

Democratic Watchman

BY P. GRAY MEEK.

Ink Stings.

—Dead are the dead letters in our alphabetical post-office.  
—Divine right BARR, of the Reading, is regarded now as being dead wrong.  
—The advance in the price of Havana cigars won't worry the smokers of "Cremo" and "Bill Watsons."  
—The usual graft of the local heating company for May steam has certainly been suspended by the weather man.  
—Six hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars for furnishings in the basement of the capitol looks like the basest kind of graft.  
—It is not a case of "exaggerated ego" with the sweet girl graduate. Now is the time when she is "IT" and no exaggeration about it.  
—Jack Frost is getting almost as much notoriety in the papers these days as HARRY THAW did two months ago and both due to the business of killing.  
—That dream of a gown worn by the sweet girl graduate is already hanging in the wardrobe and a big gingham apron confronts her for the rest of her life. The dreams of youth are sweet, but evanescent.  
—After all are the commuters justified in making such a kick over the establishment of a flat two cent rate by the railroads. Were they not among the very fellows who pressed hardest on the Legislature to pass the bill.  
—There are so many Methodists in the world that if they all joined hands they could girdle the earth. Wouldn't it be a sight for sore eyes to see some of our old Methodist brothers holding hands with some of the good sisters.  
—San Francisco is still in the throes of the earthquake. Rebuilding a city, while thousands of her socialistic inhabitants are trying to tear it down, may prove too much of a task for even the indomitable spirit of the Golden Gate.  
—The Missouri State University has lately established a chair of poultry, but the name of the rooster who will hold it down has not been made public. Cholera, the gaps and double-yelk eggs are suggested as part of the course.  
—Chief chemist Wiley, of the United States Department of Agriculture, says it is "a rank disgrace for any man to die except from old age," which means, of course, that he must not own an auto or ride on the limited trains of our trunk line railroads.  
—The clock in the public building in Philadelphia is the second largest in the world. It will do time there for years of course, while SAM SALTER and a lot of others down there who ought to be "doing time" look on with that feeling of security that entrenched gang rule assures.  
—"Father Jones," a new writer in the local journalistic field, has been attracting considerable attention from readers of the Daily News. He had been saying some pretty nifty things up to Tuesday evening when he produced a poem that puts him right up in a class with the poet laureate of the West ward.  
—Persistence and patience on the part of several fishermen is gradually being rewarded by the taking of the last trout from that section of Spring creek between the falls and the Central R. R. station. It is a question whether the satisfaction of eating the few fish left is adequate compensation for their loss in a place where they have been a daily source of pleasure to passing pedestrians.  
—The scholars of the Oakmont High school, near Pittsburgh, have gone on a strike and the seniors refuse to graduate because the only negro in their class won the valedictorian's honor. It is a pretty commodity on the work the white scholars have done and the more they fuss the more public will their humiliation be. If the one negro scholar, laboring under disadvantages that certainly must have attended his entire course, did better work and received higher grades than his white classmates the fault was all their own and they deserve the predicament they find themselves in. If the white race is to arrogate to itself the superior position of the two it must maintain that position in every one of its God-given endowments.  
—Representatives of many of the Grand Army Posts of the State met in Harrisburg on Wednesday to plead with the Governor to sign the COCHRAN pension bill passed by the last Legislature. Aside from the fact that it is the federal and not the State governments' duty to support the pension system we are glad to note that some of the Posts in the State have taken a stand against the bill on the ground that it becoming a law would probably necessitate a cut in the appropriations to the hospitals and asylums of the State. The greatest danger we see in the bill is not the amount of money it proposes to disburse among the old soldiers. It is an entering wedge to fasten upon the State a large and expensive Pension Bureau. It will grow to gigantic proportions and be extended gradually as long as department offices are needed for political workers. We do not believe Senator COCHRAN considered this possibility else he would have hesitated not over the question of giving two million annually to the old soldiers but of opening a way for a new department in the State's service that will some day cost many millions to maintain.

Democratic Watchman

STATE RIGHTS AND FEDERAL UNION.

VOL. 52

BELLEFORTE, PA., MAY 31, 1907.

NO. 22.

