

BY P. GRAY MEEK.

Ink Slings.

— Make some sacrifice during Lent but don't let your umbrella keep it.

— Japan is so king for a snap this time. She is thinking of declaring war on China.

— Senator KNOX has not withdrawn from the Presidential race. That is not necessary.

— The anarchist who defies all law should be disposed of as summarily as possible.

— Base ball bats are beginning to take up part of the show windows of sporting goods stores.

— If there were more SHIPPYNS in the country there would be fewer anarchists and the pity is that there are not more.

— There can be no government without law. Anarchists defy all laws consequently have no rights any government should protect.

— Wendeday's sky and sunshine had a decided look of spring but, the snow and ice underfoot made it dangerous to take too many glances at it.

— March is certainly not a lion but it came in giving about as good an imitation of roaring, hustling and spitting as any lion we have ever seen.

— Mrs. MARY HARRIS ARMOR thinks that the United States will be dry in ten years, but think of the good time some of the boys can have while those ten years are passing.

— A bill has been introduced in Congress appropriating seventy-five thousand dollars for a new public building in Tyrone. And to think Tyrone is getting ahead of us.

— In Baltimore a war among undertakers has resulted in advertising funerals at bargain prices. However, these are a kind of bargain sale that there won't be any overhaste in attending.

— If Bishop OLMSTEAD really thinks "it is not so wicked for clergymen to kiss the sisters" he is willing to even up by giving the brothers a little osculatory chance at the Mrs. clergymen.

— When the President wrote to the chief executive of Peru and alluded to us as "my people" he ought to have started to a foot-note in which HARRIMAN, HAYWOOD and Mrs. STORER were excepted.

— Professor McCONNELL says that love is electricity. Perhaps that is the reason that the young couples are usually able to get along without a light in the front parlor after the old folks have gone to bed.

— Williamsport is happy because her tax rate is to be reduced from 20 to 13 mills, but Williamsport is hotter than she is happy because the assessed valuation has been increased sufficiently to make up the difference.

— The investigation of the United States treasury is revealing the kind of securities that Secretary CORTELYOU accepted to help Wall St. out of the pinch. Indications point to the uncovering of a great assortment of "cats and dogs."

— On Wednesday nearly two million pounds of fish were offered for sale in New York in preparation for the Lenten period. In March a year ago a much larger sale—and they were all suckers—took place in the same city—on Wall street.

— One of the reasons given by Mrs. A. HART MCKEE in her suit for divorce against her husband is that "he wore his socks for a month at a time and then threw the remains away." This sounds rather fishy for we don't believe there would be any remains.

— If the lawyers for the defense are able to make a mistrial out of that capitol graft case because of the flaws over a suspected juror there will probably be an end of the whole thing. It will drag along then indefinitely until the gang gets entrenched again and then—Well, it will be forgotten.

— The frightful holocaust at Cleveland on Wednesday in which one hundred and sixty-five school children were burned to death and scores were mortally injured is another of the many tragedies that have been crowding so rapidly into 1908. The cause is easily explained now that it is too late, but it proves that often the most trifling thing brings about the greatest disaster.

— If the future work of the Hon. DOMINIC JUDGE, the new president of the Bellefonte council, gives as general satisfaction as his committee appointments there will be cause for rejoicing on all sides. It is seldom that all the members of council are satisfied with the work given them at the annual reorganization meeting, but this time every one seems to have been assigned to the duty most congenial to him and there is consequent good feeling.

— The promptness and good grace with which the WATCHMAN subscribers are replying to the call to have all accounts settled up by April 1st in accordance with the recent ruling of the United States Post Office Department is not only a matter of greater personal gratification to the publisher, but it proclaims the personnel of the readers of this paper. We always did have faith in them and this decidedly unusual response proves, beyond question that the WATCHMAN'S list is made up of honest people who have the means to pay for what they get and this should be a reminder to advertisers who want to place their wares before people who can buy them.

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Dalzell's Annual Tariff Speech.

Senator KNOX having set forth his merits for the presidency, JOHN DALZELL made his perennial glorification of the tariff, incidentally instructing the House on the grandeur of the graft as a means of perpetuating Democratic institutions, the other day. The address of DALZELL challenges attention solely for the curious contradiction it reveals between the two clashing segments of the Republican party. THOMAS ROOSEVELT having found many of the historical traditions of the Democracy available for his purpose, has set them firmly in the platform of the coming Republican convention. He has found that his party has lived as long as it was safe to venture in open defiance of the first principles of civic decency. That it is no longer safe to make official rapine the controlling condition of party success. That the masses who have hitherto looked with complacency upon QUAYism are dangerously near revolt; that such spectacles as the capital pillage in Harrisburg, the perversion of government employ into opportunity for private graft, must for the time being come to a pause.

