

Ink Stings.

Some people run for office as naturally as others run for meals. The ice man doesn't care what happens now. Others may tell their troubles to marines, but his are over. The first regular issue of United States stamps appeared in 1847 and they have been licked regularly ever since. A smile and a cheerful word cost so little that we often wonder why it is that some people never have any. It is not probable that navigation on the new Panama canal—if there ever is navigation there—will be interrupted by ice. The ground hog must surely have seen his shadow if he took an eye opener before he emerged from his hole on Saturday morning. The man with the shovel hasn't time to write any epic on beautiful snow. Yet he is the man who knows best how beautiful it all is. The non-political (?) character of the Daily News is very patent to its readers these days of strife over the office of borough treasurer. If it were not for the humiliation of having them do it we might be well off if we were to get into war with Japan in order to give them a chance to seize the Philippines. Canned salmon and ice cream are all rights in their places but recent evidence proves the assertion that the stomach of a shirt factory girl is not the place for them to get together. Mrs. RUSSELL SAGE has begun the work of disbursing the SAGE millions. Her first gratuities indicate that she is thoroughly capable of patting the money where it will do good. Before we get through with this Japanese embargo maybe we will have reason to regret the lavish sympathy we spent upon Japan at the expense of an older and more steadfast friend, Russia. Senator DRYDEN is different from other men who have been licked in politics in that he has had the courage to admit that he is sick. Most of them get sick enough but won't acknowledge it. Many of the Republican statements of the country are now advocating an income tax, yet it was the passage of an income tax that lost Congress and the Presidency to the Democrats only a short time ago. The recent borings for the Pennsylvania railroad tunnel under New York have revealed that a large section of that city is built upon sand. The district is not the one in which the stock exchange is located. A fashion writer in one of the magazines declares that anklets are becoming popular with women. If such a fancy ever does become a fad men will have to carry a trained mouse else they will never be the wiser. It didn't need a decision of the court to tell whether our water hills are a tax or a rental. Any one of a dozen movers could have sold the authorities that it is a rental, since they found it out several years ago. There are only twenty-two hundred ostriches in this country, but about twenty-two million people who have the ostrich habit of thinking they can conceal their wrong doing by ducking their heads in a sand-pile. The Kansas City Times thinks THAW'S defense will be built on the plea that "he did it right while temporarily insane." This is in entire accord with the life of the man. Because it is a well established fact that he did wrong most of the time he was sane. Here the news dispatches inform us that the geratase gas plant in the world is located at Astoria, Long Island, when we were under the impression that it was in the White House at Washington. Another evidence that we never grow too old to learn. As time drags on in Washington it becomes more and more apparent that about all this Congress will get done will be to pass the usual appropriation bills and adjourn. However the Congressmen may feel about it the public will be entirely satisfied if this should prove the case. The probabilities are that if old Father Time were to take ANDREW CARNEGIE at his word and add ten years to his life in return for the payment of two hundred million dollars the rich iron master would be about as good as the rest of us during the last ten years of his life. Without a great protected monopoly to roll the money into his lap Mr. CARNEGIE would find the matter of existence much more serious than it has been for him since over fed iron industries have grown to take such good care of their dadivas. Mr. DELPHIN M. DELMAS, the California lawyer from whom so much has been expected in the THAW trial got into the game on Wednesday after THAW'S case had received a demoralizing battering from district attorney JEROME. DELMAS showed a manner entirely unexpected from a western lawyer prided as he had been. There was absolutely no bluff or bluster, all snavity and keenness that soon gathered up the shattered fragments of the defense and put Mr. JEROME in a tannum that was laughable. Judging from this first exhibition of his legal prowess he must be a NAPOLEON indeed of the law.

Democratic Watchman

STATE RIGHTS AND FEDERAL UNION.

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Corrupt and Contented Still.

