

Ink Stings.

Moving time and spring house-cleaning will be here before we know it.

Next Tuesday will end the unrest of the busy politician and the hopeful candidate.

Wonder if anyone remembered to send a pretty Valentine to the bugologist of Swenksville on Wednesday.

THOMAS A. EDISON is going to quit work, but not his phonograph. Lord bless you, there is no such good news as that.

A process of making rubber from wheat having been invented possibly the demand on the human necks will not be so great.

That frightful steamboat disaster in Long Island Sound adds another to the horrors of 1907 that are fairly crowding upon one another.

The way the two-cent passenger rate bill passed the House looks as if there are more kinds of railroading in Pennsylvania than there used to be.

Telegraphing is not "necessary" but twenty per cent. advance in the charges for the service will be felt in all walks of life and will help materially to swell expenses of living.

The fact that there are nine million dollars in the general fund in the State Treasury can only be accounted for because of the fact that BERRY detected the rascals before they had it all spent.

Many a man who comes out a life insurance agent for bothering him fails to realize that his widow and orphans may some day waken up to find that the bothersome agent was their best friend after all.

Mr. HARRY LEHR former wine agent and connoisseur of freak Newport dinners, has been presented to the Kaiser. His majesty has now personal acquaintance with all the really great men of our country.

A sun spot three and one-half billion square miles in area has been discovered by Dr. BRASHEAR, of the Allegheny observatory. Along in July and August Old Sol will still be able to make it hot enough for us, however.

They are having a few little governmental unpleasantnesses in King Al's land. The Irish want home rule and the House of Commons wants the powers of the House of Lords curtailed. And there is likely to be something doing.

ROCKERFELLER has added thirty-two million dollars to his gifts for educational purposes. And the more the people become educated the greater is their wonder that they ever made laws that would permit JOHN D. to make so much money.

With the wife of the jurors near death's door with pneumonia it is possible that there will be a mistrial in the THAW case. In such an event the entire scandalous affair will have to be hashed over again and paraded before the public by sensational newspapers.

A story comes from Maine to the effect that it is so cold up there that cow's tails actually get frozen in the water troughs and have to be chopped off. Will wonders never cease? Here these Yankee cows must be drinking with their tails or shame on them—can they be the kind of naughty cows the Philadelphia Record told us about last fall.

It is the duty of every good citizen to go out and vote next Tuesday. The local offices are the ones of greatest personal importance to you because the average citizen feels it more if his children do not have well conducted schools and he does not have good roads to drive over than he does if they fight in Washington over the building of a canal or changing the tariff.

With attorneys of such eminence as JAMES STRANAHAN and JAMES SCARLET directing the capital probe surely all of the facts ought to be made public unless the Legislature hedges their work about with restrictions that will nullify their efforts. The two JIMS are men of strictest integrity and they can be counted on to reveal the truth if they can get at it. Ah, there is the rub.

The proposed act of Assembly which provides that all township bridges, thirty-five feet or over, shall be turned over to the county authorities for maintenance and reconstruction in the future will open up a new field of dispute between the township supervisors and the county commissioners. Naturally there will be many bridges stretched for the purpose of unloading them on the county and right there is the place the trouble will begin.

The death of A. J. GRIEST yesterday morning removes a man who at the critical moment in Centre county's financial affairs injected keen business methods into the Commissioner's office and in the short space of six years paid off a great county debt and left the office with a handsome surplus in the treasury. Mr. GRIEST was a politician of the best type; one of the kind who believed that public business should be handled just the same as private enterprises. He was honest to the core, far sighted, practical and positive and built for himself an official monument that will live in this county as long as our public institutions endure. He was a good citizen, in its fullest and truest meaning and while his course had practically been run we deplore his death.

Democratic Watchman

STATE RIGHTS AND FEDERAL UNION.

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Roosevelt's Usurpation.

