

Ink Slings.

A terrible plague is said to be smiting the turkeys of the land. It is probably humbuggeritis.

The snow in the mountains during the first two days of the hunting season was disastrous to the deer.

Bellefonte youth have the roller skating craze good and proper. They have it standing up but they have it worse sitting down.

Its a poor day for the legal profession in that they can't convict a trust of something. The Sugar trust has been convicted of rebating.

If they succeed in dissolving the Standard oil trust poor old JOHN D. will get a rest that he can't possibly have as long as it is in operation.

PEARY is trying to get back from his trip in search of the pole. Of course he is not bringing the pole with him because it hasn't been located yet.

The President has promised citizenship to the people of Puerto Rico. Well and good if they have a full knowledge of what citizenship means.

The change in the weather yesterday morning was very timely. The unusually warm period we had had for a week was the direct cause of much sickness.

It is beginning to look as if Allegheny will have to marry Pittsburg whether she wants to or not. The pre-nuptial scrimmage was ended by the courts on Tuesday.

The cost of living has increased from eighteen to thirty-nine per cent. within the past year. No where have we heard of wages being increased more than ten per cent.

Is DURHAM is home again. He couldn't stay away from his dear old State any longer after the pressing invitation that was sent him to come back on November 6th.

Next week the football season will end and many a gridiron hero will discover for the first time this fall that it was "book larnin'" he was sent to College to get acquainted with.

RICHARD CROKER's belief that HEARST's defeat in New York was a providential occurrence must be founded on the personal experience RICHARD had himself in New York some years ago.

Bellefonte councils are debating over a new street lighting contract. That these debates have been profitable to the borough is shown by the gradual shading of the price per arc light per year from 105 down to \$66.

So Mrs. SAGE's millions are to go to the poor who are "too proud to ask for assistance." Of course our pride precludes our speaking for ourselves, so won't some kind friend please drop the old lady a line concerning us.

Maritime statistics reveal the fact that three and one-half million people are always at sea. Official statistics showed that in Pennsylvania, alone on the evening of November 5th, there were six million and more people at sea.

President ROOSEVELT has had a look at the "big ditch" and is so tickled with it that he would like to have one of his boys at work on it. TEDDY is probably thinking that a job there would keep the boy at work until old age overtakes him.

Signor CARUSO the grand opera singer who has been arrested for annoying women in the monkey house in Central Park, New York, displayed a fine sense of the eternal fitness of things when he selected such a place for his monkey-business.

Criticism of the local authorities in the matter of recent murder cases in Centre county should be withheld until the county has had time to show its hand. There can be no doubt of well planned efforts to apprehend the culprits but they would certainly fail of their purpose if they were made public and that is probably the very reason that the average citizen thinks there is nothing being done.

It is easy for a great corporation to raise the wages of its employees voluntarily because it has the advantage of raising its charges voluntarily. The Pennsylvania railroad company increased the wages of its men ten per cent and now announces that it will advance the freight rates a like amount. Of course the shippers are the people who are making the advance and not the railroad company.

There is considerable discussion about the wisdom of the President's order discharging from the army companies of colored troops that participated in the murder outrages at Brownsville, Texas. Because the soldiers would not reveal the identity of the guilty the President summarily ordered the dismissal of all. With but a superficial knowledge of the facts we commend the action of the President. A soldier, whether white or black, is a peace officer, not a marauding murderer or one whom a false sense of honor prompts to protect and conceal those who do not have a proper conception of a soldier's duty and character. When a man wears the uniform of the United States government his conduct at all times should be such as to make the private citizen feel that in him there is a friend and a protector and not one to be feared. The President would have dismissed these companies just as promptly had they been white soldiers. Their color had nothing to do with it and all this effort to create sentiment on the ground that they were colored men without a pull or friends is the veriest tommy-rot.

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Standard Oil Litigation.

We would not build expectancy too high in reference to the Standard Oil litigation. The proceedings were inaugurated, all right, the other day, and Attorney General MOODY promptly took the public, including the defendant, into his confidence and revealed all his plans. He showed, moreover, that he has plenty of evidence to support his accusations and that if Mr. ROCKEFELLER and those of his associates against whom the proceedings are directed, are wise men, they will head for the tall timber. They are far from secure in their persons, property and liberty if MOODY carries out his program.

