

Ink Stings.

—May the good Lord send us rain.
—Everybody should be able to swim; especially the fellow who is in danger of sinking.
—Remember that ARTHUR B. KIMFORT is the man who should be elected Prothonotary of Centre county.
—In 1830 the world contained only 210 miles of railroad and EDWARD H. HARRIMAN didn't own it either.
—A good long, soaking rain is what this county needs right now just a little bit more than any thing else we know of.
—Prince WILHELM, of Sweden, is the latest European fad to throw the sassiest ladies of Newport into convulsion fits.
—Hard times are said to be the cause of the cancellation of orders for two thousand automobiles. Thank Heaven, we haven't been reduced to that extremity yet.
—Nervous prosperity seems to be the country's ailment just now. Everything is booming, but Wall St. and the public is getting wise to its little game of crying wolf.
—They should give HUSTON, PENNYPACKER, SANDERSON, CASSELL, HARRIS and the rest of them a chance to play eeny-meeny-mine-mo to see which one comes to trial first.
—The Pittsburg papers are devoting so much space to candidate Secretary TAFT these days that it would not be much wonder if candidate Senator KNOX gets a little peevish.
—In New Jersey they tax bachelors \$100 per year because they have no families to support. But JOHN BLANCHARD doesn't live in New Jersey so that couldn't have scared him.
—Bellevue appears to be in the throes of a matrimonial epidemic. A few months ago everything was new babies; now it is new engagements and marriages until none of us are really safe.
—Secretary TAFT has announced the platform on which he will stand in his presidential race. Every thing that TEDDY has done, every thing that TEDDY wants done seems to be the gist of it.
—ROOSEVELT'S talk about putting the guilty rich in jail is all very fine, but the President must soon come to realize that the public is growing tired of talk. Any how, actions speak louder than words.
—Ridgway is suffering with an epidemic of typhoid, meningitis and paralysis. Any one of the dread diseases would be enough so with all three raging the metropolis of Elk will have the sympathy of all her sister towns.
—What pretext ROOSEVELT could have had for delivering a partisan political speech at the dedication of a monument to the Pilgrims of Cape Cod no one with a mind less full of vagaries than his own will be able to understand.
—One of the ASTORS is said to be New York's favorite for the Democratic nomination of President. Even at this point of the game the name is decidedly better known than that of New York's last favorite son who had the same honor.
—Here it had been supposed that Governor HUGHES was giving his time solely to the people of the State of New York. What an awakening to the truth of his recreancy it must have been when they discovered that the stork visited the executive mansion on Monday.
—WILLIAM GROH RUNKLE is popular as ever. His service as District Attorney has assured those who voted for him three years ago that they made no mistake. They will all do it again and more will join them, because most everybody agrees that WILLIAM is deserving of a second term.
—That \$123.46 claim advertised on page 5 of this issue is still for sale. The press all over the State has been helping us advertise it but up to this time no bid of more than 25cts. has been received. We will have to give it more space and larger type soon in order to work it off on some one more able to carry the burden than we are.
—Orange county, New York, dairymen are protesting against an order that requires clipping the long hair off their cow's tails in order to prevent unsanitary milk being shipped into New York. They say the cows need their tails to brush the flies off. How funny. We always imagined a cow's tail was only put there to slash in the face of the milk maid.
—A business men's picnic like that of Tuesday is something any community might be proud of. From eight to ten thousand people together for a day without a fight and only two drunks to be seen, not an accident of any sort in transportation to or from the park and amusements of an elevating character is a combination not often met with.
—At the Iowa State fair at Des Moines next month lectures are to be delivered on "How to Make Iowa Girls Fit for Matrimony." Around here they make them fit by teaching them that housework is not a polite accomplishment and unless they have a drawer full of peek-a-boo shirt waists, a dozen pair of tan shoes, a few brown veils to cover their hats, a big rat or two and legs strong enough to run the streets fourteen hours out of every twenty-four that they certainly are not on the scratch when the matrimonial race begins.

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Not a Jurist of Distinction.

