

Ink Stings.

—Earthquakes are not unusual. They are unpleasant.

—Tomorrow the ground hog will set our minds at ease as to what it is to be, for the next six months.

—It is a harmless corporation that isn't being introduced to the stern requirements of the law these days.

—The skating rink is really a place of very innocent amusement yet why do so many people sit down on it?

—The primaries are over. Now let the best man win. Incidentally, you will find him on the Democratic ticket.

—One of the most economical overseers of the poor Bellefonte has ever had is what Mr. HOWLEY has been. His record proves that.

—Giraffes and ant eaters have tongues nearly two feet in length, but all of the long-tongued species are not giraffes or ant eaters.

—"Salome" the new opera that has been introduced in New York couldn't be expected to be other than bad; having had such an author as OSCAR WILDE.

—There has just passed into history one January without the January thaw. Of course there was plenty of thawing weather, but at that time there was nothing to thaw.

—Mr. swelled-head SWETTENHAM has resigned as Governor-general of Jamaica. And the victims of the earthquake that devastated a portion of that island have not, as yet, petitioned him to reconsider.

—If anybody knows of anything that hasn't been suggested as needing some law at Harrisburg will they kindly communicate with the one or two Legislators there who have failed to introduce a bill up to this time.

—All the men put in nomination by the Democrats at their primaries last Saturday evening are worthy of your support, and it will be no trouble to elect them if Democrats do their duty and turn out on election day.

—It is all right to talk about what BERT TAYLOR and SNYDER TATE are doing but we want to tell you right here that "old man SPERR" is the fellow who is cutting the ice in Bellefonte now and he is going to be elected Treasurer.

—That jawing match that the President entered into with Senator FORAKER at the Gridiron club banquet, in Washington, Saturday night, neither contributed to the dignity of the Chief Executive of the land nor the edification of the public.

—It is highly probable, though by no means certain, that the professional stock market manipulators are trying to scare the country into a state of business paralysis in order to hold up the adverse legislation that is threatening in so many of the States.

—Reports from all parts of the State where the new primary law was followed are to the effect that the results were not as satisfactory as anticipated. For some unaccountable reason there was not nearly as large an attendance as under the old system.

—To think of it! GEORGE BURNHAM Jr., the convicted counsel general for the Mutual Reserve Life Insurance Co., is now the printer's devil in the prison at Sing Sing. Probably if he hadn't played the devil with the business that was first entrusted to him he wouldn't be playing it now.

—Mr. HANKS, a college chum of President ROOSEVELT at Harvard, is working for the Interstate-Commerce commission at one thousand dollars per year. Inasmuch as he is a millionaire and lives in hotel apartments that cost him four hundred dollars per month it looks like there "is a nigger in the wood pile" somewhere.

—That fight between a bull and a buffalo in Texas on Sunday was so repulsive that it has stirred up no end of righteous indignation that such brutal sports should still appeal to civilized man. However great that excitement may be the fight between the bulls and the bears in Wall Street has more people spending sleepless nights.

—Because people don't like the idea of being handed a lemon it is actually asserted that the trade in that fruit has fallen off amazingly since the slang expression has been built on a lemon foundation. If there is a lemon trust—and if there is not somebody, somewhere, has been delict—there is a chance to mulct the public for destroying its business.

—In the light of evidence recently procured in the Presbyterian church in this place it must be confessed that a large portion of that congregation is suffering with partial paralysis of the arm. While the apparent affection has not caused enough interest to encourage an investigation it is none-the-less singular that so many people of this particular denomination should be afflicted in the same way. The trouble would probably never have been revealed had not a certain sin-cure doctor very unexpectedly found it out. With a church full of people he asked all those who were christians to hold up a hand. It was pathetic; the tortures some went through to raise a hand even as high as the shoulder and many of them could not get one even that high. The result was the discovery of a form of Presbyterian paralysis that only the faith cure will relieve.

Democratic Watchman

STATE RIGHTS AND FEDERAL UNION.

