

Ink Blotting.

—Old Jack Frost must be on the bear side of the market in ice, coal and plumb-ers supplies.

—So the QUAY statue is really on the way. Let us hope that it is the way to the scrap heap.

—If one hundred ood livers are required to make a gallon of oil how many cases of weak lungs will the oil heal?

—The government receipts from tax on spirits show a loss of \$1,717,502 for December. The temperance idea seems to be growing.

—If SHUMAKER should "equal" on the rest of the grafters of course they will try to prove that he ought to be in the "bug house."

—The Pennsylvania capitol grafters go to trial on Monday, then the THAW affair in New York will have to be relegated to the inside pages.

—The American sailors evidently had a good time in Rio. While blood-shed was happily averted many of the Jackies were at least half shot.

—Whatever may be said of Governor HUGHES' whiskers it is certain that if he gets the presidential nomination it will be by a close shave.

—A man who may not be able to sing a note can sign a note very handily, yet the difference between sing and sign is merely a transposition of two letters.

—Rumor has it that they had a regular old time meeting of council Monday night, a regular war of words, but nothing more than the feelings of one member hurt.

—There is nothing in all the world as good like God's clear, bright sunshine as good humor. It does more to encourage and uplift humanity than anything else.

—The TAFT order to kill everything that runs in the Philippines would be rather disastrous to a certain runner for presidential fame if applied in the United States.

—The President makers have gotten down to the point where whiskers or no whiskers are playing an important part in favorite candidates. This is splitting hairs sure enough.

—Thank Heaven, the Supreme court has saved the Pennsylvania Railroad company from the humiliation of resorting to cross-roads-school-house-magic-lantern-shows as a means of revenue.

—So Governor HUGHES, of New York, has formally entered the lists for the presidential race. He represents himself, he says, and if the people call he will heed. Mr. TAFT will now proceed to make such a din that the call cannot be heard at Albany.

—The death of Controller JOHN B. LARKIN, of Pittsburg, is a loss to the government of that city which it will feel keenly at this time. Though a Democrat he was elected to one of the highest offices in a Republican city which is the greatest tribute to his uprightness as a public official.

—The Czar of Russia's little son, three years old, is said to be the handsomest child of Royal blood in Europe. This is all the more wonderful when the ideas of science would teach us that he ought to be a kind of composite Jap-Anarobist-Socialist-revolving-peasant-rioting student sort of a creature.

—It will be a matter of great surprise to the public to know that eighty hogs belonging to a Washington county farmer died from the effects of drinking coal oil that had escaped from a broken pipe line that traverses the farm. The effect on any other animals might not have been so startling, but we always thought that oil was the very thing that made hogs, else why all this talk about the Standard octopus.

—No person who heard the Hon. CHARLES EMORY SMITH speak in public will fail to remember what a profound and polished man he appeared to be. His writings, as well as his orations, were fraught with great, broad, uplifting thoughts that were good for humanity and now that their author is no more they will live as our inheritance from a life that was a credit to himself and a blessing to his fellows.

—TOM LAWSON, having given up his fight against the "System," occupies eight pages in McClure's Magazine in telling why he did it. TOM never was far behind OUIDA or RIDER HAGGARD in descriptive powers and the way he tells it to the public leaves no doubt about our getting off place. Naturally, TOM did it all, but the fellows who were done by following his advice won't feel that their lot is any easier because he has put them in a class known as "safron faced apes."

—Next Saturday the primaries for borough and township elections will be held in Centre county. It is well to bear in mind that these primaries will be held under the old law and not according to the new, as will the primaries for county offices to be held later. Again we advise all well minded citizens to be careful of the character of the men placed on the tickets. Every candidate should be selected with regard for his personal fitness for the office he aspires to fill, rather than because of his personal popularity. The best interests of local government will always be best subserved by those who have the most at stake.

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The Rate Law Decision.

No thoughtful man was greatly surprised at the decision of the Supreme court of Pennsylvania declaring the rate law unconstitutional. There was a little reason for surprise at the division of the Bench on the subject. Chief Justice MITCHELL and Justices FELL, BROWN and ELKIN signed the majority report and Justices MESTREZAT, POTTER and STEWART dissented. The Chief Justice and those who joined with him in the opinion which invalidates the law are believed by many persons to be as much the servants of the railroads of the State as any freight crew in their service. They reasoned themselves to their conclusion, not by legal processes but by the interests of their masters, the corporations.

