

Ink Sittings.

-The ice man is wearing a look of real concern these days.

-It wasn't so beautiful Wednesday morning when you had to shovel it off the walks.

-If ANNA GOULD remarries that detestable BONI a commission in lunacy should be appointed at once.

-Wheat is up to ninety-five cents again. The question with the average farmer now is: Will it go to a dollar again?

-If any of your good resolutions are still holding out stick to them like death. A few weeks more and you will have conquered.

-The kind of January THAW they are having in New York just now is far from being the real thing that we have been accustomed to for years.

-About eight million dollars were spent for automobiles in this country last year. Imagine the amount of stink and dust those purchases raised.

-Governor JOHNSON, of Wisconsin, is, in our humble opinion, the most suitable man yet spoken of in connection with the Democratic nomination for President.

-With all the traps that are being set for them the capitol trimmers should certainly be caught in one of them. There is room for reasonable doubt, however.

-One of the hopeful signs of the future for the fellow who expects to be out of work lies in the fact that the opening of the fishing season is scarce three months off.

-It couldn't be possible that Governor STUART is postponing the appointment of that railroad commission against the time when he will be ready to accept another job.

-In the United States twenty per cent. of the men are said to be clean shaven, but in Heaven—well about ninety-nine per cent. of them will have clean shaves to get in there.

-Measles are spreading in Greater Pittsburgh but up to this writing we have not heard of Mayor GUTHRIE's intention to attack them. He has been after most everything else.

-By the time Congress is through considering relief measures for the country's financial system the problem will probably be relegated to the stand-pat platform with the tariff question.

-Mayor SCHMITZ and ABE REUF, former head officials of San Francisco, are both in jail now to serve long terms for grafting. It is the old case of putting a beggar on horseback.

-The innovation of placing millinery and dressmaking establishments aboard the trans-Atlantic lines is calculated to make the average man hesitate all the more before proposing a trip abroad to his wife.

-The imports of diamonds having fallen off nearly twelve million dollars last year there is everything to indicate that the matrimonial market suffered accordingly. No diamonds, no engagements—so there you are.

-Senator KNOX was so quick to introduce an employer's liability act to replace the one declared unconstitutional by the Supreme court that it almost forces us to believe that he imagines he has a chance for the presidential nomination.

-Mr. HARRIMAN's advice to the people to "watch things grow" might have a world of meaning in it and might not. Perhaps he is going to scoop a few more railroads. Perhaps he is going to get into another altercation with the President.

-One of the reasons that they are next to have "pop" only at the BRYAN dinner next month is probably because it is hoped that Miss Democracy will take the hint and, under her leap-year prerogative, pop the question to the distinguished Nebraskan.

-Statistics show that in three places out of five the eyes are out of alignment. Of course this doesn't cover TAFT, or FAIRBANKS, or KNOX, whose optics are so directly focused on the White House that there couldn't possibly be any variation in them.

-His hatter has just made public the fact that the President's head has grown from 7 1/2 to 7 3/4 since he was a common Civil Service commissioner. It is nice to have this authoritative confirmation of a suspicion that has been lurking in the public mind for some time.

-As to the murder trials in Kentucky. It has never been denied that some one killed Governor GOEBEL, nor that some of the men under conviction have guilty knowledge of the assassin. Therefore if they won't tell who the real culprit was should they not be punished.

-It is really a wonder that the big boss who knows it all didn't order a lot of Admirals of the navy into canoes and make them paddle their way around The Horn just to discover whether, after having gone through Annapolis and spent their best years in the study of naval affairs, they know as much about boats and the sea as he does.

-The fight between FLINN and PENROSE, if it is really to be a fight, will not result in disclosing much to the people of Pennsylvania. Usually when such notorious persons declare war interesting developments follow, but Pennsylvania has been so deluged with political scandals recently that new ones will scarcely be a surprise, nor add to her humiliation.

Democratic Watchman

STATE RIGHTS AND FEDERAL UNION.

VOL. 53

BELLEFONTE, PA., JANUARY 10, 1908.

NO. 2.

An Unpromising Bargain.

