

The new postmaster of Bellefonte took formal charge of the office on Wednesday and it was the 13th.

Taxes are said to be lowest in China and highest in France, but the statisticians haven't heard from Bellefonte, Pennsylvania, U. S. A.

Delaware has had a sensational kidnapping case, which promises to rival that of the memorable CHARLEY ROSS and CUDAHY boy disappearance.

From the action of the stock market right after Mr. MORGAN'S visit to the President it must have been a lemon and not a melon that TEDDY handed to the king of the world's financiers.

If all accounts are true the crookedness in the capitol construction is so glaring that the blindest kind of a probe fetches up enough at each insertion to necessitate countless prosecutions.

If the size of modern battleships is to be continually increased some one will have to investigate the matter of the amount of shore lines that will be effaced by such ponderous displacements.

From the amount of water the bears managed to squeeze out of the various stocks listed in Wall street Wednesday and yesterday it is not at all remarkable that the rivers and streams rose as high as they did.

The names of Senators PENROSE and KNOX were roundly hissed when mentioned at a public meeting in Wilkesburg Tuesday night. No one dares even to mention PENROSE'S name in Bellefonte these days.

The "war path" is to be the place of amusement at the Jamestown exposition. It is only natural to suppose that the big breweries of the country are already bidding for the privileges of furnishing the war paint.

We have a great deal to be thankful for. A flood that ran level with our press room floors began to recede at that point yesterday and we have thus far escaped the unpleasant washouts we have so frequently been subjected to.

The commercial clubs of Boston, Chicago and other cities whose committees have visited the working think that the Panama canal can be completed in eight years. But there are lots of things commercial men don't know.

The disposition of the House appropriation committee appears to be very fair to hospitals asking state aid. Let us hope that the committee will be in the same amiable mood when the Bellefonte hospital's application is considered.

JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER'S brother has just squealed because some one sold him a "salted mine." How different from JOHN D. himself. That pious looking old man would have said nothing more than to direct an advance of half-a-cent per gallon on oil.

In a survey of the distance between Chicago and St. Louis an error of only one-half inch was made. This is getting it down pretty close but close don't count, as post-master HARTER found out when he tried to remove Mr. CHAMBERS from the post-office.

Since the passes have been cut out the State Legislators naturally are thinking more of the condition of the public roads and that is probably one of the reasons that they are now considering the appropriation of the enormous sum of sixty-seven million dollars for their improvement.

Mr. JEROME is being having an in-ning in the THAW trial during the past few days. The case is not looking as rosy for the defense as it had been prior to the time when the district attorney began to spring surprises that must naturally have considerable weights with the jury.

The Baltimore physician who has succeeded Dr. OSLER says each raw oyster you eat should be chewed thirty times. Seems to us that a raw oyster that requires thirty chaws to work up into a condition to be swallowed ought to be OSLERIZED before it has a chance to subject humanity to such a trying ordeal.

The trout at the Bellefonte hatchery are suffering with sore throat. A great many of those in the public streams will be suffering from the same malady in just one month from today, but it will be caused by a fish-hook and not, as in the first case, by the presence of too much snow water in the streams.

The movement to legislate against fast scheduled trains is about as ridiculous as anything can be. If there were no slow trains for the traveling public to use it would be different, but when people elect to pay extra fares in order to ride on faster trains the matter is up to the individual and not the law making bodies.

The first saving of the capitol investigating committee can be marked down as twenty-seven thousand dollars. The Harrisburg Trust Co. has just offered to give up that amount for interest on the \$400,000 of State funds that were lying in that institution for several years. At this rate of going the cost of the capitol could soon be brought down to a reasonable figure.

Democratic Watchman

STATE RIGHTS AND FEDERAL UNION.

VOL. 52

BELLEFONTE, PA., MARCH 15, 1907.

NO. 11.

Looting on a Small Scale.

The little plunge into the State Treasury by the postmaster of Harrisburg, in his capacity as publisher of the Legislative Record, is one of the surprises of this reform session. Two years ago the cost of The Record to the State was \$2 68 a page while this year it is \$12.00 a page. The difference is the result of experience and the absence of conscience.

The postmaster of Harrisburg who is also publisher of the Legislative Record is state printer too. He got the contract for that job in a peculiar way, likewise. For example, the lowest bidder for the work was CLARENCE M. BUSCH, of Philadelphia. After the contract had been awarded to him, he declined to accept it, notwithstanding the conditions required the forfeit of a bond in the event of failure to "make good."