But we have been so frequently disappointed in snob things that it is utterly impossible to work up anything like enthusiasm in respect to them. We recall the coal trust prosecution, for example. In that case Attorney General KNOX had made great preparations not only for trial but conviction. But just at the psychological moment Senator QUAY died, President CASSATT appointed KNOX to fill the vacancy and the prosecution of the coal trust was off forever, and a day. KNOX knew this as perfectly well as did ROOSEVELT and everybody else and he was disposed to decline the appointment. ROOSEVELT wouldn't tolerate such devotion to duty and literally pushed KNOX out of the cabinet and into the Senate.

Attorney General MOODY has worked hard and assiduously in preparing a case against the Standard Oil company, and being an able man we have no doubt that he has an excellent chance of achieving his purpose, just as KNOX would have put an end to the coal trust if he had remained in the cabinet a few weeks longer. But the trouble is that MOODY will be withdrawn from the Standard Oil case just as KNOX was withdrawn from the coal trust prosecution and with precisely the same result. When MOODY goes out there will be no one remaining in who knows anything about the case and it will collapse just as the proceedings against the coal trust case when KNOX was taken out of it. It could hardly have been otherwise. A lawyer must know his case.

Of course we have no idea of blaming (?) the President for the failure which seems inevitable any more than we would blame him for the failure to prosecute the coal trust after KNOX was taken out. It is true that KNOX would not have gone out if the President hadn't urged him to that course. In the pending case he is taking the only lawyer who knows the case out of it, but he can hardly help that. It was necessary to fill the vacancy on the Supreme court bench and MOODY is the only man, of course, (?) between the oceans who measures up to the high judicial standard.

Therefore there is no alternative. He must be appointed no matter what else happens.

Plenty to be Thankful For.

There are a good many things to be thankful for this year even though the result of the election was disappointing to some of us. There is the retirement of General CHARLES H. GROSVENOR to private life after twenty years in Congress. Grosvenor is one of those men who feel proud of their immorality. Like Speaker Cannon he delights in political spoils. He has no time for civil service or other kind of reform and ridicules anything which makes for an improvement in political morals. His obscurity is, therefore, a public benefaction.

There is reason for thankfulness, moreover, in the probability of the early retirement from public life of SENATOR PLATT, of NEW YORK. For years he has been in Congress the agent of the express companies and retarding the passage of wholesome legislation in the interest of the people. It was he who prevented the passage of the parcel post measure in several Congresses, thus compelling the people to pay tribute to the express monopolies. He will soon be cast upon the political scrap heap to remain there as long as his body cumber the earth.

Last but not least, we will soon be rid of that most intolerable of all public nuisances, SAMUEL W. PENNYPACKER, who having been catapulted into a conspicuous place by the late Senator QUAY has been a source of shame to the people of the State ever since. His term of office is rapidly drawing to a close and his administration will soon be nothing but a bad dream. The people of Pennsylvania may well rejoice in these facts and in congratulating our neighbors of Ohio and New York on their deliverance from GROSVENOR and PLATT we can felicitate ourselves on the passing of PENNYPACKER.

Regarding Next Spring's Primaries.

Regarding the holding of the primaries the latter part of January for the February election the Centre county commissioners have decided that they shall be held under the old law, just as they have been the past four or five years. The new primary election law contains the proviso that the above can be done in the event that the

proper preparations for holding the primaries under the new law cannot be made, and the county commissioners have decided to take advantage of that proviso, so the voters of Centre county will make their nominations for the February election on the last Saturday in January as usual. In addition to the above the Attorney General has not yet passed on the constitutionality of the new act, an opinion that should be had before the act is regarded as the law.

Who is Responsible?