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Hollow Mockeries Indeed.

The credulity which permits certain of our esteemed contemporaries to hope for reform from the present Legislature and the state administration is past understanding. Nothing has been done or said by any of the leaders outside of Governor STUART himself to indicate the least change in purposes and the reform promises of Mr. STUART are contradicted by the character of the men whom he has called into his official family. So far as the legislative leaders are concerned what better evidence of their purpose to resume the old methods could be imagined than their attitude toward General GOBIN? There can be no question of his fitness for the promotion that was conferred upon him by Governor PENNYPACKER. But for the reason that some years ago he denounced the iniquities of the machine his confirmation has been held up and is likely to be defeated.

For nearly forty years General GOBIN has been an officer in the National Guard. During the war of the Rebellion he took his primary lessons in military affairs on the battlefield and emerged from that great practical school as a Colonel. Soon afterward he entered the National Guard as a line officer and advanced by quick and earned promotions to the rank of Brigadier General in which grade he served faithfully and well for fifteen years. Seven or eight years ago he was entitled both by service and capability to the commission as Major General but was prevented from receiving that reward for his services by political exigencies. QUAY needed votes in the Legislature which were secured by the appointment of CHARLES MILLER, a creature of the Standard Oil company. But when that gentleman resigned a year or so ago QUAY had no political interests and GOBIN was nominated for the office.

For years the National Guard has been suffering from dry rot. The appointment of GOBIN to the office of Major General instantly put life into it. The annual encampments were changed from worthless outings to practical training schools in military tactics and practices. The men were educated in the actual duties of soldiers and trained to march, bivouac and take care of themselves as they would be obliged to do if in actual military service. The result was most satisfactory. The National Guard was converted into an efficient force ready for any emergency and the men took pride in their work as they improved in fitness. But all this advantage is to be lost now, it seems, because General GOBIN, a few years ago, refused to "go along" with the iniquities of the machine. Pretenses of reform in the face of such facts are hollow mockeries indeed.

—The THAW trial is costing vast sums of money but young THAW always was an expensive luxury.

An Inquiry Easily Answered.

The other day a Congressman of inquiring mind but obviously not given much to thought, introduced a resolution "calling upon the Secretary of Commerce and Labor to investigate the high prices now prevailing in lumber." Even some of the Congressmen have come to understand that the "high prices now prevailing in lumber" are working infinite harm. They limit home building to a minimum and diminish the fruits of thrift. Men who are well employed and inclined to provide their families with homes are prevented from fulfilling that laudable ambition by the exorbitant prices of materials. The result is an impairment of prosperity. At least it works an unjust discrimination in the division of the prosperity which prevails.

The Secretary of Commerce and Labor won't have far to look for the causes of the evil of which the Congressman complains. The cause of the high prices of lumber is the tariff tax on lumber which enables the lumber trust to add \$2 a thousand feet to every consignment of lumber it sells and it handles practically all the lumber of commerce. The repeal of that iniquitous tariff tax would bring the price of lumber down to a fair level and cause such a stimulus to the building trade as would work a vast improvement in all branches of industrial life. This is not a matter of conjecture. It is a palpable fact patent to any reasoning mind. The tax is too great a burden to be endured at all except by persons who are absolutely obliged to build.

That burdensome and mischievous tax ought to be repealed for another substantial reason, moreover. It forces the denudation of our rapidly disappearing forests. One of the prime absurdities of the present administration is the fact that while we are spending immense sums of money for the preservation of forests we are at the same time forcing the destruction of our forests in order to put money in the pockets of the millionaires who control the lumber trust. But for that tax the vast timber lands of Canada would be open to our use and would afford ample material for our building operations until our own forests had had time to renew themselves.

Mr. Carnegie's Quack Notions.