This is the way that the business of the State has been conducted in the past but we hoped that under the promises of reform made during the last campaign, they would be changed and a better system introduced. The postmaster of Harrisburg is a very reputable gentleman and his character as an exemplary citizen covers a multitude of tricks.

The Capitol Park Question.

There is a suspicious unanimity of sentiment in favor of enlarging the capitol park at Harrisburg, among our metropolitan contemporaries. Every one of the Philadelphia papers has spoken freely and enthusiastically in favor of the enterprise and as usual they have supported their opinions with strong arguments.

The pending bill appropriates something like a million and a half dollars for the purchase of the land necessary to the expansion of the park boundaries. We have no doubt the property which it is proposed to acquire is worth that much and it is certain to increase in value very rapidly.

Of course with PENNYPACKER out of it the danger of such a prostitution of power is less than when he was at the head of the Board of Public Grounds and Buildings. There is probably not another man in the State whose notions of right and wrong are so cloudy.

An item has been going the rounds of the papers in effect that borough and city authorities have decided to have hotel keepers close their bars on St. Patrick's day. In Bellefonte the hotel men are going to close without any intervention on the part of the authorities, and the reason is that St. Patrick's day falls on Sunday, day after tomorrow, in fact.

The farmers of College township, and all Centre county for that matter, are urged not to forget the special meeting of Washington Grange tomorrow for the purpose of discussing seed corn. Remember to take an ear of corn with you as the "pass word" at the door.

The Investigation in Progress.

The investigation of the capitol graft is now actually in progress, the sessions for the examination of witnesses and the admission of other evidence having begun on Monday. What the result of the inquiry will be remains, of course, a subject of conjecture, and will depend largely upon those in charge of the proceedings.

There are two or three self-evident propositions in connection with this matter. One is that the Board of Public Grounds and Buildings sinned in the light of knowledge and that Governor PENNYPACKER was the chief offender. He knew as well as he knows his a. b. c.'s that there was no warrant of law to make the payments which were made or authorize the work which was authorized.

We believe that Governor STUART is sincere and we know that the lawyers whom he has chosen to conduct the inquiry are able and honest. We are almost persuaded that a majority of the commission has in mind the fulfillment of its obligations to conscience and duty.

The February Elections.

It begins to look as if the proposition to abolish the February elections will have to be taken seriously. It was probably intended as a joke in the beginning and it has the appearance of a joke yet. But recent events at Harrisburg indicate that it may assume a different aspect at any moment and actually become a menace to our present excellent system of separating local or municipal elections from the more conspicuous but really less important November elections.

We can imagine nothing more undesirable than the abolishment of the February elections and putting the choice of local officials into the intense partisan heat of a State election. Possibly we do have more elections than are good for us and maybe money might be saved if there were only one instead of two political campaigns a year.

The obvious purpose of the author of the bill in question was to get local elections more directly under the control of the political machine. The campaign fund is larger in the fall than in midwinter and it is easier to get partisan prejudices aroused when the more important officers are to be chosen.

According to a report sent out by W. E. Meehan, the state fish commissioner, the trout at the Bellefonte hatchery are dying in big numbers from some strange disease that always begins with a sore throat. The malady is not confined to the Bellefonte hatchery but is depleting the trout in the other state hatcheries in such numbers as to cause consternation to the officials and those in charge.

The much-talked-of hotel Dimeling, in Clearfield, is now in the hands of the sheriff, although it is stated that the reason is that there is a fight among the stockholders, who have resorted to the law to force a satisfactory settlement. The Bezer brothers, of Pittsburg, are the largest shareholders.

Fraud Clearly Revealed.

That there was collusion as well as fraud in the grafting operations in connection with the construction of the new capitol no longer admits of doubt. The testimony of consulting engineer GREEN though not plainly asserting the fact inferentially declared it. "They appear to be on good terms with each other," he wrote to the Capital Building Commission in reference to the contractor and the architect as early as August, 1903, "and to keep everything relating to the construction and actual condition of the capitol, not visible at the building, entirely to themselves. It is apparent," he continues in the same letter, "that they have some mutual understanding and do not intend that either the Commission or myself shall have any information that they are able to withhold."

