

Task Sitings.

-If April doesn't settle down soon it will be up to May.

-"Faus" at baseball games these days must find most of their comfort in bottles.

-Statisticians have figured out that a man's hair generally turns gray five years before a woman's. Ours won't.

-"Women over thirty are often the most charming," says a woman writer who probably passed that milestone long ago.

-We will probably have a respite from "dementia Americana," "brain storms" and "the exaggerated ego" until next fall.

-An Italian having invented a process that makes celluloid non-inflammable the man with the celluloid collar can be more at ease.

-Wouldn't it be well if the Daughters now assembled in Congress in Washington just fell in with the much talked of pilgrimage to The Hague.

-The PENNY press muzzler has been repealed. It makes no change in our business, however. We always did and always will say just what we think.

-Cuba is to have a standing army of twelve thousand men; that is if enough Cubans who have the ambition not to sit too much can be mustered in.

-We nominate the Hon(?) SAM SALTER for grand high muck-a-muck of Mayor REYBURN's proposed two million dollar Temple of Justice in Philadelphia.

-The trout fishing season was opened Monday morning in a fairly auspicious manner, but the extreme cold made the opening of bait bottles more auspicious.

-FORAKER and TAPT will both be drinking out of that Ohio spring, the waters of which are said to inebriate without producing an after headache, before they get their little differences settled.

-Judging from the action of the House appropriation committee in reporting out bills it must be inferred that the revenues of the State for the next two years are not to be made the prey of either SANDERSON or HUSTON.

-That Pittsburg club woman who asserts that "ADAM was the victim of the first lawn party" might have added that most of his later indisposition was traceable to his having dallied too much with the apple merange that was served.

-Pittsburg is doing better. Twenty East End saloon-keepers have turned over their places of business for gospel services each Monday night during the week and one high priced minister has had the nerve to tell his congregation what he actually thinks of it.

-One pound of common salt, two ounces of oxalic acid, one gallon of water mixed thoroughly and sprinkled over one part of coal and three parts ashes is said to be the formula whereby the much talked of Altoona cobbler burns ashes. Try it, and if you succeed give your coal man the laugh.

-Our Uncle ANDY CARNEGIE has ideas of his own as to the real meaning of peace and they are very different from those entertained by the President. The pleasant part of their controversy lies in the fact that Uncle ANDY cares about as much for the President as the President cares for Uncle ANDY.

-The Swedish vice-consul at St. Louis has had his exequatur withdrawn because he wrote an impudent letter to President ROOSEVELT. The news dispatches did not state the hospital in which the operation was performed, but we infer that "the big stick" was the instrument used and that the patient suffered more from the shock than anything else.

-The Daughters of the American Revolution are in congress in Washington this week and their principal topic of discussion is as to how they happened to spend so much more money than they had in their treasury. Take courage, Daughters, the recent board of Republican Commissioners for Centre county had this business down pat. They found it the easiest thing in the world to do.

-It was not wonderful that Mr. BRYAN, the greatest political fighter of his time should sweep the delegates to the New York peace conference off their feet with his glowing oratory and pronouncements for universal peace. Such enthusiasm as his utterances aroused was remarkable, but then poor BRYAN has long since found out that getting cheers and getting votes are entirely different propositions.

-If any one is gullible enough to think that PENROSE is not still the boss of Pennsylvania all he needs to do to be convinced of the contrary is to read Tuesday's proceedings at Harrisburg. The McCORD bill, which provided for the selection of United States senatorial candidates at the primary elections, thus making their election practically by popular vote, was killed in the Senate. A known majority in favor of the bill was changed in a night by the sinister means the Boss had at hand to change the opinions of Senators so that now PENROSE is reasonably certain of succeeding himself in the upper house of Congress. Of course there is a way of defeating this eventuality by defeating all Legislators who will not promise to oppose him, but experience of the past has been such as to give little hope from this source.

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Reform Bills Will Fail.