The administration, according to Washington dispatches, has practically reached an agreement on certain points in dispute with Japan. To what extent the battleship fleet brought the Japs into an obliging frame of mind is left to conjecture. In any event, however, it is announced that the administration's scheme of limiting Japanese immigration is now certain of fulfillment. The Jap authorities who do not like the idea of Japs leaving their own country have about determined to pocket the insult implied in forbidding them access to this country for a consideration. The Japs, as the late BRET HARTE said of the Chinese, are peculiar, and like Joey BAGSTOCK, they "are sly—devilish sly." A Jap can tell a rainbow from a locomotive with one eye closed.

The consideration which the administration offers to Japan in return for acquiescence in the exclusion policy of the President is free access to the markets of the Philippine Islands. Japan has developed in to a marvelously energetic and sagacious commercial country and is striving assiduously to acquire advantages in foreign markets. The Filipinos are likewise an artful people whose products, before the American conquest, found a ready and profitable market in Spain. The scheme row is to establish absolute free trade between the Japs and the Filipinos and exclude from the Archipelago the products of all other countries, including the United States, by the process of prohibitive tariffs. This would give Japan a literal "cush" in the markets of the Philippines.

Meantime what is to become of the trade profits on the commerce between the United States and the Philippines which were to reimburse the people of the United States for the cost of acquiring the territory and subduing the Filipinos? It will be remembered that every complaint as to the vast expense of the Asiatic enterprise was promptly answered by an assurance that the magnificent markets of millions of Asiatics would absorb all the products which our soil and factories could supply. That the Asiatics haven't much money and don't wear many clothes made no difference to those who gave the answers. But now even the meagre hope which that deception created is dissipated by the new scheme to "paw" our prospect for that trade in a deal with Japan.

The Riding Test Comedy.

Some of the well-informed in Washington are having a good deal of fun over the report of the horseback riding test of army officers, recently made by order of the President. The report shows that a considerable number of the colonels failed to "make good" and are scheduled for retirement. There is no reason in the world why they should ride thirty miles a day or that distance in a year under present conditions. Most of the colonels are veterans of the Civil war and would be retired under the age limit within four or five years anyway and meantime their details in bureau work is neither facilitated nor improved by saddle exercise. But ROOSEVELT rides and insists that others do so or retire.

There is a widespread suspicion, however, that most of those who failed to meet the horse-back test did so because they wanted to. In other words the average army officer above the age of fifty-five is anxious for retirement. He feels that there is little, if any prospect of promotion, unless he happens to be a White House favorite, and while there are plenty of opportunities to acquire wealth in civil life the chances of even acquiring a competency in army service are meager. The pay allowance of a retired colonel, for example, which is about \$2,500 a year, is a guarantee against poverty and supplemented by the profits of a fairly successful business, is almost affluence.

That being the case the President's whim is likely to prove an expensive luxury to the country. Of course it will remove from the active army list some veterans who would have trouble in mounting if called to active field service and put in their places some of the youngsters who wear coats at the post German. This change might add picturesqueness to a street parade and dash and enterprise to a sham battle. But such things are not essential in these "piping times of peace," and in view of the difference in the pay roll may seem to practical minds as "costing more than they come to." But ROOSEVELT is an expensive luxury himself and a million or so doesn't amount to much in his mind.

A rich San Francisco merchant gave his son-in-law a sound thrashing recently and now the young man has brought suit for twenty-five thousand dollars damages. The price is pretty high, but if the old man is rich enough we presume he will figure that he had fully that amount of satisfaction.

The county auditors are now hard at work auditing the accounts of the various county officers.

Conjuring With the Name of Roosevelt.

Like all other insincere crusaders, Senator FLINN, of Pittsburg, predicated his movement on a false foundation. In his proclamation of war against the machine he declares that "the essentials of those policies, of which President ROOSEVELT is the great exponent, must be defended and the reformation which he has inaugurated must be carried to completion." A great writer and philosopher has said that "patronism is the last refuge of a scoundrel." For half a dozen years the name of ROOSEVELT has been used to conjure with in this State and in this appeal for help Mr. FLINN has simply followed the example of others who were trying, by false pretenses, to deceive the public.

