

Ink Slings.

'Dear MARIA!' You're a liar! TEDDY.

—France is having a few troubles of her own just now.

—The Christmas turkey is about the only game in season now.

—The old idea of state rights is likely to be sorely tried before this California Japanese trouble is settled.

—When a \$7.21 case is appealed to the Superior court it is evident that there is more of a chase for satisfaction than the coin.

—Every good man and woman in the land will pray for the recovery of Chaplain McCABE and every good Methodist especially.

—Poor CARUSO! He isn't even heard of since the STORER—ROOSEVELT combination have jumped onto the monkey-house stage.

—We wonder if TEDDY was thinking of the STORES when he dwelt at such great length upon the question of divorces in his latest message.

—Many a parent wonders why his or her child grows up to lose all respect for them and never stops to think that it is their own life that has done it all.

—The fact that there won't be any six dollar carpet on the legislative halls won't interfere with the kind of laws that will be launched at Harrisburg next month.

—Well, the district attorney has done something. Now will the claquers hold their tongues long enough to permit him to work out the other two cases without interference.

—Our President is a busy man, indeed, but not too busy to hang his dirty linen out on the public wash line just the same as all the other folks who get mixed up in scandals and intrigue.

—The Pittsburgh court has ruled in favor of Mrs. HARTJE and he cannot have a divorce from the beautiful wife he tried to discard by the most outrageous charges against her character.

—The "Dear MARIA" Letters, bound in half-kaki, with a handsome full page frontispiece of the woman who made the author and is not afraid of the big stick will be apropos for Christmas remembrances for friends in Washington.

—The store windows have more of interest for school children these days than their books, and how we would all love to be children again; light hearted and happy the whole day long; without a care today nor a thought of the morrow.

—When BELLAMY, "Dear MARIA" and TEDDY get through with their dispute as to which one of the trio is lying the public might call Senators BAILEY, TILLMAN and CHANDLER to the stand to impeach TEDDY's reputation for sticking to the truth.

—If it is to be LEWIS BETTLER, of Philadelphia, for Secretary of the Commonwealth; WALTER LYON, of Pittsburgh, for Attorney General and TOM STEWART for Adjutant General, it will be all machine, sure enough, but it might be worse parts of the machine.

—Some State, some where, ought to offer a prize for a law without a loop hole. Now look at that great corruption breaking law of ours that was passed to make political parties and candidates tell whence came and whither goes their campaign funds, then read the certified statements filed with the court officials. You know the amounts. That's all.

—Mr. Secretary SHAW has once more come to the rescue of the stock market jobbers in Wall street and they all divided "the melon" that was cut on Wednesday. Those money sharks will never get through manipulating the finances of the country until we get a Secretary of the Treasury who will give them a lemon when they pray for a melon.

—The next session of the Legislature will have a great many people who will insist on its doing its duty. The Grangers of the State are already organizing to see that the Pennsylvania State College gets enough of an appropriation to relieve it of its financial strain and if they do the work they declare they will do the State's great institution of learning will develop more rapidly than it ever has done.

—The Greensburg Argus says "there is more than one road to the soup house. The rapidly increasing price of necessities makes fearful the approach of winter to thousands of honest working people whose wages have not kept pace with their needs." And the Argus is right. While this country is enjoying an era of prosperity unprecedented in its history the great masses know little of it further than that they have steady work to earn the money that does not go as far in purchases as it used to do.

—At last it has become apparent why Phil. KNOX left the cabinet and became a United States Senator. CASSATT didn't buy the place for him at all. He wasn't cabinet material and the Senate was the only open place to shunt him. That he wasn't cabinet material we need only quote from one of ROOSEVELT'S "Dear MARIA" letters as follows: "There is not one of them"—meaning his cabinet officers—"with the possible exception of ROOSEVELT, who can appear before the country with the prestige of a great political leader."

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Great Day for the Hoodlums.

