

Ink Stings.

We heard from Oklahoma and Snow Shoe on Wednesday and the news from both places was pleasing.

Centre county saved a lot of money when the latest murderer took the administration of justice into his own hands.

Sparking in the sylvan retreats will soon be ended for the season of 1907, both for the automobile and the boy and the girl.

The talk of training a team of polar bears to draw a sledge to the North Pole sounds like some one was getting ready for a race with WALTER WELLMAN'S air ship.

From all reports Gen. LARRY REDDING was the Moses who led the benighted citizens of the new Boro of Snow Shoe into the possession of a splendid array of officials.

The Republican party having spent forty years in framing laws for building up the trusts shouldn't be expected to go about the business of tearing them down with any appearance of hopefulness.

The five hundred thousand Democrats in Pennsylvania are really not asking for very much when they seek to have only one representative in the State's government at Harrisburg. Give HARMAN a lift.

The adoption of the new constitution by the voters of Oklahoma on Tuesday is notice to Mr. ROOSEVELT that the people of that Commonwealth know quite as much about their needs for home government as he thinks he does.

It seems like the irony of fate that after having blinded so many innocent (?) old men CASSIE CHADWICK, the famous adventuress and confidence woman who is now serving time in an Ohio penitentiary, should be going blind herself.

How foolish of MAXIM GORKY. Had he married his affinity immediately upon his arrival in this country he might have been a great man—of his kind—by this time. It is too late now for him to try to atone for the insult he attempted to give American morals.

What if the Standard did make a half billion dollars in profits in eight years, whose business is it? All that the public has any business to know about is whether the Standard is conducting its business within legal requirements. There is nothing else in the case.

Judging from what he has been giving them the weather man must imagine that the Grangers at Centre Hall are all ducks. In truth they were kept busy ducking the rain on yesterday and the day before. It was more like Centre county fair weather than that for a Granger picnic.

New York has the reputation of carrying more bed bugs in its public conveyances than any other city in the world. Here is an honor Gotham is not likely to be robbed of. No special policeman need be detailed to keep the souvenir hunting tourist from carrying away specimens, though he probably does get many without his knowledge.

Somebody has been caught lying again. Last week there was a vehement denial of the assertion that the President had injected himself into the fight for Mayor of the city of Cleveland. On Wednesday Congressman BURTON, who is the Republican aspirant for the office, published a letter from the President dated August 30th, from Oyster Bay, in which he advises BURTON to go in and make the fight.

What a thrilling production LINCOLN J. CARTER could make out of the arrest of the capitol grafters in Pennsylvania and what a fake it will be. The cloud of dust that is now being thrown in the public eye to blind it against JOHN O. SHEATZ's machine affiliations will all have been settled by this time next year—if SHEATZ is elected—and there will be no grafters in prison nor any money returned to the State.

The burgess having vetoed one ordinance providing for the acceptance of the PRUNER orphanage council has passed another for his consideration. The burgess will scarcely backtrack in the matter of disposing of this second instrument since he knows that a majority of the tax paying interests of the town petitioned council to reject the proposition. In the face of such a petition it looks very much as though the councilmen favorable to acceptance have some sinister or ulterior motive they are serving.

The Gazette is certainly hard pressed for argument when it has to resort to such flimsy material as it is using against District Attorney W. G. RUNKLE. When the people of Centre county elected Mr. RUNKLE three years ago he was chosen as a prosecuting attorney not as a policeman or detective. It is not his business to make arrests or pursue offenders at all. As a matter of fact he merely should prosecute after criminals have been revealed to him by the proper officers of the law, namely, the sheriff, his deputies, constables or policemen. If they do not perform their duty, do not apprehend offenders, the District Attorney is not at fault, no matter who may be District Attorney, and when NAR CHAMBERS promises that he will rid the county of offenders he is attempting to feed the public a lot of "guff."

Democratic Watchman

STATE RIGHTS AND FEDERAL UNION.

VOL. 52

BELLEFONTE, PA., SEPTEMBER 20, 1907.

NO. 37.

The Capitol Graft Farce.

