

Those Hungarian counts seem to have very taking ways, especially when it comes to the VANDEBILT coin.

Taft and Bryan are getting their buttons out early perhaps to make the other fellows look like button in.

Who got the "wad"? It would be quite some satisfaction to know that, even if the trimmers are not convicted.

As a matter of fact we have had very little real winter this year, but what we have had has been of the kind of which a little goes a great way.

An automobile race around the world started from New York yesterday at noon and neither BO HUNTER, Dr. KILPATRICK nor WILLARD HALL are in it.

If SANDERSON had "to put up a big wad for other people" the next step in the program should be to ascertain from the gentleman who the other people were.

The Hon. Mr. TAFT made the Hon. Mr. FORAKER look like the breaking up of a hard winter out in Ohio on Tuesday, yet it takes more than one State to make a presidential nominee.

The Arkansas courts have decided that a husband can be punished for reading letters addressed to his wife. This does not apply to duns from milliners and modistes, however, though a full measure of punishment follows just the same.

What Mr. architect LEWIS has had to say about the capitol trimmings graft is startling, to say the least. If he has spoken the truth while on the stand every vestige of doubt as to the guilt of the men under indictment should be wiped away.

SAMUEL H. DIEHL has shied his political car into the arena and announces that he intends to fight for the Republican nomination for Treasurer. With SAM and BERT TAYLOR both in the equation our Republican friends are likely to see something doing.

The Virginia State chemist who has declared all women as inferior beings, physically, mentally and morally evidently had never heard of the prowess of CARRIE NATION; the mortality of BELVA LOCKWOOD and the goodness of FRANCES WILLARD.

Ex-Secretary of the Treasury SHAW says he would like to see J. PIERPOINT MORGAN the next President of the United States. Inasmuch as MORGAN doesn't need the salary and the masses do need what little chance they yet have Mr. SHAW's hope will hardly be realized.

The Washington Post does it out that HUGHES is to be nominated on the fourth ballot. The Hon. TOM TAGGART says TAFT is to be nominated on the first ballot; so there you are. The chances just now look to be very much against either one of them being nominated on any ballot.

The new Oklahoma Legislature is certainly beginning at the bottom. Among the first laws enacted was one requiring hotels to use nothing but sheets nine feet long and no dishes with cracks visible to the naked eye. Next they'll be legislating for the length of the Oklahoma shirt-tail and ordering an extra handle on the "blickey."

The digestive powers of the hyena are said to be so extraordinary that it can swallow six large bones without crushing them. This doesn't seem much in comparison to the novice who went to play the stock market the other day and, getting in wrong, said that he swallowed a lump in his throat as big as his head each tick down she went.

Germany is making a great ado because her crown Prince has entered a technical school and has actually descended to the point where he has been seen in overalls. Playing Crown Prince isn't just the safest job in the world these days and we think this one is to be congratulated that it was overalls and not a wooden overcoat he was seen in.

The mills of the gods grind slow but they grind exceeding fine. The horror of the sinking of the Gen. Slocum, the New York excursion boat that went down with a loss of one hundred lives, several years ago is only a faded memory now, but on Tuesday the last appeal of the captain of the vessel failed and he must start the term of ten years imprisonment he received for neglect of duty.

Though his squat on the editorial tripod was of short duration there can be no gainsaying the interest our young friend WILLIAM SHOPE excited in local journalistic fields. He was busy while he was at it and leaves some gems that are well worth treasuring. WILL was nothing when not original and it is with a feeling that we are really going to miss something that we learn of his retirement from the News.

At last! At last! The shoe is on the other foot. This week's issue of the Gazette states it fairly and squarely by accusing the Democrats of "calamity howling." Really it is amusing, since you all know that only four years ago the Gazette and its co-laborers were doing the "calamity howling" for all it was worth. The only difference is that at that time they were for fear PARKER might be elected; in other words "howling" before they were hurt. Now we are "howling" because we have had real experience of calamity to warrant it.

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The President's Last Scream.

