

Ink Stings.

'Tis the week before Christmas
And all o'er the town,
There's ice on the pavements
On which some sit down
Then swear like the d—
And look like a goose
As they pick themselves up
With their back teeth jarred loose.

—Only one more year of TEDDY.

—Christmas will be here and gone before you know it.

—The country doesn't need more money half as much as we do.

—What is left of the CORTELYOU boom wouldn't make a good bustle for TAFT.

—Remember the true Christmas spirit is not so much what you give, but how you give it.

—So the peace battle ship fleet is to circle the globe. All the nations must see what a long tail our cat has got.

—One good bump was sufficient to wreck the CORTELYOU boom. It is a wonder he didn't say worse than "damn!"

—A pleasant word oftentimes does as much to cheer up some disheartened patient worker as the most munificent gift could do.

—Every day PENROSE grows stronger. He will soon be strong enough to accept another election to the United States Senate.

—Denver is a long way off for the Pennsylvania Democrat without a pass. Of course the walking will be better in the spring.

—Only a few weeks more until the trial of the capital grafters will begin. Not so. This is merely a dream of the "honest voter" of Pennsylvania.

—The Jersey City woman who gave a man two dollars to marry her evidently doesn't appreciate the fact that there is a money stringency in the land.

—It will be a sad Christmas for the mining village of Monongah. All the more thankful ought the more fortunate be when such distress is the portion of others.

There's lots 'o' fat ones, lots 'o' lean
So Santy do take care
That the girl with the pipe-stem stockin's
Is sure to get her share.

—The Chicago justice who has just ruled that it is the man's duty to walk the floor with the baby ought to get a little common law from a young banker who lives on Linn Street.

—It was scarcely to be expected that Pittsburg would stay out of the lime light long. Another divorce scandal in which JOSEPH E. SCHWAB has found an actress affinity is about to be aired.

—Postal savings banks may sound all right but they would not be good things for country communities for the reason that large sums of money would be carried away to the great centers leaving no surplus at home for the accommodation of legitimate business.

—The esteemed Johnstown Democrat is very much perturbed lest Pennsylvania's delegation to the Denver convention shall not be Democratic. At least the Democrat affects to discern a difference between a GUFFEY man and a Democrat. Wherein it lies of course no one without the fertile brain of a Col. WARREN WORTH BAILEY would attempt to say, but sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof and we are inclined to the belief that Pennsylvania will do the right thing when the time comes.

Our Message to Santy.

Next week old Sant 'll be around
With toys and things galore
We hope he'll visit everyone
Just like he's done before

And so for fear he hasn't planned
Right presents for you all
We'll holler up the chimney
For them that's shamed to call.

We want a ruling from a court
We need it, see you now,
If he doesn't get us quickly soon
The bug house for Roger B.

We want a bird, a warbler sweet,
That can sing dear Genevieve
For Willie E. and his Dora Deen
When they must take their leave.

We want a tape, and ticker too,
For an Irish friend in town,
With a market always goin' up
And never goin' down.

We want a vote on Prohibition
I tell you that's no lie
We want to meet the Temperance folks
A comin' through the rye.

We want a parson, grand and good,
A ten thousand plunker kind,
For a flock that pays him only one
The balance—in his mind.

We want two pigs for D. J. K.
The kind that can't be stuck
By a butcher man whose blunder skins
The funny page in Puck.

Next Spring we want some councilmen
No more reformin' kind
We'd sooner have the ones that work
And leave big bills behind.

We want some brains for fifty men,
Not one of whom's a coward,
Who were held up for two plunks per
By "As You Like It" Howard.

If you go broke, dear Santa Claus,
And hunt for funds in vain
We'll help you out, as best we can,
And give you that Hasting's claim.

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Wise and Otherwise Grange Policies.

The State Grange is to be congratulated upon the success of its session held at West Chester last week. It was the most satisfactory convention within the history of the organization, covering a period of thirty-five years. The attendance exceeded that of any of its predecessors and the proceedings were of absorbing interest. The Secretary of Agriculture in Washington participated in the deliberations and flattered the farmer folk, more or less, by assuring the Grange that the tillers of the soil are "the salt of the earth."