Mr. ANDREW CARNEGIE has a new panacea for the evil effects of fortunes that are too great and is babbling over it in his usual absurd way. There should be a tax of practically confiscating proportions on inheritances, he says. Big fortunes are earned, not by the individuals who happen to possess them, he declares, but by the communities in which they were acquired. Therefore, Mr. CARNEGIE reasons, the individuals who never owned the properties ought to be permitted to enjoy them to the full measure of possibilities until they die and then the work of disintegration should set in in the interest of justice, morality and humanity. At least more than half should be given to the public.

To Mr. CARNEGIE an income tax is abhorrent. It would create "a nation of liars," he imagines, and besides that, he adds, the tax official to whom the taxed millionaires applied to swear off his taxes might be a bank officer and when the man subsequently applied to him for a discount might say, you have sworn that you are not worth as much as people think and consequently the bank can't accommodate you. That would be a great hardship, Mr. CARNEGIE thinks, and entirely unnecessary. He would prefer that the temptation to commit perjury should be kept away from his plutocratic friends and therefore recommends that no attempt to tax their vast wealth be made until after they are dead.

Mr. CARNEGIE is an arrant humbug if not an egregious false pretender. Even millionaires can be kept from sweating falsely by stringent laws providing for the punishment of perjury. As a matter of fact, there ought to be both income and inheritance taxes and while the income tax might properly go to the Federal government the inheritance tax belongs to the State for the reason referred to by Mr. CARNEGIE that vast fortunes are created by the community rather than by the individual. An income tax would enable the public to share in the enjoyment of the fortune at present and the inheritance tax would contribute to the community at the death of the individual who happened to control it.

The Philadelphia Machine.

The Philadelphia primary elections revealed the temper of the machine. There is no reform to be expected if the candidates nominated by the gang are successful at the polls. The candidates represent the most vicious elements in politics. JOHN E. REYBURN, the nominee for Mayor, has been a servile follower of the machine for nearly a quarter of a century. There has been nothing too rank for him. He may not participate in the orgies but he acquiesces in them. He is a moral nonentity if not a pervert. He is self-h, sordid and grasping. He is without human sympathies or patriotic impulses.

The candidate for Receiver of Taxes is the man who was taken from the ticket in 1905 for the purpose of fomenting the politics of the city. When the reform spirit spread over the city such men as HUGH BLACK took to the tall timber. Their presence in the lime light was offensive to the public conscience. Even some of the leaders realized that it was wise to keep them out of view, and in obedience to that healthful public opinion Mr. BLACK, who had been nominated for City Commissioner, was compelled to resign from the ticket. The moral sense of the community was shocked by his candidacy.

But the gang is not afraid to put him forward now though they resorted to a cheap subterfuge to disguise their plans. That is they pretended to have a difference among themselves as to candidates and hope to make the public believe that there was a real contest. But there was nothing further from the facts. The contention was a false pretense. No member of the gang ever desired the nomination of any candidate other than REYBURN and BLACK. It had been necessary to their success DAVE LANE and DAVE MARTIN would have worked with MCNICHOL and for their nomination. But the people are not deceived. Unless the city is "corrupt and contented" the machine ticket will be overwhelmingly defeated.

Berry's Overwhelming Answer.

State Treasurer BERRY's answer to former Attorney General CARSON's absurd defense of the capitol grafters is the most complete exposure of a false pretense ever brought to public notice. CARSON, who pretends to be a lawyer and professes to be a man of honor, declared that because no evidence of criminality had been shown by the State Treasurer the accused were innocent or at least beyond the reach of measures to compel restitution or inflict punishment. Mr. BERRY shows that in the room of the capitol building which serves as the State Treasurer's private office there are 800 square feet of wainscoting which cost over \$1,000. But the charge for wainscoting that room was \$15,000, and it was paid.

As a matter of fact, in the correspondence which Mr. CARSON had with the contractors and others who had relations with the job, he revealed the fact that there was graft in almost every transaction. In expounding the grafters in his final report, therefore, Mr. CARSON indicates a deliberate purpose to shield the grafters from the just consequences of their crimes. This makes him a party to the crimes, an accessory after the fact, and quite as amenable to the law as any of the principals in the transactions. In fact he is the more dangerous criminal because he understood the enormity of the crimes and for the reason that he had been employed by the State to prevent such outrages from any source and especially from other employees of the State.