"The mountain labored and brought forth a mouse." In other words warrants have been issued for fourteen of the capitol grafters after a year of denial and evasion, not for the purpose of prosecuting and punishing the guilty but in order to fool the public. Presumably they will be indicted at the September session of the Dauphin county court and in the event of the election of Mr. SHEATZ, that will be the end of the incident.

Mark how amicably the matter has been arrived. SANDERSON and HURTON, who have been fugitives from justice from the beginning of the investigation and would have continued to evade service of the law as long as there was danger, conveniently appear at the office of the Attorney General in Harrisburg, just as SAM SALTER surrendered to the authorities of Philadelphia a few years ago, after arrangements for his acquittal had been completed.

Obviously this affair has degenerated into a farce. The voluntary surrender of the accused and the indictment will be heralded to the public as proof that the criminals are to be prosecuted by the Republican officials. But the prosecution is contingent upon the result of the election.

If HARMAN is chosen to take Mr. BERRY'S place in the state government they will be punished and if SHEATZ succeeds BERRY they will go free.

This is not official but it's absolutely true.

Sheatz Will Decline.

Mr. SHEATZ, the machine candidate for State Treasurer, will probably not accept the challenge of Mr. HARMAN to discuss the issues of the campaign in joint debate. He has already practically declared that fact in a telegram dated the 12th instant in which he said he would answer most at length by mail. More than a week has since elapsed and the communication has not been posted. Chairman ANDREWS inferentially conveys the information that the challenge will be declined, moreover. He states that if his advice is asked he will recommend such a course, and his advice has probably been asked and adopted. Chairman ANDREWS usually exacts obedience from all except Senator PENROSE.

Candidate SHEATZ and his master, chairman ANDREWS, are wise in their day and generation. Mr. SHEATZ would out a sorry figure in a joint debate with Mr. HARMAN under any conditions. Such an event under existing conditions would make a spectacle of him that could hardly fail to make a dog laugh. With the experience of the last year to sustain his contention, Mr. HARMAN would so completely overwhelm his competitor that he would become a pitiable object. He could prove by recent history that Mr. BERRY'S presence on the Board of Public Grounds and Buildings has already saved the State millions of money and vastly improved the political morals and official methods.

Mr. SHEATZ might as well withdraw from the contest as to accept the challenge. It would not only reveal his own intellectual poverty but it would prove the absolute rottenness of the Republican machine. That is what Mr. SHEATZ can't afford to do. The refusal to accept is hard enough. It leaves the question of the reasons a matter of conjecture. But if he should accept there would be nothing of uncertainty in the matter. Mr. HARMAN would not only show that there ought to be minority representation in the Board but that he is the man particularly adapted for the work. We regret exceedingly that SHEATZ will decline. The debate would have been worth thousands of votes to HARMAN.

Abundant Opinion of a Quack.

Dr. EDMUND J. JAMES, of the University of Illinois, expressed the opinion in a speech at the Jamestown exposition a few days ago, that the constitution of the United States is antiquated and should be replaced by a more modern instrument. Many of its provisions are entirely disregarded, Dr. JAMES declares, and an organic law which is not obeyed literally is not worthy of obedience at all. That is crazy talk from a crazy locality. Obviously the doctor is willing to advertise himself and his institution at the expense of his reputation for sanity. No man in his right mind would talk such nonsense. The constitution of the United States is as adequate today as it was the day it was completed and at the time that it commanded the highest praise from the most competent authority. The present trouble is not with the constitution but with those who interpret and administer it. They are all sworn to "support, obey and defend" the instrument but so far from doing that

they violate their oaths and defy the constitution. From the President down the fundamental law is broken every day, but that isn't the fault of the law. It is the crime of the men responsible for the violation.

It is to be hoped that Dr. JAMES' work in the University with which he is connected has no relation to the department of civil government or the civic duties of citizenship, for he revealed in his Jamestown speech a woeful incapacity to teach such subjects. If he wants to participate in the education of the youth of the country in the duties of citizenship he will teach them to respect their oaths and obey the fundamental law of the land rather than justify their perjury on the ground that the instrument they are sworn to support is not worthy. As a matter of fact Dr. JAMES is probably a quack.

An Interesting Bit of Information.