The Ananias club is being strengthened by leaps and bounds. Hitherto it has been the rule of the President to add to it by single recruits. The induction of Mr. WHITNEY, of Massachusetts, was followed by the appointment to membership of Senator BAILEY, of Texas, Senator TILLMAN, of South Carolina, Mr. and Mrs. BELLAMY STORER, Mr. E. H. HARRIMAN and others singly and separately, until the organization had grown to considerable proportions and certainly comprised a respectable membership. But in his recent special message Mr. ROOSEVELT added a whole group of "malefactors of great wealth," some "predatory trust" managers and a miscellaneous assortment of people who didn't agree with him on what he calls his "policies." On Sunday last, being in a militant mood after his customary religious exercises, he added another job lot to the "herd," which included all the Senators in Congress who have recently voted against the confirmation of his appointees.

The vehicle through which the "Terrible Teddy" conveyed to the public information of his last increase in the membership of the Ananias was a letter addressed to Mr. WILLIAM DUDLEY FOULKE, of Indiana. Mr. FOULKE is somewhat of a civil service reform crank and when he heard that the President had been using the patronage of the government to promote the presidential aspirations of Secretary TAFT, he promptly and properly visited Washington and told TEDDY all about it. Of course the result was entirely satisfactory to Mr. FOULKE. The President assured him, in the most solemn way, that nothing of the sort had ever happened and though the information was extremely gratifying, he kept quiet about it. Other persons had been told things by the President and subsequently boasted of it to their sorrow. They were at once assigned to membership in the Ananias club, and FOULKE "may be a lobster but he ain't no clam." He treasured his joy and "kept his trap shut."

Strangely enough, however, that is what the President didn't want him to do, and there was no recourse except to write a letter. The President is ready with his type-writer and "took his pen in hand." "The statement that I have used the offices to nominate any presidential candidate," he wrote, "is both false and malicious. Of course it is. The offices can't nominate any candidate. They have no votes in the convention and it was an easy proposition for the President. 'Remember,' he added, "that those now making this accusation were busily engaged two months ago in asserting that I was using the offices to secure my own nomination." The wretches. "It is the kind of accusation," he adds, "which for the next few months will be rife." Shiver our timbers, nothing could be more dastardly. Finally the iniquity is summed up in the statement that "this particular slander will be used until exploded and when exploded those who have used it will promptly invent another."

This letter of the President touches the climax in mock heroics. It may be true that the President isn't using the offices "to nominate any presidential candidate," but it is as certain as that the day follows night that he is using the offices to elect delegates to the nominating convention for TAFT. It is equally certain that two months ago he was using the offices in the same way to elect delegates for himself and that since he was forced by commercial and industrial conditions to take himself out of the race he has been as viciously out of temper as the proverbial bear with a sore posterior. The Senators who have been assigned to membership in the ANANIAS club called his bluff and exposed his weakness and the screed from which we have quoted is the consequence. But he is not likely to go unanswared in this case. Unless we mistake the signs there will be a response to this emanation and the Senators won't have the hot end of the poker.

Taft or Roosevelt.

The enemies of the President in the Republican party are flustering themselves with the delusion that Secretary TAFT may be beaten for the Republican nomination for President without nominating ROOSEVELT himself. The result of the election of delegates in Florida has led them into this false notion. That was the first of the Southern States to choose delegates and it was expected that the white office holders would drive the colored voters in herds for the President's candidate. But this expectation was disappointed. The two factions were so nearly equal in the convention that one, nobody knows which, bolted and two delegations were chosen.

Of course if the same result should follow in all the other Southern States, or even in a considerable number of them, TAFT would soon be "put out of the running." To give him even a reasonable show of the nomination he must have the practically solid South in the convention. Pennsylvania is for KNOX, New York for

HUGHES, Wisconsin for LAFOLETTE, Iowa and half a dozen other States for favorite sons, and with the South divided and a half-hearted support from his own State, the President's favorite would make a sorry show in the balloting. But the defeat of TAFT won't bring much to KNOX, HUGHES or the other favorite sons. If TAFT is not ROOSEVELT will be nominated.

Nobody need imagine that ROOSEVELT relinquished his long and fondly cherished hope of another election willingly. No passion was ever as strong in a man as the lust for power is in ROOSEVELT. If the panic had not come to impair his popularity with the masses he would have been an avowed and inevitable candidate for the nomination now. But he was frightened from that purpose by the tide of opposition which set against him in October and continued to rise until after his declaration that he was not a candidate when it switched off to TAFT. But ROOSEVELT is not without power even now. He may not be able to command an election next fall but he can control the convention in June.