In his speech at the Fellowship club dinner, in Philadelphia, the other evening, Representative FRANK B. McCLAIN, prospective Speaker of the next House of the General Assembly, revealed the purposes of the machine unmistakably. "The Legislative session of 1907," he remarked, "will not be marked with the hysteria of the special session of 1906." By hysteria he means reform. In all that he said he expressed the opinion that the party was stamped a year ago by the defeat of its candidate for State Treasurer and frightened into reform legislation that might have been avoided. PENNYPACKER and Speaker WATSON and other machine managers were faint-hearted boogymen who yielded needlessly to an exaggerated expression of public sentiment. But McCLAIN promises to show no such weakness. He will head the reform lion and throttle him.

We may easily believe that to Mr. McCLAIN'S mind the tendency toward reform revealed during the special session of 1906 was in the nature of "hysteria." Any man or measure which hasn't the endorsement of Boss GREIST, of Lancaster, appears wrong to McCLAIN. At least he pretends to think so and makes GREIST believe he thinks so. It is the condition under which GREIST allows him to hold his job and he needs the money. But he was never more mistaken in his life. There was no hysteria and mighty little reform in the legislation enacted during the extra session of 1906. It was a very transparent false pretense of reform. The machine was playing politics to the limit and nine-tenths of the laws passed during the session had jokers in them or were so palpably invalid that they can be nullified whenever the machine desires that result.

We may infer from the remarks of Mr. McCLAIN that there won't be even the pretense of reform during the coming session, however. The black flag will be raised at the outset and the shibboleth of the gang will be loot and plunder. There will be no compromise with decency or dalliance with conscience. Freebooter McCLAIN will be in the saddle and everything will be in order except reform. DURHAM may not be its evidence and PENROSE may use the telephone instead of a messenger. But the gang will be all there or thereabouts and won't care much for what the people think or say so long as the harvest is plenty and the distribution of the spoils is on the basis of "honor among thieves." It will be a great day for the machine when the old order is restored and McCLAIN takes command as Speaker.

Roosevelt Promptly Rebuked.

If ever there was a deserved rebuke fitly administered it was that handed to President ROOSEVELT by the Appropriations committee of the House of Representatives in Washington in the order forbidding the "use of any other than the WEBSTER standard of spelling in all documents authorized by law." Of all the absurdities in which President ROOSEVELT has indulged since his accidental elevation to the Presidency that so-called spelling order was mischievous. His dining on bears' claws without knives and forks was ludicrous and his sleeping in a snow drift in the Yellowstone park silly. Those things affected nobody but himself and could easily be overlooked. But his preposterous spelling reform affected the entire country and has properly been rebuked.

Of course ROOSEVELT never stopped a moment to consider the effect which the adoption of his spelling order might have upon the country and the people. Necessarily the adoption of such a system would have isolated the literature of the country for no other English speaking people would have thought of indulging in such an absurdity and in our diplomatic intercourse with other countries employing the same tongue, we would have been compelled to change documents made in Washington to go abroad before they would have been accepted and documents coming from abroad would have been of necessity put through the same process as an essential prerequisite to filing in our government archives. The considerable expense would have been the least cause for objecting to this.

But it is doubtful if the President would have neglected the opportunity for advertising himself even if he had given the matter consideration. His abnormal vanity and covetousness of power is expressed in the spelling order and nothing else. The impulses that have forced him to tell women that it is their duty to bear children that reaches out to the local school system and asks for shooting galleries and that may at any time culminate in an order instructing mothers how to pin diapers on their babies, is responsible for the absurd order on spelling reform. It is to be hoped that the action of the Appropriations committee of the House at Washington will work a cure of the malady.

—On Tuesday Governor Pennypacker appointed Marlin E. Olmsted, of Harrisburg, a member of the Board of Trustees of The Pennsylvania State College.

Campaign Expenditures.

There is a good deal to learn in the accounts of the candidates and committees of campaign expenditures filed in the courts and at the state department at Harrisburg. The object of the law requiring the filing of statements was to give the public some idea of the amount of money spent in politics and the sources of supply. If the accounts filed were accurate, the information they contain would be of much value. But the probabilities are that many of the statements are false, though the law requires that they be sworn to. For example, a candidate for Judge in a neighboring county files a statement which represents only a fraction of the money he expended, and makes no mention of the contributions to the fund, though it is known that most of the amount came from outside sources.

