

Democratic Watchman

BY P. GRAY MEEK.

Ink Blotting.

Wednesday's cold turn was just another little setback for the May flowers. The prospects of dry Sundays in Atlantic City ought to serve as an impetus to the bottle business in Jersey.

With ten thousand camels in Egypt named ROOSEVELT it is little wonder that our President has such a bump on most of the time.

Germany thinks it is all right for other powers to talk peace or limitation of armament, but as for her! Well, that is a different matter, entirely.

The Black Hand outrages are simply the product of unrestricted immigration. We are responsible for the latter so why be outraged so by the former.

With the present Governors of North and South Carolina tee-totalers there is a strong probability of a certain very much used invitation phrase becoming obsolete.

The benefits of owning Cuba are being manifested every day. Now it will be an expensive investigation into the assault on the Taomna marines by the Havana police.

Inasmuch as Secretary TAFT now weighs two hundred and seventy pounds his fight with FORAKER in Ohio will reveal how much of it is brains, if it results in nothing better.

Lieut. PEARY's proposed trip to the pole has been temporarily halted. We presume he is waiting for some two-cent fare legislation; inasmuch as it is the price that is bothering him.

Since the starting of the Nittany furnace two weeks ago it has been doing splendidly, the output being up to one hundred and thirty tons of pig iron every twenty-four hours.

It will be only a week or so now until your boy will be coming home looking blue around the gills. Don't get scared and dose him with a lot of worm medicine for he has only been swimming.

The Akron, Ohio, woman who drowned herself in a bath tub after seeing the play "The Roof Garden Tragedy" wouldn't have had so much to answer for had she resorted to the tub before going to the play.

After losing a few million in the recent stock market panic JOHN W. GATES is reported as having retired from speculation for about a year's rest. News like this ought to be a warning to the little traders to look well to their cover.

What has become of the old fashioned May day picnics we had as children? Perhaps the children of today wonder what has become of the old fashioned May days, when, they are told, there were flowers in profusion and the woods a lovely bower of warmth and shadow.

There is inconsistency some where. Engineer WALLACE says the food served to the canal diggers is so vile that no one can eat it. Then he adds that those who ask for a second helping are arrested and thrown into prison. Either one of the conditions is bad enough but both can't be true.

The University of Pennsylvania is trying hard to make itself a ward of the State. Its latest trick has been to offer one scholarship for each senatorial district, but with one great institution of learning to support and be proud of we can see no good reason for Pennsylvania's taking on another.

The fight between ELKIN and PENROSE for the control of the Republican party in Pennsylvania is on—'tis said. Between the two there can be no honest choice. PENROSE is bad, but should those who are honestly seeking to purify the party forget why ELKIN left HASTINGS' cabinet.

Some of his critics declare that ROOSEVELT is to the nation what BEN TILMAN is to South Carolina. The comparison is not a bad one, for, after all, there is not much difference between the big stick and the pitch-fork and recent utterances of the President show that he can be quite as intemperate and violent in his choice of language as the southern Senator.

If the law-makers at Harrisburg were in session in Bellefonte now they could not help but be impressed with the fact that the people of the town were interested in the support of the Bellefonte hospital. With the shirt waist skate and dance on Wednesday evening, the entertainment in Petriken hall next Thursday evening and the big base ball game one week from today, all for the benefit of the hospital, there is surely no lack of earnest support.

It matters little now which way the oats jump. If PENROSE and his gang are able to choke off the capitol probe before it results in the criminal prosecution of the thieves the Democrats and honest Republicans of the State have been shown enough to convince them that they were right when they made the charge of graft in the construction of the thirteen million dollar capitol. The latest revelations have surpassed, in corruption, any of the charges that were made. To think that sworn officials should have accepted bids from a contractor who paid as high as ten thousand dollars to unsuccessful bidders to keep them from telling the public that his bid was neither the lowest nor the best; and that bids made at three per cent. off the schedule should have been read twenty-three per cent. off in order to secure the contract for a favorite bidder. It is almost too rotten to comprehend.

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An Interesting Witness.