The Grange adopted a series of resolutions which in a political organization would serve the purposes of a platform. That is, it declared belief in and pledged support to certain policies and condemned with becoming emphasis the recent alteration of the face of certain coins of the realm. "The principles of the order are founded on truth and respect for the Deity," it was resolved, and to the end that the principles of the order be adhered to the Grange protested "against the manifesto which has removed from our coins the motto 'In God We Trust'."

We are not able, however, to command with equal enthusiasm the position assumed by the Grange on some other questions. On the matter of postal savings banks, for example, we gravely doubt the wisdom of the position assumed by the Grange. Postal savings banks have become a popular Shibboleth among a large number of well meaning people but it seems to us that there are other and more efficient remedies for the financial ills with which the body politic appears to be afflicted.

It has been suggested that a government guarantee of deposits in National and State banks, under conditions which would make the operation as safe as the guarantee of National bank notes, would be possible, and if that is true it is the safer expedient. During periods of prosperity postal savings banks might not materially disarrange normal commercial conditions though even under such circumstances it would afford treasury officials dangerous opportunities to "farm" the currency of the country. The deposits would be made in the country postoffices, of course, but the money would all go to the center, which is the Postoffice Department in Washington. In the presence, or even in the shadow of a currency famine or financial stringency all deposits would be withdrawn from other banks and put in the postoffice institution, whence it would find its way first to Washington and thence to Wall street, leaving the communities from which it was drawn without facilities to transact business at all.

Warships Hunting Trouble.

The Atlantic fleet, consisting of sixteen battleships and four auxiliary craft, steamed out of HAMPTON ROADS, Virginia, at ten o'clock last Monday morning, hunting trouble. The ostensible destination of this splendid armada is San Francisco. It is hoped, probably, that Japan will resent the demonstration and if this expectation is fulfilled there will be no necessity of going farther. But the fleet is equipped and prepared for a much longer cruise, according to the Washington dispatches, and nobody needs be surprised if it circles the globe in search of an enemy. The big stick is anxious to get into action.

The public has been assured from the inception of this absurd and expensive enterprise that the message of Japan was no part of its purpose. But just before sailing every Japanese steward was dismissed from the fleet. For years officers of the navy have found it expedient to employ Japs in that menial service on board ships of war. They are good cooks, it was explained, doleful servants, clean, sober and industrious. But their fidelity to the flowery empire never abated and their courage and patriotism were beyond question. They sold their services but not their allegiance to the land of their birth or the faith of their fathers.

If the cruise of the fleet, equipped for war, was without sinister purpose, why were the Jap servants removed from the service? It can hardly be said that there was fear that on reaching the Pacific they would desert to seek the more congenial climate and environment of their native land. Obviously they were dismissed because the purpose of the cruise is to provoke trouble with Japan and it was felt that in such a conflict Japanese stewards couldn't be trusted on board American warships. The summary discharge of those men, moreover, will probably contribute to the desired result.

Penrose and the Senatorship.

The political speculators are already sending out funny stories about the approaching contest for the United States Senatorship in this State. A Harrisburg dispatch in a recent issue of an esteemed Philadelphia contemporary, for example, contains the amusing misinformation that Senator PENROSE is trying "to pull Representative DUNSMORE, of Tioga county, out of the congressional contest, in the Lycoming, Potter, Tioga and Clinton districts," in order that he may be re-elected to the Legislature and become Speaker of the House of Representatives. PENROSE needs such a man for Speaker, it is inferentially added, and he will create the place for DUNSMORE by sending FRANK B. McCLAINE, of Lancaster, whom he distrusts, to Congress, to succeed Mr. CASSELL, who is no longer available.

