

BY P. GRAY MEEK.

Ink Silage.

—March in! Is it the lion or the lamb? —Soon there will be no one left to build the canal but TEDDY.

—The coming of St. Patrick's day reminds us that our green necktie must be dusted off.

—New York city is the terminal of twenty-five railroads, but it will hardly be the terminal of Mr. THAW.

—The proposed bill limiting the speed of passenger trains to forty miles an hour won't be applicable to the flyer on the Bellefonte Central.

—The troubles the railroad companies are having sound sweet to ears of the old newspaper man as he digs up another twenty for a mileage book.

—Governor STUART might have at least retained our friend CHAMBERS on his staff until he had an opportunity to wear out that handsome uniform.

—A little boom has been launched for Senator KNOX for President. It is not announced whether he will run on a "big stick" or Mormon platform.

—Of course there is unwritten law. It is the kind used by lawyers who have no libraries. They have it all in their heads—at least they think they do.

—Probably those Philadelphia veterans gave General FRED GRANT new liquor during his recent visit there. Anyway something made him "talk like a teakettle."

—And it is altogether likely that if there were any fighting to be done as a result of that San Francisco school squabble Gen. FRED GRANT would be in the revolving chair warrior class.

—Local option will not serve the purpose of our temperance friends. The only thing that can successfully put an end to the liquor traffic is to stop its manufacture or sale in this country.

—Hereafter it will be a misdemeanor to drink whiskey out of a bottle while riding on any railroad train in Texas. Whiskey don't improve in glass. It will be all the better when drawn from the bung of a pocket keg.

—Pittsburg and Chicago papers have gotten into a squabble over which city can produce the prettiest girl. It is safe to say that the Pittsburg end of the controversy will not now lay claim to EVELYN as its ideal type.

—We don't expect much from the present Legislature now that the people of Philadelphia have declared for the machine. The machine doesn't need much encouragement and there was a good deal in the election.

—Watch the boy who has ambition enough to keep his face and hands clean, his hair slicked up and his shoes blacked. If he doesn't develop into a rascal he will be a successful man. You will find nothing lazy in that kind of a boy.

—A few years ago we thought the limit of extravagance had been run when Congress appropriated one billion dollars. When the present Congress adjourns next week it will have spent double that sum. Surely it takes money to make Uncle SAM's mare go.

—It district attorney JEROME had only asked EVELYN what she meant when she called the son of her boarding school mistress "a pie faced nut," we might have had a new non-de-plume for the fellows who are gullible enough to think that LOVE isn't still boss in Centre county.

—Farmer CREAMY is going after trusts in Pennsylvania with vengeance. His new bill is so comprehensive in its prohibitions against the restriction of trade that we fear that it might even be made applicable to men and women who get married on the principle that two can live cheaper than one.

—The Pennsylvania has threatened to stop hauling ministers at half fare if the two cent a mile bill is passed by the Legislature. It was a wise (?) guy who thought of that scare, now wasn't it? As if the average Pennsylvania Legislator would worry about how much the poor preachers have to pay for a ride.

—What's the use of those Russian Generals making such a fuss over finding out which one proved the biggest coward in the recent Japanese unpleasantness. The world long ago realized that they are all big enough to make the question as to which one was the biggest a matter of no interest whatever.

—Next week the new council will organize. In all probability the organization will be about the same as it has been during the past year, and few, if any, changes will be made. The old body struck a fairly harmonious working gait and no one seems anxious to disturb it for fear of getting something worse.

—The proposed bill to raise the State's annual appropriation to public schools to six million dollars a year is a good one as is also the provision fixing teacher's salaries at a minimum of from two hundred and forty to six hundred dollars per year, according to their worthiness. There can be no good in increased appropriations to the schools if it does not mean more cheerful school rooms and better qualified teachers. School taxes are not high now and it would be a miscarriage of benevolence if an increased gratuity were to result only in a decrease of local taxation.

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Editor Harter Lands the Bellefonte Postoffice.

On Wednesday the President sent to the Senate for confirmation the name of T. H. HARTER for postmaster at Bellefonte.

As no one of the friends of the other aspirants had an inkling that final action had been taken in the matter you can readily imagine the surprise that was occasioned when the announcement was read for the first time in the morning papers yesterday.

We congratulate Judge LOVE. He is the man who made it and he has made good his assertions all along that the result would be just as announced. Senator PENROSE owed it to Judge LOVE and PENROSE turned the trick with the President for neither Congressman DRESSER nor Congressman-elect BARCLAY had made a recommendation. In fact the latter was so completely left in the dark about what was transpiring that he had planned to come to Bellefonte soon to look into the situation personally before making a recommendation.