The State Convention.  
The WATCHMAN does not wonder at the interest Republican correspondents are manifesting in the time that will be fixed for the meeting of the Democratic State convention, or at their efforts to secure the holding of that convention at as late a date as possible. About the only hope our Republican friends now have of recapturing the State Treasury this fall is in the mistakes the Democrats may be induced to make, and of these, failing to hold their convention until the latter part of August, as suggested by the *North American*, the *Inquirer*, *Press* and other Republican papers, would be decidedly the greatest.  
If the Democrats could be hoodwinked into waiting until so late a date to place their candidate in the field, the Republicans would have three months the start of them, and in those three months they would have their now broken ranks united, their organization lined up, their people stuffed with promises of reform and their voters generally convinced that every fellow connected with the State capitol graft was to be convicted and punished. They would have their campaign well in hand and their organization ready for any work necessary to do to win, before the Democrats were ready to begin preparations for the fight.  
To make an August nomination would be placing the Democrats at the disadvantage of beginning their fight within nine or ten weeks of an election with an unperfected organization; the rank and file of the party apathetic and listless; the issues of the campaign anticipated and the Republican part of the public mind fully impressed with the belief that the wrongs of which the State has to complain and fear, will be righted by the party that permitted. It would be handicapped for time to see to the preliminary work of the campaign and would go into the contest when the country vote, from which it derives its greatest strength, is busiest with its harvesting and seeding and when the farmers could not give the time necessary to perfect the organization or do the work necessary to be done, if we are to hope for success.  
To begin the preliminary work of a campaign, a line of policy must be first fixed. It is useless to attempt this until a platform is adopted and a candidate named. This should be done as shortly as possible after the 6th of June—the day the Republicans make their nomination. It would be starting the battle with a broken, demoralized and dispirited enemy to face. To wait until the latter part of July or August would simply be to sit down and wait until our opponents could heal up their divisions, unite and perfect their, at present, disrupted organization, circulate their literature, entrench themselves, and be ready for any charges or conditions that may arise.  
It is the WATCHMAN's earnest hope that the Democrats of the State will be wise enough to take advantage of the situation as it now exists, and not wait until every opportunity to make an aggressive and hopeful fight is passed, as was done last year.  
The McClain Machine Squabbles.  
Justice ELKIN may entertain the hope of succeeding Senator PENROSE but he doesn't propose to allow another to lay the lines of his campaign. At least he has set down very hard on Speaker McCLAIN's plan. The Speaker wanted to make the Justice the candidate of a syndicate of electrical exploiters and drew the line against PENROSE's friends in the Senate for the reason that some legislation desired by the syndicators, was defeated in the Senate. Justice ELKIN failed to respond to the call, however, and McCLAIN has been left in a lurch. Meantime the PENROSE crowd are holding ELKIN responsible for McCLAIN's action and are resenting it in the most practical way.  
Senator FISHER, of Indiana county, a friend and neighbor of Justice ELKIN, had been practically agreed upon as the candidate for State Treasurer. Neither FISHER's merit nor his fitness had anything to do with the selection. Primarily he was "adopted" because he is chairman of the Legislative Commission investigating the capitol building scandals but really with the view of enlisting ELKIN in the cause of PENROSE. The McCLAIN break admonished PENROSE's friends that their expectation in that respect was on a precarious footing and they decided to throw FISHER overboard. This action will cut one of the most potent influences out from under ELKIN's ambition.  
With Senator FISHER in the office of State Treasurer ELKIN could have entered the campaign against PENROSE most auspiciously, if he had been so disposed. But the only way FISHER could possibly get into the office was through an understanding that both ELKIN and FISHER would support PENROSE for re-election. That agreement had practically been made but the action of McCLAIN revealed its insin-