If reports are not misleading the capitol probes are due to produce many additional facts. That is to say, according to current gossip a witness will testify in the near future that SANDERSON'S bid for the bronze electrical and gas fixtures was not the lowest. The records show that his bid was three per cent. off of the maximum price and his bills for the work are on that basis. But another bid was for twenty per cent. off, so that the award at three per cent. off was invalid because it wasn't the best or lowest bid. The secretary of the Board of Public Grounds and Buildings, the story goes, read the SANDERSON bid at twenty-three per cent. off, however, and that would have made it the lowest. But the charges were on the basis of three per cent. off so that there was both fraud and collusion in the transaction.

The same witness, it is understood, tried to get a share of the profits of the work, notwithstanding his failure to get the contract, however. In other words, having discovered that he had been jugged out of the contract and the State was being robbed, he presented to the contractor the alternative of giving him one-third of the work or being exposed. For a time he was put off with the promise of part of the work, but was ultimately turned down altogether. The contractor probably reasoned that a man who was willing to compound a felony for a consideration couldn't accomplish much by exposure and determined to bluff the matter away. But the other party carried the matter to Senator PENROSE who promised to do something in the case. Later the Senator admitted that he was unable to make SANDERSON divide. Meantime BERRY had made the exposure and to prevent the corroboration of his statement by positive oral and documentary proof the payment of \$10,000 of "hush money" was procured.

Such testimony not only proves collusion between the contractor and the political managers of the machine but it reveals a conspiracy to rob the State. PENROSE estimated that proving the BERRY charges would defeat the Republican ticket last fall and he tried to prevent the exposure. But in doing so he saved the ticket by sacrificing himself. In other words, he committed a felony in trying to prevent an exposure and if he forfeits his personal liberty as a result of the indiscretion it is his own fault. Meantime the trend is in the direction of tracing the course of the graft. Of course the contractor furnished the money if any was paid and it was taken out of the profits of the work. It is a small part of the aggregate, of course, but it is a beginning which may ultimate in revealing the whole mystery.

Says It's "Four of a Kind."

The malignity of President ROOSEVELT'S hatred is shown in a correspondence between him and some representatives of labor in relation to the character of the citizenship of a couple of men who are accused of being implicated in a murder in Idaho. He knows that the men in question are illegally in custody. He is aware that they were kidnapped in Colorado and taken to Idaho without warrant of law and that even if they had been taken red-handed in the crime, there was no justification for such a proceeding. But he has tried in every possible way to procure their conviction by prejudicing the public mind against them. Our purpose in referring to this, however, is not to create sympathy for the prisoners in the Idaho jail. He wants to convict them, no doubt, because a Colorado ruffian who had served in the Rough Riders was somewhat interested in the capture of them. But that purpose was only a secondary feature of his correspondence with the labor leaders. His main purpose was to incite public enmity against E. H. HARRIMAN who had recently exorciated him. It will be noticed that in the correspondence in question he associates the name of Mr. HARRIMAN with those of the alleged murderers whenever it is possible, and anathematizes them as alike "undesirable citizens."

Mr. HARRIMAN is probably no better than he ought to be but he is quite as good now as when he was not only the intimate but the very "dear" friend of the President. It will be remembered that during the presidential campaign of 1904 Mr. HARRIMAN raised a large amount of money at the request of the President to promote Mr. ROOSEVELT'S political ambitions and that as a reward for the service the President inferentially promised to allow Mr. HARRIMAN to "edit" his annual message. If that meant anything it meant bribery and there isn't much difference, morally, between briber and bribed. Therefore if HARRIMAN is an undesirable citizen, which we will not undertake to deny, ROOSEVELT must have something the matter with his citizenship also.

There are several more cases of the automobile fever in town and the victims have almost reached the critical point where only a machine will cure them.

Reckless Legislators.

The failure of the House of Representatives at Harrisburg to pass the OSTER bill, which provides for the sale at public auction of all unused or misused railroad charters, was a most defiant violation of one of the pledges of the Republican platform. The bill was aimed at the Pennsylvania railroad and intended to infuse life into the South Penn railroad, the construction of which was stopped when the Pennsylvania acquired control of the stock. The measure was negatived by the House committee on Judiciary General and the resolution to put it on the calendar failed for want of a constitutional majority, though it had a substantial majority of those present.