A year ago the people of Philadelphia were urged to vote for JOHN E. REYBURN for Mayor as an essential step in the vindication of ROOSEVELT's policies. But before REYBURN was in possession of the office a week he publicly condemned ROOSEVELT's policies and held ROOSEVELT up to popular execration. Last fall the people were gravely informed that the election of SHEATZ to the office of State Treasurer was in the interest of ROOSEVELT and his policies but before the result was announced the machine which was saved by his election was condemning ROOSEVELT. FLINN is no more sincere than the others in this matter. He invokes the name of ROOSEVELT for selfish reasons.

Senator FLINN has a quarrel with the Republican machine, not because of its iniquities, but for the reason that he wasn't invited to participate in the spoils. He is opposed to PENROSE not on account of the bad political morality of PENROSE but because he imagines that with PENROSE out he would have a better chance to get in. The truth of the matter is that one Republican faction is no better than the other. If the people of Pennsylvania want improvement in the official life of the Commonwealth they will vote all the Republican leaders out of office and inaugurate new methods with new men. Only bad political organizations have had leaders. With either FLINN or PENROSE in command the Republican machine stands condemned.

Sign of Party Virility.

There are signs of some pretty earnest contests for Democratic nominations for municipal offices in some of the cities and boroughs of the State. This is an indication of party virility which is most encouraging. Where there are no candidates there is usually little hope of party success and it seldom happens that an earned nomination, to use the base ball vernacular, does not lead to a deserved election. An earned nomination is one acquired by an active campaign and upon a full vote of the electors. Such a nomination is an honor even if it fails to produce the commission. But it hardly ever fails.

With an active and energetic party rank and file a bad nomination is hardly possible. The vast majority of the people of every community favors just and honest government and a full vote at the primaries guarantees candidates who represent the majority. Communities would be better governed and better off if parties were evenly divided and when the body of the voters of both parties attend the primaries it is practically certain that the majority is not overwhelming on either side. We do not share in the opinion that partisanship should be eliminated from municipal elections. Ours is a government of parties and the minor offices are the units. Therefore party lines should be preserved in local elections but each party should nominate fit men.

It is no exaggeration to say that the political history of the country has never revealed a more important era than that which is impending. The coming presidential election will determine whether the government is to be continued on the lines established by the founders of the Republic or diverted into channels which were narrowly escaped in the beginning and involve the greatest danger. Centralization and paternalism are only this disguise for imperialism and Republican victory next fall means that inevitably. For that reason Democrats ought to be vigilant and energetic at the skirmish next month.

Because of the fact that Denver, Col., has been selected as the place for holding the Democratic national convention this year it might be interesting to WATCHMAN readers to know that they at least have some enterprising newspapers in that city. On New Year's day the Denver News published as its regular edition twenty pages, eight columns to a page and a statistical supplement of thirty-two pages, four columns to a page, or two hundred and eighty-eight columns of live reading matter and advertisements.

The Bellefonte Y. M. C. A. basketball team won its fifth victory last Friday evening by defeating the Juniata College five at Huntingdon by the score of 16 to 13.

Flinn and Penrose.

It is impossible to withhold sympathy from Senator WILLIAM FLINN, of Pittsburg, in his announced crusade against Senator PENROSE and the Republican machine. That organization is so atrocious, and Senator PENROSE has been so much a part of it, that any opposition to it and him must be welcomed. As Senator FLINN declares "for many years a band of spoliemen, masquerading under the banner of the Republican party," has been despoiling the Commonwealth and looting the public and it is time that the piracy were stopped. For that reason it is with more than ordinary satisfaction that we have read Senator FLINN's call to arms with the view of eliminating the evil from the life of the State.

It is a subject of profound regret, however, that the movement for reform hasn't another champion than Mr. FLINN. What he says of PENROSE is probably true. It would be difficult to frame an indictment against that political free-booter so severe. But there is the highest authority for the proposition that the leader of a reform movement ought to be free from the offenses of which he complains, and it is no exaggeration to say that Senator FLINN is worse in political morals than any of those he accuses. As a matter of fact there is no crime in the political calendar in which he has not participated at one time or another.