cerity and FISHER has lost the job. It is sad, no doubt, and disappoints both ELKIN and FISHER. But it inflicts little loss on either of them for the Republican candidate for Treasurer is certain to be defeated anyway and a political corpse can't do much for an aspiring friend.  
Preparing to Fool the Public.  
We are assured on the highest authority that the Republican State convention which meets in Harrisburg next Thursday will enthusiastically endorse the administration of President ROOSEVELT. "Pennsylvania's delegation in Congress," writes one of the inspired newspaper correspondents, "will be commended for the cordial support given the President at all times," and the endorsement of Senator KNOX for the Presidential nomination, he adds, "will be pointed to as a guarantee to the country that his election will insure a continuance of the ROOSEVELT 'square deal' policy in favor of all the people." The convention will also commend the Legislature "for the carrying out of every pledge made by the party in the last State campaign." Nothing could be more interesting.  
While President ROOSEVELT was "sweating blood," so to speak, in an effort to secure legislation to regulate railroads during the last session of the Fifty-ninth Congress, Senator KNOX was striving with equal energy and assiduity, in association with Senators FORAKER, of Ohio, ALDRICH, of Rhode Island, SPOONER, of Wisconsin, and others, to defeat his policies. The President became so incensed at their intrigues that he denounced them publicly as "railroad lawyers," and through former Senator W. E. CHANDLER, of New Hampshire, opened negotiations with Senators TILLMAN, of South Carolina, and BAILEY, of Texas, to circumvent their purposes. Therefore the endorsement of Senator KNOX for the Presidency by the Republican State convention will imply antagonism rather than endorsement of the ROOSEVELT policies.  
In other words, the avowed purpose of the Republican State convention next week is to impose on the credulity of the people of the State. The machine which dominates the party and will control the convention is opposed to the President and his policies and if it commends the Legislature it will be because it failed to carry out the pledges of the platform and candidates made during the last campaign. It is possible that the voters of that party will be deceived by these false pretenses this year as they have in previous years. They rather like to be fooled if the operation is skillfully conducted. But PENROSE, McNICHOLO and DAVE MARTIN posing as reformers is too great a tax on credulity. Even fools would not be deceived by such a trick.  
Rough Rider on the Rampage.  
President ROOSEVELT's intimate and valued personal friend, General SHERMAN M. BELL, of Colorado, is on the rampage, so to speak. He is the ruffian, who, as Adjutant General of Colorado at the time of the labor disturbances at Cripple Creek, invaded the courts and coerced judges at the point of the bayonet, to subvert every principle of justice and civil law, by making unjust decisions. Because he was the friend and favorite of the President there was neither recourse nor redress. His ruffianism was interpreted in Washington as a splendid manifestation of sterling administration. For the moment he was a greater favorite in the White House than "Bat" MANTERSON, the bully, blackleg and murderer.  
When reason resumed sway and law and order were restored in Colorado, General BELL was properly and promptly dismissed from the public service. But as might have been expected he left the force which had been under his control in a demoralized condition and the financial records of the department in a state worse than confusion. In his annual report General BELL's successor, General WELLS, exposed these facts. This has incensed the ruffian and he declares that "if WELLS made those statements he will have to answer to me." That means an apology or a shooting scrap with the chances against WELLS for BELL being a coward will approach the work snakingly.  
No doubt he presumes on the President's friendship for immunity from punishment for his contemplated crime and it is not certain that he is "reckoning without his host." He served in the Rough Riders. It was because of his connection with the prosecution of MOYER and other prisoners now under arraignment at Bois, Idaho, that ROOSEVELT tried to prejudice the public against them. But he hardly think that he will be able to fulfill his purpose in the matter in question. The people of Colorado have not abdicated all their rights or relinquished every claim to manhood and if the President's drunken and ruffianly friend carries out his plans he will be justly punished.  
The next big time will be the Undines picnic on the Fourth of July.