At this distance from the storm centre of Republican politics it looks as if PENROSE has a "cinch" on the senatorial nomination and that there is little, if any, necessity for him entering into combinations or conspiracies to accomplish the result. The election of Mr. SHATZ to the office of State Treasurer last fall settled that question beyond the shadow of a doubt. It is not improbable that he would like well enough to have Representative DUNSMORE in the chair during the session of the Legislature in which the senatorial vote will be taken. DUNSMORE is faithful to the machine, adroit, capable, and has maintained a reputation for respectability that is rare among machine henchmen. PENROSE needs such a man for Speaker now just as he needed such a man as the candidate for State Treasurer, last fall. It is the only way he can fool the public and as the public likes to be fooled, it is a wise policy for PENROSE to pursue. But PENROSE doesn't need DUNSMORE nearly as bad as DUNSMORE needs PENROSE and if the slippery Tioga withdraws from the congressional fight in order to become Speaker of the House, it will be on his own account.

The probabilities are that FRANK McCLAINE will go to Congress as the successor of CASSELL, but he will not be influenced by a desire to make a place for DUNSMORE in order to help PENROSE. McCLAINE has been casting covetous eyes toward Washington for some years and the indiscretions of CASSELL have opened up the way to the realization of his ambition. Even if he returned to Harrisburg, moreover, he wouldn't be in DUNSMORE'S way for the speakership as about the only accuracy in the long drawn out collection of absurdities is the statement that PENROSE distrusts McCLAINE and whether DUNSMORE goes back to the Legislature or not or whether McCLAINE goes to Washington or Harrisburg, the Lancaster song-bird will not preside over the deliberations of the House during the next session.

Row in the Kitchen Cabinet.

There is grave trouble in the President's "kitchen cabinet." Secretary of the Treasury CORTELYOU, until recently one of the President's prime favorites, has received what he himself designates as "a damned tough turn" from the White House, and first assistant postmaster General HITCHCOCK has been shorn of his patronage in the South. Conjecture as to the ultimate result of this condition of affairs has been running riot for several days and a break-up in the cabinet is predicted. Nothing of that kind has happened as yet, but the President has been exceedingly busy, of late, and may not have had time to do things.

The origin of all this mess was the exposure of a clandestine campaign, on the part of Mr. CORTELYOU, for the Republican presidential nomination. During the campaign for the nomination four years ago, Mr. ROOSEVELT found CORTELYOU a shrewd manipulator and encouraged him in the cultivation of the arts of the politician. Since the crusade against certain "malefactors of great wealth," some of the enemies of ROOSEVELT have induced CORTELYOU to become a candidate for President and he consented. But instead of making an open fight for himself he made a false pretense of working for ROOSEVELT and that strenuous gentleman resents the treachery.

The result was first the declaration of the President that he is not a candidate and secondly an emphatic opposition to the candidacy of CORTELYOU. It is only just to the Secretary of the Treasury to say that so long as Mr. ROOSEVELT thought he was working for a third term there was no objection to his "pernicious activity." But the moment it was discovered that the Secretary was working for himself, his activity became very offensive and something like a scandal ensued. It is a sad state of affairs, beyond question, but if it will result in the exposure of the selfishness and hypocrisy of ROOSEVELT, it will be worth while.

—Only a few inches more snow and continued cold weather would make good sleighing, even in Bellefonte.

Roosevelt Down and Out.

Obviously President ROOSEVELT has taken the counsel of his fears rather than that of his wishes in declaring that he is not a candidate for re-election. His rapidly waning popularity, the constantly increasing opposition to some of his most cherished policies and finally the insistence of the conservative element of his party on obedience to the constitution, admonished him of the danger of defeat in the event that he should force the convention to nominate him, which he might easily have done. The charge of Justice BREWER, moreover, that he was "playing hide and seek" with the people, compelled a declaration on one side or the other of the question.

That ROOSEVELT wanted another term is so palpable that no man can doubt. That he was playing politics in the interest of his ambition scarcely admits of question. Every recent movement he has made, every sentence he has uttered, every process he has adopted, clearly proves that fact. The TAFT subterfuge was transparent. The ponderous War Minister having been tagged as a candidate was sent out of the country that he might not see that his name was being used to conjure with for ROOSEVELT. If the panic had not occurred the programme would have been carried out. In ample time ROOSEVELT would have declared himself in the open and carried the convention to a stampede.