We have information from Washington to the effect that the trouble between the government of Japan and the School authorities of San Francisco has been adjusted. President ROOSEVELT called the San Franciscans to the national capital, according to the story, and told them that it is their duty to yield and in fact it may be inferred that he added such action is absolutely essential to the safety of the country. He probably pictured the Japanese warriors clothed in HARVEYZED steel uniforms pouncing down on us "like a wolf on the fold," and sweeping us into the ocean. It is better that all the people of San Francisco should be inoculated with moral and physical leprosy than that the great American public should be obliterated from the face of the earth, he probably asserted.

President ROOSEVELT had about as much right to "butt in" to this dispute between the school authorities of San Francisco and some too-chest Japanese consul as he would have had to interfere in a controversy between the Mikado and the Kaiser. The school authorities of San Francisco had abundant reason for excluding Japs from the schools other than those set apart for their accommodation. The association of the Mongolians and the whites had the effect of impairing the morals of the whites and consequently the exclusion became a matter of vital importance. Besides the President has nothing to do with the local police powers of a State. His interference was usurpation which is a crime against the government. The authorities of San Francisco should have refused to confer with him on the subject.

ROOSEVELT has violated the constitution in so many ways and perverted the powers of his office so frequently that such things are no longer subjects of surprise. But that fact in itself should admonish the people against encouraging him in such dangerous folly. He has no interest in the Japanese children in San Francisco. If any of his own children were attending the schools of that city he would have resented the claim of Japan with respect to the matter. Neither is he influenced by apprehensions of trouble with Japan. He knows that there is no contingency so remote as that and that high officials in Japan laughed at his suggestion. But he wants to establish the right of the federal government to interfere in local affairs and ought to be sharply rebuked for his presumption.

It didn't cost JOHN E. REYBURN a cent to get the machine nomination for Mayor of Philadelphia for the reason, mainly, that he was appointed to the place by Senator McNICHOE.

Bishops and Battleships.

A number of Bishops are protesting against turning the Jamestown exposition into a naval show. Such an exhibition will "stir up the fever of military excitement and emulation in our people," they say, "at a time when that is precisely what we should all most earnestly cooperate to discourage." The exposition, these pious gentlemen believe, ought to celebrate our achievements in peace, our progress in the arts and sciences, and the development of our resources in commerce and industry. Our greatest achievements have been along these lines, these Doctors of Divinity think, and for that reason our military and naval equipment should be kept in the background.

But what use will the Jamestown exposition be to President ROOSEVELT if this notion is to be adopted? He doesn't care much about agriculture, or manufactures, or commerce, except in so far as they contribute to the exploitation of our naval development. It would be hard to get ten million dollar battleships and difficult to maintain big armies if factories were idle and the soil failed to produce abundant harvests. For these reasons the President probably thinks that commerce and industry are well enough in their way, but for purposes of diversion there is nothing like a naval parade and an exposition laid on the shore of a fine sheet of salt water without an elaborate naval display would be an insipid thing.

The eleven eminent theologians may be all right in their notion about the "victories of peace." The rapid increase and vast present volume of our exports of manufactures and agricultural products are worth celebrating by preachers and women. But to men in whose veins the red blood surges as it does in the body of our strenuous President something more spectacular than agricultural exhibits and sacred concerts are necessary. They want battleships in maneuver to satisfy their martial spirit and if they can't have a naval parade they don't want anything at all. Therefore the Bishops who are remonstrating against a vast naval display are jeopardizing the success of the exposition.

One week from to-day will be Washington's birthday.

Two Legislative Snakes.

There are some exceedingly venomous serpents wriggling their devious ways through the present Legislature but probably the most dangerous of all are those relating to "Auxiliary Forest Reserves." There are two of these and they are twin evils. One of them authorizes the creation of the auxiliaries and defines the process. It provides that the owners of timber lands not available for cultivation may apply to the Commissioner of Forestry to have the land entered in the auxiliary forest reserve and if the commissioner is inclined it may be entered. That accomplished the forests so entered will remain the custody of the commissioner until the owner desires to cut the timber, when he withdraws it, the expense of maintenance, meantime, having been paid by the State.