There can be no doubt of trickery or treachery somewhere for even the Republican county chairman, who had endorsed Mr. S. H. WILLIAMS, knew nothing of the announcement until his attention was called to it in the papers. In the face of these facts it cannot be regarded as a signal personal triumph for Judge LOVE; brought about principally because of his unflinching devotion to PENROSE. All through the State campaign last fall Judge LOVE was busy writing editorials defending the machine. These articles were turned over to Mr. HARTER and he, in turn, sent them to Republican state headquarters where they were distributed in type already set up to the country press of the State. Of course Mr. HARTER received credit for this work when it is well known by his own party friends here that he is the poorest politician and the poorest political writer who ever tried to edit a party organ in Centre county. He is intelligent enough in other directions, however, and will make a very capable postmaster. As to the popularity of the appointment we doubt if Mr. HARTER could be elected to the most trivial office in his home ward, though it is overwhelmingly Republican.

From a political standpoint the WATCHMAN is perfectly satisfied for old line Republicans like SAMMY WILLIAMS, who is an old soldier as well, and HARD P. HARRIS, a representative of the founders of Bellefonte and workers in the party ever since it sprang into existence, are to be turned down for a comparative newcomer who is already well off financially, it cannot but prove to be water on the Democratic mill.

It is safe to say that the next Representative in the Legislature from Centre county, whether he be Democrat or Republican, will not vote for PENROSE for United States Senator.

Roosevelt's Cant.

The principal fault of President ROOSEVELT's speeches lies in the cant he expresses. For example, in his address to the Harvard Union on Saturday last he declared that it is a duty of citizenship to "see that this nation treats all other nations, great and small, with respect and if need be with generosity, and at the same time show herself able to protect herself by her own might from any wrong at the hands of any outside power." In view of Mr. ROOSEVELT's practices such declarations are nothing short of absurdity. He has never shown the slightest respect for weak nations nor hesitated to treat them with the greatest measure of injustice.

Take the case of Panama to illustrate the point. That weak and probably not too honest government refused to give to the government of the United States the property and privileges on the Panama canal zone which were desired and President ROOSEVELT proceeded at once to organize a revolution and supported it with the warships and marines of the navy. If France, Germany, Great Britain or even Spain had adopted a similar course at the beginning of the Civil war the result of that prolonged and costly struggle would have been disruption of the American Republic. Besides there would have been less cause for complaint against such an action than when the Panama incident occurred for the reason that international law had not then so fully developed.

It is no exaggeration to say that the greatest national crime of recent years was that rape of the government of Columbia in order that ROOSEVELT's ambition to promote the Isthmian canal might be promoted. In view of that event, therefore, President ROOSEVELT has no right to indulge in such moral homilies. When a burglar pauses in his work to repeat the Lord's prayer we are apt to think that he is a hypocrite as well as a criminal and we can see no reason why ROOSEVELT's conduct should be measured by a standard other than that which is used in estimating the behavior of others. Cant is cant, and a mighty contemptible vice, no matter who utters it.

Gen. Fred. Grant's View.

Major General FRED GRANT who appears to have got on pretty well, considering his achievements, is very much put out because President ROOSEVELT called the Mayor of San Francisco into conference on what has come to be known as the Japanese incident. Major General FRED is of the opinion that the presidential office was debased, more or less, by the conference and believes, moreover, that the President ought to have sent a division of soldiers and a squadron of war ships to San Francisco and compelled the local authorities to instant obedience. That is what Major General FRED imagines his distinguished father would have done, at least, which shows that he hasn't acquired knowledge in proportion to his increasing years.

Some of the rest of us are more or less dissatisfied with the incident to which Major General FRED refers but for a different reason. That is to say, we think that the local regulations of the school affairs in San Francisco is none of the President's business and that instead of obeying his order to confer Mayor SCHMITZ, of the Golden Gate city, ought to have told him to "go chase himself," as the street gamins usually put it. So far as sending troops to that city to compel acquiescence in an order from Washington, it would be difficult to imagine any thing more absurd. If President GRANT had undertaken such a thing "between the 4th of March, 1869, and the 4th of March, 1877," he would have been impeached and ended his life in disgrace.