But the ROOSEVELT policies and the ROOSEVELT mouth brought on a panic and as it entered the front door the ROOSEVELT prospects of a re-election took leave from the back entrance. For a long time he hoped conditions would change and with-held the announcement of his purposes as long as possible. The Republican National committee called upon him in a body, but he didn't open his mouth. He still believed in his destiny and held to his purpose. But when he subsequently saw the committee do things for no other reason than that he didn't want them done, he finally despaired and surrendered. His ambition "o'erleapt" itself and he is down and out.

Bugs Reformers in Philadelphia.

In view of the approach of the Spring election the so-called reformers of Philadelphia are getting busy. They are picking out candidates for councils in the several wards with the expectation that the Democrats will support them. Those named by an esteemed Philadelphia contemporary as likely to be chosen in some of the wards are deserving of the highest favor and under ordinary circumstances we would be strongly inclined to give them cordial support. For example, BAYARD HENRY is suggested for select council in the Germantown ward and he would make an ideal municipal legislator. But what's the use?

The so-called reformers of Philadelphia are either without intelligence or destitute of integrity. Year after year they appeal to the Democrats of the city to help them elect certain gentlemen associated with their alleged reforms to minor offices, and with the view of promoting civic improvement the Democrats have joined them in the last two or three municipal elections, then when the general elections come around, or a Mayorality contest is on, every recreant in the group goes over to the machine in order to save the tariff, thus completely destroying the good that has been accomplished by the preceding fusion.

As a matter of fact we are not able to discern much difference between Mr. JIM McNICHOLO and Mr. MAHLON H. KLINE, so far as political morals are concerned and we infinitely prefer "DAVE" LANE to Mr. VIVIAN GABLE. DAVE LANE and JIM McNICHOLO have at least the courage of their iniquities while the others are blabbering hypocrites who ought to be cuffed every time they propose a fusion with the Democrats which is invariably intended to help their own selfish schemes at the time and betray the Democrats in the end. The Democrats sent GABLE to the Senate once and he served the machine as faithfully as Senator KEYSTER could have done.

—This is the time of year when the heavy express business as well as increased passenger traffic makes all trains late so that if they arrive at their destination within an hour of scheduled time they are doing well. And in this respect it might be said that up to the present time there has been no noticeable restriction in the Christmas traffic because of the stringency in the money market. Loads of express arrive in Bellefonte on every train while the mails are already becoming burdened with innumerable packages; and the outlook is that old Santa will have as much to do as ever before next Wednesday.

—Notwithstanding the fact that Bellefonte merchants are only paying 65 cents a bushel for potatoes farmers are asking 80 cents for them when peddling from house to house.

Good Roads and the Grangers.

While reaffirming their support of the policy of constructing good roads, the Pennsylvania Grangers in convention at West Chester last week declared against a transfer of local self-government to commissions and departments at Harrisburg "presided over by men having autocratic power not always exercised for the benefit of the people." This is putting it mildly enough, but there is no mistaking its application in one flagrant instance which the authors of the Grangers' report doubtless had in mind. By an insolent usurpation of power the State Commissioner of Highways, Joseph W. Hunter, has appointed and put under pay 135 partisan tools as "road inspectors." In some instances he has appointed two inspectors for two bits of township roads in sight of each other, each alleged inspector drawing such salary as the Chief Highwayman arbitrarily chooses to pay him for his alleged services.

Along with the Grangers, the rest of the people of Pennsylvania are in favor of liberal expenditures for good roads, even under this hit-or-miss system, which would take a hundred years for its completion and which ignores the wise policy of constructing commodious State highways. They were by no means opposed to the appropriation of \$6,500,000 for township roads by the last Legislature, which Governor Stuart vetoed on the ground that there was not enough money for it in the State Treasury. The Grangers show how much validity is in this plea by pointing to the Treasury surplus of \$13,000,000 or so now farmed by banks and trust companies.