Senator FLINN "set the pace" for "political contractors" in this State and it was not until after he had amassed a vast fortune by municipal contracts and contractual excesses that he became a reformer and even then he only entered upon a reform crusade in order that he might have a better opportunity to betray his earnest associates in the work. For that reason we own to a lack of enthusiasm in the work of the new crusade. It is probably based on selfish purposes and we can discern no advantage in turning PENROSE out if FLINN is to be turned in. It is "six of one and half a dozen of the other."

An Anomalous Condition.

The Seaboard Air Line railroad, one of the great rail systems of the country, is in the hands of receivers. It was unable to meet interest payments, on the first of the year, and had no alternative. The stocks in the concern are watered, of course, and recent betterment operations has been expensive. But there is no sustained accusation of bad management and the enterprise was under the control of the most capable railroad financiers. The recent tide up money, however, and the slump in commercial activities diminished resources. But the tariff was with us, just the same, and the Republican party is in power.

Within the last couple of months the government has been driven to the necessity of selling bonds in a time of peace. Worse still the country has been forced to other expedients to avert financial disaster. Clearing house certificates to an aggregate of nearly a thousand millions of dollars have been issued and the administration has paid banks as much as three per cent. for accepting deposits which they are usually willing to give something for. In other words we have been issuing trading stamps or throwing in chromos to keep business going. But the tariff is with us, just the same, and the Republican party is in power.

We have been told in the past that bonds are sold in times of peace only under Democratic administrations. It can easily be proved by the files of any of our esteemed Republican contemporaries that railroads never go into the hands of receivers except when there is a Democratic tenant in the White House in Washington and the traitors in Congress are ripping up the tariff schedules. But here we have an absolute and unmistakable refutation of these assurances. The bonds have been sold and a receivership established beyond question and the tariff is with us, just the same, and the Republican party is in power.

One of the oldest residents of Centre county is W. M. Lewis, of Port Matilda, who on New Year's day celebrated his ninety-third birthday anniversary. And he is not only well up in years but is still hale and hearty. During his earlier life, when burning charcoal was quite an industry in this section of the State, Mr. Lewis was known as one of the best wood choppers in Centre county and old as he is he still delights in going to the woods for a day's chopping. Mr. Lewis celebrated his birthday by spending it with his son, W. M. Lewis Jr., and family, in Tyrone; one pleasurable part of the occasion being that it was also the birthday anniversary of Mr. Lewis' grand-daughter, Mrs. Homer L. Keatley, so that between making merry for both of them the guests had a happy time of it.

Monday morning was the coldest so far this season, the thermometer registering as low as eight degrees above zero in this place, according to the location of the instrument.

Cannon and Hughes.

The bitter fight being made in Ohio upon Secretary Taft as a Republican candidate for the presidential nomination and the fact that both Indiana and Illinois have their own favorite sons, with quite a possibility of New York pressing the name of its governor forward, puts the Taft candidacy in a very serious position. Undoubtedly he is the strongest man whose candidacy has been presented. That means it is the field against Taft. He has back of him the strength of the administration of course, but he has the weakness as well. Most recent successful candidates for the presidency on the Republican ticket have come in without any record of their own or any record which they had to father. Benjamin Harrison was elected as a result of a revolt against Cleveland; Cleveland was re-elected as a result of the revolt against Harrison. McKinley was swept into office because of the unpopularity of Cleveland had built up and for divers other reasons which everybody knows. President Roosevelt, with his famous luck, was elected by the greatest popular majority known to American politics and the greatest electoral majority, though he polled scarcely four hundred thousand more votes than his predecessor and ran behind the vote given to Mr. Bryan in 1900. Thus it appears that you cannot always be sure that the nominee who represents the polls of an administration is going to be strengthened thereby. Politicians in Washington and elsewhere think that Mr. Taft will suffer if he appears openly as the residuary legatee of the Roosevelt administration.