The work of the Legislature has progressed sufficiently to make guesses as to the ultimate fate of some of the most important measures reasonably safe. The calendars of both Houses are crowded immensely and it will be an easy matter for skillful parliamentarians to juggle the work so that the reform measures may be defeated without the positive expression of hostility on the part of the machine. In this way the bills requiring fire extinguishers on passenger trains, prohibiting contributions by corporations or partnerships to political campaign funds, requiring watchmen at railway crossings, empowering boroughs to compel railroads to erect safety gates, providing for taxing franchises and rights of way of railway companies and scores of others, will probably be stifled. There are so many meritorious measures in this long list of "lost legislation," that it seems invidious to refer to any particular bill as especially deserving approbation. Yet it may be said that Mr. STILES' bill prohibiting contributions to political campaign funds by "corporations or partnership companies," is entitled to special mention. The national civic reform organization endeavored to pass a similar bill through Congress with respect to congressional and other federal elections more than a year ago and President ROOSEVELT intervened to prevent it. The idea was suggested by the investigation of the New York insurance companies. It was shown that the policy holders of those institutions had been deliberately robbed in order to raise funds to elect ROOSEVELT and he is too loyal to his friends to permit such a prolific source of political power to be cut off before the last congressional elections. But a similar law was enacted by the New York Legislature a year ago.

It is within the limits of conservatism to say that the greatest present danger to the country is in the effort of corporations to control elections by contributing to the corruption funds. No candidate accepts money from a corporation during his campaign for election without morally binding himself to favor the contributing corporation after the election. Thus when ROOSEVELT, in October, 1904, after soliciting HARRIMAN to collect funds for the campaign, wrote to the Wall Street wizard that after the election he would ask him to come and look over certain features of his subsequent message, the obligation to let HARRIMAN edit the interstate commerce feature of the message was as absolute as if it had been plainly written in the bond and endorsed by substantial sureties. It was "corrupt solicitation," plain and simple, and actionable in any criminal court if any one other than the President had been responsible for it.

President ROOSEVELT prevented the passage of the act during the session of Congress a year ago because he hoped the corporations could be milked during the congressional elections of last fall. That he accurately estimated the possibilities is a well established fact. The Standard Oil company, the Pennsylvania railroad company and other predatory combinations and criminal conspiracies contributed vast sums to the Republican campaign fund last fall, ostensibly for the purpose of defeating EMERY for Governor but really to elect Congressmen. It accomplished the purpose, moreover, for at least three districts were saved to the machine by the boodle thus brought into the contest. For this reason the STILES bill is of the greatest importance and likewise for this reason it will fail.

A Long Cry but Covered.

It is a long cry from Colonel GEORGE HARVEY, editor of "the Journal of Civilization," and EUGENE V. DEBS, the anarchistic socialist who conducted the prolonged and costly railroad strike in Chicago in 1894, but the distance was covered within the last week when both those gentlemen, under widely different circumstances and environment, spoke of the President of the United States. Colonel HARVEY spoke at the JEFFERSON day celebration of the New York Democratic club and Mr. DEBS gave his views to an interviewer. But they were strangely alike in most respects and indicated that both gentlemen have come to a perfect understanding of our "brainstorm" President.

Of the two statements, however, Colonel HARVEY's is the most significant. It can't be said that he is either an anarchist or a frenzied financier. He is really a scholarly gentleman of the highest attainments and best type of citizenship. Because of these facts he has come to a complete understanding of the danger to public tranquility and industrial progress of an irresponsible clown moving about in the official life of the country, bullying here and misrepresenting there, in order to compel the acceptance of his own absurd notions as the fixed policies of the government. Mr. DEBS may have followed other lines of reasoning but he reached the same conclusion. The truth is that every thoughtful citizen is alarmed about the idiosyncrasies of

President ROOSEVELT. He is like "a hen with her head cut off," and if any man, however learned or respectable, has the temerity to disagree with ROOSEVELT, he is instantly catapulted in the Ananias club or forced down to the level of a ruffian. As both HARVEY and DEBS declare this condition of affairs must be brought to an end. The perpetuity of the country is involved and with such a hazard in the equation, it is time that the people should call a halt. With sycophants vastly in the majority in both branches of Congress it's hardly worth while to talk of impeachment but even that may come.

The Senatorial Contest.