The Tariff Commission Scheme.

There has been no incident in the public life of the country in recent years more preposterous than the effort of Senator BEVERIDGE, of Indiana, to revise the tariff. BEVERIDGE is one of those adolescent statesmen who imagine that they have been put on the earth to correct all its faults. He is a protectionist, of course, and a stand-patter at heart. But he wants a committee created to revise the tariff for very much the same reason that PENNYPACKER called the Legislature of 1905 into extra session to pass reform legislation. "PENNY" thought that a bogus reform would postpone real reform for some time and BEVERIDGE believes that a tariff commission would prolong the existence of the present law at least a couple of years.

Singularly enough all the beneficiaries of the tariff share with BEVERIDGE in this desire for a tariff commission, and for practically the same reason. Each of them hopes to prolong the tenure of the present law and overbites an ambition to serve on the commission. That service would give at least a couple of years of most delightful junketing and graft. The commission would, of course, go everywhere in this and other countries in search of information, at public expense, and the protected interests would pay most liberally for continued favor. Altogether it is a hard-hearted enterprise and it will be a most-loved Congress which can disappoint the splendid expectations of the Indiana "BRADLEY Headstone."

It isn't often that we are able to bring ourselves into accord with Speaker CANNON but his answer to the delegation of manufacturers who addressed him the other day in favor of legislation creating a tariff commission was so appropriate that it would be unjust to withhold commendation. "When we revise the tariff," remarked the Speaker, "we will get our facts at first hand from those concerned and not take them second-hand from a commission." In other words the Speaker wants to be in the captain's office when the tariff barons come up to settle and he doesn't propose to transfer his opportunities to anyone else.

The Graft Conspiracy.

If there were uncertainty about the collusion among the officials, architects and contractors concerned in the construction of the capitol at Harrisburg, which constitutes criminal conspiracy, a week ago, there is none now. The testimony of STANFORD B. LEWIS, assistant to architect HUSTON, has removed all doubt. The defendants in the case now on trial were leagued together to loot the treasury. How the plunder was divided has not been revealed. What proportion went to the officials may never be known. But it is certain that the people were robbed and that had Mr. BERRY not been elected the criminal operations would have been continued indefinitely.

Governor PENNYPACKER, Auditor General SNYDER and Superintendent of Public Buildings and Grounds SHUMAKER deliberately open the doors of the State Treasury to SANDERSON, CASSELL and PAYNE & Co. HUSTON consented to the operations, consciously. He seems to have been a dreamer, entirely oblivious of his obligations, or a dope of those about him. But the others knew and proceeded with keen earnestness in their work of spoliation. After the election of Mr. BERRY they tried to "cover their tracks," so to speak, but instead of mitigating, that aggravated their crimes. It shows that they would, if it had been possible, have shifted the burden of guilt upon HUSTON.

The full extent of the conspiracy will never be known. The prosecution, in so far as it is controlled by JAMES SCARLETT, is earnest and capable, but it was never intended to convict. The Governor had no intention of involving his party in such a scandal when he began the investigation. But like the panic organized by the bankers, it got beyond his absolute control and the best that he can hope for now is that as little as possible will be revealed. If the Democratic ticket had been elected in 1906, however, a different result would have followed. Every dollar of the loot would have been traced and most of the money recovered and the full measure of punishment would have been meted out to the criminals as well.

Pennypacker's Part in the Looting.

The testimony of STANFORD B. LEWIS, assistant to architect HUSTON in the capitol building operations, on Friday of last week, revealed the relations of former Governor PENNYPACKER to the conspiracy to loot the State. When the report of the legislative investigating committee was made public six months ago we said that it was incomplete because it failed to incriminate PENNYPACKER. When the Dauphin county grand jury returned bills of indictment against SANDERSON, HUSTON, SHUMAKER, SNYDER and MATHUES, we said it had fallen short of its full duty for the reason that it had failed to include PENNYPACKER, the man of all others responsible for the crimes. But the legislative committee, the Dauphin county grand jury and the public accepted his false pretense of imbecility or simplicity and allowed him to go free.