But there is something to be learned from the statements filed without going into the question of their accuracy or honesty. Take the statements of the two leading state committee members for example. The Democratic State committee expended a matter of a fraction over \$18,000 while the Republican committee disbursed upwards of \$50,000 and has unpaid bills to the amount of about \$25,000. In the city of Philadelphia the Republican committee expended more than \$60,000, four-fifths of which were contributed by PENROSE, McNICHOL and the VARE brothers, all except PENROSE being municipal contractors. It requires no great amount of perspicacity to conjecture why these contractors gave so liberally of their funds. The reasons which influenced them to give ought to have influenced others not only to refuse to contribute but to vote against the candidates in whom they were interested.

In Luzerne county there is likely to be a judicial inquiry into the campaign expenses of a candidate and we sincerely hope it will be pursued to the end. The defeated Republican candidate for Congress in that county spent money lavishly and there is reason to believe that at least some of the expenditures were without the sanction of the law. It is more than likely that other candidates in other sections of the State also violated the law but made their statements to conceal the fact. The issue of the judicial proceedings there, however, will determine whether or not accurate statements will be made in the future. There are ways to find out the facts if candidates will employ them and it is safe to say that honest elections will only be secured when statements of expenses are accurate.

The President and the Storer.

In the dispute between President ROOSEVELT on one side and BELLAMY and Mrs. STORER on the other there is one fact clearly revealed and that is that sex makes no difference to the President. In a recent controversy between the President and the then Lieutenant Governor of Massachusetts, the President was proved an ordinary liar. Still later he raised a question of veracity between himself on one side and Senators TILLMAN and BAILEY on the other in which former Senator CHANDLER testified that the President had lied. But his antagonists in these disputes were men and a man may prevaricate in a controversy with another man and still claim respectability. But when he lies to a woman he is a scamp.

That the President was concerned with Mr. and Mrs. BELLAMY STORER in an intrigue to promote Archbishop IRELAND is well established by the correspondence which has been made public. And so far as we are able to discover there is no great fault to be found with him on that account. Both the President and the Republican party owed a good deal to Archbishop IRELAND. For several years that prelate has been using his church relationship for the Republican party and especially THEODOR ROOSEVELT. That being true what reason is there why ROOSEVELT should not perform a similar service for the Archbishop? Especially if it could be done on the quiet. BELLAMY and Mrs. STORER were admirable agents.

Of course negotiations of that character ought to have been conducted by secrecy and failing of achievement Mr. and Mrs. STORER ought to have taken upon themselves the blame unless it could have been shifted over upon LOEB. In other incidents of similar character LOEB has been ready and willing to swear to anything that the exigencies required. But we can understand why that faithful and patient burden bearer hesitated in this case. The affectionate terms of the President's letters to "My Dear MARIA," might have got LOEB into trouble from which extrication would be impossible. But BELLAMY and MARIA ought to have been equal to the occasion. When the King is concerned perjury is a pleasure.

—The annual Sophomore—Freshman football game at State College was played in the snow on Beaver field last Saturday. It proved a most exciting contest and was won by the Freshmen by the score of 10 to 0.

A Shameful Exhibit.

The first meeting of the legislative commission to "investigate conditions of the various insane asylums of the State," was held in Philadelphia last Saturday. It would better have been held a year ago for it revealed a condition of things that is simply intolerable. The first witness, Dr. J. NICHOLAS MITCHELL, secretary of the State Board on Lunacy, testified that there are 1,779 more insane patients in the state hospitals for the insane than the hospitals are capable of accommodating properly. This fact, it may be assumed, was known to Governor PENNYPACKER when he was cutting appropriations for such charitable institutions in order to preserve an immense surplus for the Board of Public Grounds and Buildings to squander in extravagant adornments for the capitol.

The treatment of the wards of Pennsylvania has long been a subject of scandal. It has been part of the machine program to stent the helpless in order that there might be the greater opportunity to help the machine. QUAY understood that the average citizen doesn't care for details. An imposing aggregate impresses the public mind and the machine understood that the total charity appropriations amounted to much. Therefore little attention was given to deficiencies in the equipment of this institution or that. Altogether they drew a vast sum from the treasury, and afforded a considerable source of graft for every charity appropriation was subject to a rebate to the machine. Probably the reason PENNYPACKER cut down the amount was that he knew the rebate had been paid.