The lines for the coming senatorial contest are being laid, so far as the Republicans are concerned, and the contest will be between Senator PENROSE and Justice JOHN P. ELKIN. When ELKIN was handed the judicial "lemon," succeeding his defeat for Governor by "mysterious influences which changed a minority of the convention into a majority over night," he announced that it would not take him out of politics. It is not likely that he had the senatorial seat in view, for he still cherished an ambition to be Governor. But he had no kindly feelings toward PENROSE, who was largely responsible for the nomination of PENNYPACKER, and it is altogether likely that he will be glad to take revenge.

Since that event political conditions have greatly favored Mr. ELKIN. In spite of himself his judicial duties have removed him from the turmoil of politics and time has somewhat tempered the bitterness of the enemies which were then created. On the other hand PENROSE has been going from bad to worse in public estimation and with QUAY in the grave, DURHAM in seclusion and PENNYPACKER in disgrace, the organization is in poor condition to make a fight. The new Mayor of Philadelphia will be able to steady the lines somewhat and it may safely be conjectured that the state administration will not be hostile to the Senator. But under the most fortuitous conditions he enters the contest with the short end of the stick in his hand.

The contest will be a battle royal, however, and unless the signs are misleading it will be acrimonious in the extreme. QUAY's denunciation of ELKIN and his somewhat devious record first as assistant and subsequently as Attorney General will be quoted with telling effect. The rather arrogant manner in which the machine has asserted itself since the victory in Philadelphia will unquestionably work injury to the party in the legislative elections moreover, and a reasonable development of independent strength in the Legislature will possibly make it necessary to take a candidate outside of the factions. In any event it stands to make a very pretty fight and we hope it will not be compromised.

Machine Methods Restored.

The bill to authorize voters to designate their preferences for United States Senator at the primary elections was defeated in the Senate on Tuesday. The measure had little merit under any circumstances and it was introduced by Representative McCORD was absolutely worthless. But during one of its readings in the Senate the Democratic members of that body blew some vitality into it with an amendment providing that the vote of the people of a senatorial or legislative district should operate as instructions binding upon the Senator or Representative in the Legislature for that district.

The constitution of the United States designates the manner of electing United States Senators. It makes no reference to the method of nomination but in view of the provisions of the fundamental law, the only thing the people can do at a primary election is to instruct the Senators and Representatives in the Legislature and unless the instructions so given would be made binding by law, they might as well be withheld altogether. That is why the Democratic Senators so amended the bill and voted for it unanimously, so far as those present are concerned. Without the amendment the bill wouldn't have been worth the paper it was printed on and the fact that the amendment had to be forced on the majority shows the insincerity of those who compose the dominant party in the Legislature.

While the measure was of little practical value even with the amendment, the spirit expressed in its defeat is to be reprobated. No harm could have occurred to the State from an expression of popular sentiment on the subject. That was the idea which influenced the Democrats to vote for the bill and ought to have had the same effect on the Republicans. But under the spur of the party boss whose ambitions to be returned to the Senate were threatened, the majority of the Republicans voted to deny the rights of the people to a voice in the matter. It revealed the restoration of machine methods.

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Pennypacker and the Graft.

It is said that former Governor PENNYPACKER will be a witness before the capitol probers next week and that he is anxious to tell all he knows of the looting. At present the burden of blame appears to be on him and he hopes to shift it. He was the author of the resolution of the Board of Public Grounds and Buildings which made the graft not only possible but practically inevitable. His associates on the board declare that the resolution was rescinded before the letting, and that the Governor might have given consideration to other bids and awarded the work to the lowest competitor. But PENNYPACKER protests that the resolution was in force at the time of the letting and that he had no alternative but to give everything in the trimming line to SANDERSON.

The former Governor may or may not obscure the subject or confuse the public on these points. He is an exceedingly crafty and cunning individual, as was shown by his prompt organization of the penny-a-mile excursions to dazzle the public by the magnificence of the petty ornaments and grotesque decorations. He correctly estimated the result of that daring undertaking. No cursory observer could tell the difference between the real and bogus basarut glass and ninety-nine out of every hundred of the visitors went away from the building firmly convinced that the charges of corruption were well-founded. A man who has the cunning, and absence of conscience, to work such a trick is no guileless innocent. Those are the characteristics of an experienced crook.