The esteemed New York World, commenting upon the capitol graft scandal declares that "in all this jobbery and robbery former Governor SAMUEL W. PENNYPACKER cuts a pitiable figure. A jurist of distinction," our contemporary continues, "and a man of high personal probity, made Governor by the old QUAY machine, his four years' administration will be chiefly remembered, aside from his comical explosions of personal prejudice, for the most glaring frauds that Harrisburg has harbored in decades." Our esteemed New York contemporary is gravely mistaken in several particulars. PENNYPACKER never was "a jurist of distinction." A lawyer with no pretense to QUAY's talents, he was on the bench where he served as a convenient shelter for ballot box stuffers for a dozen years or so.

As a judge, PENNYPACKER never did anything that commanded public attention, except write a magazine article absurdly eulogizing QUAY. That public conspirator and official plunderer was under the condemnation of public opinion and about to be put on trial for a constitutional misdemeanor, the penalty for which he subsequently escaped by pleading the statute of limitation, and needed the boosting of some one of respectable antecedents. PENNYPACKER, his cousin and at the time a judge, served the purpose. The absurd fulsomeness of the sketch almost defied its purpose, but some of the leading papers published it as a literary curiosity, and as few knew PENNYPACKER and the people of Pennsylvania have great reverence for the bench, it helped QUAY amazingly.

A couple of years afterward QUAY recompensed his cousin by "appointing" him Republican candidate for Governor and he was elected by fraudulent votes. That he thoroughly understood that fact may be inferred, for he never, during his term of office, would consent to any ballot reform legislation. That he had high expectations from the office in a pecuniary sense may likewise be assumed, for in one of his public speeches he stated that previous to his nomination he was assured that there was a possibility of making half a million dollars out of it. That he got nothing more than his salary, however, is probable. After his induction into the office he developed an ambition for a seat on the Supreme bench and accepted the promise of that preferment in lieu of loot.

The speech of Secretary TAFT at Columbus, Ohio, on Monday evening, was an adroit presentation of ROOSEVELT'S claims for another term. He didn't mention the President in that connection but he eulogized his policies as the only security against socialism and anarchy. He didn't endorse everything ROOSEVELT has advocated of late. For example, he would consent to a national inheritance tax only as an emergency measure, and he wouldn't wipe State governments out of existence. On the contrary he believes in the preservation of the rights of the States to the extent that he would not destroy them by construction.

That was his adroit method of differentiating between ROOSEVELT and himself in the matter of availability. He declares that ROOSEVELT'S policies are essential to the safety of the government and adds that he, himself, doesn't favor all of them. What is to be inferred from that? Clearly that ROOSEVELT must be the candidate not only to save the party but to save the country from ruin. They differ on the tariff, question also and in that as in other matters Mr. TAFT believes that the President is right. In other words he favors tariff revision but is opposed to revising the tariff, like the Maine man who favored prohibition laws but was opposed to enforcing them.

We have never been deceived by TAFT'S pretended candidacy for the Presidency. His aspirations are toward the seat of the Chief Justice of the Supreme court and if ROOSEVELT gets another term in the office of President nothing but death would prevent the fulfillment of his expectations. If Chief Justice FULLER had resigned or availed himself of the right to retire on full pay, anytime within the past year and a half TAFT would have succeeded him and the President would have found another stalking horse to mask his candidacy. But Fuller was not obliging in that matter and the spectacle of Monday night was the consequence.

The System Rather than the Man.

Admitting for the sake of argument that the Republican candidate for State Treasurer is as honest as his most partial and partisan friends claim, it is no valid reason why he should be elected. It isn't altogether a question of personal integrity. PENNYPACKER'S record on the bench was quite as creditable as SHEATZ'S record in the Legislature. Ballot box stuffers had little to fear when arraigned in the court over which PENNYPACKER presided and the legislative lobbyists never suffered much from the votes of SHEATZ in the House of Representatives. Besides nobody ever questioned the personal integrity of Auditor General SNYDER or State Treasurer MATHUES. But a legislative commission has just been forced to denounce them as participants in looting operations.