DALZELL on the contrary, sees nothing in the past of the party that need mend. It has brought prosperity. It has made the favored rich beyond the wildest dreams of avarice. It has made the money barons the law makers of the land. He assumes the old QUAY attitude. Whatever is right, since it is done in the name of the Republicans party. The "prosperity" that the Republican hierarchies machined with the administration of McKinley as revealed in the long roll of turpitudes exposed in the insurance scandals, the railway exactions, the official conspiracies in government departments, were, he contends, in the interest of the Republican party and, therefore, working incidentally for the well being of the country. That is to say, the Republican party, like the King, can do no wrong.

The collapse of the money system, the annihilation of public confidence, the universal disruption of industries, the beggarly of the masses, Mr. DALZELL conceives to be an evidence of the wise statesmanship and irresistible necessity of the continuance of his party in power. The tariff which despoils two-thirds of the masses to enrich the "nefarious rich," against whom ROOSEVELT is now waging the antics of pretended opposition, DALZELL holds to be the backbone of the country's prosperity. A means to the end of the perpetuation of the conditions that ROOSEVELT is vociferously demanding an end of. There could be no clearer measure of the conflict now tearing the vital of the Republican party than a comparison of the utterances of the Pittsburg politician and the Republican executive. If ROOSEVELT sells the truth the Republican party is existing in the iniquity of a shameless graft. If DALZELL tells the truth, the Republican party is pleased with its record and means to continue it, and in one particular he has the advantage of the chief of his party; he has the logical argument.

The Republican party having enriched the "nefarious" bands who control the organization by means of the tariff, cannot reform, for the instant it admits that the tariff is the "mother of trusts," the masses would turn in wrath against the handed plunders who have enabled the ROCKEFELLERS, the CARNEGIES, the "nefarious rich" in short, to take toll of the masses for their own special gains.

The Schuykill Judicial Contest.

The proceedings in Schuykill county to invalidate the election of Judge H. O. BECHTEL have been running very close to the line of absurdity. The main point of the prosecution was an allegation that the expenditure of \$900 in postage within a period of four months was necessarily fraudulent, notwithstanding the fact that the opposition had expended for the same purpose an exactly similar amount within the period of ten days. We are not surprised at this revelation, however. The editor of the WATCHMAN has known the expenditure of five times as much in one week, in the same way, and the affair would bear the closest scrutiny of the most unsympathetic court, if it were just.

The counsel for the plaintiff in the case was equally absurd, moreover, in asking for judgment against the defendants on the ground that some of the expenditures in the campaign might "open the door to the most flagrant misuse of money at the elections," in the future. But the elections of the future were not subjects of inquisition at the time. The court investigating the election of Judge BECHTEL had to do with that incident and no other. The people must look out for the future and if the existing laws are not adequate to prevent that "most flagrant misuse of money at elections," in the future, it is up to the Legislature to enact new statutes or strengthen the old ones.

As a matter of fact, it looks from this distance as if the proceedings against Judge BECHTEL were in the nature of harrassing

An Interesting Quarrel.

Representative LILLY, of Connecticut, protests that he doesn't intend to "let up" on his charge of fraud in the matter of submarine war ships. The charges are, substantially, that one of the corporations which manufactures the submarine ships has been too active in the lobby and induced the Naval Committee of the House to provide for too many submarines and not enough battleships in the naval appropriation bill. The Department, which has evidently not been taken into the submarine confidence, recommended four battleships and four sub-marines. The bill provides for two battleships and eight submarines. Mr. LILLY resents this as an insult to the President who favored the Department's recommendation, and an injustice to the builders of battleships. Incidentally he adds that probably it shows too much favor to the sub-marines.

As a matter of fact his accusation implies a lamentable measure of venality in the Committee on Naval Affairs of the House. Mr. LILLY declares that he is able to prove that the builders of the sub-

marines have promised to share the profits of the operations with certain members of Congress who are influential in determining the actions of the committee on Naval Affairs. This is a very grave indictment.

In the earlier history of Congress it would have created a profound sensation. Thirty years ago every member of that committee was a traitor to every principle of political honor and civic decency. They imagined that his election would have a tendency to check the Prohibition sentiment in Kentucky. The nominee of the Democrats, while not a Prohibitionist, sympathized with that movement. His opponents were ready to offer encouragement and make promises to the other side of that question and the four JUDGES cared more for the liquor interests than for the sublime principles of Democracy. That is the secret of the miscarriage of justice in Kentucky. It represents a sacrifice of principle for the promotion of a narrow and altogether selfish interest.