But this usurpation of the Chief Highwayman under the nose of Governor Scharf combines every evil and iniquity of bad government. In the first place, the statute books will be searched in vain for any law warranting the State Commissioner of Highways to appoint and pay such salaries as he may choose to a batch of road inspectors which he is preparing to reduplicate for next year's political campaign. In the next place, this is one of the worst examples of the infamous spoils system that has been practised so long in Pennsylvania. These inspectors are appointed solely for their services to the Penrose Machine. They will begin to earn their lawless salaries only with the opening of a new Penrose campaign.

Finally, the appointment of these foot-pads of the Penrose Machine is a most impudent violation of the orderly processes of local self-government, against which the Grangers have entered their solemn protest. It is a lawless and mischievous transference to irresponsible agents of the Commissioner of Highways of a power of road supervision that belongs to the responsible county commissioners and township supervisors elected by the people.

Assent the Democratic National Convention.

From the Lock Haven Democrat.

In selecting a place for the national convention the Democratic national committee was pretty evenly divided between Denver and Louisville until the committee men who had voted for Chicago gave their ballot to Denver and made that the convention city. The selection is not above criticism by the easterners. The city is so far to the westward of the centre of population that most of the delegates will have to travel a fatiguing distance to reach it. Other things being equal, perhaps Louisville would have been a good selection. The date selected—July 7—was unexpected also. There had been some talk of holding the convention before the Republican meet at Chicago. In most American cities the weather is intensely hot about July 7, but Denver, which is elevated almost six thousand feet above the level of the sea, with snow capped mountains nearby, and with a perfect climate, may not be excessively hot about that time. Besides, the large purse raised by Denver, and the city's other efforts to get the convention, doubtless influenced the committee in making the selection. Whether the whole of the purse of \$100,000 will be needed is another matter, and one that needs no discussion. The money will not be wasted for the sake of spending it.

As to whether a date before or after the Republican convention should have been selected, there is nothing to make either time more desirable than the other. If it be argued that in the first case the campaign would be two long, it may be answered that the campaign is on now. If objection be made to the publication of Democratic issues after the adoption of a Republican platform, it may be said that the Republican issues have already been published in the president's message and are already before the country. There is nothing new for the Republican convention to declare for.

Tariff Revision.

From the New York Evening Post.

One of the weaknesses of the President's gingerly treatment of the revision of the tariff is his implied view that any given duty is a vested right of its beneficiary. Hence no change must be made until after "due notice." Hence, also, the need of having the tariff revised only by its friends. But there is no reforming pledge in all this. We do not wait to serve due notice upon a man who is picking our pockets. Nor do we leave it to highwaymen to revise their own code. In the present temper of the American people, the tariff as a vested wrong has a better chance of being considered on its merits than for many years. Prophecies of smooth things will urge that we keep quiet about it, or wait indefinitely, relying upon promises as false as deer's oaths, but the issue is irrepressible.

—In his moving picture entertainment next Tuesday evening Lyman H. Howe promises a full evening's program of all new scenes, pictures that cannot fail to interest both old and young. There will be no better way to spend the night before Christmas than by going to see Howe's moving pictures at Garman's.

Spawls from the Keystone.

—The shop hands of the Reading railroad company in Reading were paid their November wages in cash on Tuesday. Last month they were paid by checks and script. The total disbursement this month was \$270,000.

—Rev. James McIllyar, aged 91 years, died in Franklin on Sunday. He had been a Mason fifty-five years, an Odd Fellow fifty-six years, and was in the active ministry of the Methodist Episcopal church sixty-four years.

—Charles Saasman, of Reading, becoming worried over the financial stringency, drew \$600 from a bank where he had it on deposit and placed it in his trunk. It was found by a thief who carried it all off and also took a watch chain and charm.

—Four women of Knauer, Berks county, took part in a hunt conducted by the Opossum Hunting club of that place on Saturday and were present at the death of a big fat 'possum which the dogs caught after an exciting chase of two hours.

—G. G. Shoemaker, a breeder of fine poultry near York, has just sold a buff Orpington hen that won first prize at the Madison Square Garden, New York, to A. J. Check, of Henderson, S. C., for \$400. The hen weighs just four pounds, making the price \$100 per pound.

—A big locomotive ran away from the vicinity of the Pennsylvania railroad round house at Harrisburg on Saturday, jumped the track at North street, struck and killed a horse, smashed the wagon, crashed through a frame building, wrecking it, and landed in the basement.