The contention of those who opposed the OSTER bill was that the Pennsylvania railroad having paid a vast sum for the charter the seizure of it would be an injustice. As a matter of fact, however, the purchase was a violation of the constitution of the State and consequently contrary to public policy and invalid. The charter was given to the South Penn company for the purpose of creating a competing railroad between Philadelphia and Pittsburg. Some parts of the right of way were donated with that expectation. But the Pennsylvania railroad prevented the consummation of that desirable result by the purchase of the stock and charter and made it impossible to achieve it for all time.

The paid agents of the Pennsylvania railroad on the floor of the House sacrificed the interests of the public to serve the purposes of the corporation. They deliberately violated a solemn platform promise and put upon an important section of the Commonwealth an irreparable injury. So long as that franchise is held by the Pennsylvania railroad there can be no railroad constructed through the southern tier of counties. If the authority to sell had been given this transportation facility would have been provided and all the people would have been benefited by the competition. This opportunity and advantage was sacrificed by reckless legislators led by Mr. BEIDLEMAN, of Harrisburg.

An Honest Expression.

The Legislature expressed the real sentiment of the Republican machine, the other night when it refused to vote its thanks to State Treasurer BERRY for exposing the looting operations and declined to pledge his moral support in his endeavor to protect the treasury from further predatory raids. The machine feels under no obligations to Mr. BERRY for that valuable service to the State and has no desire to protect the treasury. It "needs the money" and is anxious for a return to the old methods and the old results. The Republican majority in the Legislature would much rather bury BERRY than praise him.

But the people of Pennsylvania take the opposite view of the subject. They are grateful to Mr. BERRY for his prompt and courageous exposure of frauds. They will be glad to see the stolen money returned to the treasury and appropriated to building roads, perfecting the school system and improving the hospitals of the State. They cheerfully pay taxes when the revenues are appropriated to such uses. But they object to plundering operations and until their last breath they will be thankful to Mr. BERRY for his fidelity to duty and his earnestness in the interests of the people. Republics may be ungrateful but people are not.

We are glad, moreover, that Representative FLYNN, of Elk county, put the proposition before the Legislature. The people of Pennsylvania who are appreciative have a right to know what their Representatives think on the subject of common honesty. They are now able to see which of the men they have trusted are in favor of honesty in public life and who among them desire to shield the looters. We believe that Governor SWARTZ is honest and will do all that is possible to have the frauds exposed and the criminals punished, but we now know that he will have little, if any, help from the Legislature in the matter.

Tuesday morning when the officials in the Bellefonte Trust company attempted to open the lower safe in their vault they were nonplussed to find the handle would not turn, even after the combination worked apparently all right. It was finally concluded that something was wrong with the lock and Maurice Jackson offered a solution in that that perhaps he had forgotten to wind the clock on Saturday afternoon and that it had run down and was stopped when he wound it Monday evening just before closing. Of course the only thing to do was to wait and see, they all figuring that if such was the case the lock would open about four o'clock. When that hour arrived, however, the door still refused to budge and again they set their hope on the hour of eight o'clock. Luckily their conjecture proved correct this time and at just three minutes of eight the time lock opened and they were able to get in the safe, after which it was set to open at the usual time.

Roosevelt a Hypocrite.

President ROOSEVELT'S insistence on railroad regulation as the paramount question of popular interest and political morals is the crowning absurdity of the age. It would probably be impossible to exaggerate the evil of railroad discrimination in rates or the danger of corporate excesses. But it doesn't follow that federal control of the matter will either abate one or avert the other. In fact recent events indicate that the State Legislatures can accomplish more in both directions than federal control and ROOSEVELT'S zeal to shield PAUL MORTON after his confession of robbing as an official of the Santa Fe railroad is conclusive proof that federal control would be a farce.

PAUL MORTON was vice president of the Santa Fe railroad and held the same office in the Colorado Fuel and Iron company. Dealing as a railroad official with himself as an official of the Fuel company he discriminated to such an extent that every competitor of one of them was ruined. Yet when the facts were notoriously current President ROOSEVELT called MORTON into his cabinet and afterward refused to allow original prosecutions against him, notwithstanding his confession of guilt, for the reason that the criminal was the personal friend of the President, and he sharply rebuked counsel of the government because they insisted on a "square deal" in the matter.