The opinion of the court insults public intelligence by asserting that the rate fixed in the act of assembly is confiscatory, notwithstanding the fact that the Pennsylvania railroad, plaintiff in the case, is earning under the provisions of the law, eleven per cent. on the capitalization of the property. If that is confiscatory the investors who are content with the returns from three and four per cent. government bonds would like to know what the National government is doing to them. The decision is based, of course, on a theory that profits of each branch of the enterprise must be taken separately, and that the balances from the freight traffic can't be used to make up deficiencies in the passenger account. But the franchise to operate freight trains at an enormous profit is given by the State in consideration of favors to the public in other directions.

The reasoning of the court on that point is had enough but not "a patching" to the absurdity of the proposition advanced, in the majority of the opinion, that because an act of the Legislature passed nearly three-quarters of a century ago conferred upon the corporation the right to fix rates, the recent act is unconstitutional. The constitution of 1873 specifically states that a corporation accepting its provisions forfeits its right to claim under a charter previously granted. The Pennsylvania railroad long ago accepted the provisions of the constitution and became amenable to any subsequent acts of the Legislature.

Any intelligent school boy knows that and when the Chief Justice of the Supreme court and his associates on the bench declare the contrary, they reveal their servitude to the corporation and betray their recency to the public.

The dissenting opinion is signed by justices MESTREZAT, the only Democrat on the bench; STEWART, who was nominated by the Democrats; and POTTER, who has recently on several occasions expressed Democratic principles. When MITCHELL and BROWN were catapulted on the bench the operation was at the instance of the Pennsylvania railroad and in perverting their power to the service of the road they are simply discharging a sinister obligation. The attitude of Messrs. MESTREZAT and STEWART, however, points the way by which relief may be obtained from the evils of corporate domination. It is in the success of the Democratic party which is the party of the people.

Shumaker Not a Scapgoat

The failure of the capitol grafters to secure a postponement of their trial through the infirmities of former Superintendent of Public Grounds and Buildings SHUMAKER, encourages the belief that they are likely to be brought to justice. If there had been no intention to prosecute, and we were very much inclined to believe that was the case, Mr. SHUMAKER'S health, or want of health, would have formed a plausible excuse for delay. That it was the intention of the defendants to take advantage of the conditions admits of no doubt. But Attorney General TODD and prosecutor SCARLET are in earnest and were too alert to be deceived by such a subterfuge.

The grafters must have been very much disappointed at the failure of their plans. It is the first time since the operations began that SHUMAKER'S failed them. But hitherto the infirmities with which they had to deal were moral rather than physical. With PENNYPACKER misinterpreting the law and HUSTON, SANDERSON and CASSEL imploring him to be blind and deaf, he was more a victim than a criminal. The Criminals were those who deceived him as to the law and the facts in the case. PENNYPACKER ought to have been arraigned instead of the poor invalid who in the shadow of the penitentiary is a moral and physical wreck.

"Ignorance of the law excuses no man," however, and SHUMAKER must accept the consequences of his folly. He ought to have known better than accept the interpretation of the law from a man who idolized QUAY. He ought to have seen the collusion between the architect and contractors and defeated their conspiracy. No doubt they flattered him as DURHAM and PENROSE flattered PENNYPACKER and probably they allowed him to gather a few crumbs of spoil which fell from the table.

But he was not the projector or the manager of the iniquities. Those who discharged those offices were higher up and will try to escape by putting the blame on him as they tried to postpone the trial through him.

Cost of the Isthmian Canal.

While the legislation authorizing the construction of the Isthmian canal was pending in Congress, the late Senator MORGAN, of Alabama, suggested the possibility that it might cost a billion dollars. Of course that estimate was promptly "laughed out of court," and a commission, composed of men who were probably in on the deal estimated the actual and ultimate cost at \$140,000,000. Some time after the work had been in progress this estimate was increased to \$300,000,000, the \$40,000,000 payment to the French concessionaires and the \$10,000,000 paid to the Panama pirates being cited as accounting for the difference, though it left a matter of \$10,000,000 to conjecture.

