

Talk Stings.

-It looks like \$1.25 wheat. Did you sell yours for 70 cts?

-ROOSEVELT can give King ALFONSO, of Spain, some pointers on using the navy to amuse the baby.

-Dollar wheat was the record in Chicago on Monday, but seventy cents is about the limit in Centre county.

-Strawberries are ten cents a bushel in Houston, Texas. They are out of season for JIM McNICHOE's breakfast food.

-The moderates being on top in the Russian Donna they won't have so far to fly when the next explosion occurs.

-COREY has at last married his actress. Let us hope that another Pittsburg scandal has been removed from the stage of publicity.

-The Legislature has adjourned and many a man has left Harrisburg for fields in which he will have to do real work for a living.

-There is English authority for the statement that cigars and cigarettes are germ killers. The latter are also warranted to kill boys.

-A "Bloomer" social is the latest church diversion gotten up for the purpose of raising money and DaBois people are going to try one next week.

-There was snow and frost in Kansas and Nebraska on Tuesday; while we were sweltering in almost torrid heat. Surely the weather man must have slipped more than one cog.

-The New York Mail says "the women teachers who want men's salaries will probably get them." Of course they will if they get the men. That is one of the chief characteristics of woman.

-The Mesta bill is designed to put an end to Pennsylvania "bucket shops." [The lady who thought the "bucket shop" man was a bucket maker had better lay in a supply of the vessels at once.

-The Black hand, yellow journals, anarchistic reds and the green bugs are giving this country a combination of colors that will call forth its most watchful care to keep from becoming too popular.

-The NORTH bill having died in the Senate United States Senators will continue to be elected without an expression of popular choice and that means that the "Boy" PENROSE will continue to misrepresent this State in Washington.

-Governor STUART was forced to resort to all the "squeeze" at his command to force the Legislature to redeem a few of the platform pledges he had made. It is bad enough, but with a more pliant man in the executive chair it would have been the same old gang record.

-The state pension bill is up to the Governor and he will sign it. This will necessitate a considerable cut in all the appropriations for charities but if we had back some of the money that was stolen in that thirteen million capitol graft all could be taken care of without criticism.

-With Japan and Germany both proclaiming their great love for the United States this thing of international infatuation is coming to the point where the Mikado and the Kaiser will get to fighting over fair Miss Columbia. We can stand it as long as they don't get too gummy.

-The total appropriation passed by the recent Legislature for State College was \$513,000, and for the Bellefonte hospital \$18,000. If Governor Stuart is just as liberal in his treatment when he comes to sign the bills these two institutions will get no more than they deserve.

-In all probability our Senator, GEORGE M. DIMELING, will be the minority candidate for speaker of the Senate. While there is no chance of his election it is quite an honor for the young Senator to be named in connection with the speakership and we congratulate the district upon having a Representative so well thought of.

-If GILBERT S. BURROWS, Burgess of Sunbury, and the very efficient court reporter of Centre county, knew himself when he saw his picture as it appeared in the North American on Wednesday alongside of Bishop DARLINGTON, of the Harrisburg diocese of the Episcopal church, he must have been looking through the same kind of eyes as "see oneself as others see us."

-It is indeed a compliment to Prothonotary ARTHUR B. KIMFORT that no one desires to contest his re-election to the office he has so creditably filled for the past three years. Mr. KIMFORT is recognized by those best qualified to know as one of the very best court officers Centre county has ever had and that he should be given a second term without the organized opposition of the Republican party is an earnest of its good wishes and a compliment seldom paid public officials in this county.

-The action of Col. CHAMBERS in declining to permit the use of his name as a candidate for the nomination of his party for District Attorney is a decidedly wise move. That office has always been looked upon as one for the younger attorneys and not to be sought by the older men of well established practice. Besides, Mr. RUCKLE's re-election is a certainty and it could only have been an enemy of Col. CHAMBERS who undertook to lead a man of his prominence in his party into a contest where sure defeat for one of the minor offices in the county would certainly discredit him in the State.

Democratic Watchman

STATE RIGHTS AND FEDERAL UNION.