General GRANT was a soldier, moreover, and a patriot, and while holding a commission in the army would not have made such a criticism or cast such an aspersion on his commander-in-chief. When he had advanced to that exalted station himself he wouldn't have tolerated such insolence on the part of a subordinate. Major General FRED, who "has never met a squadron on the field" except in make-believe war, so far as we are able to recall, has a crude notion concerning his own obligations as an officer in the army and a loose idea of our system of government. But as he is not likely to advance much further in the military establishment and is still less likely to become a favorite in civil life it probably doesn't matter much what he thinks.

Create no New Offices.

The Legislature ought to defeat every bill introduced during the present session which creates new offices. One of the most objectionable of these is the bill introduced by Senator FOX, of Dauphin county, providing for seventy-five new caretakers for the new capitol. It is probably true that the new building will require a great amount of care. It is a vast structure and composed of rich and costly materials. But there are a great number of caretakers there already and if they are even reasonably industrious and vigorous, they will be amply able to take good care of both ground and buildings.

Half the aim of some Senators and Representatives in the Legislature is to provide places for political favorites or dependents. They will create any number of new offices if some of the benefits accrue to themselves, and in fact it may be said that most of the additional courts are created to provide places for party workers. Bills are now pending for two new courts in Pittsburg. There is no necessity for them so far as litigation is concerned. The existing courts can take care of all the business now existing or likely to be created for some years. But the Legislators pervert their power thus to political uses.

The creation of useless offices is one of the greatest evils of power. It is a form of legalizing robbery. The obvious duty of a government is to conserve the interests of the people. Economy in public expenditures is the most effective means of promoting the interests of the people. Public officials are trustees of public funds and there is no material difference between stealing and wasting the public funds. Needless offices cause a waste of the money which is drawn from the people in the shape of taxes. To prevent such waste every Legislator should set his face against multiplying offices.

Enlargement of Capitol Park.

The introduction of a bill appropriating something like a million and a-half dollars to be used for the purchase of ground to extend the capitol park at Harrisburg raises a question of the gravest character. Two years ago the proposition to appropriate upward of two million dollars failed only for the reason that the machine managers imagined that they had other uses for the money. Then nearly everybody favored the enterprise and THE WATCHMAN was among its most earnest friends. But events have happened since which raise a doubt as to the wisdom of any legislation involving appropriations of that sort.

There can be no question of the desirability of an enlargement of the capitol park. The new capitol building is magnificent alike in proportions and architectural

design. The manner of its completion is an ineffaceable stain upon the honor of the Commonwealth but that doesn't detract from the beauty of the edifice. Such a building should have an appropriate setting and the enlargement of the park is essential to that result. But legislation authorizing such an enlargement of the park makes possible a repetition of the graft operations which converted the capitol construction into a criminal conspiracy.

Will Need Watching.

From the Pittsburg Post. Pennsylvania's Legislature resumed its sessions this week, and it is to be hoped that its members will seriously address themselves to the important questions before them. Many other State Legislatures which begin their sessions at the same time as our own, have transacted much business and some are preparing to adjourn. The West Virginia Legislature has finished its regular session and begun an extra one. Pennsylvania's lawmakers have spent nearly half their time at home and have as yet not passed a single bill of importance through both houses.

Now that the Philadelphia election is over, we will doubtless have a real indication of what may be expected from the Legislature in the way of reform legislation, in accord with the pledges made the people. The success of the machine leaders in that election and in the State election last fall may have an important effect upon the action of our State lawmakers. Those who detest real reform in whatever guise will probably be emboldened to fight against the enactment of any effective legislation upon subjects referred to in the Republican platform. Whether their efforts will be successful, however, remains to be seen. The result will depend much upon the attitude assumed by Governor Stuart and by the new boss of the Legislature, Senator McNichol. The machine leaders are most anxious to regain control of the State treasury, and this fact may induce them to at least apparently keep some of their reform pledges for effect at the coming State election.

The agents of the railroads will no doubt be most active at Harrisburg from now on. They have announced their intention of fighting the two-cents-a-mile law, and the triumph of the machine in Philadelphia will now encourage them to go the limit in doing so. No doubt all proposed reform legislation will also be fought. The Standard Oil Company has some legislation which it is very desirous of putting through. Its agents will no doubt be in the lobby. The machine is planning to create many commissions and new State offices. The situation is an ominous one for the people, and they will do well to keep close watch on the proceedings of their legislators from now until the end of the session, and to carefully examine every bill referred to the committee of which he is chairman. Will he ever furnish the information to the senate? If he does it will be because Senator Clay insisted upon having it.

Standard Will be Disappointed.