There was no reason in the world why any thoughtful person should have been deceived into the idea that PENNYPACKER was an innocent victim of political sharpers and business sharks. His intense and absurd admiration for QUAY was in itself ample evidence of moral obliquity. "Birds of a feather flock together," and the real source of the admiration was QUAY'S achievements in crime rather than the attractiveness of his person or the attainments of his brain. A man who pays the tribute of homage to vice is himself vicious and PENNYPACKER'S inordinate devotion to QUAY was substantial proof of an absence of probity from his heart. His vanity and ambition may have influenced him in some measure to the evil. But the real forces were the bad impulses which found expression in admiration for successful crime.

There is nothing surprising, either, in the fact that HAMPTON L. CARSON, PENNYPACKER'S Attorney General, was accessory before the fact, to the conspiracy, or at least aided in the public deception which followed the exposure. CARSON was simply an echo of PENNYPACKER'S imbecility. He was ready at any time to give the sanction of his office to any iniquity or absurdity. It was he who officially declared, as the law officer of the Commonwealth, that the Legislature had the right to increase the compensation of judges, though the constitution in express and implicit terms forbids it. Possibly he didn't know any better and that the mistake was of the head. But in that event his occupancy of the office was a false pretense and a fraud and consequently execrable.

Machine Restoration Complete.

The score of 1905 may not have been entirely forgotten by the machine, but the gangsters have entirely recovered from it. It was a rather sad experience. It compelled DURHAM to pretend to be good and MONICHOLO was forced to do without city contracts for a year. Other disreputable benders to their jobs but they were obliged to keep civil tongues in their heads. Worst of all it was found necessary to nominate decent candidates for some of the offices and put a man into the office of Governor, who, though extremely partisan, has some respect for his honor and pays some regard to his obligations. That was a great hardship all around and may cost some of the leaders their personal liberty.

But this nightmare has been shaken off. When REYBURN was elected Mayor of Philadelphia last spring the signs became auspicious for a return to "the good old days of stealing." That incident plainly indicated the collapse of the reform and the restoration of the plunderers to power. It encouraged them to nominate a thoroughly proved tool for State Treasurer last fall and his election completed the work of restoration. The machine managers are no longer afraid. They have decided to quit pretending even. Pennsylvania is safe and certain anyway and what's the use of dissembling, they reason. The people of the State as well as those of Philadelphia are "corrupt and contented."

Feeling this way it is small wonder that the machine has determined to "burn the bridges behind it," and resume the old methods and take up the old men. Accordingly at a meeting of the Pennsylvania Club, in Washington, the other night a resolution declaring Colonel WESLEY R. ANDREWS as the choice of the machine for Governor was unanimously adopted. Congressman FOCHE spoke with great eloquence and force in favor of Colonel ANDREWS. Congressman CASSELL, who is under indictment for looting the State, is an officer of the club and he was very enthusiastic for ANDREWS. In fact they were all delighted to honor PENROSE'S secretary and welcome a return of the machine to power.

While working around a corn shredder on Wednesday James Clark, a farmer near Houserville, got his left hand caught in the cog wheels with the result that his little finger was mangled so badly it had to be amputated. Dr. Kidder, of Boalsburg, performed the operation.

United Rascality.

The confusion in the counsels of the defense apparent in the Dauphin county trials of the interesting gentlemen who built our fine state house is characteristic of the conduct of rogues, who feel the halter drawn. In union there is strength always, and it is the union of people in places of plunder which give them their success; but when the law reaches out for them they usually find their union to be a rope of sand, since their interests are severed by the anxiety of each to put the blame on his fellow, with the usual result that the whole company comes to grief. The rule of self preservation prevails among these people, who are most unlikely to remain bound by their agreement to stand together; so that it customarily happens that when the commonwealth can get indictments against a gang of men who have been robbing it, it can reach conviction through their own fears, confessions and oriminations. Up to the time of these trials there had seemed to be a general agreement among the accused to put the blame on the architect, to whom was cheerfully assigned the responsibility for the plans, prices and calculations. Now he seems to be taking his innings in getting out of the chief role and putting the state officers in the place to which they naturally belonged in the discharge of their responsibilities. The architect had an assistant in his work to whom the fourth of his profits seems to have been assigned, and the testimony of this assistant serves to pull the pair out of the top of the performance of the programme of the state's spoliation and to reduce them to their natural place of obedient humble servants to the officially responsible members of the combination. Our dear departed governor, who was among the responsible, so far is left on all hands to the safe position of the man who did not know what was going on in the work of which he had official care; a position of safety that is hardly compensated by its stamp of weakness. Probably when the defendants in this trial get their innings the public will be satisfied that the indictment for conspiracy stoutly binds all the defendants, and that justice will be fairly done if all are punished.