The twin iniquity provides for the taxation of forest lands entered in and part of the auxiliary forest reserve on a valuation of not more than one dollar an acre. Everybody knows that the land in question is worth from ten to twenty dollars an acre and that it is increasing in value almost as rapidly as city lots. Therefore the taxation of such lands on a valuation of a dollar an acre works an injustice to every holder of every other kind of property in the neighborhood of such lands for the reason that the tax on all other property must be increased in order to make up the loss to the "duplicate" by practically withdrawing vast areas from the tax lists. The bill is unconstitutional, moreover, because it creates an inequality in taxation and discriminates in favor of one tract of woodland and against another.

The obvious purpose of the bill is to help the tanning trust euphemistically called the Central Pennsylvania Lumber company. That "conspiracy in restraint of trade," has already acquired vast tracts of such timber lands which it is holding in reserve for future supplies of bark for its tanneries and timber for its saw mills and is endeavoring to get as much more as possible. An arrangement which would reduce the taxes on such land to a valuation of a dollar a year would be of the greatest advantage to that corporation and enable it to extend its holdings immensely. We hardly think the Legislature will be foolish enough to do this, however, but in any event the title of the bill should be changed so as to read: "An act to put money in the pockets of the tanning trust at the expense of the other taxpayers of the State."

The attempt to sneak the game bill which imposes a license fee upon hunters through the committee and on to the calendar last week was defeated through the vigilance of Representative DERSHAM, of Union county. It is to be hoped that the good sense of the membership of the body will guarantee the ultimate defeat of the measure in the committee to which it was recommended after the trick was discovered.

The Honors of Politics.

We have frequently heard of the honors of politics and some of the stories of campaigns are certainly funny. But we call to mind no story of the political life of Pennsylvania that is more ridiculous than a sketch of the Republican candidate for Mayor of Philadelphia which appeared in our esteemed contemporary, the Public Ledger, of that city, on Sunday last. It opens with a statement of his "honorable public service as a Representative and Senator at Harrisburg," and its climax is expressed in a sentence which declares that "his whole public career has been marked by independence, courage and industry."

Mr. REYBURN's too exuberant biographer extols his independence, "aside from his support of QUAY and the CAMERONS for United States Senator," and admits that that was the only test then of party servility. He adds that Mr. REYBURN's popularity with his colleagues "was shown by his election as president pro tempore at the close of the session of 1883." At that time he was completing his seventh year of service in the Senate and under the customs of the body a cigar store Indian who had served in the Senate that long would have been similarly honored. It was neither a sign of popularity nor fitness.

As a matter of fact REYBURN was one of the most servile followers of the machine who ever sat in the Senate and though he was reputed to be immensely rich he received little consideration from his associates. On one occasion during the long session of 1883 a sinister service was required of the chair and AMOS MYLON who was president pro tempore was impudently to perform it. MYLON was none too nice in his notions but he refused to do what was asked. He was induced, however, to call REYBURN to the chair and that gentleman with ruffianly bravado performed the shameful work, "with neatness and dispatch."

Did you get the right kind of a Valentine yesterday?

Cost of the Philippines.

Senator CLAY, of Georgia, has introduced a resolution asking for an "official statement of all that the United States Treasury has been called upon to expend on account of the acquisition and maintenance of its title to the Philippines." He could hardly have touched a more interesting subject. Thoughtful people have long been cogitating the question with more or less anxiety. Various and widely separated estimates have not abated either the doubts or fears. All that is known is that the aggregate has run into hundreds of millions and that thus far there have been few or no returns for the vast outlay.

Soon after the acquisition of those misnamed swamps and jungles we were assured that a great commercial triumph had been achieved and that soon as the germ of benevolent assimilation had developed a little we would begin the harvest of trade with Asia. The Pacific would be crowded with ships it was predicted, from the cargoes of which our people would make fortunes beyond the wildest dreams of avarice. But season has succeeded season without producing even the symptom of gain while the expenditures are studiously kept from the public view. Senator CLAY wants to know about these things and the public shares his curiosity.