We own to some measure of indifference as to the result of the municipal election in Philadelphia. It is a matter of the gravest consequence to the city. The election of the machine candidate for Mayor, JOHN E. REYBURN, would restore the predatory band of political pirates to complete control of the government of the city. That would mean the revival of the white slave trade, the renewal of the partnership between the police and the criminals, the propagation of vice and the promotion of crime. The secret traffic in franchises and property will be resumed and the birthrights of the people of the city will again be used as assets of the atrocious contractors combine.

But the people of Philadelphia deserve some such treatment as this. In 1905 there was a temporary awakening of the conscience of the city and the machine was defeated overwhelmingly. Some of the bosses became fugitives from justice and others sought seclusion at home. But they were helpless to do harm and might have been forced into permanent good behavior or perpetual banishment. The people of the city came to their rescue, however. They knew, if they have any intelligence at all, that the success of the machine ticket last fall would guarantee the restoration of the machine to power. They knew, if they know anything, that such a result meant municipal disaster. But they cast their reform purpose to the dogs and voted for the machine candidates.

If STEWART had been defeated last fall a candidate for Mayor of the REYBURN type would have no more chance of election now than SAM SALTER has of being appointed president of the Civil Service commission. If the fusion ticket had been successful last fall the people of Philadelphia would have been certain of just government, at a saving of millions of dollars annually, for at least a generation. But political bigotry, added to a complete indifference to civic righteousness, influenced them to vote for the machine and if the consequence is expensive in currency and reputation, it is their own fault. The citizenship of Philadelphia is "corrupt and contented," and ought to suffer the consequences.

Secretary of the Treasury SHAW repeats the newspaper statements that important improvements in the methods and personnel of that department are contemplated by Secretary-elect, CORTELYOU. The improvements were begun some time ago, SHAW declares, in the system of book-keeping. But the substitution of anybody for SHAW is the greatest improvement that could be imagined.

President ROOSEVELT has called upon "all newspapers supporting his administration" to drop "the Japanese scare," according to the Washington correspondents. We have the same authority for the statement that after a visit with the President, the other day, Senator CULLOM, of Illinois, said, "this war scare is all booh. There is no more chance of our going to war with Japan over this little school question than there is of fighting China, Russia or Great Britain." It may be inferred, therefore, that the absurd invention has proved a boomerang and that ROOSEVELT is now trying to cure an evil of his own creation. Having "blown to the wind" the "eaping of the whirlwind is not onfructuous."

There never was even the most remote probability of a war with Japan over the San Francisco school question. It may be that some Japanese consular official at San Francisco or some place else, more or less obsequious since the Russian war, imagined that Admiral TOGO would come over here and overwhelm us if moral and physical lepers of the orient were not allowed to associate on an equality, in the public schools of San Francisco, with the white children of the community. But it was an absurd pipe dream. There is no treaty which obliges any State to perpetrate such a crime against itself and so long as reason prevails there never will be.

ROOSEVELT started that manifestly preposterous story for the purpose of frightening Congress into the appropriation of vast sums for the increase of the army and navy. For some inexplicable reason the President is anxious to impoverish the people of the United States by levying tax burdens beyond endurance and the only certain way to achieve that result is to greatly increase the army and navy. There is no more need for such burdens upon the people than there is danger of a war with Japan, Russia or Great Britain. But it is certain that an impoverished people will be easily subdued and maybe ROOSEVELT wants such a condition to exist in this country about the time his term expires.

Auditors have been appointed to conduct the investigation of the palace of graft but nobody knows what auditors are for in that connection.

Get Busy On Right Line.

There have been introduced into the Legislature since the opening of the present session bills and resolutions creating no less than a dozen commissions for one purpose or another. Some of these bodies might serve good purposes, such, for instance, as the railroad commission, provided for in the measure introduced by Representative CREESEY. The abuses which it is intended to correct or abate are manifold and manifest. But the constitution lodges in the Secretary of Internal Affairs all the power which the measure in question would bestow on the commission and it would be better, therefore, to enact such legislation as is necessary to make the constitutional provision effective.