State Treasurer BERRY didn't offer any expert testimony to support the charges of graft for the reason that he has not been supplied with funds to pay the expenses of procuring such evidence. But he is ready to offer such evidence if the means are provided. In other words, if the Legislature or the Attorney General will authorize him to employ experts and make a thorough examination he will do so and there will be no misunderstanding the consequences. He will prove beyond the shadow of a doubt not only a conspiracy in which the Governor had guilty knowledge but he didn't actually participate in the spoils, and that Mr. CARSON subsequently perverted the facts in order to shield the guilty from just and deserved punishment.

—The expenses of registration for the spring election in Pittsburgh were very high, seven dollars a vote, according to the published reports. But everything is high in Pittsburgh except morals and they are very low.

A Centre Shot.

The legislative committee of the State Grange, of which Hon. W. T. CREESEY is the alert and capable chairman, made a centre shot at its meeting in Harrisburg, the other day, when it demanded legislation for the improvement of the Highway Department. "Complaints are made against the great expense of building state roads," the committee declares in a resolution, "and to satisfy these we believe that the State Highway Department should be supervisory in its character, as is the School Department, and that each county should have a competent engineer, who, together with the County Commissioners, should have the control of making these roads."

The committee was considerate enough to refrain from reference to graft though if it had been inclined it might have proved that the Department to which it refers is the most noisome sink of iniquity which has ever disgraced the name of the State. Before it was in existence two years there was organized within the staff of the chief a coterie of grafters who publicly advertised to sell the secrets of the Department to contractors and when the facts were brought to the attention of the head of the Department he intimated that he couldn't see much wrong in it though in deference to public opinion he would order that the syndicate be dissolved and the secrets of the Department kept secret.

It has been alleged that from the organization of the Department until the present time there has never been a contract awarded for road building that has not yielded a "rake off" to some one or some group of employees of the Department. From \$200 for a small piece of road to \$2,000 for a large contract the Department or some of its employees exacts in every instance and whether the "corruption money" is handed up to the source of appointments or not is the only thing that is left to conjecture. But in any event it is a most scandalous condition of affairs and if the Legislature is just to the people it will not appropriate a dollar to the Department until it is completely reformed.

—The machine revealed its claws in ordering the investigation of capitol graft. It kept the matter under control so that the whitewash may be put on without protest. But it will hardly fool the people by such tricks.

That Subsidy Bill.

President ROOSEVELT has not only convinced himself that the other great commercial nations of the world are in a conspiracy to subsidize their steamship lines, but he says that higher wages and greater cost of maintenance of American crews make competition almost impossible. It has not so proved at least in the Pacific, where Hill and Harriman lines already in operation between Seattle and San Francisco and the American line to Samoa, New Zealand and Australia. Several years ago congress fixed a time when the carrying trade between the Philippines and the United States should be restricted to American bottoms, but so few American owners were attracted to the business that it had to extend the time limits barring foreign ships. The extra inducement of a subsidy is now to be hung up before their eyes in the hope that it may permit the enforcement of the coastwise trade laws.

As for the encouragement of our shipyards, which President Roosevelt desires, he is not sure what his own commissioner of navigation has to say in his last report. For example, there is printed on page 115 a comparison of the prices of steel ship plates in the United States and Great Britain. In October, 1900, the price in the United States was \$24 64 a ton, against \$28.88 in Great Britain. In April, 1901, the American price was fixed at \$35.84. With the exception of the six months from September, 1904, to February 1905, inclusive, this price has been maintained without change. The British price during this period has fallen as low as \$21.65, and except for a period of three months in 1901 it has never equalled the American price. During most of the time there has been a difference of from \$5 to \$8 a ton in favor of the English ship-builder, and the Steel Trust has successfully met British competition at these prices while paying the freight from Pittsburgh to New York. It is not surprising that the first step in the direction of an "adequate" ship subsidy does not lie in a revision of the Dingley schedules?