We are glad, however, that PENNYPACKER is to testify before the probing commission whether he shifts the blame for the scandals or not. The odious "press muzzler" having been repealed, there has been no failure shown in the machinery to conduct the charitable institutions. The lack has been wholly in the amount of money available. The reports of the Board of Charities reveal the fact that for ten years the board has been advising the governors and legislature of the overcrowded condition of the hospitals and of inadequacy of the appropriations made to correct this evil. Ten years ago the board, through its committee on lunacy, recommended appropriations for a hospital for the insane near Allentown, and a hospital for the feeble minded and epileptic. Now, after ten years, these hospitals have had appropriations made for them, but in the meantime, through the failure of the legislatures to give sufficient moneys to add to the growth of the present hospitals and to facilitate the work of the other institutions, the hospitals have become grossly overcrowded and this has given rise to the inevitable evils that go with such a condition.

Who Got the Loot?

Nobody believes that contractor SANDERSON and Architect HUSTON got all of the five or six million dollars taken from the State Treasury in the form of graft during the construction of the new capitol. Neither of them have any experience in practical politics and it is not usual for amateurs in the political game to get away with all the swag. But nobody undertakes to say who shared the loot with those gentlemen. Mr. H. BURD CASSELL, who represents the Lancaster district in Congress, got an exorbitant price for the steel filing cases but the aggregate payments to him only amounted to about \$2,000,000. PAYNE & Co., unquestionably got some in one way or another but who got the rest? We have never heard anybody express even a suspicion that any of the graft found its way into PENNYPACKER'S pockets but a good many are curious to know what he did get out of it. It seems almost impossible for him not to have known what was going on. It is incredible that putty mouldings, spurious marble, fraudulent wainscoting and bogus materials of all kinds could have been put up before his eyes without his knowledge unless he didn't want to see. He knew that it was his duty to protect the State against such depredatory operations but he took no steps in that direction. Insanely vain it may be that he was flattered into oblivion but it is hardly probable. He must have simply permitted the crimes because his sympathies are with public plunderers.

State Treasurer BERRY wasn't fooled long by the treasury looters. He passed one or two padded bills but no more. The fact that payments were rushed between the time of his election and that of his induction into office aroused his suspicions. PENNYPACKER ought to have made the discovery from the same circumstance and possibly he did. But he failed to turn his information to the use of the people and it may safely be said that if Mr. BERRY had not been elected the looting would not only never have been found out but would have continued indefinitely. If there were no other reason than that it ought to be sufficient to make the people resolve to always keep a member of the minority party in that office as a check on the machine.

Patton is to have a home talent minstrel entertainment in the near future and on the list of "stars" appear the names of Will Rees and Ollie Campbell; but as the programs have not yet been issued we are unable to say whether they are going to play end men or blow the base drum.

The new limestone plant of W. C. Lingle, at Salona, is fast nearing completion and when finished it will be one of the most complete plants of any in the State. At the present time it is not the intention of Mr. Lingle to burn lime, so no kilns have been built. The output now will consist mainly of ballast and the crusher capacity installed will be about forty carloads a day. The machinery installed is all of the very latest design and best on the market. The quarries have been opened and it is expected that the plant will be ready to begin operations within a few weeks.

State Board of Charities.

The commission appointed to investigate and report on the insane hospitals of the state discovered that those institutions were overcrowded and that the condition was productive of serious evils. For years past the reports of the State Board of Charities have told the same story. The obvious remedy for this condition is more adequate appropriations by the legislature, as the board has often and urgently requested. The capacity of the hospitals should be increased and new ones erected so as to afford ample room for the unfortunate which the state has to care for.

The result of the commission's investigation as reflected in the legislature is not seen in a movement for adequate appropriations to the state insane and other charitable institutions. It is not proposed to increase the capacity of the insane hospitals, but the cure suggested is to reconstruct the Board of Charities and add thereto a large annex in the person of a salaried president. The bill proposes to raise the board from ten to eleven members, the new member to be its president, who shall be paid \$8,000 a year and traveling expenses. The board is also to have an attorney at a salary of \$5,000. The unfortunate inmates of the state ask for more beds and are told that the state will give them an \$8,000 president of the Board of Charities. They ask for a little more room in the hospitals and it is proposed that the legislature shall give them a \$5,000 attorney.