It is the system rather than the individual which determines the policy of an administration. The men behind the throne rather than the throne itself control the actions of an administrative official. Governor STUART is scrupulously honest but with one or two important exceptions the machine selected his administrative agents. He had ideals when he went to Harrisburg. He wanted men of the highest character about him. He protested earnestly and vigorously against the present Secretary of the Commonwealth and positively declared his intention to appoint another. But the machine wanted McAfee and got him. STUART hadn't force of character enough to resist the machine demands and SHEATZ is a much weaker man. The machine is irresistible when it selects its own agents.

When the graft in the construction of the capitol was exposed by the Democratic State Treasurer every conspicuous Republican in the State, including the present candidate for State Treasurer, protested that the charges were slanders. The testimony of numerous witnesses has proved the truth of the accusations. But the half has not been told as yet. The depths of the iniquities have not been sounded. For that reason an instrument of the machine, even though he be personally honest, should not be chosen to fill the office of State Treasurer. PENNYPACKER, SNYDER, HARRIS and MATHUES were silenced and any other Republican in their places would be equally quiescent. JOHN G. HARMAN will serve the people, however, as BERRY has, and he ought to be elected.

His Record Convicts Him.

The Republican candidate for State Treasurer voted for the press muzzle during the session of 1903. Representative THOMAS V. COOPER, the veteran Republican leader of Delaware, denounced that measure as the sum-total of all iniquities. He proved that the purpose of the measure was to promote vice and crime in public life. It was conceived in the QUAY trial. The machine managers reasoned that if the newspapers could have been silenced QUAY'S crimes might not have been exposed. Other machine politicians were in peril of exposure and the bill was prepared to shield them.

No man supported that measure in ignorance of its purpose and effect. It was railroaded through the House in violation of the constitution and in contempt of the rules of the body. Honest members protested against it at every stage. Yet the machine pressed it forward and in less than two days forced it to passage, though the constitution requires that every bill "shall be read at length three times on three separate days." Every man who voted for it justified himself and aligned with the crooks in and out of the Legislature who were concerned in the passage of vicious measures.

Mr. SHEATZ also voted for the bill to take the power of filling vacancies on election boards in Philadelphia out of the hands of the courts and lodging it in the Board of City Commissioners. The purpose of that bill was to promote ballot box stuffing and other electoral crimes. The conservatism that restrained the courts was absent from the commissioners' office and there was no concealment of the aim of the measure. Yet the Republican candidate voted for it and now wants to be classed among those who favored wholesome legislation and opposed vicious measures. His own record convicts him of fraud.

Arthur Cleveland Harper, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Harper, of this place, was on Thursday of last week appointed an instructor in mechanical engineering at The Pennsylvania State College. "Budd" Harper, as he is more familiarly known, graduated from the College in the class of 1906 and during the college year of 1906-1907 was an assistant instructor and that he has now been promoted to the position of an instructor is evidence of the fact that the young man is possessed of more than the ordinary ability in his chosen profession, and there is no doubt of his success in the future.

—Subscribe for the WATCHMAN.

The Graft Prober's Report.

The report of the capitol investigating commission is sufficiently drastic to be serviceable as a Republican campaign document and amply mild to afford opportunity for immunity for the looters. It mentions eighteen persons who are incriminated by the evidence as participants in frauds of one sort or another but fails to recommend the prosecution of any of them. Not officially but emphatically Senator DEWALT and Representative Ammerman were afterward denounced by their associates in the investigation as "playing politics" because in a supplementary report they corrected this fault. The majority would have preferred that most potential form of the game of politics which is expressed in whitewash.

That it was the intention of the machine to make a colorless and harmless report scarcely admits of a doubt. If there had been no Democrats on the commission that intention would likely have been carried out. But under the conditions that existed that would have been both difficult and useless, if not actually damaging. The Democrats on the commission would not only have refused to sign such a report but would have protested in a minority report. With the evidence which had been widely published and generally read to support the minority under such circumstances, public opinion would have resented the renege of the majority. A whitewash report would have been political folly.