President Baer's Bad Blunder.  
Mr. GEORGE F. BAER, president of the Philadelphia & Reading railroad, is a profound scholar, a distinguished lawyer and an excellent citizen. But he underestimates the intelligence and misconceives the spirit of the public when he raises the rates for the service of his railroad in resentment of legislative action. The Legislature has been lenient to the faults of the corporation of which Mr. BAER is the head. It has been generous in favors and forbearance. The exercise of a constitutional right should not, therefore, be interpreted as an offense which justifies reprisals on the public. In taking that step Mr. BAER has made a mistake.  
The seventeenth article of the constitution of the Commonwealth forbids a lot of things which the Reading railroad has been doing. Section 5 of that article which reads "No incorporated company doing the business of a common carrier shall, directly or indirectly, prosecute or engage in mining and manufacturing articles for transportation over its works; nor shall such company, directly or indirectly, engage in any other business than that of common carriers, or hold or acquire lands, freehold or leasehold, directly, or indirectly, except such as shall be necessary for carrying on its business; but any mining or manufacturing company may carry the products of mines and manufactures on its railroad or canal not exceeding fifty miles in length," if enforced would put the Reading railroad out of business in a week. The obvious fiction that the Temple Iron company is a separate corporation wouldn't stand a minute.  
If the provisions of the constitution were enforced, therefore, Mr. BAER would be divested of the power to raise, lower or make rates for the Reading railroad. In pursuing the course he has adopted, under such conditions, he is inviting the resentment of the public and pent up wrath is likely to explode at any time. Mr. BAER is one of the cherished friends of the editor of this paper. His splendid achievement in constructing and maintaining success in railroad management has been a perennial source of satisfaction and pleasure to us. That being true we can claim the privilege of friendship to say to Mr. BAER that he is making a blunder which will probably cost more than it will come to.  
Governor STUART is doing the best he can with the bills left to him at the adjournment of the Legislature and probably as well as ought to be expected. But he hasn't tackled the problem of cutting the appropriations to the limit of the revenues as yet and that is what will try his soul and tax his resources.  
Ananias Club Increasing.  
The Ananias Club has a new recruit. The new accession has not been formally announced, as yet, but it will be, unless conditions have changed, within a few days. The new recruit is not in the HARMAN class financially nor in the CHANDLER class essentially. But he is not without the potential qualifications of membership. That is, he has attained some distinction in his profession and has enjoyed the confidence and respect of his neighbors. "Death loves a shining mark," according to the proverb, and President ROOSEVELT has the same preference. He doesn't care to waste his anathemas on obscure individuals.  
The new member of the ANANIAS Club is the Rev. Dr. W. J. LONG, of Stamford, Connecticut. Dr. LONG is the author of a number of books on nature, some of which have been adopted by the schools. Some time ago he criticized the President's methods of taking game and said that he slaughtered promiscuously. In resentment of this liberty President ROOSEVELT criticized one of Dr. LONG's books and designated the author as a "Nature Fakir." By way of replying to this unfriendly criticism Dr. LONG in an interview declares that the President is himself a fakir and somewhat of a coward and produces substantial evidence in support of his original proposition that he "slaughters game promiscuously."  
All in all, Dr. LONG's arraignment of the President is most complete and convincing. He declares inferentially that on one occasion the President, securely hidden behind a tree, "kills three bull elk in succession, leaving their carcasses to rot in the woods." What better proof of the accusation could be produced, and even if the only reward for the public service of exposing an arrant humbug and false pretender is membership in the ANANIAS Club, it is a great distinction. Sooner or later, it may be assumed, the public will learn to know what a reckless villifier and prevaricator ROOSEVELT is and those who have been instrumental in the exposure will be honored of all men.  
With the weather like it is there will be no winter underwear to hide away in moth balls when the sun gets warm enough to chase it into seclusion.