There are already between fifty and a hundred of these boards and commissions in existence, beginning with the Board of Public Grounds and Buildings, which has recently betrayed the interests of the State by squandering millions of treasure in the construction and furnishing of the capitol. The purpose of these commissions is to provide honorary or profitable places for political dependents and party workers primarily, and to shift responsibility for evils, incidentally. If the powers of the Board of Public Buildings and Grounds had been lodged in any individual member of the body the abuses would never have occurred. The shadow of prison walls would have admonished him to be careful.

The constitution of the State vests all legislative power in the General Assembly. The creating of commissions, therefore, with legislative power, is an infringement of the constitution and invalid and such commissions without such power or for other purposes is mischievous and dangerous. There is no occasion for commissions of any kind and the only legislation on that subject which ought to be considered is for the revocation of some of the commissions already in existence. It would close up one of the most prolific sources of graft and stop one of the greatest evils from which the Commonwealth is suffering. Let the Legislators get busy along that line.

Next Wednesday will mark the beginning of the Lenten season and the next day, Thursday, will be St. Valentine day, so in order to be in keeping with the season let any Valentines you may send be as penitential in character as possible.

Really Congressman BURTON, of Ohio, must be some sort of a colossus. According to the Philadelphia papers he outwits all the legislation of Congress and has Speaker CANNON "skinned a mile."

Delinquency and Disappointment. The Washington correspondents are ubiquitous, of course, all newsgatherers are that, but they are not always entirely satisfying. They go everywhere, we have no doubt, and see everything. They print a lot, too, and most of their stories are interesting. But sometimes they stop short of the full measure of the possibilities in catering to popular curiosity. In fact many a good story is spoiled because it is incomplete. Only the skeleton is given or more properly speaking, the preface is published and the narrative, as well as the motif left to conjecture. Nothing could be more disappointing.

For example, the other day the Washington correspondents gave the public an account of the first meeting between Senator-elect SIMON GUGGENHEIM, of Colorado, and Senator BENJAMIN TILLMAN, of South Carolina. Mr. GUGGENHEIM is the wealthy gentleman who, according to his own statement, recently bought a seat in the United States Senate from the Legislature of Colorado. In a speech delivered a few days ago, Senator TILLMAN held GUGGENHEIM up to public execration and denounced him and his methods in the most scathing terms. In fact he was so severe on GUGGENHEIM and men of his type that the Senate, in secret session, forced him to make an apology.

Under the circumstances the first meeting between these gentlemen must have been an event of unusual interest and some source of excitement. TILLMAN is a plain spoken man and might easily have said a few things on such an occasion that would have made "interesting" reading," as the late General CAMERON would have put it. But if anything of that kind happened, the Washington correspondents failed to take notice of it and so far as their reports indicate they may have "piped as meekly as a sucking dove." There is certainly a delinquency there and a disappointment.

The defeat of Senator DRYDEN, of New Jersey, is a triumph of civic righteousness over corporate venality. It is a pity that such things never happen in Pennsylvania, at least hardly ever.

There is no foundation for the war scare with respect to Japan but incidents which have followed that silly affair should admonish the President against repeating such absurdities.

Garner the Recreant.

When Representative GARNER, of Schuylkill county was making his primary campaign for renomination he made a speech in which he declared that during previous sessions he had "sold himself, body and soul," to the Republican machine in consideration of promises of legislation in the interest of the miners. He had "been cheated," he added in every instance, and declared that in the event of his re-election he would not so powder to the vicious combination. He appears to have forgotten this pledge, however. He is still selling himself "body and soul" to the machine, and it looks as though he were throwing in a chromo, here and there, to entice traders.