As it is there will be no trial of the culprits until after the election and if the Republican candidate for State Treasurer is elected there will be no punishment ever. Possibly HUSTON and SANDERSON may be arraigned during the September session of the Dauphin county court, and that fact will be paraded as evidence of the purpose of the machine to purify itself. But that will be a false pretense as palpably fraudulent as the substitution of Beaver county glass for the Baccarat make or putty for solid mahogany moldings. HUSTON and SANDERSON are guilty but infinitely less so than the officials who conspired with them to rob the treasury and dishonor the State.

Pennypacker's Immunity Bath.

The singular thing about the reports of the graft investigating commission is that former Governor PENNYPACKER is not censured or condemned at all. Even the supplemental report signed by DEWALT and AMMERMAN makes no mention of his share in the looting operations. The Board of Public Grounds and Buildings of which he was chairman is charged with criminal misfeasance in both reports and SNYDER, SHUMAKER and MATHUES, his associates on the board, are named and anathematized in both. But PENNYPACKER escapes without even an inferential aspersion. What strange influence saved him?

When PENNYPACKER made his statement before the commission in Harrisburg he admitted that Auditor General SNYDER had informed him of the excessive payments immediately after the election of Mr. BERRY. Yet he subsequently approved fraudulent bills to the amount of nearly \$4,000,000, and a year later signed a statement that there had been no excessive charges or payments and that Mr. BERRY had vilified the honest contractors who had looted the treasury. Other evidence proved that he was familiar with the Baccarat glass and other frauds and that he didn't share in the plunder he got what satisfied him as well as loot.

It is no exaggeration to say that no man of all those concerned in the frauds was as guilty as PENNYPACKER. In fact he was responsible for all of it for the reason that without his acquiescence the looting would have been impossible and among those condemned his name should have appeared first. When he appeared before the commission in Harrisburg he was permitted to testify without taking the oath and was permitted to testify without cross-examination. Now he is again favored with an immunity bath in both reports and the public is left to conjecture as to the influence which produces the result.

M. M. Messer, of State College, is the only Centre countian who as a member of the Fifteenth Pennsylvania cavalry during the Civil war, was able to take advantage of their old colonel's liberality in paying all the expenses of the surviving members of his old command for them to attend a reunion on the Palmer estate at Colorado Springs, on Tuesday, James T. Owens and Hon. A. A. Stevens, of Tyrone, were also members of the Fifteenth and they all left Saturday night by special train for Colorado.

Bellefonte is doomed to have an epidemic this fall, but there is no cause to become alarmed over the matter, as the epidemic will be a matrimonial one, there being at least a half dozen weddings of well known Bellefonte people booked for the near future.

The Capitol Probers Report.

Press of the State Unanimous in Commending their Report and Demanding that no Immunity from Law be Allowed the Taking Contractors and their Cohorts.

From the Harrisburg Patriot. It would seem that the commission did its work well so far as it went. But this is said with reservation and in the firm belief that the commission should have traced the stolen money beyond those to whom it was paid by the state. Further, the majority of the commission halted at a critical point when it failed to specifically and unmistakably by name recommend the prosecution of all whom the evidence according to the commission's own findings showed were guilty of collusion and fraud.

In this respect the Democratic members of the commission who signed a supplementary report did better, but in the list of names of men whom they say should be proceeded against there is one important omission, the name of Samuel W. Pennypacker. The people unanimously acquit Mr. Pennypacker of any participation of the fruits of the stealings. But negligence when it results in private or public injury is a crime. Mr. Pennypacker knows this and has said so many times. He is on record to that effect in his memorandum on the Sains-Grady libel bill. He is a distinguished lawyer of far more than ordinary ability who has been at the bar and on the bench for nearly 40 years. He was in a position where it was his duty and easily within his power to prevent a large part of the thefts which Mr. Berry exposed and the commission has proved. He did not do it and he should be held to account.