Within the last few days we have been getting some new and not uninteresting information on the subject. Secretary of War TAFT, who is really head of the operation, was before the Senate Committee on Inter-oceanic canals one day last week and intimated that the cost of the enterprise is likely to be as much as \$300,000,000. That was a scorching hot subsequent events indicate that it wasn't the worst. In other words we are led to infer that we are getting the facts on the installment plan and are being led up to the enormous aggregate by easy stages. Colonel GOETTEL, chief engineer of the Commission, testified the other day that probably the cost will exceed \$500,000,000.

In the end it may turn out that Senator MORGAN was not far out of the way in his billion dollar estimate. If there had been a suspicion at the time that anything like \$500,000,000 would be required to complete the work, it never would have been begun. But it was part of the plan of the dominant party to keep the people poor. Men in want are always docile and the frenzied financiers who are exploiting the country for their own advantage know that there is no more certain way of impoverishing the masses than by profligacy in government. The half billion dollar canal will cost immense sums for maintenance and while it is drawn from the earnings of the people there is no danger of a plethora.

The Quay Statue.

The public has been informed, through semi official channels, recently, that work on the QUAY statue is rapidly drawing toward a finish. For more than two years an eminent sculptor has been "plugging" away at the marble, and a photograph taken within a week indicates most excellent results. The face and figure already show a striking resemblance to the "old man," and if present expectations are not disappointed, the "counterfeit presentment" will soon be ready to put in place. The public has not been informed as to the place, thus far. The act of assembly designates the capitol grounds but the promoters of the enterprise are said to have different notions on the subject.

Of course it doesn't matter much where the statue is placed. A statue of QUAY will represent QUAYISM as much in one place as another. Inside or out it will stand as the emblem of corruption in public life. QUAY'S career was a long drawn out orgy of political vice. He not only practiced but taught and encouraged official immorality. But that was the only way he could maintain his commanding position in the party machine of which he was the head. If he had been a man of lofty impulses and high ideals, he would have been cast aside as other men of that type were discarded. QUAY was what he was because if he had been anything else he would have lost his power.

All things considered we are glad that the statue is approaching completion. We are anxious to see what will be done with it and who will participate in the ceremonies attending the erection and unveiling. To the last day of his life QUAY was cherished by the leaders of his party as a model of political sagacity and patriotism. As he emerged from the criminal court with the odor of a prison clinging to his garments he was idolized by men who professed morality. Now that he is dead they will probably shun his effigy. But they can't shake off the responsibility for his iniquities. He was bad but probably mainly for the reason that his friends required it of him.

—The attention of WATCHMAN readers is called to the change of the advertisements of Lyon & Co., and the Bellefonte Lumber company in this issue. If you are in need of anything in the dry goods or clothing line try Lyon & Co., and if you want any lumber or building material of any kind call on the Bellefonte Lumber company. Each place has bargains in its own special line.

Just Where We Stand.

Mr. Bryan says "the rank and file will govern the coming Democratic convention." We hope so, but past experience leads us to believe that Mr. Bryan will do all the talking for "the rank and file" and then won't be satisfied unless his say so goes. That, in our opinion, is Mr. Bryan's only serious weakness.—Bellefonte Watchman.

Isn't this reflecting just a bit on the rank and file and isn't the real objection to Mr. Bryan found in the fact that when he talks he somehow manages to articulate thought which lies deep in the hearts of the inarticulate masses? But if Mr. Bryan should fall silent, then who would the esteemed WATCHMAN select to do the talking? Perhaps it would prefer to listen to Grover Cleveland, George Gray and other gentlemen who have been helping the Republicans so faithfully for a dozen years.—Johnston Democrat.

We have always regarded the Johnstown Democrat as one of the strongest papers editorially that we have the pleasure of reading, consequently we have regard for its opinion. Right or wrong we believe it to voice honest conviction, therefore the utter facility of trying to make its editor, the Hon. WARREN WORTH BAILEY, see through any other than his own glasses.