Mr. GREEN whose reputation as an engineer is world wide was manifestly inclined to be as lenient to architect HUSTON as it was possible to be under the circumstances in his oral testimony. He wouldn't say that there was collusion though he was compelled to admit that "under all the circumstances I am unable to regard the situation and relations between these two parties as above suspicion."

In view of this fact it is up to the members of the capitol Building Commission to show why they permitted the frauds in the light of knowledge. That they knew must be admitted unless it can be shown that the letters written by Mr. GREEN failed to reach their destination. When they discovered the suspicious conditions it was their duty to institute an investigation and stop the frauds.

The Department of Charities.

There was nothing surprising in the statement which appeared in several Philadelphia contemporaries, the other morning, to the effect that former Speaker of the House of Representatives, HARRY F. WALTON, of Philadelphia, is to become head of the proposed new department of charities. It is an invariable rule of the machine to take care of those who served it as WALTON is a past master in that line.

But the appointment of former Speaker WALTON to such an office would be a shameless prostitution of authority. If such a department should be created, and we are not convinced as yet of the desirability of such an action, it would represent the benevolence of the people of Pennsylvania. Mr. WALTON is the exemplar of graft and vice.

As a matter of fact there is no reason under the sun for creating the department of charities or appointing any man to the office of commissioner of charities. Charity isn't a thing to be dispensed with calculating nicety. Since the Republican machine has come under the control of the McNICHOLS the charity of the State has become a party asset.

Judge Allison O. Smith held license court in Clearfield last week and of the one hundred applications presented he granted seventy-one hotel licenses, refused four and held seven under consideration. One restaurant license was granted and one refused. Five wholesale liquor licenses were granted and one wholesale beer license, while five wholesale beer were held over. Three brewery licenses were granted and one distillery's license, one distillery being held over.

State Capitol Investigation.

The latest reports from the state capitol investigating committee's proceedings seem to indicate that there will soon be music in the air and around the grand palace of extravagance and graft.

The auditing committee appointed by Governor Stuart to audit the books of the capitol building and furnishing committees has discovered about \$200,000 of duplicate bills that had been paid by the state treasurer before Treasurer William H. Berry assumed his official duties.

Thus far the charges that were made by Mr. Berry against the building and grounds commission and placed in the hands of Attorney General Carson before the late election have been more than verified as correct by the auditing committee.

A Good Movement.

A movement has been inaugurated to divert the tide of Italian immigration from a few large cities to the farms of the West, Northwest and South. The matter is being engineered by some Italian government officials in this country, as well as by leading Italians now residents of the United States.

It is claimed that the condition of the immigrants will be greatly improved if their concentration in a few large cities can be prevented and they can be put to work on their own land. Many of them have been tillers of the soil in their native country and could put their knowledge of agriculture to good use here.

Dowie a Colossal Failure.

The death of John Alexander Dowie puts an end to one of the most remarkable careers this country has ever witnessed. The strength and devotion of the cult he founded shows how utterly the so-called orthodox churches fail to fill the religious field or to satisfy human aspirations.

Victims Legislation.

The seventy-five Representatives in the Legislature who voted against the resolution to put Mr. Garner's bill to abolish the State constabulary on the calendar, twenty-three are from Philadelphia. It was shown in the debate preceding the vote that the force was not only illegally but criminally created.

It was quite an appropriate greeting that Mrs. Mary McKee, of North Braddock, sent the WATCHMAN. After saying that "the paper, like a letter from home, is always welcome" she enclosed a little of St. Patrick's green. Of course it was the kind of green we are all struggling for and the Irish in us makes it especially to be prized.

Spawls from the Keystone.

The Supreme court has rendered a decision in favor of a Greater Pittsburg. The lower court's decision was affirmed.

B. F. Demaree will erect a locust pin works in Millford township, Perry county, which will have a daily capacity of 10,000 pins.

Mrs. Elizabeth Lavelle, of Shenandoah, died on Saturday at the age of 104 years. She is survived by four generations of descendants.

The last of a dozen of drinking clubs in Altoona was put out of business a few days ago. The charter of each club has been revoked by Judge Bell.

There is tribulation in Latrobe over some of the assessments of property. In one case a property was assessed at \$25,000 which the county commissioners rated to \$70,000.