The Roosevelt Third Term Boom.

We are not writing for those with a tendency to revert to the monarchical form of government, who feel that universal suffrage and government by the people represent a hasty mistake.

Is not every argument advanced in the platform of the "Third Term Roosevelt League" an argument in favor of the permanent presidency of Mr. Roosevelt and a reflection upon the capacity of the people to govern themselves?

Does not a movement of this kind threaten our republican form of government more than that government is threatened by Trusts or any other modern menace?

Assuming Mr. Roosevelt to contain all that his admirers see in him, is it the fact that he is the only honest man, able man, energetic man in America whom the people could elect to the office of President? If Mr. Roosevelt is the only man in the United States honest, able and fit to become President of the United States, have we not reached a condition in our national life which proves our form of government a failure? Does it not become clear that Mr. Roosevelt should be continually elected and that our form of government, having proved itself faulty, should be modified or abandoned?

Ship Subsidy Methods.

It is to be observed that while the ship subsidy grafters "pack" a house committee to get their measure reported out, the deplorable measure is done by members who have either been kicked out of Congress by their constituents or retired for other reasons, their terms ending with the present session. But, while this sort of dark-lantern job can be performed in getting out of the committee what the country does not want, the measure can never pass the Senate without the votes of members whose careers are not already ended. If those votes are forthcoming the public will see that a large addition is made to the mortuary list headed by Grosvener, who, with others whose terms soon end, has succeeded in skinning the measure through committee after packing it to permit the perpetration of the job.

International Amenities.

Two nations, England and the United States, have been wrought up to a high pitch of excitement (in the newspapers), and the rest of the world is paralyzed with the sensation, because an American admiral was asked by the British colonial governor of Jamaica to withdraw armed troops that he had landed without authority. The sarcasm of the governor's letter was truly enough in had taste for international correspondence; but, on the other hand, his irritation was not wholly without cause. Suppose Canadian troops were to cross suspension bridge without American permission, be the occasion what it might be, is it inconceivable that the governor of New York might become belligerently sarcastic, or the president of the United States get out his big stick?

Stinemann's Distinguished Colleague.

Senator Stinemann of Cambria convulsed the senate a few days ago by referring to a speech by Senator Algeron B. Roberts as "my colleague, Mr. Angora Roberts, the senator from Montgomery county." With the exception of probably two or three of his colleagues, Mr. Stinemann is the wealthiest member of the Senate. He made his money in coal mining at South Fork after the Johnstown flood. He was the first Republican elected sheriff of Cambria county. After he had retired from that office he served one term in the house of representatives, from which he was promoted to the senate.

Spawls from the Keystone.

—The nineteen puddle furnaces in the new addition to the Oley street mill of the Reading Iron company, in Reading, are to be put on double turn.

—A broken gas main in Lebanon on Monday night endangered the lives of about half a dozen families, as gas filled their houses while they were sleeping. Some of the inmates were quite sick.

—Owing to a defective fuse the Methodist Episcopal parsonage in Millinburg, Union county, one of the finest residences in the town, was badly damaged by fire on Sunday morning. Loss, \$4,000; covered by insurance.

—The Sandbach hotel and stables, in Wellsboro, were gutted by fire on Sunday morning, entailing a loss of over \$11,000. The intense cold caused great suffering among the firemen, who resembled men of ice in a short time.

—Lancaster county, noted for its immense yield of tobacco, is famous also for its fine livestock reared. At present the local papers are reporting the heavy hogs slaughtered, very many of which weigh from 400 to 600 pounds, dressed, and some much heavier.

—Charles W. Schuler, former treasurer of Bethlehem council, Junior Order United American Mechanics, who was charged with having stolen \$3,800 of the funds of the council, and ran away to escape arrest, has returned and given himself up to the authorities.