As a matter of fact ROOSEVELT is neither truthful nor just. He will deliberately malign a man toward whom he is unfriendly and ostentatiously boast a criminal because he likes him. Take the case of 'Bos' MASTERSON, for example. Not long ago the President received him with the most generous expressions of confidence. Yet he is a notorious "tin-horn gambler," an outlaw and has been accused of murder with probability of guilt far greater than that against the men in the Idaho prison whose conviction he has tried to compass with all the arts of a resourceful and unjust enemy. ROOSEVELT is a hypocrite as well as a trader and no important interests are safe in his hands.

The Most Gigantic Swindle.

The State paid Congressman CASSELL'S construction company for 100,000 square feet of metal filing cases at \$18.40 a foot which were never delivered. On this overpayment Architect HUSTON got \$36,000 for designing the cases though he didn't design them at all. Thus on a single item of the capitol furnishings, the loot amounted to \$1,500,000. Besides this the materials used were not up to the standard required by the specifications. The able lawyers who are conducting the investigation express the opinion that this money can be recovered by legal process. Probably that is true.

It is now admitted that the building of the capitol was the most gigantic swindle of all time. The looting which attended the construction of the capitol at Albany, the erection of the city hall of Philadelphia and the operations of TWYED in New York city were child's play when compared with this. They covered a longer period of time but produced for the grafters less than half the amount of loot. That shows that the Pennsylvania machine is more avicious as well as bolder and more skillful robbers. It indicates that crime is progressive and that it has reached a climax in the operations in question.

There should be no time lost in proceeding for the recovery of this money. It is said that some of the looters are already disposing of their property and the chances are that unless there is a cause for criminal action there will be no voluntary payments. Men who are guilty of such crimes are not likely to give up what they have acquired unless compelled to and, the shadow of the penitentiary is the most potent compelling force. For that reason preparations for criminal prosecutions should be made simultaneously with those for civil suits. No opportunity for escape should be allowed.

This is the season for wild ducks and quite a number of the birds are passing over this section of the State in their migration north to the lakes. Last Friday a flock of fifty or more settled on Spring creek above Lingle's foundry and were there most of the day. Though they were not molested to any great extent some person took a shot or two at them, as one of the dead birds was taken out of the stream below the foundry by a passer-by. It was of the "dipper" variety and was given to George Kneisely who will have it mounted for his collection. Out near Philippsburg the latter part of last week a flock of several hundred ducks swooped down into the waters of the dam and boys and men shot them promiscuously, it is said. Shooting wild ducks at this season of the year is rather risky sport, as the season closed April 15th, and there is a fine of ten dollars a bird for every bird one out of season.

If you want to see a good game of ball go to State College today and see State play Dickinson.

Secretary Taft.

From the New York Sun. It is made known everywhere, and it is acquired with docility, that Mr. William H. Taft is to be the nominee of the next Republican National convention. That it is so accepted is a most sinister circumstance to that able and honest gentleman—we mean to that gentleman, for the word does not admit truly of qualification. A gentleman may not be other than honest, nor yet a liar, nor even the cause of lying in others.

Do people assume that William H. Taft views this nomination passively? Is he no more than an agreeable personality, a prepossessing example of a void of individuality save only such as is denoted on the label which it has pleased Mr. Roosevelt to paste across his broad back? Does anybody who has himself the faculty of self-respect and who believes that the people of this country are of any more account than sheep—does any such man believe for one moment that William H. Taft is of that kind?

What is there in his personal appearance, or in his family history, or in his decent career which leads people to take it for granted that he is a mere mirror for Mr. Roosevelt? He is no man's man, no man's slave, any more than Mr. Roosevelt is himself—who is, indeed, the slave of his own idiosyncrasies. Therefore, it will not do so lightly to impute a candidity of such a character to a person of William H. Taft's make-up, for he is every inch of him a most assured man; a man who could not for the life of him harbor a dishonest or a selfish thought, nor, though it won him the world, do a sordid or a mean thing.