This business taken altogether composes the colossal crime of the age and since the death of QUAY the principal figure in the affair has been PENNYPACKER. Possibly he never received a cent of the profits to the machine. DURHAM and McNICHOL estimated him as an easy mark and led him on flattery. His insane and absurd vanity made him an easy victim of the conspirators. The promise of an office which he covets or the statement that he is a scholar and a patriot was better to him than milk and honey. Under the influence of praise he stratted like a gobbler in the barnyard alone. But he worked hard to the charitable institutions of the State by cutting appropriations when humanity and charity cried out together in protest.

The School Appropriation.

Dr. NATHAN C. SCHAEFFER, superintendent of public instruction, is determined that there shall be no decrease in taxes in Pennsylvania if he can help it. He wants the appropriation for the public schools increased in the same ratio that the number of pupils increases. There has been no increase in the appropriation in recent years and the number of pupils have increased considerably, he says. Therefore, he adds, the per capita appropriation is diminishing. That is certainly true. No argument is necessary to prove it.

It may be admitted also that redundant revenues could hardly be put to a better use than that of maintaining and improving the educational system. We say redundant revenues for as a matter of fact the framers of our government never intended that taxes should be levied and collected in excess of the amount actually necessary to maintain the government and educating the children was no part of that plan. No one questions the wisdom, however, or grudges the expense, of the best possible public school system, but there is a limit to the advantage of the best and wisest benefices.

There is a disposition to introduce a good many expensive fillis into the school system of Pennsylvania and Dr. SCHAEFFER encourages all of them. Care should be taken to not go to excess in this respect. This State pays more to the cause of education than any other State in the Union and it should continue to lead in that respect. But we can see no reason for increasing the present appropriation. Properly administered the department can do all its work and do it well with the present appropriation, and the superintendent ought not ask for more.

—This week a deed was filed in the office of the recorder of Centre county transferring a large tract of land from Monroe H. Kulp & Co., lumbermen, of Shamokin, to the State of Pennsylvania. The tract embraces 12,789 acres and extends over portions of four counties—in Miles township, Centre county; in Green and Crawford townships, Clinton county; in Washington township, Lycoming county, and in Hartley, Lewis, West Buffalo and White Deer townships, Union county. The consideration stated is \$30,971.31. It is the intention of the State to use the land as a forest preserve.

—Don't fail to see the "Mummy and the Humming Bird" at Garman's tonight. We don't often advise our readers to go to the shows and then only when we are absolutely certain they will witness a good one. Don't let this be another case of a good show and a poor house.

We Ought to Get Out.

From the San Francisco Star. We ought to get out of the Philippines. As the Star insisted from the very inception of the proposition of annexation, we ought never to have set up our dominion in those islands. In 1898 reason was thrown away upon the jingoes. At that time even the noisy cockcomb Beveridge passed for a prophet and statesman. We had deluges of senseless and sonorous oratory. Men shouted that the American flag should never be hauled down, until they went quite red in the face with spasms of patriotism. Fiery editors filled columns with flaming appeals to ignorant and thoughtless prejudices—as near akin to calm reason as a real Indian is to the Boston conception of the noble savage. The common sense and the love of fair play natural to our people were simply drowned in an ocean of slush, gush and demagoguery. Happily that time is past. The nation now sees its folly. And a very little insistence by men of the type of Senator Hoar—if his type can be found in public life—and by newspapers of the type of the Springfield Republican, let us say, would lead to an almost universal demand that we drop our foolishness. The greatest obstacle in the path of safety and honor is the stubbornness of President Roosevelt. But even he cannot stand up against the expressed will of the whole people.