An Upward Tendency.

When, about a week ago, Judge Gary, chairman of the board of directors of the United States Steel Corporation, spoke in an interview of an inquiry from one of the railroads for 60,000 tons of steel rails, and the Pennsylvania railroad a few days later put in an order for 55,000 tons of rails, it was supposed that this was the sequel of the inquiry referred to in the work of which Judge Gary referred. But immediately afterward the president of the United States Steel Corporation in a statement made by him at Cleveland, O., with regard to trade conditions, mentioned an inquiry from a western road for 60,000 tons of rails, and the natural conclusion is that it was the western inquiry to which Mr. Gary referred and not the Pennsylvania's recently completed transaction. Mr. Gary had also spoken of inquiries from many railroads, thus indicating that there were other orders to come. The Pennsylvania having put in a considerable order, should the western road decide that it must have 60,000 tons, it is certain that orders would flow in quickly from the many other inquirers. Example is a powerful persuader.

The darkest hour, it is said, is just before the dawn. The combination of idleness and severe winter weather produced darkness so oppressive that it almost could be felt. But the optimist begins to see rifts in the clouds and promises of another dawn which ere long, doubtless will be able to see. The items mentioned and the news of Monday morning from Chicago that increase of orders has made it necessary to put 5,000 more men at the South Chicago mills of the Illinois Steel Company are favorable indications. These things mean resumption, though it should not be expected that the process will be explosive in its suddenness. It is unlikely that there will not be idle men with families to be provided for an indefinite period. The cessation of activity has been too considerable for restoration to come at a gallop. But the tendency is toward improvement and it may be expected to be continuous.

A Debt-Burdened Kingdom.

Portugal, with a total property valuation of \$2,500,000,000, is staggering under a funded debt of \$864,701,000. In contrast Switzerland, under republican government, and having a total property valuation of \$2,400,000,000, or approximately the same as Portugal, has a national debt of only \$19,757,000. Considering that Portugal has a smaller population and far less wealth than many American states, the funded debt which the little kingdom is carrying is something appalling. The running expense account last year was over \$62,000,000. An army of 40,000 regulars is maintained, which is not much out of proportion to the average armed force relative to population that is regarded as necessary in Europe, but the burden of maintaining a condition of war preparedness has been exceedingly onerous to Portugal and other small kingdoms. That kings are peculiarly costly luxuries is demonstrated by the fact that the administrative department of Portugal last year, including the running expenses of the royal family, drafted upon the national revenues to the extent of \$567,000. There is no room to question that the late king went the limit of his kingly prerogative as a spender.

Ready for the Black Hand.

Pennsylvania's determination to institute a lamplblack factory in connection with the state penitentiary indicates that they are making special preparation for Black Hands.

Spawls from the Keystone.

The Schuylkill Haven Iron and Steel works resumed operations yesterday.

The Penny has just placed another order for 55,000 tons of rails to be delivered during 1908, which is encouraging news.

In Norristown the license on moving picture shows has been raised from \$25 to \$100 a year, the same as regular theatres.

Somerset county has twenty-six candidates for nomination on the Republican ticket for county commissioner, at the primary election on April 11.

At a dance in the large new hotel of John McHillo, in Taylor, near Scranton, on Saturday night a stove was upset and the hotel was burned. Loss \$8,000.

In one day last week 1,700 tons of ice were stored in the houses at Hibernia dam, on the Brandywine, above Coatesville, and 128 men were employed. The houses hold 12,000 tons.