But it is worth while considering three men, two of whom are national characters, one a state figure—Fairbanks, Cannon and Hughes. One of the most prominent financiers of Washington is quoted as saying: "Watch out for a ticket made up of Cannon and Hughes. Cannon is a national character. All his life has been spent in public service. He has been speaker for three terms. He represents the revolt against the Roosevelt radicalism. He has the best machine in the United States, for he has every Republican member of congress with him. Hughes is strong in his own state and with the well-informed people of other states. But he is not known widely throughout the country. Furthermore, he knows little of national affairs. If he should come here for a term as vice president he would learn much about national matters of which to-day he is ignorant. Of course it is always possible that the president may die, either by disease, accident, or act of the assassin. We have had five such cases. In that event, what better man could be succeeded to the office than Gov. Hughes of New York?"

The argument sounds well. It also suggests that new emphasis should be put upon the plea made in this paper, weeks ago that the Democratic party should not again allow its vice president nomination to be made at the last moment and without thought.

The Defenseless Position of the Republican Party.

The Republican national platform adopted at Chicago June 22, 1904, celebrates the beneficial effect of Republican policies upon business in a tone the hostility of which now reads like bitter irony:

"We then (1897) found the country, after four years of Democratic rule, in evil plight, oppressed with misfortune and doubtful of future. . . . Labor was unemployed, business was sunk in the depression which had succeeded the panic of 1893, hope was faint and confidence had gone."

Confidence returned to business, and with confidence an unexampled prosperity. The confidence has been all but wrecked and the unexampled prosperity has been halted by one insistent and perpetual voice. The Rough Rider has ridden down business. What William McKinley built up his successor has torn down.

"We have every right," the Republicans said in 1904, "to congratulate ourselves upon the work since then (1897) accomplished." Can they congratulate themselves upon the disaster spread over the United States by Theodore Roosevelt?

How will the Republican party, so long the spoiled child of good fortune, take up its new role of apologist for the calamitous prosperity which existed during the greater part of the year doubtless accounts for the size of many contributions. The amount given for similar purposes in 1908 is likely to depend largely on whether business and industry shall resume conditions approaching their former status.

Depends on the Times.

It is asserted that during the past year nearly one hundred and fifty million dollars were given by private donors to educational and charitable institutions in the United States. This notable showing which eclipses all previous records was due to the large gifts made by John D. Rockefeller and Mrs. Russell Sage—donations on a scale which is seldom witnessed in other countries, and whose benefits, if they are wisely administered, should extend through uncounted generations. The astounding prosperity which existed during the greater part of the year doubtless accounts for the size of many contributions. The amount given for similar purposes in 1908 is likely to depend largely on whether business and industry shall resume conditions approaching their former status.

Bryan Condenses a Proverb.

One proverb I have often quoted is "The wise man foreseeth the evil and hideth himself, but the foolish pass on and are punished." It is a great truth, and beautifully expressed, but I found it did not stick in people's minds, and so I condensed it, and it is the only effort I have ever made to improve upon a proverb; and this is not an improvement, it is merely a condensation. It is not as beautiful as Solomon's proverb, but more easily remembered. It means the same thing in a condensed form: "The wise man gets the idea into his head; the foolish man gets it in the neck."

Spawls from the Keystone.

-The county commissioners of Clinton county paid out last year for the scalps of weasels, minks, foxes and wild cats, \$413.

-Entire fields of unhusked corn are still to be seen on the fine farms in the eastern part of the state, which is something unusual.

-According to the reports filed in the bureau of vital statistics at Harrisburg, there were 365 suicides in the state during 1907, or one for each day.

-During the past year the commissioners of Indiana county paid to different persons in the county \$2,894 for sheep damages. The money was taken from the dog tax receipts.

-The ten industries of Wayneboro this month will pay to the citizens of the town \$21,250 in dividends. Home investment pays better than oil stock in the phantom west.

-Thieves broke into the cigar factory of Henry S. Herr, at Willow Street, Lancaster, on Wednesday night and hauled away about 50,000 cigars. The loss is about \$1,500.

-The Schuylkill Valley Traction company is storing 2,500 tons of coal at its plant at Collegedale, Montgomery county, in anticipation of a coal famine, should severe winter weather set in.