We have held the Philippines now for eight years and their retention has cost us the enormous sum of four hundred and twenty millions of dollars. This sum—as recited in all the cost books—would have redeemed all the arid lands in the United States, given employment to all out of work, and made farm-houses for four millions of self-supporting Americans living under the American flag. The incredible folly of wasting these millions in keeping a viceroyal court in a land whose natives abhor us as a result, was plain enough to a sane, balanced mind at the beginning. We think even the Los Angeles Times can begin to perceive it now. It is useless to cry over spilt milk. But it is only sense to take care not to spill any more. Just as surely as the folly of 1898 recedes in all the cost books, just so surely will we be put to the loss of many more millions and of many thousands of lives, if we persist in maintaining our rule over the Philippines. The agents of Japan are even now mingling with the natives and exciting them to expect Japanese aid.

Deep in Pacific waters is outnumbered ten to one by the Japanese fleet. Our troops in the islands would be overwhelmed by numbers. And the attack is absolutely certain to come. We cannot understand the amazing blindness and indifference of our people to this threatening peril. If we had any right to be in the Philippines we are in a hand, the Star would believe in keeping our flag there if it took the last man and the last dollar. But since we have no right, and never had any right to be there, we would not give the life of one single American boy to retain a conquest alike unjust to the conquered and hateful to every tradition and every ideal of our own free republic. The Japanese have raised the cry of Asia for the Asiatics. They are wholly right. That is a yellow man's continent and belongs to the yellow man. Since there are at least five hundred millions of him, he must have some portion of the earth for his feet to stand upon. And Japan has a perfect right to apply the Monroe doctrine to Asia. It is our own teaching, and it is right.

Gen. Koontz's Contest.

From the Philadelphia Press. Gen. William H. Koontz, of Somerset, who was a delegate to the convention which first nominated Abraham Lincoln for president, who was a member of Congress more than forty years ago, who was a member of the State Legislature, and who lived through seventy-six summers and other seasons, is still in the fight. This veteran was a candidate on the fusion ticket for the State Senate in his district at the late election, and though his opponent was returned as elected by a majority of forty, Gen. Koontz is contesting the election on the ground of illegal votes. He has presented a petition to the court, in which he makes it very plain that in one township in Somerset county no registration of voters had been made and that the affidavits filed by electors to enable them to vote were defective. The Senate, however, may not be so handy in arbitrary action just now as it has been in the past. If Gen. Koontz proves through his contest in court that he was elected he will be justly entitled to his seat, and the Senate cannot decently deprive him of it.

How It Hits the Holiday Shopper.

From the Johnstown Democrat. When you buy the Christmas toys for the little children and when you wish that they did not cost so much so that you might also buy for some other little children you know who are not so well provided for as your own are, it might be well to remember that the tariff tax on these toys is from 25 to 60 per cent, according to the kind and quality.

As there is over \$200,000,000 in the treasury more than the government requires, and of that amount \$154,000,000 is loaned without interest to favored national banks, there is no need for this tax on dolls and toys that the Republican party persists in collecting. The tariff operates as an unnecessary tax upon the Christmas generosity of the nation. The tax is not necessary for the support of the government. Besides for every dollar the government gets the trusts collect six. Of all people in the world the Christmas shopper has least reason to be a stand-patter.

—The stone work on the walls of the new Reformed church chapel was completed last week and the building is now in the hands of the carpenters for completion. It will be a very complete and convenient edifice when finished and will greatly enhance the value of the Reformed church property.

Spawls from the Keystone.

—More than 400 houses will be built in Bristol, Bucks county, next year, for the employees of a new pipe mill and leather works.

—In DuBois there were 10,800 feet of water pipe laid during the season just closed. There is now about seven miles of pipe in the water system of that town.

—Senator J. H. Cochran, of Williamsport, will be the Santa Claus for the Industrial Home boys of that city, as he is arranging to give them a big Christmas dinner.

—Upwards of 500 deer, 109 bears and nearly 600 wild turkeys is the record of game shot during the brief open season in this State this year. Four hunters lost their lives.

—The Elks of Pennsylvania will hold their annual convention at Harrisburg May 14th and 15th. There are ninety-four lodges in the State with a membership of more than 22,000.

—The Salvation Army of Scranton has purchased a plot of ground, removed from the alum district of the city, on which a barracks will be erected. The price paid for the plot is \$39,000.

—Rebecca Anderson, of West Vincent township, Chester county, who died on Wednesday, aged 91 years, has left an estate of about \$125,000, nearly all of which is to be devoted to charities.