For example, the other day Representative CREESEY introduced a resolution discharging the committee on electric railways from the further consideration of his bill authorizing trolley railroads to carry freight. The Republican party is pledged to the support of the measure and the machine managers hoped it could be stifled in committee. CREESEY'S motion interfered with this programme and COCHRAN, of Armstrong county, a servile follower of the gang, tried to head it off. It went over under the rules until Monday evening when Mr. CREESEY called it up. COCHRAN raised the point of order that the Legislature had not been in session ten days since the introduction of the bill and like a drowning man clutching straws, the Speaker ruled the point "well taken." CREESEY remonstrated and showed that the practice has been to count every day between Monday and Saturday as legislative days. The Speaker was compelled to reverse himself and the machine was in despair.

But Mr. GARNER came to its rescue. The Speaker, COCHRAN and all the other machine leaders wanted a postponement but were afraid to take the onus of a motion. GARNER was equal to the occasion, however, and he moved that the resolution be "laid on the table until next Monday evening." That is precisely what the machine managers wanted. It gives them the time they need to devise a means of defeating the measure or so crippling it that it will be worthless. GARNER has given another mortgage on his big body and little soul, but that is really unimportant for he has proved himself to be a recreant any way. We hope his betrayed constituents will understand the gravity of his crime.

The investigation of the Brownsville episode will show that the town was "shot up" by twenty negro soldiers but it will hardly justify the dishonorable discharge of 140 or so who had no part in the disorder without trial or opportunity to prove their innocence.

The Greater of Two Evils.

In a letter addressed to some well-meaning and amiable ladies of New York who have dedicated themselves to the benevolent purpose of ameliorating the evils of child labor, President ROOSEVELT has given the public some idea of his plans for the promotion of centralization. "When the local and state authorities fail to fulfill their duties in the matter of exterminating evils," the President writes, "then the national government has no choice but to interpose its authority and perform the neglected service of the state governments." This is substantially what Secretary ROOR says he means in his New York speech of some weeks ago.

The trouble is that the constitution of the United States, which the President and all other officials of the national government have sworn to "support, obey and defend," forbids such interposition of federal authority. "The powers not delegated to the United States by the constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people," is the exact language of Article X of the fundamental law of the United States. There is no language in that instrument which directly or inferentially authorizes the federal authorities to interfere with the state regulation in respect to child labor, or any other kind of labor, or forbids the States from exercising absolute power in such matters.

We all agree to the proposition that child labor is a grave evil which the State Legislature should restrict and the state authorities prevent. But it is hardly as great an evil as the subversion of the government would be and the violation of the constitution by the usurpation of power, specifically prohibited, will inevitably work that result. If the state authorities fail to perform their duties popular sentiment should interpose and compel obedience to the interests of the public. But the President of the United States has no right to exercise such power and if he does so he is guilty of treason.

The charges of forgery against the cashier of the defunct Waynesburg bank have been withdrawn. The people out there probably came to the conclusion the pressing of such a charge might not be agreeable to so distinguished a citizen.

Spawls from the Keystone.