The WATCHMAN does not yield to any paper in its admiration of Mr. BRYAN, nor in its past loyalty and support of his candidacy, nor in that in the future should he be the nominee of the party again. The WATCHMAN was a Simon-pure Democrat before either Mr. BRYAN or the esteemed Democrat were heard of in the party and we speak from experience of which we have no reason to be ashamed when we say that whenever one man gets the idea that he knows more than all the others combined then there is danger of some of the others taking exception to it. That was the Hon. GROVER CLEVELAND'S trouble, developed during his second term. That is Mr. BRYAN'S trouble to-day, though not nearly in the marked degree it was four years ago.

The WATCHMAN is and will be, for any good man whom the party can elect upon a fundamental Democratic platform, but it doesn't believe in quarreling and splitting hairs over those fundamentals until the party is split beyond the hope of electing anything.

There are scores of good men in the Democratic party who have been loyal to its principles and its nominees, who are fit for presidential honors. Some of them may be stronger before the people than Mr. BRYAN. Many of them may not have the autogonisms that seem to handicap him and for this reason might have a better chance of election. And after all that is what we are all after—the election of our nominees. If not that, then what are we fighting for?

While this paper may have its doubts as to the advisability of the nomination of Mr. BRYAN, it could and will support him if nominated, just as earnestly as it did in his former campaigns, or as it will any other nominee who may be named. It is not a stickler for men, nor does it believe that in one man alone all the principles and hopes and future of the party are concentrated.

The candidate the WATCHMAN is for is the man who has always, and under all circumstances, been a Democrat, who is fit for the high honor and who when the convention meets gives promise of being the strongest man in the States that are known as the "doubtful ones" and which must be carried by the party if we are to succeed in the coming campaign. If Mr. BRYAN is that man, then we are for him. If he is not then we are for the man who is, be that JOHNSON or FOLK or CULBERTSON, or GLENN, or whom he may be.

The Keeping of the Commandments.

Our esteemed but sometimes stupid contemporary, the Philadelphia Record, misconceives the reasons which make the leadership of the Democratic party by former State Senator FLINN repellent to the editor of this paper. It is not that we have abandoned the commandments for the reason that Mr. FLINN is again making a false pretense of obeying them. The leadership of FLINN is obnoxious because it is dishonest. His pretense of obeying the commandments is simply for the purpose of putting him in position to destroy them.

FLINN is organically and fundamentally wrong in his political purposes. When he joined the insurgent movement in the Legislature of 1899, his scheme was to betray the reformers who were associated with him and he revealed it at the outset by preventing the organization of the House of Representatives by the fusion forces. He wanted to make the late C. L. MAGEE Senator in Congress rather than improve the official morals of the State or correct the political faults of the machine. If his absurd leadership had been rejected then, the Democratic party and the cause of political reform would be in better shape now.

The editor of the WATCHMAN believes in the commandments and will support any honest and earnest movement to advance them. But he sees little promise and much hazard in following a leadership which has no higher purpose than to sacrifice the political and official morals of the State to the ambition of former Senator FLINN and

a Philadelphia partner of his who has less brains and just as little conscience. Meantime the esteemed Philadelphia Record is admonished to let the editor of the WATCHMAN take care of his own political salvation and estate.

Will Not Resign.

From the Johnstown Democrat.

The Republican party is welcome to its Secretary Cortelyou of the national treasury. That dignified if very indolent gentleman is a little bit more in the public limelight now than usual. But it is not the kind of limelight that the average ambitious politician covets. It is the investigation limelight the kind that has been turned onto certain notable men during the last few years and the kind that has developed the fact that their greed for gain far outweighed their boasted "patriotism," their love of the "national honor" and their devotion to "safety and sanity." Certain United States Senators seem determined to expose the history of the recent Cortelyou bond issue "to relieve the financial situation." They appear to entertain the notion that Secretary Cortelyou should be put on the rack and forced to explain how his "relief" measure really had any other effect than to insure the banking firm of J. P. Morgan & Co., of Wall street, the very handsome profit of 32 1/3 per cent in one year on the large issue of government bonds to that thrifty high financial firm. The senators want the information at once, but announcement comes from Washington that Secretary Cortelyou "will take his time to explain."