Possibly it would be well for that class of people who are trying to place the blame for the result of the late election upon this man or that to look at results about his own home, and ascertain who is responsible for these, before making up his mind definitely as to the political delinquents so greatly meeting the censure of the public. Whatever reasons there may be for the failure of the reform forces, they cannot be laid at the door of any individual, nor of any particular section of the State. Since the returns are all in, and a comparison of the vote of 1906 can be made with that cast for Mr. BERRY in 1905, it is plain to any one that the failure to elect Mr. BERRY, and the balance of the fusion ticket, is attributable to that class of Democrats and Reformers who valued a days work more than they did the right of franchise, and who deliberately, we may say criminally, remained away from the polls, and allowed the old Machine and their gang of thieves at its back, to score a victory.

And this class of people you will find in every section of the State. Of the sixty-seven counties of this Commonwealth not a half dozen of them shows up with a full vote, and in fully one-half of them the vote is from ten to twenty per cent. short, in both city and country districts.

Why this is so is the matter for political critics and chronic complainers to determine before placing the responsibility upon any one. Here in our own county there was a falling off in the Democratic vote of over 800, and no one who knows anything of conditions with us would think of attributing this result to either treachery on the part of leaders, or factional influences, such as are suggested by those who would hold others responsible for their own shortcomings.

Charges and counter charges, crimination and re-crimination, now that it is over, will do no good and the man who puts in his time trying to discredit the efforts of others, who possibly did their duty, could much better employ his spare moments seeing his Democratic neighbor, who failed to cast his ballot, and ascertain what is the matter with him. He is the fellow that brought about our defeat. He is the one that the Machine can now thank for its new lease of life. He is the one above all others, responsible for the seeming endorsement of the most gigantic theft that ever disgraced any State, and to whose door can be laid the covering up of the robbery committed by the party in power in the erection of the State's New Capitol building. He is the fellow to go after.

It Will be Spartan Reform.

That some of the reforms promised in the Republican platform will be fulfilled is quite probable but too much cannot be taken for granted even at that. In other words it is more than likely that the reform legislation which will be enacted during the coming session will be of the dubious variety, such as that enacted during the special session held at the beginning of the present year. The Republican machine is not willing to relinquish all its opportunities for graft and though it will of necessity make a pretense of meeting the public demand for improvement, in so far as possible the pretense will be falsified by the facts.

Before the election, for example, it was universally believed that passenger rates on railroads would be limited to two cents a mile by law. Upon that point the Republican platform is positive. But since the election a report has become current that the Pennsylvania railroad will resist such a measure or at least put upon it conditions which will to some extent qualify its efficiency. The railroad wants a loop-hole and it may be safely predicted that it will get what it wants. The money dumped into the campaign fund four or five days before the election was not exactly in the shape of gratuity. It was more in the form of an investment.

The rate bill is not the only reform measure that will contain a joker, either. The Republican machine has recovered from the panic into which it was thrown by the election of State Treasurer BERRY a year ago, and before the Legislative session is half over it will be doing business at the old stand and in the old way. There will be no establishment like the BOAS mansion, probably. That feeble imitation of the "House of Mirth" at Albany was an idea of DURHAM's and didn't fulfill expectations. But the machine managers will be in Harrisburg and they will direct the work of the Legislature quite as effectively as ever before.

Grafting Growing Bold.

The capitol grafters are growing bold in their confidence of immunity. PAYNE & Co., for example, replying to the questions of the Attorney General intimates pretty strongly that it's nobody's business but their own while HUSTON, the architect, declares that there was no extravagance in the furnishing but simply "richness of design." The question to which the contractor objects relates to sub-contractors and the amount paid to sub-contractors. He positively declines to answer and admitting that he was paid for some of the work performed by Congressman CASSELL's Penn Construction company declares that he retained the money because he had lost on some similar feature of the work.

Of course there is a reason for this retarding confidence and it may easily be conjectured. The Auditor General who will pass finally on these accounts is ROBERT K. YOUNG, who was solicitor for the Capitol Building Commission, permitted their regularities even if he didn't participate in the profits. It will be an easy matter for Mr. YOUNG to quiet gossip on the subject of graft by declaring that the accounts are all satisfactory and even if PAYNE & Co., and CASSELL's construction company were paid for the same pieces of furniture or the same work the Auditor General's "O. K." will settle the question finally and forever. There is no appeal from his settlement and it will not jeopardize his liberty.