The fact that he has held the highest office in the gift of the people of the commonwealth is no reason why he should be treated with any more tenderness than Snyder, Mathues, Harris, Hardenberg or Shumaker, who were members or officials of the same board as himself, a board of which he was the highest member and whose acts he defended as long as any defence was possible.

The greed and dishonesty of the men engaged in building and furnishing the capitol robbed the state of many millions of dollars. But why was this permitted and why did the guards fail in their duty? Gov. Pennypacker says that the latter were deceived. It is conceded without reservation that the governor was deceived to the top of his bent, and there confidence stops. The committee charges both the Stone and Pennypacker commissions with violating the law. The Pennypacker board of public grounds and buildings violated the law in many ways, while the Stone public building commission did wrong in allowing the other body to interfere with its work and add to the construction work of the new capitol buildings. The guards who should have protected the state were either asleep or had a guilty knowledge of the frauds practiced. Gross negligence is the very least of their offenses. The penalties for negligence which Gov. Pennypacker wished to add to the burden of newspaper articles may perhaps be applicable to guards who sleep on post and to trustees who are so excessively credulous and trusting that they allow their ward to be robbed outrageously by those whom they employ to serve it.

The thin sophistry with which Gov. Pennypacker justified the commissioners of public grounds and buildings in spending money on the work of construction brushed aside like a cobweb. This commission, which at most had authority to furnish, violated specific acts of the legislature in spending \$3,000,000 on the construction of the capitol. The investigators do not believe the capitol building commission was ignorant of what was going on while the other commission was spending on the building itself three-fourths as much as the building commission spent.

In regard to the furnishing, the state was made to pay nearly six and a half millions for articles which cost a little more than a million and a half. The work omitted by the building commission, for which the state was credited with \$55,000, was installed by the other commission at an expense of \$1,174,000. The entire method of administration was careless and slovenly as can be imagined, and 25 cartloads of furniture and supplies were certified and paid for before they were delivered.

The criminal aspects of the scandal are frankly dealt with. False certificates and fraudulent invoices were made "intentionally and fraudulently" by Huston, Sanderson, Shumaker, Bond Cassel and Wetter. Criminal prosecution of the architect and 13 officials and contractors is recommended.

In spite of their desperate endeavors, the political grafters who looted the state in the building of the capitol see justice and retribution no parallel nearer them in the plain findings of the probers. Incessant bemoaning has frightened the machine majority of the commission from their obvious original intention of bringing in a colorless or white-washing report. In the finding laid before the governor the tools, dupes and immediate apparent beneficiaries of the fraud are indelibly branded. What physical penalties are further to be imposed upon these will depend upon the governor's honesty and backbone, and what further legal and political obstacles the men higher up, and yet undisclosed, can interpose.

Spawls from the Keystone.

—The Lutheran congregation at Marklesburg, Huntingdon county, will celebrate the one hundredth anniversary of its organization, commencing Thursday, September 18th.

—There are fourteen cases of typhoid fever at Woodland, Clearfield county, and among the most serious ones is A. E. Woolridge, known to many people over the county, having served in the office of county commissioner for a period of six years.

—Dr. J. W. McKean, of Washington, was presented before the burgess for maintaining a nuisance by keeping a rooster that crowed so early and loudly as to disturb the neighbors' slumbers. He was fined \$2.50 and directed to place the rooster where he could not be heard.

—Fourteen of the late Judge Woodward's best addresses have been printed in a neat volume of about 100 pages. Judge Woodward was one of Wilkesbarre's most admired citizens, and he was as brainy as he was popular. He was born in Wilkesbarre in 1833, and was active in many organizations.

—John A. Graham, of Girard township, Clearfield county, who is lumbering for the Goodyear's, in Medix Run, recently cut a hemlock which would have produced 9,000 feet of lumber if it had been sound throughout. But it was partly defective, yet 5,000 feet of good, sound lumber was gotten out of it.

—David Patton, of 6241 Elmwood avenue, Philadelphia, met a woman on the street on Saturday who gave her name as Ailsa Roup. He took her to a cafe for refreshments, where she left him. Later he discovered that his pocketbook with \$155 was gone and he had the woman arrested, but the money was not found upon her.