Senator CLAY has not indicated what his purpose is in asking for this information but it is a safe conjecture that he is not influenced entirely by curiosity. Probably his idea is to use the information for making an estimate or devising a plan to get rid of the Islands. Some of our ablest statesmen are moving toward the view that the property costs too much and comes too little to continue the experiment which has proved successful and we can conceive of nothing which would more certainly promote that view than a detailed statement of the expenses already incurred. We hope Senator CLAY will succeed in his undertaking.

The Shah of Persia is now in the business, having succeeded to the throne only a few weeks ago. But he has been in the royal harness long enough to have ascertained the truth of the adage that "money is the head that wears a crown." The Assembly of Parliament of the Empire demands that he declare himself a constitutional monarch which is another form of relinquishing some of the most important prerogatives of the job.

The Lobby in Harrisburg.

The railroad lobby has resumed business at the old stand, according to the news from Harrisburg. At the close of the session of two years ago it was announced, somewhat ostentatiously, that the railroad lobby had "gone out of business." The subsequent discontinuance of passes confirmed the declaration, for a lobby without passes would be like Hamlet with the royal Dane eliminated. The special session of last year passed without the slightest symptom of a railroad lobby, moreover, which greatly strengthened the pretense. But railroad legislation was excluded from that session by the Governor's proclamation.

The wise guys were not convinced even by this accumulation of evidence, however. Wait until the Legislature assembles in regular session and the floodgates of railroad legislation are opened, they said, more or less oracularly. We waited, impatiently, no doubt, but certainly, and if the gossip of the corridors is even approximately accurate, the predictions have been fulfilled. At all events the papers say that the lobby has put in an appearance and the business of buttonholing Senators and Representatives has been resumed. Thus far we have heard of no passes, but as certain as effect followed cause if the lobby has returned the passes will be restored.

It would have been better for the State, better for the Legislature and better for the railroads if the lobby had remained away from Harrisburg forever. For years the railroads have controlled the legislation of the State by sinister and devious methods with the result that the interests of the people have suffered immensely and those of the corporations have not been conserved proportionately. The railroads have saved in taxes something, no doubt, but they have paid in blackmail and salaries nearly as much. In other words, the lobby has cost almost as much as it has come in in money and a great deal more in morals.

Relations between Haiti and Germany are strained and the public will watch with great interest the swish of the big stick under the circumstances. As a rule it moves slowly when there is a strong power at either end of the dispute.

A political bank at New Castle has failed also and the depositors will be compelled to wait a long time for their money if they get it at all. It begins to look as if the Republican machine is a hoodoo to banks.

Building the Canal per Contract.

From the Springfield Republican. It is quite believable that Chief John C. Stevens of the Panama canal has determined to resign if the plan of letting out the work on contract is adopted. There would seem to be moving reasons for this attitude. If the Oliver bid is accepted, for example, the real builder of the canal will be the New York company now being organized and the New York and other engineers and contractors associated with the company. Mr. Stevens would become a more or less idle representative of the government, holding a supervisory position of no great responsibility and involving no particular credits or discredit for the successes or failures of the undertaking. Robbed, then, of any glory attaching to the enterprise, he is thrown back upon the salary paid him by the government for his exclusive compensation, and such a salary or a better one doubtless could be commanded by him in private industry. Why then might he not resign in all fairness to the government and why should he not resign in all fairness to himself?

Meaning it might be well for the administration to let the public into a clearer idea of the nature of the contract plan which has been adopted or on which bids have been invited. Few people understand it, and on the face of the published statements it is not understandable. The Oliver bid, which is on the point apparently of being accepted, is 63 per cent. of the cost of construction, with a bonus of \$100,000 a month or something of that sort by as much as the time of completing the work is shortened under 10 years. Therefore, as the case is represented, the gain to the contractors varies directly with the costs to the government, and with no risk of loss to them. While a premium is put upon expedition in finishing the work, a premium is also put upon extravagance in expenditure within the time limit.