Samuel Crain, a glassblower, of Spring City, Chester county, drank a quart of whiskey on a wager and died in a short time. Edwin C. Bandenbush, of Zionville, Lehigh county, caught thirteen skunks in two hours, eight being captured in one hole and five in another. The poils netted him \$16. Williamsport's lodge of Elks have begun improvements on their temple that will necessitate an expenditure of \$6,000 in renovation, refurnishing, refinishing and retouching. The license court of Schuylkill county has granted 1,062 liquor licenses and has still over 500 applications to consider, most of them for new stands, but with protests against all of them. George Dietrick, noted as one of the largest men in Johnston, and said to weigh over 300 pounds, died very suddenly Wednesday at his home on Devilin street, Ninth ward, aged 57 years. During the past fiscal year the commissioners of Juniata county paid off over \$9,000 of the bonded indebtedness on that county, leaving the debt at the beginning of the year about \$74,000. Four hundred of Pottsville's representative citizens participated in a banquet on Friday night at which preliminary plans were made for the erection of a Young Men's Christian Association building at a cost of \$110,000. Mrs. Sarah Ann Dunkard, who lived a hermit life near Telford, Montgomery county, was burned to death early Sunday morning. She habitually smoked a pipe and it is supposed she set fire to her clothing from the pipe. Three serious coasting accidents occurred at Bloomsburg on Saturday night. Grace Long, aged 16 years, had a leg broken; James Reilly, aged 9 years, had an ear nearly torn off his head, and Anna Javens, aged 9 years, had a terrible gash cut in her thigh. Henry Wright, a hod carrier employed in the construction of a new brewery at Bentleville, Washington county, fell a distance of eighty-three feet, breaking two planks in his fall and escaped with slight injuries. He resumed work in a short time. Former Judge Thomas Mellon, a millionaire of Pittsburgh, and his wife, Sarah J. Mellon, celebrated their joint birthday anniversary on Sunday. Judge Mellon was 94 years old and is well preserved. Mrs. Mellon was 90. She has been in poor health for some time. A re-valuation of the coal lands in Northumberland county, made by the assessors adds \$3,000,000 to the assessment of the county. The former valuation of these lands averaged \$22 per acre; the valuation now is \$405 but even this is only about one-seventh the real value. Luther J. Hamor, a printer, of West Huntingdon, was beheaded by a switching engine at Huntingdon early Saturday evening. The crew of the engine which killed Hamor, found his lifeless body lying along the siding which leads to the J. C. Blair stationery plant about 7 o'clock. Six hundred men and boys are on a strike at Morea colliery, owned by the Dodson Coal company, near Mahanoy City, because of unsatisfactory inside conditions. The miners object to extracting rock and slate from the coal without pay, as they say it is a virtual reduction of 20 per cent. in wages. A. J. Patterson, one of the well known residents of Juniata, has been notified of a large estate that has been left a number of heirs in this section of the State by his grandfather. The estate is located in Minnesota, near St. Paul, and is said to be valued in the millions. Mr. Patterson's mother, now deceased was a survivor of the family and her children will come in for her share of the estate. The Somerset county commissioners have paid to the contracting firm of Caldwell & Drake all of the balance due on the new court house, with the exception of \$6,000, which has been withheld owing to a number of alleged minor defects in the structure, such as leaks in the roof, etc. This action was taken after considerable discussion, the commissioners believing they would be justified in withholding a much larger amount. Miss Mary Diamond, the oldest resident of Williamsport, died in that city last Friday at the ripe old age of 101 years and 24 days, from the effect of paralysis. She was born in England on January 7, 1806, and lived in Williamsport for 55 years. By reason of an accident that happened this lady 13 years ago she had been confined to an invalid chair ever since. She retained her mental faculties up to the last and was able to read books and papers without difficulty. While a crowd of young people were enjoying themselves skating at the Wolfburg dam, near Bedford, on Saturday afternoon, Miss Bessie Miller and Mr. Harry Diehl, both of Wolfburg, had the misfortune to break through the ice. But for the calmness of both they would have met an untimely death, the water at that point being about twelve feet deep. Mr. Diehl heroically held Miss Miller above the water until help arrived, and they were safely rescued from a watery grave. Aubray, the little son of Chester E. Kerns, of Jersey Shore, was badly bitten by a bull dog on Wednesday. The baby was playing about the mother's knees in her husband's jewelry store when the canine suddenly sprang at the tiny tot and buried its teeth in the calf of the left leg, refusing to let go until the cry of the mother, who was alone in the store, attracted the attention of Mr. Kerns, who beat the dog over the head with a cane. The wounds were immediately cauterized. A babe having died under what was thought to be suspicious circumstances at Gypsy, Indiana county, a deputy coroner held an inquest. There was no testimony adduced to show that the child had died from other than natural causes. The mother is Mrs. Thomas Morgot, and at the hearing it transpired that she had been the mother of thirty-four children; that she was 41 years of age; had married when but 16 years old and that she had been twice married. She had several times given birth to twins.