The Standard Oil company will hardly get the worth of its money if the Legislature persists in the course indicated the other day. During the recent campaign that criminal conspiracy was exceedingly liberal, according to current report. It contributed considerably more than half a million dollars, some reports put the sum at exactly eight hundred thousand dollars, to the Republican campaign fund. It was influenced to this generosity partly through fear of the fusion candidates and partly in consideration of promises of future favors. It now looks as if the promises are to be broken.

One of the greatest troubles of the Standard Oil company in this State is the system of oil inspection as at present administered. A few years ago this was the least of its causes of worry. In Philadelphia where most of the oil distributed in this State is inspected, the inspector was PETER LANE, brother of the notorious party boss who instructed officials of the city that they must stuff ballot boxes in order to hold their jobs. Mr. LANE quietly arranged with the company to pay him a lump sum considerably in excess of what the fees would amount to and guaranteed that there would be no inspection. It worked admirably until the political revolution of 1905 landed LANE "outside of the breast-works."

Soon after the assembling of the Legislature Representative McCORD of Chester county introduced a bill to abolish oil inspections altogether. That would have been an excellent arrangement for the Standard and would have enabled it to reimburse itself for its campaign contribution, even accepting the outside figure as the accurate one, in less than a year. It would have been tough on the public to put such a measure on the statute books for it would have developed into a tragedy factory before long. But happily all the Legislature had not agreed to the bargain and the bill will be defeated.

What Do They Cost.

From the Savannah News. The people would very much like to know what the Philippines have cost this country and what the annual expense of holding on to them is. For some reason or other the administration senators don't want this information published. Senator Clay of Georgia introduced a resolution the other day calling for it, and Senator Lodge at once objected, saying that the information was in the published reports, and was accessible to anybody who cared to hunt it up. When the resolution was passed he had it referred to the committee of which he is chairman. Will he ever furnish the information to the senate? If he does it will be because Senator Clay insisted upon having it.

And why shouldn't the people know what it is costing us to teach the Filipinos how to govern themselves? It is well known that the islands, since we have had possession of them, have cost us hundreds of millions of dollars and thousands of lives. And there is no doubt that they are going to cost us other hundreds of millions of dollars if we retain possession of them. If they have been of any particular benefit to us the fact has escaped general observation.

That the administration senators want to keep the truth from the people is pretty good evidence that it would create a sentiment in favor of getting rid of the islands at the earliest practical moment. And there is a probability that they will involve us in a war that will cost a vast sum of money and many valuable lives. Senator Clay should not only insist upon having the information he has called for, but he should make such use of it when he gets it that the people will have no trouble in understanding clearly if any benefit has accrued to us from the possession of the islands or whether or not any is likely to accrue to us.

Not a Billionaire.

From the Easton Argus. It will please the impecunious fellows who are only millionaires to learn that John D. Rockefeller is not a monopolist or a billionaire after all. Some time since it was laid that Mr. Rockefeller's family had out oysters from their menu because they felt they were too poor to indulge in such costly luxury. The reason for the family's reported economy was made plain the other day by Fredrick T. Gates, the business representative of the Standard Oil man, when he declared there had been many misstatements as to Mr. Rockefeller's wealth. "Instead of the \$1,000,000,000 with which Senator Hoar credited Mr. Rockefeller a few years ago," said Mr. Gates "his wealth does not exceed \$250,000,000 to \$300,000,000, and his annual income instead of reaching \$100,000,000 cannot, even in his most prosperous years, run more than \$15,000,000 to \$20,000,000. The public generally is under the impression that he owns a majority of the Standard Oil stock. The facts are that Mr. Rockefeller's holdings of Standard Oil stock are about twenty per cent."

We hope now that Mr. Rockefeller is not a billionaire that he will not be held up as a public enemy. We always did feel that he was a much abused man, simply because he succeeded in doing what so many have attempted and failed.

General GRANT has gone to Washington to apologize for his recent Philadelphia speech. That might be regarded as a parallel to the "appeal PETER drunk to PETER sober."

Spawls from the Keystone.

—The report of the auditors of Cambria county shows that the county has \$108,000 in the treasury and no debts beyond a few outstanding orders.

—Prominent citizens of Honesdale have organized the Wayne county Hospital association, for the purpose of erecting a hospital at a cost of \$25,000. The nearest hospital now is at Scranton.

—The Phoenix block, Altoona, in which was located the Lyric theatre, the home of Keith vaudeville, was destroyed by fire early Sunday morning. The loss will be about \$100,000; insurance, \$60,000.