The government's estimate of the cost of the work has been \$150,000,000 of which \$30,000,000 has been expended. If this should prove a correct estimate, the contractors under the Oliver bid would gain some \$3,000,000, and, so far as the public has been informed to contrary, this would be substantially a net gain or compensation for the personal service of the contractors. But Wall Street, which has taken a new interest in the project since the Ryan McDonough crowd have gone into the Oliver contract, is guessing that the cost will vastly exceed the government's expectation and may go as high as \$350,000,000 additional to previous expenditure, in which case the contractors would yield \$33,000,000 or more to those back of it. And since the gain to the contractors increases as they are able to increase the cost, why not figure upon a much larger cost to the government than has been calculated?

It is a singular performance—this bringing in of a private money-making interest, not to secure economy as well as expedition in the construction under the stimulus of no profit or a loss if there is not economy and expedition, but merely to substitute a private for a public management under the stimulus of making the work as costly as possible. What can possibly be the reason for this?

Tippling and Law.

From the Pittsburgh Dispatch. The anti-tippling bill presented in the Legislature by representative Adams of this county strikes an answering chord in public opinion because everyone knows that the tippling practice has become a nuisance and in many cases a burden. But as a legislative proposition, to be considered seriously, it contains several aspects that may be questioned.

In the first place it is to be considered a public fact and a basis for legislation that the American citizen is so helpless a creature that he must depend on law to reform a practice that depends solely on his individual action. Grant that the tippling habit is a nuisance and even an injurious one; but it is not so injurious as the equally widespread habit of bolting a hearty meal in 20 minutes. Shall we pass an act requiring every man to take an hour for his dinner? To adopt Francis Murphy's famous saying: Every man can pass an anti-tippling bill for himself.

There is also an interesting constitutional question whether it is within the power of the Legislature to forbid a man to take a dime or a quarter offered him by another. Beyond that there is the further question, how many juries are there that will convict a waiter or barber or bootblack for accepting an extra nickel in the few cases that are found out?

How Big is \$33,000,000?

From the Johnstown Democrat. What does the sum of \$32,000,000 mean, the amount which John D. Rockefeller has just given to education? Thirty-two million dollars is more than the value of coal mines in the State of West Virginia in one year. It is one-third of the total property valuation of the wealthy new State of Oklahoma. It is equal to all the \$2.50 gold pieces coined in the United States up to 1905. It is more than the value of all the nickels ever coined.

It could pay the wage of a standing army of 200,000 men for one year. It is equal to one-fourth of the net earnings of all the national banks in 1906. It could provide the necessities of life—breadstuffs, meats, dairy and garden produce, other food, clothing, metals and miscellaneous articles, based on the per capita consumption in 1906, for 34,321 people.

It would almost pay the public debts of Chicago and Buffalo together. It would pay the salary of the President for 640 years.

Just to keep up with the fashion the girl employed in the Bellefonte shirt factory went out on a strike last Saturday noon. They did not go out very far, only outside the building, and at the end of one hour all went back to work again—the only sensible thing they could do.

Spawls from the Keystone.

In several districts in Bucks county the number of deaths last year exceeded the number of births.

DuBois firemen have received a check for \$1,000. This amount will be distributed among the different companies for their use during the year.

Rev. H. G. Clare, pastor of the Newton Hamilton Presbyterian church, has tendered his resignation to these churches, and will accept a call to a church near Johnstown.

Charles Wright, aged 22 years, of Mauch Chunk, while eating supper got some coffee grounds into his windpipe. A violent fit of coughing ensued, causing his death in great agony.

Isaac Groff died at Strasburg, Lancaster county, on Tuesday, aged 88 years. He had been a distiller early in life and afterwards a hotel keeper for twenty-five years, yet never drank any liquor.

Twenty-one of the new applications for licenses to sell liquor in Schuylkill county were refused. The county will have 1,066 saloons during the ensuing year, or one for every forty-five male adults.

Over 7,000 nickel-in-the-slot gambling machines have been driven out of Schuylkill county by the crusade of the Law and Order society. It is estimated that several hundred thousand dollars were tied up in these machines.