-In a mock duel with knives Friday night, Peter Svedige, 16 years, received an accidental thrust of his adversary's blade near the heart and died from internal hemorrhage shortly after.

-Burglars entered Fieldstone, the beautiful suburban residence of Thomas E. Jones, near Scranton, on Tuesday night, while the family were entertaining guests at dinner, and stole jewels to the value of \$2,000.

-The commissioners of Clearfield county will hereafter refuse to pay justices on scals and have so notified the Justices of the Peace throughout the county. They are guided in this course by orders from Harrisburg.

-Mrs. Susan Shaffer, the oldest resident at Tom's Run, Weston township, Lycoming county, died Thursday, January 2, aged 100 years. The deceased is survived by one daughter, Mrs. Thomas McCullough, of Jersey Shore.

-Negotiations have been completed whereby the state secures the control of 17,000 acres of mountain land in the northwestern part of Berks and the southern part of Schuylkill county, as a forestry and game preserve at a cost of \$50,000.

-O. S. White, a letter carrier in Wilkesbarre, who has been collecting mail from the boxes for ten years, has kept a record of the distance he and his horse, Billy, have traveled and he says his figures show that just 67,000 miles have been covered.

-The state registrar of vital statistics has threatened to institute proceedings against a large number of physicians in Lycoming county on the charge that they fail to make reports of births. The number of births reported has fallen far below the number of deaths.

-The county officials of Westmoreland county have taken possession of the fine new \$200,000 court house, with the New Year, and Friday, January 31, has been selected as the date for the dedication of the new building. It is proposed to have an imposing ceremony.

-Professor J. Anson Wright, superintendent of public schools in Bedford county, has been elected cashier of the Hartley Banking company, Bedford, to succeed William Hartley, Jr., who has resigned on account of ill health. Professor Wright will not assume his new position until the expiration of his term as superintendent on June 1.

-George B. Kaffroth, for a number of years a hotel clerk in eastern Lancaster county and now a manufacturer of cattle powders at Honeybrook, Chester county, has just come into the possession of a fortune of \$70,000 bequeathed him by Frederick Otto Kuenzler, a native of Switzerland, who for years was a hotel hostler in Lancaster and Berks counties, and whom Kaffroth had frequently aided when in need.

-So quietly and effectively have the county authorities of Cambria county, gone about their work that it was not learned until recently that there is approaching its climax one of the most vigorous and far-reaching crusades against the illegal sale of liquor that has ever attempted. Fifteen informations have been made before Squire Lauffer, of Portage, it is said, and something like forty more, in various parts of the county, are to follow soon.

-James P. Thomas' 4,000 acre tract of valuable clay lands in Dean and Reade townships, Cambria county, and Antis township, Blair county, will not only prove useful in future brickmaking but a part of it is shortly to be turned into a magnificent game preserve, according to plans being formed by Mr. Thomas, which he will stock with wild dogs. These animals will be turned loose on the property and allowed to roam at will for several years, when wild boar hunts will be a diversion in the preserve.

-While Mrs. Cramer Bernhard, of East Providence township, Bedford county, was polishing a stove that was slightly warm, using "Easy Bright" and rubbing the stove with a brush, the polish ignited and immediately flew to the pan and ignited and burned the contents. Mrs. Bernhard dropped the pan and threw dish pans of water on it but did not succeed in extinguishing the fire until about six square feet of the floor had been burned, causing damage also to the paints and paper near the stove. Mrs. Bernhard's hands were burned to a blister.

-Patrick Kerwin, aged almost 111 years, of Seward, who was apparently recovering from a severe illness, collapsed Saturday morning and died within a few minutes. He was believed to be the oldest person in the state. For several years he had been living in retirement with relatives at Seward. Mr. Kerwin was born in County Donegal, Ireland, on March 17, 1797. At the age of 20 years, he arrived in New York, later going to Philadelphia, where he worked as a stone mason. He finally bought a farm near Johnstown, where he lived alone until twenty years ago. Mr. Kerwin never married. He knew many great men and his tales of the early days of Pennsylvania were interesting. He attributed his youth, to a strong constitution and absence of worry.