Rev. J. Max Longsdorf, pastor of the United Evangelical church, of Tower City, Schuylkill county, on Sunday while eating oysters, bit on a pearl which is said to be worth \$750.

The borough council of Huntingdon has under consideration a plan in detail for a complete sewer system, of sufficient capacity for a population of 25,000, the cost of which is estimated at \$80,000.

The Hamburg Silk Mill company, of Hamburg, Berks county, has been awarded a contract to furnish the United States government 60,000 black silk muffers for use in the army and navy departments.

A cow owned by Stephen Hair, of Shermansdale, Perry county, has just given birth to twin calves. She is about eight years old and has given birth to five sets of twins, one set of triplets, and two single calves, a total of fifteen.

The funeral directors of Central Pennsylvania comprising Blair, Centre, Cambria, Bedford, Huntingdon and other centrally located counties will hold their annual convention in Altoona on the first Tuesday of May, 1908.

Burglars made a good haul at the store of John Sabota, at Loyallhanna, Westmoreland county, shortly after 11 o'clock, last Thursday night, when they carried off seven gold watches, a lot of rings and other jewelry, and the cash register in which was about six dollars in change.

By defeating an amendment to the Indian bill in the House at Washington Thursday, the Carlisle Indian School, which, with others the Secretary of the Interior sought to have abolished, will remain in Pennsylvania and continue its work of educating the Indian.

Housekeepers in Pittsburg had a pleasant surprise on Saturday by a great decline in prices of foodstuffs, meats having dropped about four cents a pound, strictly fresh eggs selling at 23 cents per dozen, roller flour \$1.50 per sack, and straight ten cent canned goods three cents for 25 cents.

Six Italians were arrested at Pittsburg last Friday charged with being implicated in Black Hand operations against E. B. Quay and other prominent residents of Sewickley, recently, and on Saturday they were held for trial at court. Two gave bail in \$500 but the other four, being unknown, were released bail.

Joseph C. Sibley will not be a candidate for election to congress this fall from the Twenty-eighth Pennsylvania district. He prefers to follow the course mapped out for himself when he retired from congress and spend some time in travel and recreation. He has so announced in a letter to Maj. McDowell, clerk of the house at Washington.

Recently John Franklin, a well known resident of near Roxbury, Franklin county, celebrated his 65th birthday. He can saw wood better than some men fifty years younger. Before the railroad was built to Philadelphia he drove a mule team down the canal from Middletown to Philadelphia, taking five days to go and six days to return.

Locked in a room of an Italian boarding house on the flat at DuBois on Thursday night, one armed with a razor and the other with a heavy butcher knife Frank Ferro and Jose Brucasso fought a bloody duel which resulted in the death of Ferro and his slayer is badly gashed about the head and in a decidedly serious condition. It could not be ascertained what was the cause of the fight.

Mrs. Frank Ellsworth Wenrick, of Reading, who is the mother of twenty-three children, twelve of whom are living, observes the birthday anniversary of each by giving a sauer kraut dinner. This keeps her busy throughout the year, as in January she has to serve two dinners, one for two children, in February one, in May two, in July two, in September two, in November one and in December one.

The Patriotic Order Sons of America will hold a district convention in Huntingdon on Saturday, February 22nd, in the P. O. S. of A. hall. The opening meeting will be a business session at 10:30 a. m. At the afternoon session an interesting program with subjects of discussion which will be of particular interest to the orders, will be rendered. A public meeting will be held in the evening and the program will be in charge of Camp No. 321.

After an enforced idleness of more than a month 1,000 men formerly employed by the Pennsylvania Steel company, at Steelton, have been called back to work. The re-employment of these men was the direct result of rush orders from New York for structural material for municipal buildings and an order for rails from the New York City Railway company. The number of men now employed by the plant is 2,500, about 40 per cent of the normal force.

Five deaths from typhoid fever have occurred during the last three days in the mining town of Boswell, Somerset county, the scene of the Merchant Coal company's operations. It is said there are now over 100 cases of the fever in the town. The contagion has been traced to the use of creek water for drinking purposes since some accident to the water company's reservoir, it is said, and the town's board of health has taken the matter up with the state health department.