilbert was standing on a limb of an apple tree he was pruning Friday evening when he lost his footing and was precipitated to the ground below. In falling he alighted among some lilac bushes and a branch of the shrub passed through his clothing and penetrated his abdomen to the depth of eleven inches.

—The spring meeting of the Pennsylvania State Board of Agriculture and Farmers' Annual Normal Institute will be held in the Dimeling hotel auditorium and court house, Clearfield, May 29th-31st. An interesting program has been arranged and discussion of important subjects will result in valuable information being imparted to farmers as well as others. A number of prominent speakers will be present and take part in the various sessions.

—When John Devinney, an old farmer of Buttermilk hollow, near Duquesne, decided that he would end his life Thursday he took a stout piece of rope, went to the stable, placed his arm lovingly around the neck of Old Bill, a horse he has owned for 16 years, and bade him an affectionate farewell. Then he went around behind the stall and knotted the rope about his neck. He turned to fasten the other end around a rafter and had a soap box ready to jump off. Old Bill turned as he was throwing the rope around the rafter. He scented trouble. With one good, generous kick he landed his hoof on the seat of Devinney's trousers with such force that the old man was knocked through the weatherboarding of the stable. He was badly hurt, but will recover.