Amateur economists, busy in all states of the union with the problem of taxing the other fellow. In no state are they busier than in Pennsylvania. The once loved but now hated corporations are to be made to bear so much of the expense of government that the taxation of the people will be merely nominal. Scarcely a day passes that a new tax bill is not presented in the legislature at Harrisburg and all are aimed at the corporations. This is the direct result of the government of privilege for the few that has existed in this state for more than a quarter of a century. In the reaction against it legislators are attempting the impossible of making it a government of privilege for the many at the expense of the few. Of course they cannot do it, even if they should pass every tax bill that has been offered in this session. They can devise no system of taxation to accomplish that.

But there are quite a few who believe they can. They are men who hold the opinion that the man who actually hands the money over to the tax collector is the man who really pays the taxes. With them the taxes paid by a railroad corporation, come out of the pocket of the stockholder and are not paid by those who pay the corporation for the service it performs. The mercantile and other special taxes on business of different kinds they believe are paid by the merchant and not by the person who buys his wares. The landlord pays the tax on real estate and not the tenant, who merely pays the landlord rent.

But if shippers did not ship, buyers did not buy or renters did not rent railroad corporations, merchant and landlords could not pay taxes. And if the hipper buyers and renters did not pay enough for shipping, for goods and for houses they occupy the men who deal directly with the tax collector would not be able to pay the bill charged against them by the state. If legislators would rid themselves of this false idea that they can make the other fellow pay all the taxes and would devote themselves to the task of making him pay his full and just share and no more they might accomplish something for the people they represent.

The surplus that is now carried in the state treasury proves in itself that too much money is now being collected from the people by the state for the return that is being made to them by their government. The state has no right to take more from the people than is need for the support of a government honestly and economically administered. Its revenues each year should balance its expenditures and its expenditures should be enough and no more to give the people efficient public service for the promotion of their material welfare, their intellectual improvement, their comfort and their happiness.

It is a mistake to believe that the people of the state hold enmity toward the corporations or that they are demanding that punitive or revengeful measures be taken against them in satisfaction of the wrongs of the past. They are merely asking that the corporations be brought within the law; that they be restrained from the abuse of the special privileges they enjoy and that they be required to pay fair and honest compensation to the people for those privileges, either in taxes or in lower charges for the service they are authorized to perform.

The people do not ask that that compensation be more than they pay themselves for the benefits they enjoyed under organized and orderly government. For their unquestioned right to live upon the land the people must pay the state taxes that are heavy and excessive in proportion to the compensation corporations pay, not for a natural right but for a revocable privilege. They ask for an equalization that will at least make the price of privilege equal to the cost of rights. Further taxation of nearly all of the corporations, where it is demanded by justice and fairness, should be left to the local communities which they serve. There is a double reason for this.

In the first place, the value of the property of these corporations has been created entirely by the local community and taxation of that value should be for the use and benefit of those who created it and whose wealth it is. Secondly, these corporations use the public property of the government in that community and the burden of protecting their property is upon that community. Hence the compensation for these things is due to no one but those who pay the bill.

The state unfairly and without justice denies the people of Pennsylvania the right to collect from public service corporations enjoying the use of the streets of the city an equitable tax that would require them to pay the city proportionately to the benefits they derive from it and proportionately as much as individuals must pay on their real and personal property.

It would be dishonest for the state to step in and collect this tax and take it away from those to whom it is rightfully due to give it to communities that had no shadow of a claim to it. It would be plain robbery. Let the state make laws for the regulation of corporations to enforce the will of the people as expressed by them in their constitution. Then let it levy such general taxes as will meet the expenses that should legitimately and rightfully be borne by the whole state. Its duty and its right end there.

Sane and honest legislators should not allow themselves to be led astray by those pinchers, these blagging economists and these political strikers who believe they can carry favor with the masses by their anti-corporation mischief.

Advantages of Higher Education.

Who says a higher education doesn't pay? Over 200 university men are earning big salaries on leading baseball teams, and the doesn't take into account the scores of others who can get more for three months of football than the average professional man can earn in a year.