How is it possible to contemplate such a man going before a national convention, or, worse, going before the people of the United States, with a dog collar around his neck, a prodigious badge of moral and intellectual bondage: "This is the Chattel, the Automaton Equivalent of Me. I have incarnated in him My Policies, My Principles, My Supernal Sagacity, in the language of Morton Prince, of Boston, whose devotion to me I appreciate. Taft, after the fourth of March, 1907, will be a Dissociated Personality and I shall occupy his premises most of the time. I shall be he and he will be Me all the same; his name is Taft, and as President he will be Me also."

Of course, with a sane convention this sort of thing should kill Taft, or kill any other man; but what prospect is there of a sane convention of either Republicans or Democrats in 1908?

It is, therefore, nothing more than fair that Mr. Roosevelt's eyes should be opened to the real character of his Secretary of War. While for our own part there is no one whom we would so gladly see elected to the Presidency as William H. Taft, the choice of him by Mr. Roosevelt is most unhappy. He is utterly unfitted to be a locomotive for any one, and he will kick over traces. Besides, we have always held that while there was no one else who could make a more brilliant run for office, when it comes to running for a nomination Mr. Taft would make no run at all. Of the great art of cramming oneself down the public throat he knows nothing at all. We do not think he will get the nomination, and if it should come to him, as it is now planned that it should come, he will not accept it.

Another Treasury Raid.

From the Altoona Times. Not only has the legislature been exceedingly generous in its future provision of itself by doubling the salaries of the members, but there is a disposition to accord the same treatment to employees of the legislative and executive branches of the government. While it is no doubt true that there are instances where salaries are not equitable, it is likewise true that in a majority of cases the compensation is more than liberal considering the service performed.

A bill is now before the legislature ostensibly intended to revise or equalize the salaries paid employees of the departments, and it has merit in that it reduces the number of employees of the senate and the house of whom there are undoubtedly too many. Some of them are pay roll ornaments, doing little or nothing in return for their regular stipend. But under cover of this apparent retrenchment the legislature plans to fatten the salaries of employees who now receive more than they are worth to the state or to any other employer who might require their services. In this respect the bill is a salary grab, and merits the closest scrutiny of the governor.

One of the items of the bill increases the salary of the governor, which is now \$10,000, to \$15,000, an advance for which there has been no demand. Neither Governor SWARTZ nor any of his predecessors has yet complained that the compensation was inadequate. There is no good reason why the salary should be raised, and it would not be surprising if the governor vetoes the bill if it is enacted.

The people are willing that their public servants shall be well paid, but they are strenuously object to such outlays upon the treasury as is now planned. Rather would they prefer that the state's payroll should be purged of a lot of useless functionaries who for years have been living at the public expense.

King or No King.

From the Johnstown Democrat. Senator Beveridge wants to centralize the government. The question, says he replying to an article on state's rights by Mr. Bryan, is, "Shall we have one flag or 46 flags?" We beg to differ with the distinguished Indiana senator. The question is not whether we shall have one flag or 46 flags, but whether we shall have a king or no king.