It may be that Governor BECKHAM was not an ideal candidate for United States Senator. Possibly his nomination was forced on the party by a machine organized by himself during his eight years in the office of Governor. But these facts do not justify the perfidy which resulted in the election of his Republican antagonist. In the end BECKHAM offered to withdraw and put in his place any Democrat who could command the support of a united party. Nothing could be fairer than that and the refusal to accept it shows that the four reelects are fundamentally wrong. We don't need either, at the present time but there is need for such industrial activities as will encourage liberal contributions to the corruption fund for the coming presidential campaign and for that purpose battleships have sub-marines "aktioned a mile." Nevertheless we hope the investigation will go on.

Charity Dinner Service.

On Saturday last 10,000 hungry Pittsburg people were fed by the Salvation Army from the proceeds of a charity collection. A vastly greater number were in need of similar beneficence, but the appeal of the Salvationists to the benevolence of the commercial and civic organizations yielded less than sufficient to meet all the obligations and the good intentionists had to be content with doing the best that was possible. The thousands who met the approach of the Sunday morning with hungry stomachs had the sympathy of the Christian workers who had "done their best to alleviate the suffering" incident to the pangs of hunger, but sympathy, admirable as it is, is inadequate to such emergencies.

In appealing to the Speaker of the House of Representatives in Washington, and the chairman of the committee on Ways and Means of that body, the other day, for a revision of the tariff, Mr. VAN CLEVE, president of the National Association of Manufacturers, who was careful to say, "We are not agitators or reformers. We are mostly Republicans and all protectionists," he added: "It is estimated by competent authorities that the graft overcharge and wrong done the American public because of the present tariff reaches \$3,000,000 a working day." That is an underestimate, but let it go. It means that \$900,000,000 a year are abstracted from the earning of the American people for no other purpose than to augment the unearned bounties of the beneficiaries of the system.

If this vast sum of money had been left in the pockets of the earners there would be no necessity now for charity tables or soup houses to feed men willing to work but unable to secure employment. Moreover this robbery is the real cause of the panic though no doubt the effect of it was aggravated by the speculations of Wall street and the inflammatory speeches from the White House. But if the earnings of the people had been accessible for the use of the people at the crucial moment, they might have laughed at the panic whether it came from Wall street or the White House. It is the poverty of the people which makes panics damaging and the tariff taxes keep the people poor.

In a return game at Clearfield Friday night the Bellefonte Academy basketball team again defeated the Clearfield High school team by the score of 35 to 17. February continued cold and disagreeable to the end and March came in very lion-like.

Inheritance Tax for the Present.

From the Commoner.

Aside from the remedies which are aimed at specific causes, there are some which are now intended to deal with conditions as they now exist. The inheritance tax, for instance, has been proposed as a means of compelling the holders of excessive wealth to turn over a portion of it to the government at death. There can be no doubt of the right of the state governments to regulate, as they will, the descent of property, and many of the states now collect an inheritance tax. It is probable that the supreme court would uphold a federal inheritance tax, although since the adverse decision on the income tax it is hazardous to say in just what the position of the court might be upon a question of taxation. But while a federal inheritance tax is justified by existing conditions, it can hardly be defended as a permanent policy. It is advanced as a means of reaching fortunes already swollen, but it is wiser to prevent them to be accumulated and then seize upon a percentage as a penalty. If the federal government will cease to grant privileges to favored individuals, and content itself with the equal treatment of all, there will be few fortunes large enough to constitute a menace.

An income tax has also been suggested as a means of reaching fortunes abnormally large. While a graduated income tax would have this effect, an income tax can be defeated as a permanent part of our fiscal system. As both our import duties and our internal revenue taxes are collected on consumption, and, therefore, bear most heavily upon the poor, we need an income tax to equalize the burdens of government and to compel wealth to bear its share.

Upon a careful consideration of the subject one must be convinced that the remedy for swollen fortunes is to be found in a return to the Jeffersonian doctrine; equal rights to all and special privileges to none. Where we find unequal fortunes, we find that in nearly every case they rest upon favors granted by the government, and in too many instances the injustice has been aggravated by inequalities in the law itself, so that the very ones who owe their great wealth to the generosity of the government shift their taxes and shifts to the shoulders of others the burdens which they themselves should bear.

Now that public attention has been turned to the ethics of money making, it is to be hoped that the awakening will result in the inauguration of such thorough reforms that all citizens will be put upon the same footing and treated with equal consideration in the creation of wealth and in the payment of the taxes necessary to support the national government.

Distrust Halts Business.

From the Lancaster Intelligencer.

It was stated yesterday in Congress that the United States treasury that day held over one thousand millions of dollars in gold; and yet the country's business has been thrown into distress by the lack of money. Evidently the government holds that which should from the business of the country from embarrassment through money shortage. Clearly it seems to be the fact that a proper accommodation of the country's wealth to the country's business needs is all that is needed to restore and continue its business prosperity; and it is the duty of Congress to determine what is needed to secure this much desired end.

The country's crops have been abundant, and an immense sum is coming into the country as the balance between its exports and imports. Apparently the conditions greatly favor the country's prosperity.