—Mrs. Elmer Shultz, of Raven Creek, Columbia county, had a tooth extracted last Friday. The cavity bled freely and all efforts to stop it were without avail until Saturday night. The loss of blood was so great that Mrs. Shultz became unconscious and several times it was thought she was dead.

—On Saturday a stranger found two infernal machines on the street in Homestead. They were dynamite cartridges connected with wires and a battery. Several weeks ago four boys found one of these devices and all were injured by its explosion. Why they should be thus scattered on the streets is a mystery.

—A valuable patent deposit which has the elasticity and smoothness of white lead, has recently been discovered near Marshlands, Tioga county, which promises to be an extensive bed. A vein just struck at several places is more than half a mile long, forty rods wide in some places and fifteen or more feet in thickness.

—Six hundred pounds of dynamite exploded at the Rock Hill stone crushing plant, near Perkase, Bucks county, while the dynamite was being thawed out by steam. Buildings in the neighborhood rocked and considerable glass was broken. A hole fifteen feet deep and ten feet wide was torn in the earth. Two Hungarians were slightly injured.

—If war were declared by the United States Westmoreland county could furnish 21,354 citizens for military duty. The county commissioners Thursday completed the military roll for the boroughs and townships. The boroughs have 11,559 eligible for soldier duty and the townships 9,795. Greensburg leads all boroughs and townships with 1,696.

—The weighing house at the Harbison Walker works, at Mt. Union, was destroyed by fire on Monday of last week. The weather being very cold, the weighman had made a hot fire, and during his temporary absence the building caught fire, being very small it was entirely consumed in a few minutes. A number of coats and dinner buckets belonging to workmen were destroyed.

—John W. Bubb, who left Danville in 1861, at the age of 18 years, a poor boy, returned to his early home for the first time, last week, a brigadier general of the United States army. During the Civil war he participated in a number of very important battles and was a prisoner in Libby prison, Belle Isle and Salisbury for nine months. He has since been in the regular service all the time.

—Edward Northcraft, night foreman at the Queen's Run fire brick works, in Clinton county, fell from a car last Friday morning at the works and was severely injured. Mr. Northcraft had climbed to the platform of the car, which was standing on the trestle work, to be unloaded, and in taking a step to get to the top of the car his foot slipped and he fell to the trestle work and then to the ground, a distance of fifteen feet.

—Lester Hackett and a companion from Lewistown Junction, had a narrow escape from instant death one night last week while driving in the middle of the tracks of the Lewistown and Reedsville Electric railway, near the Logan Steel works, and were run down by a car running at a high rate of speed. The horse was killed and the carriage smashed. Hackett sustained a broken jaw and severe lacerations of the head and face, while his companion escaped with a few bruises.

—William H. Busick, aged 18, of Broad Top township, Bedford county, was convicted in the Bedford county court last Wednesday night of manslaughter. District Attorney Humphrey D. Tate conducted the trial for the Commonwealth and Congressman Reynolds and ex-Judge Jacob H. Longenecker defended Busick. Busick shot Hartman Oneal at a dance last August and Oneal died in two days. The cause of the quarrel which led to the shooting was an insult to a woman.

—Constable D. P. Lawhead, of Woodward township, Clearfield county, convicted at the December term of court of voluntary manslaughter, was last Thursday afternoon sentenced by Judge Smith to a term of one year and a half in the penitentiary. The prisoner was then released under a bond of \$5,000, pending an appeal to the superior court. Lawhead shot and killed Lolis Cardollo, a Slav, who worked at Hawk Run, October 22nd, 1906, after the man had been placed under arrest and started to run away.

—Several days ago while plowing on the Graham farm, near Guffey station in North Huntingdon township, Westmoreland county, Joseph C. Funk unearthed a skeleton, supposed to be the remains of an Indian who had been buried there more than 100 years ago. The plow struck a large stone and was partly dislodged. After some effort Mr. Funk succeeded in removing it. Underneath it was a small sepulchre several feet square where the skeleton was found in a sitting position and is in a good state of preservation. Mr. Funk took the skeleton home and the head he placed on his book case as an ornament.