The Philadelphia City Party "shows signs of life," according to an esteemed contemporary of that city. This is an interesting bit of information. The Philadelphia City Party was organized in 1905 as a protest against the inequities of the machine. It represented the civic virtue in the Republican party of the city and contributed largely toward the overthrow of the machine in the election of that year. But having accomplished that result it went into a state of comatose, so to speak. That is to say, it ceased its activities because the selfish element in its composition was unable to get off. We had come to the conclusion that it was dead.

The machine having resumed business in Philadelphia, it is natural that the City Party should wake up. MCNICHOLO, DURHAM and MARTIN are again in the saddle and the City Party had to do something. In its awakened energy it will miss some of the support which it had in the beginning. Some of the newspapers which were behind it two years ago have gone over to the enemy. The force of public plunder was too great for their power of resistance and the North American and the Press have like the dog, "returned to their vomit." Every camp follower and mercenary in the ranks two years ago, has also gone over to the enemy. But there is still a vast army of unselfish and honest men who will vote for a continuance of the improvement begun with the election of Mr. BERRY two years ago, and the signs of life in that contingent are most encouraging.

The City Party man who goes with the machine this year is a recreant, if not worse. The fight begun in 1905 has not been finished and only traitors have abandoned it. SHEATZ is as much a machine man as PLUMMER and his election now will destroy the good effect of the defeat of PLUMMER two years ago. Mr. BERRY exposed the graft and loot and stopped it for the present. But he hasn't eradicated it. The election of a machine Mayor in Philadelphia has restored the machine to power there and it was never so arrogant before. The election of SHEATZ will have the same effect in the State and the City Party men who are putting life in that organization are promoting the cause of civic righteousness.

Working for Membership.

Congressman LILLY, of Connecticut, is electioneering for membership in the Annapolis club. He is a member of the House committee on Naval Affairs and a close student of that department of the government. In a previous issue we referred to his criticism of the costly and absurd naval junket to the Pacific coast. Recently he has issued a sweeping denunciation of what he calls "the grafters" of the department. "If I had the supreme law-making power in this country," he declares, "the only crime punishable with death would be that of grafting. Murder," he continued, "would receive secondary consideration."

Who is the chief grafter in the Navy Department? Grafting, as it is commonly interpreted, means the appropriation of public property to private use. For example an official who is authorized to purchase materials for public use and draws out of the operation a portion or percentage for his own use is a grafter. A man who is charged with the care and custody of public property and employs it for his personal use is equally a grafter. In fact the conversion of public property to private use is grafting and Congressman LILLY declares it is a more heinous crime than murder. In some cases it partakes of the nature of treason.

President ROOSEVELT uses two and sometimes three of the ships of the navy for the private use of his family. Congress appropriated a large sum of money recently to pay his traveling expenses and though the constitution forbids the acceptance of any emoluments other than the salary provided by law, ROOSEVELT has regularly drawn this appropriation to the full limit. But in addition to that he has used the vessels of the navy for private purposes and that is grafting, pure and simple. Therefore when Congressman LILLY arraigns the grafters as the greatest criminals he arraigns President ROOSEVELT as the chief offender.

A Mailed Contemporary.

The esteemed Philadelphia Press wants the public to accept the statements of the Republican machine candidate for State Treasurer just as if they had already been verified. Our esteemed contemporary is, itself, exceedingly credulous or stupid and would like to get others into the same "undesirable" class. But it will hardly succeed under existing conditions. In the Legislature Mr. SHEATZ was the willing and forced instrument of the machine. He voted for the QUAY monument and most of the other inequities of the session of 1905 and he served the machine in everything during the session of 1907. Yet the esteemed Press wants everybody to support him on his record in the Legislature.

During the campaign for Mayor of Philadelphia last spring our esteemed contemporary accepted the assurances of Mr. REYBURN that he is not only a reformer of the most pronounced type, but that he is also the uncompromising friend of President ROOSEVELT. Mr. REYBURN was scarcely warm in his seat when he publicly denounced ROOSEVELT as a humbug and held reform up to popular contempt. REYBURN was quite as respectable a figure in the public life of Philadelphia as the Republican machine candidate for State Treasurer. In fact he had proved himself, both in the State Legislature and in Congress, a much more courageous and independent man. But almost as soon as he was established in office, he threw off the mask and became the most wanton sportsman who has ever been elected to important office by the people.