As a matter of fact the people of Pennsylvania not only deserved to be robbed but to be insulted afterward. In the face of the most overwhelming proof of graft they have not only restored the grafters to power but have entrenched them by electing one of those responsible for the graft to audit the accounts. That is the most absurd thing of all and it is small wonder that the contractors are growing bold. They are secure in the possession of the graft and the Attorney General will be properly disciplined if he fires too many embarrassing questions at them. The State belongs to the saints and they are the saints. The people have voted them into power and opportunity for graft.

A Little Premature.

The WATCHMAN is always glad to give full credit for any and every good act of those who represent the public service, but it don't believe in going "off half-cock" as every promise that is given or every profession that is made. For this reason, and unlike many of its contemporaries, it prefers to wait and see just how much in earnest Attorney General CARSON is in uncovering the thievery that characterized the building of the new State Capitol before it plasters him over with commendations for doing that which is but his plain duty to do, and which up until after the election he hesitated and refused to undertake.

Mr. CARSON may be in dead earnest now, but writing a few letters to the fellows who he suspects, or would have the public suspect, of being the guilty ones don't prove it by a long shot.

Until he goes after the officials whom the State entrusted to oversee and have charge of the job, the men who were its agents, representatives and trustees in this matter, we can have no idea other than that his efforts now are but the veriest pretense, and that results will prove them so. When the individuals comprising the State Capitol Building Commission and the public officials constituting the Board of Public Buildings and Grounds are called to account, there will be basis for the belief that there is to be an investigation that means to get to the bottom of things.

Until then, it will be well to wait.

For the Bellefonte Hospital.

As mentioned in this paper last week a committee composed of Drs. R. G. H. Hayes, George F. Harris, M. J. Locke and Mr. F. W. Cridler went to Harrisburg on Thursday to see the Board of Public Charities regarding the necessities of a larger hospital in Bellefonte. The gentlemen met the members of the Board and explained the existing circumstances, that the present hospital building was entirely too small for the community which it seeks to serve, and that the facilities were inadequate to proper treatment of patients. At first the members of the Board were not disposed to look upon the petition of the Bellefonte committee very favorably. In fact they candidly made the statement that they were not disposed to take any action in the matter until the people of Bellefonte and Centre county showed a disposition to help in the maintenance of the hospital and toward the erection of a new building. However, when the committee explained to the Board what the people of Bellefonte and Centre county had done, not only toward supporting the institution but toward a fund for a new building, the members expressed a change of heart and not only expressed themselves in sympathy with the work done at the Bellefonte hospital but promised to recommend a sufficient appropriation by the next Legislature to give the town the kind of a hospital the needs demand. And that is all the Board of Public Charities can do.

Republican Radicalism.

The Republicans now appear to be thoroughly radicalized. If things keep drifting in their present directions the Democratic party may be forced to become the party defending vested interests. Its leaders may yet be heard crying out to the wild-eyed Republican statesmen: "Let well enough alone." It is now the general belief at Washington that the President will insist upon some sort of legislation during the next session of Congress calculated to diminish swollen fortunes. The inheritance tax is the plan now most talked of.

It would be quite like President Roosevelt to make a grand-stand play with an inheritance tax. Such a measure would not prevent large fortunes—it would simply prevent their being passed on to the next generation. An inheritance tax would not curb any of the present economic injustices but would simply make it impossible for the business pirates to pass on all of his ill-gotten gold to his heirs. In fact, an inheritance tax would encourage rather than discourage the business pirate. The public would not be inclined to pay much attention to its Rockefellerers if an inheritance tax were in force. It would be apt to give such men rope on the theory that it was no use for the robber since a great part of what he gathered together would revert to the State on his death.

However, it seems quite likely that if the President wants an inheritance tax Congress will pass it for him. Throughout the country the state leaders have taken the position, since election, that the only way for the Republican party to stay on top is to stick to the president. This being the case financial blood-letting as a cure for financial droop is quite likely to be the program at Washington when Congress assembles.

Another Crazy Religious Sect.