In the manufacture of monster sausage for which the Pennsylvania German country is famous, E. C. Smith, of Chestnut Hill, Lehigh county, has broken all records. He has just produced a sausage that measures 57 feet.

It is reported that the coal mines of the Great Lakes Coal company, at Kaylor, Armstrong county, the most important in that section of the State, have been taken over by the United States Steel corporation. The deal involves \$150,000.

Sixteen hundred pounds of feathers, put up in forty sacks, were recently shipped from the Pennsylvania railroad station at Newport, Perry county. They were for the most part gathered in Sherman's valley. The gathering of feathers has become quite an industry in Perry county.

Peter Myers, aged 83 years, and his wife Lucinda, aged 79 years, were buried together at Cooperstown, Venango county, on Sunday. They had lived together on a farm near Cooperstown for sixty years. The husband died first and his devoted wife followed in a few hours, the shock killing her.

Peter K. Soffel, warden of the Allegheny county jail at the time of the escape of the Biddle brothers, his wife going with the desperadoes, was married on Wednesday evening to Mrs. Margaret Taggart, a widow, of Mount Washington. Soffel was granted a divorce from his wife soon after her escape.

A petition bearing two thousand signatures was presented to the town council of Jersey Shore at its last meeting, praying for a curfew law. The W. C. T. U. and the Mothers' and Teachers' club are back of the movement and are supported by the leading men of the community. The ordinance is almost an assured fact.

While undermining coal Tuesday in the Granier mines of the Somerset and Cambria Coal company, in Foustwell John Hunter, aged about 45 years, was caught under a heavy fall of the black diamonds and instantly killed. His head was crushed. Another miner had been working with Mr. Hunter, but left the room just before the fall.

The Automatic Electric Water Purifying company, of Altoona, has submitted a bid to Philadelphia city councils offering to purify the water of the Queen Lane district for the sum of \$500,000. For this sum a plant complete capable of purifying from 60,000,00 to 75,000,000 gallons of water daily, will be constructed and started in operation. The matter has been referred to the water committee for action.

Charles M. Schwab, representing the Bethlehem Steel company, has purchased the mines of the Boyertown Ore company for a consideration said to be between \$400,000 and \$500,000. The rights secured by the Bethlehem company cover mineral privileges on 300 acres of land. The mines which are near Boyertown, are said to be the largest of their kind in Pennsylvania, the deposits being of bessemer magnetic ore.

What is generally conceded to be the prize tobacco crop raised in Clinton county last season was an acre and one-fourth grown by Andrew Hunt, near Washington Furnace. The tobacco is of the Havana seed leaf variety and so thrifty were the plants by reason of persistent cultivation and fertilizing that the cured crop on this small tract weighs 2,700 pounds, a yield attained by no other grower in the county.

With his right hand terribly mangled, and tightly wedged in between the disk wheel and the driving rod of an engine, Jacob Felbaum, the Youngstown carpenter, was held a prisoner for nearly fifteen minutes at the carpenter shop of the Frick Coke company at Dorothy, Westmoreland county, Friday night, having been unable to release his mangled hand, or to attract the attention of other workmen about the plant.

On January 13th Miss Sarah Belle Corbett, of Corsica, Jefferson county, died at the Allegheny General hospital from injuries she had received while playing basket ball at college in Wooster, Ohio. Mrs. Elizabeth Corbett, the mother, grieved so much over her daughter's death that she died on Thursday. Her pastor, Rev. F. P. Brits, of the Corsica Presbyterian church, visited her a few hours before her death and the address of the case so excited him that shortly after his return home he dropped on a couch and died in a few minutes of heart failure.

Counting on surprising his aged father, Valentine Newman, who disappeared two days after the flood of 1880, and who was believed to have been drowned, returned to Williamsport Wednesday night unannounced. He found that his father had died seven years ago, and his only other relative, his brother, had moved away. But he found, too, that his father, hoping that his son might yet be alive, had bequeathed half of a very comfortable estate to him. Newman left Williamsport on the first train out after the great flood, believing that the city was raised forever. He went to Pittsburg and has spent the 18 years running on a boat between that city and New Orleans.