Dalzell and the President.  
We have heard with more than ordinary regret that Congressman JOHN DALZELL, of Pittsburgh, is no longer entirely enamored of President ROOSEVELT. For many years the country has listened with keen interest to Mr. DALZELL's fulsome and more or less eloquent panegyrics on TEDDY. In fact most people had come to believe that outside of the tariff no other subject could move him to speech. The tariff is, of course, and always has been, the subject of his profound anxiety. Even the shadow of a thought of disturbing it gave him the most excruciating pain. The suggestion of a change in the punctuation, it is said, moves him to tears. And he has been scarcely less loyal to ROOSEVELT.  
But he was quoted the other day as saying that the President's support of TAFT for the Republican nomination for President would impair rather than promote the chances of that ponderous figure in the contest. In other words, he inferentially declared that President ROOSEVELT's support of a candidate would be inimical to his chances of success. Some years ago a supporter of another candidate for that office, of another political faith, said he "loved him for the enemies he had made." The only interpretation of which Mr. DALZELL's statement is susceptible, is that he hates TAFT because of one friend he has acquired. It would hardly be possible to imagine a more unfriendly expression.  
We are not able to coincide with Mr. DALZELL in his opinion on this particular point, however. It has been intimated somewhat frequently, of late, that Judge TAFT does not share the tariff views of Mr. DALZELL and that because of his opposite opinion the President favors him. That, of course, would explain the changed attitude of Mr. DALZELL toward the President but it wouldn't, in the least, corroborate his statement that the President's friendship for TAFT would injure rather than help him to the realization of his political ambition. There has been a very decided change in public sentiment with respect to the tariff and possibly TAFT may be the stronger because of DALZELL's enmity.  
A Satisfactory Agreement.  
From the Pittsburgh Post.  
Some of the tariff standpatters and their organs are bitterly denouncing the new agreement made between our Government and that of Germany, whereby a commercial war between the two countries has for the time been averted. They are venting their wrath upon Secretary Root for entering into the agreement, but why they should ignore his chief President Roosevelt, without whose sanction he could not have acted, is not clear.  
There is, however, nothing in the new agreement which will be objectionable to the majority of our citizens. It simply provides for a method of valuing German goods imported into the United States somewhat different from that which has heretofore been in vogue. The German manufacturers and others sending goods to the United States complained that our customs officers were unfair in their valuation of their goods, upon which as a result the duties were unduly enhanced. The new agreement provides a method of valuation acceptable to the German exporters, and at the same time safeguards are provided against undervaluations.  
The trouble with the standpatters is that they can't shut out all the foreign goods they can by fair means or foul. Not content with having outrageously high duties imposed upon such goods, they object to any method of customs administration, however fair, which will have the effect of reducing the amount of duties paid below the sums heretofore collected. Their indignation is increased by the fact that it is not necessary to have the agreement with Germany pressed upon by the Senate, like an ordinary treaty, as it only deals with matters of executive or administrative concern. As the agreement promises to promote more cordial commercial relations with Germany and at the same time to reduce the price to American consumers of numerous articles, the people of this country will generally be content with it.  
Wages Delusion.  
From the Louisville Courier-Journal.  
"It looks a little queer to see arguments for protection made on the ground that it gives our laborers \$304.57 a year. There are 313 working days in a year, barring holidays with pay, so that the wage is less than a dollar a day. Now a farm laborer at \$20 a month and board gets \$240 in money, and the board would, even at a low rate, bring the total up as high as that of the cotton-mill operator. It is well known that the farm laborer has no protection, and it is hard to see how the cotton-mill operator gets any benefit from it. Laborers in many unprotected employments get more than a dollar a day. Moreover, the owners of cotton mills import laborers free from foreign countries. If the protective tariff makes prices of commodities high—and we know it does—why is there not a tariff on imported labor? That is the logic of protection to labor by a tariff, if it is to be done at all, but the fact of it is that it is not intended to make labor high. The men who make this argument in order to get labor support are the same men who import foreign labor to keep down the prices they must pay to laborers at home. They are the men who sell to customers in America steel rails for \$25 a ton, and sell them abroad at \$20 or \$22, making a big profit on an article which confessedly costs about \$16. The argument that protection makes high wages is a ridiculous fallacy. They have always been higher in America than in Europe. But in Europe the highest wages are paid in free-trade England, and the countries where they are lowest have the most rigid systems of protection."