A crazy religious sect has broken out in Maine, the tenets of which are almost as ridiculous and disgusting as those of the "Holy Rollers," a fanatical exorcism that blossomed forth in the northwestern part of the country several months ago. The employment of physicians and the use of medicines are proscribed, and followers of the cult are confined to a vegetable diet of the coarsest kind. Like other fanatical religions, supreme authority is invested in a "prophet," who, in this instance, seems to be a clever adventurer, named Sandford, who is now said to be living like a temporary alking in Oriental waters, spending lavishly the money wrung from his deluded dupes.

The colony is said to be in a woeful state of destitution, and a number of deaths of children have occurred recently, attributable to starvation. Leading citizens of Maine have petitioned the state authorities to intervene in behalf of the children. An investigation is demanded of the charge that they are systematically maltreated and forced to become cognizant of immoralities that are too loathsome to mention. It is plainly the duty of the authorities to investigate the charges made and substantiated. Recognizing freedom of religious doctrine as the fundamental right of American citizenship, it is well that it should be observed rigorously, fantastic and absurd though these beliefs may be. But when children are suffering and dying by the blind adherence of their parents to the doctrine of a charlatan the duty of the State is quite plain. Adults can follow their own inclinations, but they have not the right to entail needless suffering which goes so far as to imperil the lives or reason of their offspring.

Can only Wait and Learn.

The fruits of the recent victory which reinvigorated the Boss System in Pennsylvania will now drop ripe, matured and mellow, into the basket of experience. For example: "Representative-elect Charles N. Brunson will control all the Federal patronage in Schuylkill county." This is the dictum of Senator Penrose just sent forth. It is, therefore, the first assertion of his newly confirmed authority as Boss of Federal place and favor in this Commonwealth, and an attestation of his right to rule. And while it definitely puts out of duty the William S. Leih, who was lifted from the Sub-Treasurership by Roosevelt—for which there was general thanksgiving—it nevertheless confronts the people with the fact that Penrose remains secure in the position as Chief Boss, recognized by the powers at Washington as having the last word in Federal appointments. The question remaining is one which concerns the people of this State most. Will he be recognized as the power behind the gubernatorial chair, the inspirer of gubernatorial politics and the actual purveyor of gubernatorial favors? He has prevailed over Washington. Can he prevail over Oak Lane?

No Reason for Cuban Annexation.

Those who favor the annexation of Cuba are just now declaring that the people of the island are really unfit to govern themselves and that the best of them realize the fact and are anxious for permanent American control. The fact that for more than four years the Cubans were peaceable and prosperous under their own government is the best answer to this argument. It is true that an unfortunate situation developed last summer, but there is reason to believe that the experience resulting therefrom will be valuable in the future and that when the Cubans are again given control of their own affairs they will profit by their recent errors. Certainly as yet there is no good reason for declaring that they are unfit to govern themselves or justify the United States retaining permanent control. If annexation is to come it must be in pursuance of the clearly expressed wishes of the Cuban people.

The loss of the Pennsylvania railroad excursions to Harrisburg to see the thirteen million dollar capitol will be run to-morrow, and then there will be no special trains.

Spawls from the Keystone.

In the New Bloomfield, Perry county, markets butter is selling at 20 cents a pound and eggs at 29 cents a dozen.

Harry Shearer, a young man living at Pine, was seriously injured at the crossing at Aughenbaughs on Saturday evening.

The vestry of St. John's Episcopal church, York, will establish a free library with the 9,000 volumes bequeathed to it by the Rev. Charles James Wood.

It is stated on good authority that Lock Haven is to have a large new machine shop, which will be situated along the Bald Eagle Valley railroad, near the city limits.

At the close of last week there were 955 teachers in Fayette county. The number is increasing all the time with the opening of new schools and will soon reach the 700 mark.

So much illegal fishing has been done lately between Sunbury and Harrisburg that the state game warden department has placed an extra force of wardens along the Susquehanna river.

The attaches of the Pennsylvania fish commission are now engaged in buying trout eggs for the State from the private fisheries located near Allentown. The work is in charge of N. R. Baller, superintendent of the Wayne hatchery.