VOL. 52

BELLEFONTE, PA., MAY 17, 1907.

NO. 20.

Confession of a Corruptionist.

In supporting a resolution to extend the session a weak Representative GARNER, of Schuylkill county, on Monday evening last, stated that he had supported corrupt legislation for the Philadelphia banditti in consideration of the promise that legislation in the interest of the miners would be enacted and that the promise has been violated. For that reason he wanted the session continued another week in order that the pledge might be redeemed. The chances are that GARNER would be disappointed and displeased if the legislation in the interest of the miners had been enacted. He is about the worst specimen of the legislative "rooster" that has been on exhibition in the General Assembly for many years.

A year ago when GARNER was asking for a renomination as the candidate of the Republican party for the Legislature, he made a similar speech. The conscience of the community had been considerably aroused by preceding events and it seemed to him wise to pretend to be a reformer. With that idea in mind he addressed his constituents and declared that during previous sessions of the Legislature he "had sold himself body and soul to the machine in order to secure legislation for the miners, and that he had been cheated." But he wouldn't be cheated again, if re-elected, he protested, because he would have nothing to do with the machine. Before the session was a week old he was trailing around after the machine managers begging them to deceive him "for a consideration."

We can hardly imagine anything more detrimental to the interests of the miners or subversive of public morals than the presence in the public life of the country of such political corruptionists. He assumes to be independent at intervals mainly in the hope that he will be "induced" to be silent and in every emergency he is by all odds the most servile tool of the machine. His double confession of trafficking in legislation, which is a violation of the constitution and his oath of office, should condemn him to the everlasting contempt of every citizen of his district and guarantee him a perpetual retirement into an infamous oblivion. The miners are entitled to better representatives in the Legislature.

Some Legislative Evils.

Representative NESBIT, of Northumberland county, is outraged in his mind because of the methods of legislation in the General Assembly. They count majorities when there is less than a majority present and such confusion that only a fraction votes. Bills which require a two thirds vote are declared passed and sent to the other chamber or to the Governor, Mr. NESBIT declares, and for that reason he believes there ought to be improvement. That is literally true. The constitution is violated time and again every day and the Senators and Representatives violate their oaths of office as frequently.

But Mr. NESBIT fails to suggest a remedy for what must be to all observers a palpable evil. Publicity is a corrective, no doubt, but hardly a cure. Instead of complaining in the newspapers, therefore, he ought to have arisen in his place every time the outrage was perpetrated and protested with such vehemence and persistency that public opinion would necessarily be influenced by his action. The law breaker is a coward as a rule, and if those who pervert their power in the Legislature to violate the constitution were called to account with proper emphasis the bad practice would be discontinued.

There is another evil in legislation which may be regarded as twin to that against which Mr. NESBIT complains. The constitution provides that every bill enacted "shall be read at length three times on three separate days." As a matter of fact in the Senate, at least, bills are not read at length at all. The other Friday, for example, with a Senator other than a president pro tem. in the chair and less than half a dozen Senators present, bills were passed without even reading the entire title. Senators who permit such a travesty on legislation violate their oaths of office and are morally guilty of perjury.

The Churchman, the official Episcopalian paper of the Harrisburg diocese, suspended publication with the May issue which came out last Saturday. The paper has never paid for its publication and in the hope that its list could be built up so that it would be self-supporting Rev. Edwin G. Richardson, of this place, was sent by Bishop Darlington to canvass the State in its interest. But he did not meet with enough success to make the paper a paying institution, hence its discontinuance.

Among the decisions handed down by the Supreme court on Monday was that in the case of the Nittany Valley railroad company v. the Empire Steel and Iron company et al., in which the decree of the lower court was affirmed.

New potatoes are now in market and are selling for \$150 per bushel.

The Soldiers' Pension.

The Republican leaders are greatly perturbed over the passage of the Soldiers' Pension bill. It passed the Senate with only one opposing vote in the expectation that it would be defeated in the House of Representatives and it passed the House by the same overwhelming majority in the hope that the Governor will veto it. According to report from Harrisburg, however, this expectation will be disappointed. The Governor will sign the measure, gossip alleges, regardless of results. That action will necessitate some deep cutting into the appropriations for local charities, but the Legislators rather than the Governor will suffer on that account.