In connection with the statement that Mr. Cortelyou "will take his time to explain" comes the farther announcement that soon after the bonds were allotted he was tendered the presidency of the Knickerbocker Trust company of New York. That he has earned this recognition from the big bankers of Gotham seems to be warranted by the facts. It is not so important whether he will accept the offer. It is not so important whether he will resign from the cabinet to receive the reward that is his. But it is important that he was tendered the place within a few days after he had placed the bonds in the hands of the financial trust. It is important that the visit of Mr. Morgan to Washington, when he "saw" Mr. Cortelyou.

We are inclined to believe that Senators Culbertson and Tillman will not resist the whole nasty business has been washed out. The bond issue was a gross fake. It was conceived in an evil hour and its hurried distribution into the hands of the Wall street band of financial pirates seems to suggest, if it does not confirm, the suspicion that something is rotten in Denmark. The very fact that the entire \$100,000,000 of the bond issue was not allotted, but that there was great haste in the decision to stop further allotment after the visit of Mr. Morgan to Washington, unerringly points to a woodpile where a nigger may be concealed: for if a bond issue of \$5,000,000 or \$40,000,000 was a good thing for the financial stringency certainly a bond issue of \$100,000,000 would have been better still. But the bond issue was not designed to help the tottering financial system. If it had been the entire \$100,000,000 and much more if necessary would have been forthcoming. We suspect that in a final show down it will be made pretty clear that the sudden determination not to issue the original \$100,000,000 was inspired by knowledge of the fact that the general public "smelled a mice." It was a case of too much Morgan.

In the meantime the Cortelyou presidential boom is in danger of utter collapse. But that need not greatly worry the future of the young man who has been brought up under imperial hands. If he cannot gain the presidency of the United States under the Republican nomination for president he can at least attain the presidency of a big Wall street bank at much better pay. Wall street has never neglected to take good care of secretaries of the treasury, including several Republicans and at least one Democrat, who has been a pretty good Republican ever since the time of McKinley. The Democrats know him no more.

Not a Free Trade Panic.

From the Free Trade Broadside.

The financial distress of 1893 was attributed to the Wilson bill by the Republican party. How an event which occurred before the bill was formulated resulted from it, is only clear to the protective mind. Usually causes precede results. Nevertheless, it is the fashion to speak of the "free trade" or "Wilson" panic, regardless of the fact that the Wilson act was too grossly protectionist for President Cleveland to sign. Yet the loose accusation has been widely accepted as gospel truth. The falsehood that the panic of 1893 and that of 1873 (when only Republicans were in power) were also caused by free traders, has been current for a generation.

These notions are now exploded. At last we have a panic of undisputed origin. This time the free traders can prove an alibi. A protection president, a protection congress, and "good protection times" were in control. But here is the panic in full blast and the wicked Democrats are beyond all suspicion of paterfamilias. While only shallow minds can claim that tariff legislation fully explains these protective revolutions, it is certain that restrictive laws injuriously affect business conditions. To say that overexpanded trade and security inflation must result in a collapse is to utter a truism. But what is responsible for them? Protective tariffs furnish artificial stimulation, exciting business activity, as alcohol for a time develops physical strength. Reaction is inevitable. The trusts which furnish the bulk of unsound securities grow as naturally from the tariff as weeds spring from the compost heap.

Spawls from the Keystone.

—State Treasurer-elect John O. Sheatz has leased a residence in Harrisburg and will remove there in May. He will devote all his time to the duties of his office.

—Mayor Weimer, of Lebanon, has issued an order to the police force directing the members thereof to take no active part in the present political fight which is now being waged in that town.

—The Geiser Manufacturing company, in Waynesboro, on Wednesday mailed checks for its annual dividend, amounting to \$105,000. The checks were distributed among several hundred people.

—The Abington Library association of Jenkintown, near Philadelphia, has been bequeathed \$10,000 in cash and books, book-cases and paintings valued at \$10,000 by the late John Lambert, a distinguished Philadelphia artist, who died a few days ago.

—F. Milton Baer, of Reading, was buried on Saturday with his own 200 love letters that he had sent to his sweetheart, now his widow, and that she had sent to him. During their courtship they agreed to save all the letters and the one who died first should use them as a pillow.