The commissioners of Clearfield county are offering a reward of \$200 for the arrest of Samuel Lascola, the Italian who fatally assaulted Wesley Straw, and who made his escape.

J. M. Audit, an employee of a saw mill company near Williamsport, had his left arm cut off four inches below the elbow on Thursday afternoon last by having it caught in the big saw.

The Lehigh Valley Railroad company has given the contract to G. W. Beard & Co., of Reading, for the erection of a new depot at Hazleton, to cost \$50,000. It will be the finest in the anthracite coal regions.

John Sullivan, an employe in the blacksmith shop at Renovo, was struck in the face last Saturday by a bolt hurled from a machine near which he was standing. The force of the blow was so great that a part of his nose was torn off, his jaw broken and face mangled.

The large flour mill of A. A. Wilt, near Cetronia, Lehigh county, which has been driven by a gasoline engine since Allentown diverted the water, was destroyed by fire on Thursday, through an explosion of gasoline. The mill was one of the oldest in the county. Loss, \$10,000; insurance, \$6,000.

An 8-year-old son of M. A. Wangle, of Zenith, Columbia county, is suffering from an unusual malady, brought on by general weakness. Hundreds of capillary blood vessels throughout his body have burst and allowed the blood to flow out. Five hundred or more of these tiny vessels are ruptured.

A hosiery mill at Spring City, Chester county, employing over 300 persons, one in Philadelphia employing over 300 and one near Boyertown, Berks county, employing sixty, all conducted by W. C. Urner & Co., have shut down on account of the firm making an assignment for the benefit of creditors.

John W. Booking and his wife, of Bloomsburg, got into a dispute over the sale of a bantam rooster, and this, with other differences that followed, led to a separation. After his wife left him he brooded over the matter and several fellow workmen teased him about it. He is now insane and his condition is serious.

There have been no religious services in the county infirmary in Butler, Butler county, since December, because the ministers of the town have declined to serve any longer without some compensation, and on Saturday the grand jury severely censured the county commissioners for failing to provide for continuing the services.

Judge Marshall Brown, of Pittsburg, has discharged from custody Dandea Roggon, charged with murder. Roggon has been ready for trial at every term of court since the time of the alleged murder, August 24, 1906, but the prosecution was never ready and the court ruled he could not be held for an unlimited period.

A historic tract of four acres of ground in Beaver, on which the late M. S. Quay had planned to erect a fine residence, was sold on Wednesday to Miss Martha V. Ritchie, of Beaver, for \$7,200. On the tract is located the famous "Devil's Rock" mentioned in General Washington's reports of his explorations in that part of the State.

William Springer, of Hughesville, is now a stronger believer than ever in larger families. He is the father of eighteen children, and this fact alone kept him from going to jail or paying a fine. William pleaded guilty in criminal court to the larceny of eight skunk skins. The citizens of Hughesville petitioned the court for leniency because Springer was the only means of support for the family. The court suspended sentence.

Harry Bowers, of Woolrich, Clinton county, and a lady friend had an experience last Tuesday night which they will not soon forget. The couple left Woolrich in the early evening to drive to a neighboring town and were crossing a mountain when the horse suddenly stopped. It was seen that a wild cat was directly in front of the animal. Bowers had no firearms but kept up a continual yelling which seemed to frighten the cat and it made no attempt at attacking the couple. A man with a lantern came along and the wild beast made a dash for the woods and disappeared.

Aber McGary, a merchant and retiring president of the Vandergrift council, was perhaps fatally injured at the new Apollo skating rink at that place Saturday evening. Mr. McGary, while skating about the floor, tripped and fell. Immediately behind him was a woman weighing more than 300 pounds. She fell on top of the prostrate man, who an instant later was under a crush of struggling skaters. A physician who was called to attend McGary found his pelvic bone was crushed. The injured man was removed to his home and little hopes are entertained for his recovery.

Elizabeth Freeman celebrated her 113th birthday anniversary at her home in Clarion county, Friday, having lived during the administration of every one of the presidents of the United States. "Aunt Betty," as she is called by her seven children, 55 grandchildren, 20 great grandchildren, and three great great grandchildren, has been a devotee of the tobacco habit for the last ninety years. On the anniversary of her birth she called attention to her habit of smoking the pipe, saying that it was partly responsible for her long life. Mrs. Freeman was born near Counelsville. She is a member of the Pennsylvania church and has memorized nearly the entire bible.