The pension bill will involve an expenditure of five or six millions of dollars annually. It isn't a prodigious sum when the resources of this great State are considered. But it raises the volume of expenditures considerably above the total of the revenues and will inevitably lead to treasury deficits and bankruptcy. Of course the calamity may be postponed for a period by cutting the hospital and other charity appropriations. But these institutions are of great service as well as of infinite advantage to the communities in which they are located, and crippling them will work hardships on many deserving people. The benefit to the veterans of the war, meritorious as it is, will hardly compensate for the damage to the hospitals.

The measure was introduced in good faith, of course, but it wasn't passed in that spirit. Senator COCHRAN, during a visit in Maine, met a man who had long been a resident of Williamsport, who said he returned to the State in which he enlisted because it paid a pension and he needed the money. But in providing for a pension to the soldiers of the State the Legislature of Maine also provided revenues to meet the expense and thus performed a patriotic service in a business and statesmanlike way. Our boss-ridden and machine controlled Legislators neglected the most important feature of the affair and pensions soldiers at the expense of others also deserving.

Fisher Would be a Farce.

It is practically settled that Senator JOHN S. FISHER, of Indiana county, will be the Republican nominee for State Treasurer this year. His only competitor for the favor, so far as the public is informed, is Representative JOHN O. SHEATZ, chairman of the House Committee on Appropriations, and the "bad blood" engendered between the two Houses of the General Assembly toward the close of the session appears to have completely eliminated SHEATZ. For some reason the chairmanship of the House Committee on Appropriations has come to be regarded as a stepping stone to the State Treasury. This year it has failed of that result for the reason named and others.

The exigencies of the Republican machine are more than usually acute. The exposure of graft in the construction of the capitol and the intense factional enmities among the leaders have practically destroyed all chances of victory in the approaching contest. In fact the hope of election under ordinary conditions has been abandoned and the energies of the party are bent to the effort of securing a majority in the next Legislature in order to compass the re-election of Senator PENROSE. With that idea in mind a tentative agreement has been entered into to nominate Senator FISHER for State Treasurer and side-track Justice ELKIN, who covets the senatorial seat.

The plan is to boost FISHER as a graft prober, he being chairman of the joint committee investigating the scandal. He has shown some zeal in the work and considerably surprised some of his friends by the earnestness with which he has pursued the purpose. But his former senatorial record will greatly interfere with the success of any reform campaign and the alliance with PENROSE proves that there is no sincerity in his professions of improved political morals. In view of all the facts, therefore, it may be predicted that a reform campaign with Senator FISHER as the candidate will speedily be transformed into a roaring farce. It would be a palpable false pretense.

Notwithstanding the fact that the plant of the Barnesboro Star was entirely destroyed in the big fire which visited Barnesboro last week editor John C. Miller was not discouraged but went to work at once and with the assistance of the offices in Spangler and Carrolltown got out a half-size issue of the Star on time. It is his intention to equip a new plant just as soon as possible.

The Haupt brothers are now at work putting up the walls for the new parish house of the Episcopal church with their patent concrete blocks. They make a very substantial as well as attractive-looking wall and if they will stand the usages of time and the elements should be preferable to the solid stone.

A Legislative Anomaly.

The esteemed Pittsburg Chronicle Telegraph is very much put out on account of legislative conditions at Harrisburg. "The picture of the leader of the Democratic opposition of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives," says our esteemed Pittsburg contemporary, "not only standing up in his place as the champion of the red upturn of the pledges of the platform of the Republican State convention, but being given cordial support by Republicans, is one of the curious and unsatisfactory features of the last days of this legislative session." The reference is to Representative CREAMY's effort, last week, to compel the Republican majority of the Legislature to fulfill the reform promises of the Republican State platform.