There has been no failure shown in the machinery to conduct the charitable institutions. The lack has been wholly in the amount of money available. The reports of the Board of Charities reveal the fact that for ten years the board has been advising the governors and legislature of the overcrowded condition of the hospitals and of inadequacy of the appropriations made to correct this evil. Ten years ago the board, through its committee on lunacy, recommended appropriations for a hospital for the insane near Allentown, and a hospital for the feeble minded and epileptic. Now, after ten years, these hospitals have had appropriations made for them, but in the meantime, through the failure of the legislatures to give sufficient moneys to add to the growth of the present hospitals and to facilitate the work of the other institutions, the hospitals have become grossly overcrowded and this has given rise to the inevitable evils that go with such a condition.

The members of the State Board of charities, with the exception of the secretary, serve without pay. They have performed their duties in a way to leave no ground for unfavorable criticism. Had the legislature heeded their requests and provided promptly for the requirements of the helpless dependents of the state, the great evils of overcrowding in our insane hospitals would have been avoided. We see no reason in this for sidetracking and subordinating the unpaid members of the Board of Charities by imposing on them an \$8,000 president and a \$5,000 lawyer.

Roosevelt Seeking Enemies.

During these days, President Roosevelt is seeing an enemy lurking behind every bush. He claims that there is a conspiracy against him; but all this may be in his imagination. Be that as it may, his erratic utterances of late and his display of bad temper have been the cause of his losing many of his former friends, in his own party. His manifest irritability leads many to suppose that, notwithstanding his declaration to the contrary, he is anxious to secure another nomination. But, in view of recent developments, should he consent to be a candidate again, he probably would be badly defeated. His anger and excitement, because of alleged discovery of a gigantic conspiracy to buy the presidency of the United States, might be excusable in a chief magistrate who had been elected under conditions, different from those which attended his election. But for Mr. Roosevelt to stand aghast at the spectacle of a cabal of plutocrats, combining for the purpose of influencing the choice of a president, is ridiculous; it could be so, even with due regard for the seriousness which naturally attaches to the baneful use of money. President Roosevelt has practically admitted that he was the beneficiary of what is acknowledged to have been the largest campaign fund ever collected by the national committee of any political party, and to which the very men, whom he now accuses of being engaged in an unholy alliance to dictate the election of his successor, were liberal contributors. Mr. Roosevelt is evidently suffering from an exaggerated attack of egotism.

A Western View.

President Roosevelt has made a mistake this time in calling his opponent a liar; he should have met the case in a different manner. Not only is the weight of the testimony against him but the circumstances, the tendencies, and everything about the developments are also against him; and unless something very different from what is now shown can be produced, the public judgment must certainly rest with Mr. Harriman and against Mr. Roosevelt.

Spawls from the Keystone.

-Counterfeit half dollars as well as two dollar bills are being circulated quite extensively in Altoona.

-Hazleton's new building for the Young Men's Christian Association, costing \$60,000, is to be dedicated April 15.

-A strike of 150 union moulders in Williamsport was inaugurated on Saturday. They ask for a nine hour day, at \$2.75, instead of \$2.65 for ten hours.

-The plant of the Fitzpatrick Glass company, at Falls Creek, Clearfield county, was disposed of at bankrupt sale on Tuesday last. It was bought in for the sum of \$31,000.

-A report just compiled by the Pittsburg chamber of commerce shows that the immense sum of \$350,000,000 is paid annually to the wage earners of the Pittsburg district.

-While Simon Cohen, a pawn broker, of Sharon, Mercer county, was at dinner on Wednesday, a thief broke into his store and stole a tray containing \$1,000 worth of diamonds.

-Statistics from the county treasurer show that there are 335 licensed places in Northumberland county, with an annual revenue of \$70,225. Sunbury receives \$2,160 of this amount.