Spawls from the Keystone.  
—Phillip Kerch, of Bethlehem, while opening oysters, found a large and perfectly formed pearl, which is valued at \$200.  
—Many Greene county farmers have been obliged to limit their farm work owing to the scarcity of help. Workmen demand \$2 per day and board, and fixed hours for labor.  
—The Josephine Furnace company has issued orders that the ground is to be prepared for the erection of another blast furnace at Josephine. It will be a duplicate of the one now in operation there.  
—The site of the South Fork dam is to be covered, if all reports are to be credited, with a mining town in the near future. This is to be made possible by the operations to be installed by the Maryland Coal company.  
—Returning from the cemetery where she had just directed a force of men who were erecting a monument over the grave of her husband, Mrs. Tilghman Bloose of Slatington was thrown from her carriage and instantly killed at 7 o'clock Thursday evening.  
—William Stock claims to be the champion fox hunter of York county. Within the last few weeks he killed twenty foxes and Saturday he was paid a bounty of \$40 by the county commissioners under the new law, which provides for a bounty of \$2 on each fox killed in the State.  
—Men representing themselves as agents of the state dairy and food commission called on many Monroe county farmers, saying they had been sent to dehorn their cattle, charging \$1 for each animal. After it was found out that they were imposters they hastily fled from the county.  
—The sixth annual meeting of the Pennsylvania State Association of Post Office Clerks will be held in Williamsport next Monday, June 3. It is expected that about one hundred delegates will be in attendance when the roll is called at the opening session. The headquarters will be at the Park hotel.  
—Three of the natural gas wells at Carrolltown have been connected with the piping and as the fourth is soon to be attached it is expected that the residents of that vicinity will soon be enjoying the advantages of natural gas. Thus far the quantity of gas found has been small, but it is said to be growing stronger constantly.  
—The shipment of strawberries over the lines of the Pennsylvania railroad this year promises to be very heavy. Approximately 250,000 quarts of strawberries were shipped into Pittsburgh district in one day last week. It took 14 cars to hold these berries. A car load is from 500 to 800 cases and each case contains from 24 to 32 quarts.  
—Elmer E. Wheeler, of Lewistown, track walker on the main line of the Pennsylvania railroad at Lewistown Junction, was set upon by thugs in a lonely spot in the local freight yards at an early hour Saturday, beaten, robbed and tied to the brake shaft of a coal car on an east bound freight train and left to liberate himself as best he could.  
—Charles Phillips, the press representative of Walter L. Main's show, is authority for the statement that the wolf recently shot in Scotch Valley, was one of the animals which escaped at the time of the wreck of his aggregation near Tyrone ten or twelve years ago. Mr. Phillips claimed that he examined the wolf and identified it by marks upon the hide.  
—David Merritt, of Johnstown, was electrocuted at Alexandria shortly before noon on Sunday while assisting in the construction of an electric power line from that place to the plant of the Hydro-Electric plant, just east of there. Several others of a force of linemen narrowly escaped a similar fate by dropping the line of wires on which they were working.  
—Mrs. Emma Edwards, of Shamokin, while returning from a theatre on Thursday night, was walking on the railroad track when a locomotive came along unnoticed by her until it was too late to get out of the way. She jumped towards the pilot and her feet lodged firmly. She clung to the pilot until the locomotive stopped, when she walked away uninjured.  
—On Saturday Lewis E. Starks and Mary E. Starks, each 62 years old, made application to the clerk of courts of Erie county for a marriage license and the clerk's necessary inquiries disclosed the fact that the two had been married early in life and were divorced April 25, 1883. After twenty-four years estrangement they have concluded to try married life again.  
—Frank Dopely, a well to do cooper of Bradock, has just received the startling news that the woman whom he thought was his wife is not his wife; that she is the wife of his best friend, John Duncan. The woman has confessed that such is the case, she having been married to Duncan when but a girl in short skirts, afterwards deserting him but never securing a divorce.  
—A. L. Burns, of Orbisonia, and John Meddling, of McKendree, are the champion fishermen in that locality. They caught a 73 pound carp in the Forge dam on Monday, Tuesday an 83 pound carp, and on Wednesday a carp that weighed twenty pounds. It measured two feet ten inches in length and twenty-two inches around the girth, and it had a tail ten inches broad. This monster carp contained four pounds and ten ounces of eggs.  
—George Boehmer, an eccentric German, disappeared from his home at DuBois last October. Diligent search was made for him at the time, but no traces could be found of the missing man. On Thursday a man named Wallace, who was passing through the woods at what is known as Iselin Heights, near DuBois, was attracted by his dog barking. Going to where the animal was discovered what proved later to be the body of the missing German lying in a depression made by the uprooting of a tree.  
—J. L. Curtis, engineer at the Juniata Hydro-Electric plant at Warriors Ridge, near Huntingdon, made a narrow escape from death the other day at the dam which forms part of the plant. He had crossed the river in a boat and was in the act of landing on the south side, when instead of stepping upon firm ground, he stepped upon a bed of quicksand. He sank into this almost to his waist and was unable to extricate himself. Fortunately some people passing saw the plight he was in and came to his rescue and got him out.