We acknowledge to something incongruous in the spectacle in question but are unable to imagine why it should be "unsatisfactory" to our esteemed contemporary. Mr. CREAMY is not a Republican but there is no partisanship in common honesty and all he did in the matter was to urge upon the majority the obligation which its platform pledge put upon it. If there had been even a remote probability that the majority in the Legislature would have fulfilled its pledges without the urging, or if there had been a single Republican member of the body who had sufficient conscience and courage to perform the duty, Mr. CREAMY would probably have remained silent. But there was none.

Therefore we can't understand the complaint of our Pittsburg contemporary. McNICHOE, DURHAM and PENROSE have a right to complain because they are opposed to reformed legislation and like the late Mr. TWEED prefer to be left alone. But we can't imagine that our contemporary is influenced to its expression by such reasons. It is more or less tied up with the machine and in sympathy with the inquiry which has made that organization both notorious and odious. But it can have no reason for objecting to the fulfillment of the platform pledges of its party and if that be true must have objected to the spectacle to which it refers because of regret that the service was left to a Democrat.

Roosevelt Snubbed by Hughes.

President ROOSEVELT has determined to withdraw his active support from Governor HUGHES, of New York, according to dispatches from Washington. It is not because the President has become reconciled to the enemies of the New York Governor, for there has been no change in that respect. But Governor HUGHES wasn't appreciative, apparently. He didn't set high enough value on the services of the President in his behalf. As a matter of fact he didn't set any value on them at all and frankly indicated to the meddling TEDDY that he was "butting in" to affairs which didn't concern him.

And that is precisely what he was doing. In meddling in the political contentions of States the President is not only usurping authority which he doesn't possess and ought not to, but he is violating the most sacred traditions of the office which he has in various other ways prostituted. Take the present campaign in Ohio, for example. The President is there, every day, bribing politicians by the promise and bestowal of patronage to support the aspiration of Secretary TAFT for the Presidency, and there are a good many who believe that it is not because he favors TAFT as his successor but because he thinks men chosen to support TAFT are likely to switch to him.

We have always entertained a high respect for Governor HUGHES, of New York, and know of no more substantial foundation for such an estimate of him than his rebuke of the President's meddling in the local political affairs of New York. He has no more right to interfere in such contests in that State, except as a private citizen, than he has to take part in a contest in one of the provinces of Canada. But he has interfered and in a manner which would probably send any private citizen to the penitentiary for bribery and ought to condemn him to the full measure of popular reprobation.

The Lock Haven Daily Democrat surprised its readers last Thursday by coming out in a neat and attractive eight page, six column folio instead of the blanket sheet it used to be. The Democrat has always been a very readable newspaper, always filled with live, interesting matter, and this mark of progressiveness on its part is a good criterion that it is meeting with the full measure of success it deserves. May it continue to prosper in the future as it has in the past.

At a meeting of the directors of the Whitetock quarries, held Wednesday morning, a semi-annual dividend of three per cent. on the capital stock was declared. It was made payable on June 1st. While the rate was not established as permanent it was made as the minimum and whatever increase the business warrants will be added from time to time.

How the Expenses Are Increasing.

Increased Expenditures in the Old and Immense Sums for New Departments. No Reform or No Star, Feared Legislation to be had from the Present Republican Legislature.

Special Correspondence:

Harrisburg, Pa., May, 14th, 1907.

The General Appropriation bill absorbed the bulk of legislative attention last week and well it might for it is fearfully and wonderfully made. The General Appropriation bill is that which provides for the expenses of the Legislative, Judicial and Executive Departments of the government. Every Senator and Representative is concerned in it for the reason that its passage is essential to secure his salary and supplies. Besides most men are interested in the schools and charitable and penal institutions and the provisions for their maintenance are contained in that bill.

As Josh Billings once said "comparisons are odorous" but I have taken the trouble to compare some of the items in the bill of this year with those of other years in order to discover, if possible, the causes for the constant increase in taxation. In this way I have learned that the entire cost of the Executive Department in 1893, which was at the close of Pattison's administration as shown in the General Appropriation bill of that year amounted to \$50,200 while the appropriation this year aggregates \$50,000. There have been no new offices created in that department in the interim and no increases of salaries, but the expenses have been increased in some way to the extent of \$8,500. That is a mere trifle, however.