—A lady in Germantown who is 35 years of age began attending Sunday school when she was 23 years old and has not missed attendance a single Sunday in all these intervening years.

—The school board of Reading has passed a resolution directing the prosecution of all persons who neglect or refuse to pay the one dollar personal or occupation tax imposed when they are able to do so.

—Three men were killed at Waynesboro Wednesday afternoon by the fall of an elevator in the Geiser Manufacturing company's shops, one was so severely injured that he will die and six others were injured.

—A mine fire, which was started thirty years ago in a mine breach in the Sharp mountain, above East Mount Carbon, has broken out with new vigor and sends out sparks and tongues of fire like a volcano.

—Joe Litner aged 19, shot and killed John Payne, a boy 9 years old, at Stanley, five miles from DuBois, Sunday. The shooting was the result of young Payne picking up and looking at a rifle belonging to Litner.

—J. Hayden, a justice of the peace and Enoch Okoski, both of Mount Carmel, have been fined \$50 each and cost in the Columbia county court, for having severely beaten a woman because she refused to pay a bill of \$6.

—William K. McBeth, of Scottsdale, has started out on a trip in which he is to visit the capital of every State in this country, making the entire journey on horseback, on a wagon of \$30,000 that he can do it within four years.

—Mrs. Emma H. Sandt, of Easton, who was buried on Thursday, left a will in which she directed that all of her pet dogs and cats, twelve in number, shall be chloroformed, except two, as she feared they would not be kindly treated.

—All the furnaces in the eastern part of the State, at Lebanon, Cornwall, Sheridan, Orbisona, Temple, Topton, Leesport, Pottstown, two at Swedeland and three in Reading, are in blast, with a weekly output of 20,000 tons, and the entire product is used as quickly as produced.

—There are sixty-three cases of typhoid fever in Scranton that have been reported and a number more are believed to be unreported. The city water is claimed to be pure, and the origin of the fever is attributed to local water supplies that may be contaminated and to bad milk.

—The largest chestnut tree in the State is believed to be standing on the farm of John K. Stauffer, near the Landisville Methodist Episcopal camp grounds, in Lancaster county. At the ground it measures forty feet in circumference and seven feet up the circumference is twenty-seven feet.

—Alfred Graham, of Clearfield, and Coleman & Allen, of Williamsport, purchased the O. L. Schoonover estate timber and mill at Forest, Clearfield county, early last week, at public sale. The price paid was \$13,000. Next day the Graham Lumber Co. was organized and work will be begun at once operating the purchase.

—Last spring M. S. Quiggle, of Pine Station, went over to Nippenesse valley and purchased of Steward Group, on the valley farm, four pigs which were fattened on the 29th day of March and he killed them on the 4th day of December. One weighed 465 pounds, one 408 pounds, one 418 pounds and one 428 pounds, or a total of 1,657 pounds of pork.

—At Dover, Delaware, articles of incorporation were filed Thursday for the Penn Coal & Lumber corporation, of Bedford, Pa., to acquire lumber and coal lands and to dispose of the products of the same. The incorporators are John M. Reynolds, A. I. Lyon, R. C. Haldeman, all of Bedford, and T. Frank Boyer, of Huntingdon. Capital stock, \$200,000.

—An eighteen-mile stretch of railway to be constructed by the Pennsylvania company, and which will connect the two county seats of Bedford and Blair, will constitute one of the expected blessings for the residents of Bedford and Hollidaysburg are thankful in advance. The prospective new line will be a link in a branch from Cumberland to Pittsburgh.

—Because his wife threatened to leave him, Max Uniek, of Mt. Carmel, slashed his throat with a razor, and is in a critical condition. The pair have had words, and Uniek's wife Wednesday informed him she would leave, and also impressed the fact upon him that she held the deed for the home, and that he would be a pauper when she decided to make him one.

—While the mercury in the thermometer was away below the freezing point and with a piercing wind blowing, last Friday afternoon, two young society women of McKeesport, stood for hours in front of their home, in a hole dug for the purpose of erecting a telephone pole. Permission to place the pole there had been refused, and they were determined to prevent it if possible. As darkness came on the workmen departed leaving the girls as victors.