The United Mine Workers of Cannonsburg have let the contract for the construction of a two-story brick building to be used as headquarters at a cost of \$10,000. It will be the first building owned by a Washington county miners' association.

Brigadier General Wiley wants a law passed by the Legislature for compulsory voting. In case a citizen neglects to exercise the right of suffrage he shall be fined \$5 or \$10. He thinks it would add to the interest of the individuals in elections.

Daniel Hunt, of Centreville, 57 years old, while hurrying to one of the state capitol excursion trains at Montandon, Saturday morning, stumbled over a semaphore wire, fell and struck his head on the iron rail. He was picked up unconscious and it is feared that his skull is fractured.

Fire of unknown origin started Sunday in Bear Valley shaft colliery, at Shamokin, owned by the Philadelphia and Reading Coal and Iron company. A number of mine fire experts from the district have been ordered to the scene. Eight hundred men and boys are employed at the colliery.

Peter Klingensmith, who died at Delmont on Saturday, had a remarkable record for attendance at church. In the fifty years that he was a member and elder of the Delmont Presbyterian church he was absent only three times from church services. He was superintendent of the Sunday school for forty-five years.

Coroner William Armstrong, of Clinton county, was notified by telephone Sunday by a justice of the peace at Cross Fork that the dead body of a man had been found in the forest near there. It is not known at this time just how he met his death, but an investigation will be made by the authorities at Cross Fork.

Congressman-elect William B. Wilson, of Blossburg, was ably assisted in his recent campaign by his daughter, Grace, who has been her father's secretary for five years, and who is now only 20 years old. She carried on the correspondence of Mr. Wilson, accompanied him on his campaign tours and arranged his itinerary.

For the first time in the history of Hazleton a property owner appeared before the assessors to ask that the valuation of his real estate be raised. The man was the veteran Alderman Laubach, who made improvements to his home during the summer and was anxious that they be assessed. The assessors were taken by surprise.

The funeral of Mrs. Anna Gaskell, a negro, reputed to be the heaviest woman in Delaware county, took place on Wednesday. She weighed 500 pounds. It required seven able-bodied men to assist the undertaker in placing the body in the casket, and it was necessary to remove the window jambs to get the casket into the parlor.

State Zoologist Surface has just received from Dr. H. D. Moore, of New Lexington, Somerset county, a rare specimen of a Pennsylvania animal known as the woods rat. The woods rat is a native of the higher, rocky and mountainous regions of Pennsylvania and is very rare. For four years the State zoologist has been trying to procure a specimen.

Dr. Jacob L. Zeigler, of Mount Joy, the oldest living graduate of Jefferson Medical College of Philadelphia; the oldest practicing physician in Lancaster county, and with very few if any exceptions the oldest doctor in Pennsylvania, will celebrate his 84th birthday anniversary next Saturday. He has been practicing medicine in Mount Joy for sixty-three years, and is still actively engaged.

The Braddock Monument association, which has charge of a project to erect a memorial on the site of the battle of Braddock's field, in 1755, has optioned a large plot of ground in the down-town section of Braddock on which to have a shaft erected. The grounds will be purchased by popular subscription and will be used as a public park. Congress will be asked to appropriate money for the memorial.

A bear broke into the barn yard at the old Bloom stand, formerly the Ben Bloom place, along the Curwensville pike, and slaughtered twenty sheep. The incident was discussed generally and surprise expressed that a bear would wantonly destroy more sheep than were required to satisfy his immediate appetite. Most of the sheep's backs were broken and bruised the only native animal capable of delivering a blow that would accomplish this result.

Morrisdale, Clearfield county, was visited by a disastrous fire Saturday morning about 2 o'clock, resulting in the destruction of two dwelling houses owned by Peter Moyer, of Kylvortown. The fire is supposed to have caught from a defective flue and had gained such headway before being discovered that very little could be done looking to the saving of the buildings. One of the buildings was occupied by Mrs. M. J. Morton, who lost all of her household effects. The other building was occupied by the families of J. W. Campbell and Mrs. Walter Japp, who saved practically all of their personal effects.