For example in 1893 the expenses of the State Department were \$65,800, while this year they amounted to \$111,000, a difference of \$46,000. The increase in two years, that since 1905, is \$8,500 and if the political revolution of 1905 had been postponed until now the chances are that the increase would have been much greater. The Auditor General's Department has increased in cost of operation from \$100,000 in 1893 to \$150,000 in 1905, a difference of \$50,000. The cost of administering the Treasury Department in 1893 was \$38,400 which in 1905 had expanded to \$72,766.60. The appropriation this year is \$72,000. It may be remarked parenthetically that it is the only department that has been decreased at all.

SOME OTHER VAST INCREASES.

The greatest increase is in the Department of Public Grounds and Buildings, but that in some others is ample to make one "sit up and take notice." In 1893 the expense of the Attorney General's office was \$27,000, a modest sum for the important work performed in that office. Two years ago it had increased to \$56,208.34, still a reasonable figure. But the appropriation for that department this year has been increased to \$116,146.99. Attorney General Carson was responsible for this tripling of expenses, of course, for the new Attorney General has hardly got the bogus mahogany chair warmed and the estimates were made on the expenses of last year.

The Department of Internal Affairs has increased in cost of operation from \$30,200 in 1893 to \$187,000 this year. The Judicial Department from \$1,155,200 in 1893 to \$1,969,392.08 this year and if the machine managers of the Legislature had not been restrained by the fear of the veto axe a good deal more would have been added. The cost of the Legislative Department was \$410,000 in 1893 and is \$507,470 now. There was no such pretentious Forestry Department in 1893 and two years ago it was efficiently conducted by Dr. Rothrock for \$23,000. The appropriation this year for that department is \$181,000 and all things considered we are getting off pretty well at that.

The Department of Mines and those of Factory Inspector, State Police and Fisheries have also been created since 1893, but they show the spirit of progress in the direction of expense. That of Mines, for example cost \$39,841.93 two years ago and is set down for \$370,383.60 this year. The cost of working the Department of Factory Inspector in 1905 was \$174,800. Forestry there was no such pretentious Forestry Department in 1893 and two years ago it was efficiently conducted by Dr. Rothrock for \$23,000. The appropriation this year for that department is \$181,000 and all things considered we are getting off pretty well at that.

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There was a strenuous effort made during the present session of the Legislature to double this force and though at this writing it seems to have failed irretrievably there is nothing absolutely certain in this world but "death and taxes." I notice, however, that there is a suspicious item in the General Appropriation bill under the head of the Forestry Department. Among the appropriations for the department is one "for the payment of the Forest Rangers, two years, the sum of \$75,000." Webster's Dictionary defines a Ranger as "one of a body of mounted troops, formerly armed with short muskets, who range over the country and often fight on foot."

Possibly the machine is to be consoled for its disappointment in not getting the State Police force doubled by this expedient. Of course the amount of money expressed in the clause of the appropriation bill quoted would not maintain a very (Continued on fourth page.)

Spawls from the Keystone.

-The Clearfield Eastman's Journal says seventy-five families have left that town since January 1, and that the voting population has been reduced fully two hundred.

-Lewis Peters and Tilghman Schenk, of Ironton, Lehigh county, caught a carp measuring thirty-four inches in length and twenty-four inches in circumference and weighing twenty-four pounds.

-Because nine finishers at Hendel's factory, at Edison, Berks county, refused to work on Ascension day and were discharged therefor, forty-five finishers went on a strike. No men could be found to supply the vacancies.

-Mr. and Mrs. Isaac H. Wenrich, of Bernville, Berks county, have just celebrated their sixty-sixth wedding anniversary and are the oldest married couple in the county. Mr. Wenrich is 88 and his wife 85 years of age.

-William Whittaker was found guilty of murder in the first degree at Sunbury for the murder of his wife in December, at Shamokin. If he is executed it will be the third execution out of 114 murders committed in Northumberland county.

-Forty-one mules were burned to death in a barn in the Woodward mine of the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Railroad company, near Wilkesbarre, on Wednesday. The fire was 1,000 feet below the surface, but did not spread to the coal.