Spawls from the Keystone.
-Allegheny county has 236 prisoners in the western penitentiary.
-Sunbury councils will sprinkle the streets with oil instead of water.
-George Pierce, of Chester, has made the best haul of shad in the Delaware this year thus far, as on Thursday he caught 200.
-Over \$51,000 was paid out to the miners employed by the Beech Creek Coal and Coke company on the last pay day at Patton.
-The Union City chair factory, one of the largest of its kind in the state, was destroyed by fire Monday night, causing a loss of \$250,000.
-More than 500 women and girls employed in the stores in Scranton met the other night and formed a union, the purpose of which is to better their condition.
-The Westinghouse Electric and Manufacturing company of Pittsburg will issue new stock to the amount of \$5,000,000 for the purpose of making improvements.
-Hundreds of acres of land in Wilmington township, Mercer county, were on Thursday leased by John M. Patterson, of Pittsburg, for oil and natural gas operations.
-On Sunday morning, in thirty minutes, the congregation of the First Presbyterian church at Wilkesburg raised \$30,000 that was yet resting on their \$100,000 church.
-After an illness of fourteen years the Valley Iron works, at Conestoga, resumed operations yesterday, under the management of Worth Brothers company, who recently purchased the property from the Kuriz estate.
-Four brothers met at Danville Monday, whose ages aggregated 319 years. They were James Grove, of Shamokin, aged 80 years; William, aged 80; David, aged 78, and Uriah, aged 75, all of Danville. James is the father of 22 children.
-The Keystone Furnace at Reading, owned by the Reading Iron company, which was compelled to go out of blast March 6 because of a break in the bosh, was put in blast again on Thursday. The furnace has a capacity of 1,800 tons weekly.
-The residence of C. T. Saylor, at Castanes, Clinton county, was broken into by some unknown individual recently and a solid gold watch, a suit of clothes, some wearing apparel and all the provisions in the house were taken.
-More than 2,000 persons, many of whom drove all night to be present, Sunday attended the funeral of Miss Belle Stroup who, on Wednesday, shot and killed herself and Thaddeus S. Ross at Oil City, a few hours before he was to have married another girl.
-The fourteenth annual reunion of the First District, Knights of Pythias, will convene in Clearfield on June 13. The district is composed of Armstrong, Clarion, Jefferson, Indiana, Elk and Clearfield counties. It is expected that 5,000 Knights will be present.
-The large brick plant owned by R. H. Montgomery, located one mile west of Lewisburg Junction, along the line of the Pennsylvania railroad, was entirely destroyed by fire last Thursday night. The loss will reach about \$4,000, partly covered by insurance. It is thought the buildings were set on fire.
-Mrs. Mary Pekooski, a Polish woman of Chester, was robbed of \$600, all her savings while sleeping on Friday night. She had her money in a purse fastened to a string around her neck, and she states that she had a dream that there were robbers in the house. When she awoke her purse was gone.
-Judge Porter, of Fayette county, on Monday afternoon decided the law prohibiting the sale of cigarettes to boys under 21 years, unconstitutional because the title specifies it is to prevent sale to persons addicted to the use of cigarettes, while the body of the act declares no person under 21 may purchase them.
-About three years ago Mrs. Mary Roster, of Chester, gave a man who appeared to be a tramp, a shirt, stockings and 25 cents, as she took pity on him because of his forlorn looking condition. On Thursday she received a brief letter from a stranger recalling her kindness and enclosing \$25 as a token of appreciation.
-Abraham Barnhart, an inmate of the Danville poorhouse, died in that institution on Thursday, after having been a charge on the poor district for 56 years. He has no living relatives. He was sound mentally, but was deformed about the face. Since 1865, when the almshouse was established, he has never been away from the building one day.
-Frank Schlatter, aged 23 years, of Houtdale, was found dead last Monday morning by some miners while on their way home from work. He had been employed in one of the mines there and quit work at noon, saying he was going fishing. The supposition is that he was stricken with illness and fell. A bruise on his head indicated that in falling he struck the roof of a tree.
-The little town of Sterling, in Fayette county, on the Monongahela river, promises to become the center of the greatest coke development in the country. A year ago it was all farm land, but now a plant representing an investment of upwards of \$1,000,000 with a capacity large enough to charge 300 ovens, has been established and by another year a town with a population of 2,500 is predicted.
-The thirteenth annual reunion of the Eleventh Pennsylvania Cavalry Association will be held on June 3 and 4 at Easton. It occurs at the same time and place as the state encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic, thus giving the veterans the benefit of the low excursion rates at that time. Company G, of the Eleventh cavalry, was raised in Blair county, and quite a number of the survivors live in Altoona or in the county.
-The contract for the erection of an addition to the Odd Fellows orphanage near Sunbury has been awarded to W. O. Weaver & Son, of Harrisburg. The contract price is \$30,000. The building is to be finished by January 1. In the new structure will be a boys' dormitory, a girls' dormitory and an administration department. It will be three stories high and will have its own electric plant, and there will be a laundry in the basement. On the first floor will be the offices and dining room. On the second and third floors will be rooms enough to accommodate 200 children.