—Several weeks ago Dr. Daniel Dechert, of Schuylkill Haven, opened a boil on a patient's neck. The doctor had a pimple on his own thumb which absorbed some of the poison from the boil, blood poisoning followed and on Sunday his right arm was amputated with the hope of saving his life.

—Ernest Dimm, of Muncy, Lycoming county, dislocated his shoulder bone while asleep on Friday night. It required four men working two hours to replace it. Mr. Dimm, when retiring, did not notice anything wrong with his shoulder but upon awakening found his shoulder bone out of place.

—Clearfield borough has not been in such a deplorable financial condition since the 1889 flood. Then the authorities were compelled by urgent sanitary reasons to violate the constitution and the laws in order to raise funds and borough orders would not go at par anywhere. Today business men all over town object to taking borough orders at their face value.

—Gazing intently at a number of choice pigs in the sty of Joseph Reasner, of Sandy township, Clearfield county, whom he had gone to visit, Edward Gelinet, an aged veteran and well known citizen of Sandy, suddenly fell forward to the floor of the pig pen and expired, on Thursday morning, before medical aid could be summoned. Deceased was 77 years of age and is survived by an invalid wife.

—The members of the Third Presbyterian church of Williamsport, have decided to erect a new edifice at a cost of \$70,000. The new church building will be built of a brown gray stone and will have a seating capacity of 832, including the gallery. The auditorium will be amphitheatre in style, and in the basement there will be an assembly room, dining room, kitchen, check room, toilets, etc.

—The Risk theatre, in Huntingdon, is being overhauled for the purpose of securing greater safety to patrons of it. Some inflammable bunting about the stage is to be removed and six five-foot openings are to be placed at the front with the doors all opening outward, and with a red light at each door and also at a door at the rear, so that there will be no trouble finding the exits in case of a panic.

—The blowing out last week of the Rock-hill Furnace company's blast furnace at Rockhill, Huntingdon county, and the blowing out on Monday of Hon. Joseph E. Tropp's furnace at Earlton, Bedford county, have been the sharpest reminders to the people in the Broad Top region that the iron business is in a sadly depressed condition, thanks to the manipulations of the speculators in Wall street.

—A premature explosion of dynamite caused a severe accident near Greenwood, Franklin county, on Friday, in which William Grooms had his left hand blown off and the right hand badly shattered. The accident occurred at the sand banks of Smith & Middleland. A number of others who were employed at the banks were injured but not seriously. It is believed at the Chambersburg hospital that both his arms would have to be amputated.

—United States Senator Bois Penrose has introduced a bill into congress making Sunbury a point for holding of the United States courts in Pennsylvania. This court is now held by U. S. Judge W. Archibald, of Scranton, at Harrisburg, Williamsport and Scranton. Sunbury is in the centre of the district and for this reason is a more suitable location for the United States court. On account of the lack of a federal building no cases involving trial by jury are to be held at Sunbury according to the provisions of the bill.

—Miss Anna Johnston died at her home in Latrobe on Wednesday, aged 94 years. Deceased was a sister of the late William F. Johnston, who was governor of this State from 1848 to 1852. Two other brothers of the deceased, Thomas and Alexander, were graduates of West Point and served in the United States army; Edward attained to political fame in Iowa; Andrew was prominent in public affairs in Westmoreland county; James was a noted veteran newspaper man; Colonel John W. was a soldier in the Mexican and Civil wars and Richard was also in the Mexican war and was killed in battle at the head of his company.

—The police of New Kensington, Westmoreland county, are looking for a man who gave his name as Dickerson, who arrived there last Monday and made inquiries as to the best boarding houses. The first house he sought out was that of Mrs. Ellen Ennis. He told Mrs. Ennis that he wished to engage boarding for himself and four other young men who wanted the best, regardless of cost. After remaining for dinner and staying a short time in his room, Dickerson was heard to leave the house. During the evening Mrs. Ennis discovered that the entire upstairs of the house had been ransacked, and that she had lost a valuable diamond ring, a gold watch and chain and various other articles of jewelry. Later it developed that Dickerson had engaged board at at least four other houses in the town, and managed to make a good haul from every one of them.