-Dennis Wetuck, 38 years old, rode from Buck Mountain to Mahanoy City on a fast Reading freight, but when he attempted to alight was thrown under the train and cut to pieces.

-Viewers appointed by the state have decided to recommend the building of a \$65,000 steel bridge across the river at Jersey Shore to take the place of the bridge recently destroyed by the ice flow.

-Prospectors have discovered a fine deposit of asbestos on the farm of Augustus Baker's heirs, in Hamilton township, Adams county. Shafts sunk twenty three feet failed to pass through the deposit.

-Huntingdon grangers have organized a trust company, with an authorized capitalization of \$125,000, divided into 1250 shares of a par value of \$100 each. Practically all of the stock has been subscribed.

-The 81st annual commencement of the Lutheran Theological seminary at Gettysburg will be held May 12th to 16th, when fourteen young men, most of whom already have calls to charges, will be graduated.

-The bill which Governor Stuart signed on the 10th inst. provides for a bounty of \$4 on a wildcat, \$2 on a fox and \$1 on a weasel or mink. These noxious animals now give the sportsman not only pleasure but profit in their extermination.

-The frequent falling of snow and rain and alternate freezing and thawing last week, froze early vegetation in various parts of the state and fruit buds are also reported from different places as being nipped, so that a poor fruit crop is likely to be the result.

-A corporation to be known as the Susquehanna Cement company has been organized, of which George L. Sanderson is president, to build a mammoth plant for the manufacturing of cement at Larry's Creek, Lycoming county. The company is capitalized at \$750,000.

-Hugh M. Caldwell, residing in Ferguson valley, Mifflin county, met with a terrible accident on Tuesday afternoon last. He was placing a belt on the rapidly revolving wheel of a threshing machine, when his left arm was caught in the machinery and the hand was almost torn off at the wrist joint.

-Timothy Hennessy, a contractor aged about 70, was found drowned in the river in front of Wiltmer park just off Market street, and near the Market street bridge at Clearfield, Friday evening at 5 o'clock by some boys who were fishing. They summoned a number of men who drew the body out of the water.

-During the winter the average enrollment of the Berks county almshouse was close to four hundred, fully one-third being tramps. But with the opening of spring, when all who are able to do any work are given something to do, the tramp element is leaving, over 100 having taken to the road within a few days.

-On account of falling health James Barnett has resigned his commission as colonel of the Tenth regiment, N. G. P. Colonel Barnett has forwarded his resignation to Adjutant General Stuart. Colonel Barnett has had twenty-three years continuous service in the National Guard, serving in every capacity from private up to colonel.

-A West Easton inventor who refuses to divulge his name has come forward with a private demonstration of an invention that is said will rival that of John Ellmore, of Altoona, who burns ashes. At this West Easton demonstration ashes were taken from a railroad embankment at Odenweldertown, and, after treatment, burned several hours.

-On Sunday the milk dealers of Uniontown strictly observed the Sunday law by refusing to sell any milk after 9 o'clock in the morning, as they feared the repetition of fines imposed the previous Sunday. In consequence many citizens did not get any milk, and now some are making an effort to induce the legislature to amend the Sunday laws to allow the sale of milk all day.

-The Maryland Coal company is to start the sinking of a shaft in what is known as South Fork basin. The shaft will go down to a depth of 650 feet. The Maryland's venture will be one of the largest in that coal district. There will be a coal tippie built of steel and two compartment hoisting cages. These will enable the company to turn out an average of between 3,000 and 4,000 tons per day. The equipment will also include a railroad siding running down to the tracks of the main line and it will have a capacity of 120 cars. The Maryland will own its own cars.

-Official announcement was made in York on Friday of a silk mill merger with \$22,500,000 capital. Thus far the consolidation includes the York and Monarch mills, in York, and mills at Carlisle, Fleetwood, Kutztown and Reynoldsville, in this state. The purchaser is the American Silk Manufacturing company of New York. Plans are under way for the merging of a total of 30 mills, principally in Pennsylvania, under one management. L. G. Collins, manager of the York silk mill, will be general manager of the corporations. The York Haven mill is not included in the combine.