SHEATZ will be quite as servile, in the event of his election, as REYBURN. In fact, the incentives for him to serve the machine are greater than those which misled REYBURN as Mayor of Philadelphia, for REYBURN is much more capable. In the event that SHEATZ should become State Treasurer, that would be as far as could hope to go. As a matter of fact it is far beyond his capabilities and he would have nothing to hope for beyond the possibilities of profit from the office. On the other hand REYBURN is a man of immense wealth and vast intellectual resources and might aspire to any office. Therefore, in the light of the experience with REYBURN, the Philadelphia Press has no right to ask for popular confidence in SHEATZ.

Machine men are all alike. They are trained to obey the masters of the organization. If REYBURN had been reelected during his service in the Legislature and Congress, he wouldn't have had "a look in" for the office of Mayor. If SHEATZ hadn't served the machine in the Legislature he wouldn't have been thought of for State Treasurer. His predecessor in the Legislature, Hon. J. CLAUDE BEDFORD, though morally and mentally vastly his superior, was bowled out after a single term because he served the people rather than the machine. If SHEATZ had been equally faithful to the public his tenure in office would have been quite as brief. But he served the machine rather than the people and his nomination for State Treasurer is the recompense of recreancy.

The esteemed Philadelphia Press probably knows better but it has a grievance against ROOSEVELT for throwing CHARLES EMORY SMITH out of his cabinet almost as soon as it was possible to do so. SHEATZ is against ROOSEVELT and his election would be a rebuke to the President and his policies. Our esteemed contemporary, CHARLES EMORY SMITH, has abundant reasons for hating ROOSEVELT, also, and the earnest support of SHEATZ by that paper is the result of that enmity. If SHEATZ is elected ROOSEVELT'S candidate won't get a vote from Pennsylvania in the next Republican National convention.

Sheatz and Reybun.

Mayor REYBURN, of Philadelphia, announces that "all the martyrs of 1905" are to be restored to office. By the "martyrs of 1905" he means those who were thrown out of office after the political convulsion of that year in that city. An extraordinarily bold attempt had been made to steal the gas plant there and bestow it upon some friends of the machine and the public conscience revolted at the atrocity. As a result of the incident some of the machine officials were summarily discharged from office. The meaning of Mr. REYBURN'S announcement may be easily conjectured in view of that fact.

The election of the eminently respectable machine Mayor in Philadelphia has already restored most of the machine emissaries to office and the Mayor assures the others that their time is coming, law or no law. In other words, notwithstanding the civil service regulations which protect it men in office and prevent unfit men from getting place, Mayor REYBURN will get rid of one and secure the appointment of the other sort. Loyalty to the organization is the standard by which Mayor REYBURN measures public service and the organization, according to his notion, is the machine.

The policy which Mayor REYBURN announces is precisely what is to be expected

in the State in the event that SHEATZ, the machine candidate, is elected to the office of State Treasurer. He was nominated by the machine to serve the machine. Primarily the machine candidate for SHEATZ. Any other man of the same characteristics would do as well. But SHEATZ was the available man at the time and was chosen because his false pretense of reform would help PENROSE and hurt no machine Republican interest. If elected he will help the machine and in either event he will help PENROSE.

Taft on a Sensational Tour of the World.

From the Lancaster Intelligencer. Secretary Taft is off for the Philippines and all around the world, and with him go newspaper men and photographers, who will chronicle and illustrate all his doings, sayings and seeings, so that we may expect to have heavy doses of Taft at brief intervals for a long time to come; and have cause to be thankful that the world may now be girdled so rapidly.

Nobody who will tell appears to have any clear notion why the secretary of war is taking this trip, unless weight be given to the ready suggestion that it relieves him of the embarrassment of direct connection with Roosevelt performance and policies, and permits the more definite formation of the issues of the approaching presidential campaign, so that he can postpone taking any decided stand upon doubtful points. That would be in keeping with his newly conferred title of "The Great Responder," but is hardly seems to furnish reason enough for so long a journey, and permits the more definite formation of the issues of the approaching presidential campaign, so that he can postpone taking any decided stand upon doubtful points. 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