-Miss Nellie Conser, a successful young telegraph operator, is one of the few women ever set at work on the black signal of the Pennsylvania railroad. She is stationed at Shindel, Snyder county, and upwards of forty freight trains and four express trains pass the tower daily.

-To Thomas Stolz, of Muncy, goes the honor of having shot one of the largest black hawks of the year. Standing at a distance of 300 yards he picked the bird from a large buttonwood tree, the bullet piercing the wing and body. The hawk measured five feet six inches from tip to tip of wings.

-William Edler, aged 95 years, died at his home in Williamsport. He was at one time a partner of Peter Herdic in the coal business, was a boatman when boating was one of the great industries of the state; was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church and at various times of select and common council.

-The Luzerne county court presumes that Harry Leek, a Hazleton soldier boy, is dead. Recently a decree was made that if he does not return to the city within twelve weeks his estate of \$1,500 shall go to his sister Ida. Leek enlisted in the United States army, and went to the Philippines. It is presumed that he was killed.

-The largest slate deal that has ever been made in Pennsylvania took place at Tamaqua on Thursday when a combine of interests was effected which will be capitalized at \$500,000. The interests embrace some half a dozen firms operating a number of quarries covering an extent of 240 acres of the finest beds of slate in the state.

-An unknown man, wearing neither shoes, hat, coat nor vest, last week wandered into the camp of some woodmen near Brimble, Clearfield county. He is rather a fine looking man, aged about 32 years, and the only information that could be got out of him were the words "Scranton" and "street car." He was taken to the Clearfield county home.

-George Fralick, aged 35 years, was killed while a constable was searching for him with a warrant for his arrest charged with striking Emma Johnson with a hammer. Fralick, it is said, was suffering from mental trouble. A week ago he left his home and was not seen by his family until his father identified his dead body at the railroad depot in Harrisburg.

-Maude Welshons, who lives near Rauchtown, Nippesee valley, Clinton county, attended the public high school at Oval during the past winter for a six months' term, walking more than a thousand miles in going to and from school. Lulu Zerbe, another pupil, walked 850 miles, and John Bangson, Luther Trostle and Pearl Shudde walked 500 miles each.

-Having insulted the American flag, George Perry, a Canadian, was Saturday forced to carry the national colors from Sunbury to Northumberland, with the pleasant alternative of being tossed into the Susquehanna river. Two hundred fellow workmen followed Perry to see that he did his job properly, and then forced him to apologize. Perry, who is employed in the dye works at Sunbury, pointed to some representations of the Stars and Stripes on the mill walls Friday, and said sneeringly: "They ought to be the union jack, instead of what they are. The American flag is no more than a dishrag to me."

-Before the end of this month the Pennsylvania railroad will have planted 550,000 more young trees, in its prospective forests. This will make 2,250,000 trees started on the several tracts aggregating 1,000 acres. The work is conducted along scientific lines, under the supervision of E. A. Sterling, recently appointed forester for the company. This spring's planting will be near Altoona and at Mount Union. A nursery is being created at Hollidaysburg. Here the young trees for future planting will be raised from seed. Red oak, locust, catalpa and Scotch pine are the four species selected. From fifteen to thirty-five years will be required for the trees to grow large enough to be cut for posts, ties and other uses. The Pennsylvania railroad system last year used 5,125,000 ties.

-The King's Rock Cement company has been formed in Lycoming county for the purpose of developing the cement rock quarries on King's Rock farm in Pratt township. The company will manufacture hydraulic, Portland, Rosendale and natural cement, and the operation, which it is expected will be in full blast by November, 1907, will turn out two thousand barrels a day. During the first year the owner of the property is to receive no rental or royalty, but after that year the royalties increase annually until 1914. In 1909 23 cents per barrel on 3,000,000 barrels; in 1910, 3 cents on a 3,000,000 output; in 1911, 33 on 4,000,000; in 1912, 4 cents on 5,000,000; in 1913, 4 cents on 6,000,000; and from 1914 to the expiration of the contract 5 cents on a 6,000,000 output. At the end of eight years the owner is given the privilege to buy the plant for \$600,000.