—A dog belonging to Mrs. Robert Miller, a widow of Mount Union, went mad on last Tuesday and before being finally killed had bitten six people badly, as well as several dogs, and snapping at other men. The dog was killed after a lively chase and the persons bitten have been placed under treatment.

—During the dedication services of the new annex to the Lutheran Old People's home, in Erie on Sunday, Colonel John Fitch, of Oakland, Cal., a former resident of Erie, announced a gift of \$50,000 to the home, to be used in erecting a building in memory of his father and mother.

—Mrs. Eckley B. Cox, widow of the Drifton coal operator, has just had completed a census of the children of the men employed in the Cox collieries, for the purpose of distributing Christmas gifts. There are 2,571 between 6 and 16 years of age. This is the fortieth year that the Cox family has presented gifts in this manner.

—On account of the prevalence of a number of cases of typhoid fever, scarlet fever and diphtheria for some time in Clearfield, the state board of health has sent Major Wheelock, of Warren, the board's engineer, to that city to examine the sewerage system and other conditions that might tend to cause the diseases mentioned.

—The big plant of the New Jersey Zinc company, at South Bethlehem, and the branch at Freemansburg, Northampton county, have been shut down indefinitely, throwing 500 men out of employment at the former place and 100 at the latter. These were the first zinc works established in the United States and have been running almost continuously since 1851.

—Mrs. Clarence W. Watson, noted in society in Baltimore and New York, has induced her husband, who is president of the Fairmont Coal company, to build a home for the thousand or more children made fatherless by the recent explosions in those mines, and Mr. Watson was in Pittsburg on Saturday arranging for the erection of the necessary building there.

—Clyde Thompson, the well known first baseman and manager of the Clearfield base ball team, met with an accident just before the close of the season in which he broke his leg. The injured limb never mended, and his father, George I. Thompson, a well known Clearfield contractor, has just taken Clyde to the Jefferson hospital in Philadelphia to consult a specialist.

—C. W. Kinley, an aged resident of Newberry, a suburb of Williamsport, on Thursday received a telegram announcing the death of his daughter at Paterson, N. J. A few minutes later the old man was stricken with paralysis and is now in the hospital in a critical condition. The physician says the shock attendant upon the reception of the news of his daughter's death caused the stroke.

—Arthur Johnson, a Pennsylvania railroad brakeman, residing at Senbury, was instantly killed near the Bellefonte avenue station at Lock Haven on Wednesday afternoon by being struck by the locomotive pulling the east bound flyer. His body was carried about 100 feet, many bones being broken and the flesh mutilated. Johnson was 35 years of age and left a widow and several children.

—A large porker, weighing slightly over 400 pounds, was killed in a peculiar manner at the home of its owner, Joseph Martino, near Blackwells, Lycoming county, on Wednesday. A dynamite railroad signal cap was carelessly thrown into the pig pen and one of the largest hogs attempted to eat it. As the animal's teeth pressed against the concussion cap the dynamite exploded, tearing the head nearly off.

—The jury in the case of John J. Patterson, of Beaver Falls, charged with soliciting William Howard to murder Judge R. S. Holt, of Beaver, returned a verdict of not guilty on Monday. Judge John Reed, of Jefferson county, who tried the case, remarked: "Gentlemen, this is a surprise to me." The case was sensational, it being alleged that the defendant, who is a hotel keeper, had offered money to Howard to kill Judge Holt. The jurist had twice refused Patterson a liquor license.

—A few days ago butcher, auctioneer and constable Brownlee, of Oval, Lycoming county, slaughtered two hogs for James Kauffman, of Nippenose valley, and when he came to season the sausage and pudding meat he used horse powder to flavor the meat. In the cupboard were two cans, or boxes, exactly alike. Taking the horse powder can, the contents were used to season the sausage and pudding meat. The other box contained the pepper that was intended for seasoning. In the evening when Mr. Kauffman went to get some of the horse powder to feed his stock he found the can empty, and only then was the mistake discovered.