—Hiram Williams, a negro, met with a horrible death at the Solid Steel Casting works, at Chester, on Wednesday of last week. He was dragged into the grinding machine and crushed to death.

—The trustees of Franklin and Marshall college at Lancaster, have just closed a contract for the erection of a new academy building, which is to be ready for occupancy on September 1. The building is to cost \$80,000.

—President Roosevelt is to be asked to attend the commencement exercises of the Carlisle Indian school this year. They will be held in April and there will also be invited members of congress and of the state legislature.

—The Beech Creek Coal and Coke company, having large interests in Winburne and other sections, have just purchased 1,295 acres of coal land in Grant and Green townships, Indiana county, at a consideration of \$72,703.45, and will soon begin to develop the property.

—William F. Hennessey, of Lock Haven, was out hunting one day last week when he was the victim of an accident which resulted in his death. He was hunting for foxes and in crossing a stream slipped and fell. His gun exploded and a portion of his head and face was blown off.

—On Friday evening last Rev. John Dickson, died at his home in Chambersburg, aged 87 years. He was prominent in the United Brethren church and held many important offices. In 1869 he was elected one of the bishops of the church and continued to hold this office until 1893.

—The tax assessors' returns to the county commissioners show that the assessment for Lancaster county is \$89,135,423, an increase over last year of \$2,992,595. No less than \$21,000,000 is out on interest, a million more than last year. The increased assessment gives the county \$11,000 more in taxes.

—James Weller, one of the oldest residents of Lehigh county, is dead at his home in Allentown, aged 90 years. He was probably the last survivor of the delegates to the William Henry Harrison ratification convention held at Baltimore in 1840. He was noted for his remarkable mathematical ability.

—Fire was discovered in the general store of Guy Boone, at Loganton, on Saturday evening at about 11 o'clock, the origin of which is not known at the present time. The building was not much damaged, but until the fire was gotten under control the stock was damaged by fire and smoke to the amount of about \$3,500.

—Morris F. Wallace, of Mt. Joy, Clearfield county, who will be 80 years old next August, has been for 60 years a continuous subscriber to the Clearfield Republican, and makes the boast that he never cast a vote in his life for a Republican, even for a county or township office. Mr. Wallace certainly can claim the title of a "dye in the wool Democrat."

—Michael Cronin, aged 23 years, of Lebanon, had his right arm caught in a coal breaking machine in the yards of the American Steel and Iron works at Lebanon, early on Saturday morning. The arm was crushed and torn out of the socket at the shoulder and as no one was near him at the time he slowly bled to death in the severe cold. His body was found about an hour later.

—Armed Benedict, daughter of a farmer residing near Ulysses, Lycoming county, was the innocent cause of her sister's death last Thursday. The two were doing chores at the barn and were engaged in bedding the horses when Armeda, who was using the pitchfork, accidentally ran the tine of the fork into her sister's eye. The tine penetrated her brain and she died in a few minutes.

—A few nights ago a quantity of meat was stolen from the premises of Ellis Cupp, in Warriorsmark valley, and the problem of locating the meat and its taker was put up to Constable W. M. Snyder, of Tyrone. The officer solved it so well that when he armed himself with a search warrant and investigated the belongings of Daniel Ebersole, in Tyrone, he found the meat. Constable Snyder arrested Ebersole and took him before Squire David Funk, at Warriorsmark, on Saturday, when the justice bound him in \$500 bail for appearance at the Huntingdon county court.

—With the mercury standing at zero and a fierce wind blowing, Andy Monar, an alien miner of Windber, accomplished a feat that is probably without parallel. Andy's boarding boss bet Andy that the latter could not walk to Windber postoffice and return barefooted. Andy, accompanied by his friend Mike Ellis, who carried the former's shoes, made the trip, the distance round trip being three miles. On his return Andy pocketed \$10, the wager offered. The next day the foreigner returned to work in the mines none the worse for what he had done. Monar is about 40 years old, married and has an unusually robust constitution.

—Sheriff Con Allen, of Clearfield county, has had an odd experience and has called upon the law to unravel the mystery. He was a resident of Houtzdale when elected to office. When he entered upon the duties of the latter position he moved to Clearfield. At the present election he went back to Houtzdale, he was refused that privilege, the allegation being that he had lost his right to vote by reason of removal. He offered to qualify that Houtzdale was the only place of residence he claimed. A majority of the board was obtuse and he was prevented from depositing his ballot. Since then he has brought suit against the board and the case will come up at the May term of court.