—Rabbits are so plentiful in some parts of Northumberland county that they are becoming a nuisance, says the Shamokin Dispatch. One farmer in town Friday evening said there were so many rabbits on his farm this year that he will have no early cabbage whatever. They are also gnawing the bark of the bottom of the trees on his farm.

—A few nights ago some malicious person went to the reservoir of the West End Water company, of Lock Haven, and opened the large blow off gate, causing the loss of about 5,000,000 gallons of water and also altered the copper screen which covers the intake until it would allow only a small quantity of water to pass through it into the main.

—The third annual tournament of the Lock Haven Gun club was held on the grounds of that club last Wednesday and Thursday, and drew together many marksmen and over 2,000 people to witness the shooting. Fifty marksmen participated in the shoot and there was some fine skill shown. A number of prizes were awarded.

—Five carloads of silk passed through Tyrone on the way from San Francisco to New York. Each carload was worth about \$100,000, making the five worth approximately \$500,000. The silk came from the coast of Chicago in six days, and from Chicago this consignment was carried to New York for Europe, over the lines of the Pennsylvania in sixty hours.

—While eating peanuts, a 9-year-old daughter of M. M. Sennese, of Terre Hill, Lancaster county, got a kernel in her windpipe, on Tuesday, almost strangling her. Effort to remove it were unavailing, and in the evening she was taken to the Lancaster General hospital, where the windpipe was opened and the kernel removed, but the child was so much exhausted that she died on Wednesday.

—The Kirks, of Clearfield county, held a reunion Tuesday, August 20th, in R. H. Kirk's grove, near Troutville. The reunion was held in honor of Brady S. Kirk and family, of Burr Oak, Kansas, who are visiting in that section. The Kirk family is one of the oldest in Clearfield county, having come to that region in the early years of the past century. Dr. M. A. Kirk, of this place, is a member of that family.

—A Pennsylvania passenger train struck a man and killed him on Tuesday night near Fulton, Northampton county. The train was stopped and the crew went to gather up the remains, when about fifty foreigners pounced upon them and threatened to kill them. The conductor tried to explain the situation, but it was useless, and the crew hurriedly jumped the train amid a volley of stones and escaped uninjured.

—H. B. Ahrens & Sons, of Lewistown, have received the contract to build two miles of state road in Brady township, Huntingdon county, between Mill Creek and Met's mill, which will cost \$17,000. They expect to have it completed by the middle of November. Another is to be built in Smithfield township, between the present state road in Porter township, and that adjoining the reformatory, for \$7,411.30, by the Maryland company, of Philadelphia.

—A traveler stopped to the ticket window at Lewistown Junction, on Wednesday, and presented a ticket to the ticket agent, calling for passage from Lewistown Junction to Harrisburg, and asking him if it was still valid. Upon examination the ticket agent found that the ticket had been sold August 21st, 1902, since which time 12,880 tickets have been sold to passengers going from Lewistown Junction to Harrisburg. The ticket was pronounced good.

—James Kelly, aged 42 years, married, of Pittsburg, met a horrible death by being ground and mangled in a separator of a brick making machine at the Booth & Flinn brick yards on Buch's Hill, Wednesday. He was shoveling loose earth on a belt which carried it to a hopper used to grind and separate it. During the absence of other employees, in some manner unknown he was caught on the belt and carried to the hopper, where the machinery mangled and killed him. Other employees discovered his body and he was removed to the morgue.

—Because she refused to wed a man 70 years of age, who had been pictured to her as a young man, Rose Cimbitte, freshly arrived in Carbondale from the sunny land beyond the Alps, alleges that two of her fellow countrymen threatened to cut off her ears. John Genetzka is the "man in the case," and it was said that he paid her passage from the old country on condition that she marry him. Rose's brother paid the money back and bought her liberty, but two friends of the disappointed suitor made threats. They were held in bail before Alderman Atkinson.