Certainly it must be prosperous; yet just as certainly its business is hampered; its manufacturers find no buyers and the wheels of its mills cease to go around. Demand has ceased in many quarters apparently entirely through lack of confidence; which has been checked by the difficulty thrown around the getting of money and credit, which cannot be unduly scarce or unwarranted, but which has come to be so considered through apprehension caused by the great call for it. It seems to be but a case of distrust accompanying excessive demand.

It is not possible to believe that this state of mind will long continue, and we may surely expect to have our business running along at normal speed before long. In fact, just as soon as confidence is restored by the pregnant facts showing that it should be.

Democracy's Power.

From the Pittsburg Post.

During these skirmish days before the battle, Democrats at times may feel despondent because a seeming quietude might indicate apathy. The mere interchange of jibes and jokes between the pickets ends in nothing. The air of coming victory as assumed by Republicans deceived nobody. The silent course of thought is running, and it is believed the outcome will be a splendid Democratic triumph.

The party needs no multiplicity of declarations to entangle, or befuddle. No necessity demands profession about every conceivable project that wild imagination might conceive or every vagary that dreamer might indulge. There is to-day proceeding in the political mind of this country a process of straining the false from the true, the lasting from the ephemeral, the immediate good from the delusive vision. For months the attempt has progressed to install a new cult of government, to usurp unfamiliar functions by officials not so eminent. The brazen program has been conducted by diverting the people from their proximate burdens by undue preachment about lesser ills.

Let Democracy assert that it will stand, as of old, against invalid encroachment by the Federal Government upon the States and that it will stop the burdening of the mass to enrich the few. With plain and firm front against centralized power and fully-fed wealth, Democracy can win.

Spaws from the Keystone.

The license court of Clearfield county granted two hotel licenses less this year than were granted last year.

Forty-eight car repairers who have been off duty for a month were put to work at the New York Central railroad shop at Jersey Shore on Monday.

The new system of calling trainmen in Altoona by telephone has now been completed and all are now summoned in this manner. 480 phones of the newest pattern have been installed.

— Remonstrances against thirty applicants for liquor licenses in Lycoming county were filed at the prothonotary's office in Williamsport on Saturday morning, by H. T. Ames Esq., acting as attorney for the remonstrants.

— Frank Scott, of Orbisonia, Huntingdon county, has invented and patented a door for stores and all kinds of buildings that is entirely automatic and opens and closes when approached from either side, entirely out of the way.

— State Fish Commissioner Meehan has received an old law and rule of his department that said salt shall be considered as poison when thrown into the waters of streams containing fish. The wardens have received new instructions on the subject.

— The district attorney of Berks county has announced that prosecutions will be brought against Deputy Factor Inspector Bechtel, or Mrs. Monroe, as recommended by the jury of inquest in the Boyertown theatre disaster, because the laws are too defective to sustain any charges.

— Theodore Adamouski, the Barnesboro tailor, in whose store the recent fire started that resulted in the destruction of \$90,000 worth of property and the burning to death of Mrs. Luxenburg, has been arrested on the charge of arson and murder and now languishes in the jail at Ebensburg.

— State Trooper Tucker, of company A, who was married to Miss Elizabeth C. Horstmann, of Mammoth, Westmoreland county, on Thursday, was dismissed from the service of the state police Friday by the captain, because of his having violated the order issued some time ago forbidding state troopers to marry.

— The tax levy in Williamsport for the next fiscal year, beginning next April, will be reduced seven mills, from twenty to thirteen mills. This great reduction is possible owing to the fact that at the triennial assessment the assessors increased the total valuation from \$10,000,000 to approximately \$14,000,000.

— Mrs. Lydia A. White, aged 80 years, a real "Daughter of the Revolution," and the youngest of them all, died at her home in Lancaster on Thursday, after a few days' illness. Her father, George Leonard, served under General Washington and participated in the battle of Germantown, Princeton and Brandywine.

— Many more railroad ties are delivered on the Huntingdon supervisor's division, No. 7, extending from Graville to west of Huntingdon, than any other supervisor's division on the entire Pennsylvania system. More than 300,000 were purchased through the Huntingdon office in 1907, amounting to nearly \$800,000.

— The greatest gathering of Welsh people ever held in this country was the Eisteddfod Fawr, or musical contest, in Scranton on Saturday. More than 25,000 were in attendance at the two sessions in the armory. The guest of honor was Governor Hughes, of New York, whose father was a former pastor of the Welsh Baptist church in West Scranton.

— The Leavenworth fair grounds will soon be a thing of the past and only a fence will mark the spot. It is the intention of the owners to remove all of the buildings, and Charles Hickson, of Williamsport, has already begun to tear down the stables and other small buildings. It is likely that the grounds will be divided into building lots after all of the timbers are removed.