

Ink Stings.

—It is soon time to hear from the Delaware peach crop.
—Next Tuesday it will be the wearing of the green for most of us.
—The grass at Hecla park is beginning to take on a decided picnic hue.
—Yesterday and the day before were mighty producers of the spring fever germ.
—After tomorrow if you want to run for office in Pennsylvania you will have to wait until the next time.
—The first whale for a year was sighted off the Long Island coast on Wednesday. It was probably looking for JONAH LOEB.
—The robins and the blue-birds are singing in the trees, while the travelers on the country roads are in snow-drifts to the knees.
—It costs money to maintain our Congress and it is like sending good money after bad, because we are getting nothing in return.
—Petriken Hall is likely to become quite a popular domicile for young couples who agree with the President on that one pet theory of his.
—Maryland, Mississippi and West Virginia have thrown up embankments against the Prohibition wave that has been sweeping over the South. They have evidently heard that story about how long a camel can go without a drink.
—Mayor SCHMIDTZ, of San Francisco, is out of prison under \$345,000 bail, after ten months' incarceration. The fact that he was able to raise such a bond makes it look as if his term had really been as profitable as his prosecutors declare.
—Mrs. HARRY THAW has sued for an annulment of her marriage to the slayer of STANFORD WHITE on the ground that he was insane when they were married. Thus the last chapter in one of the most tragic incidents in modern times is drawing to a welcome close.
—From the demands those world girdling automobiles are making on the horses of the western States to pull them out of the snow-drifts and mud holes we can see the work that is out for the polar bear and Esquimaux dogs when the girdlers get up into Alaska and Siberia.
—A crazy man shouted that the devil was on his way to catch all the sinners in a church in Mexico on Saturday and in the panic to get out of the structure three persons were killed. They must have been a bad lot indeed to be afraid to have the devil catch them in a church.
—The President's latest public address was before the mother's Congress in Washington on Tuesday. The burden of his talk was more babies. On a salary of fifty thousand dollars a year the baby question may not prove so serious, but from the standpoint of the man who is working for one dollar and a half a day, and only half-time at that—the stork is not the most welcome bird that flies.
—It is a great deal easier to make a panic than to recoup from the effects of one. That is the reason that the business interests of the country are dormant and likely to remain so for the greater part of this year. All forms of fever are the same in their effects and the financial fever that reached its crisis last October will require a long period of convalescence before it leaves the industrial system entirely.
—The Isthmian canal is to cost us three hundred million dollars and the expert engineer who was first in charge of the government work there has just published a statement in which he shows that neither commercially nor strategically will it be a very great benefit to this country. In addition to this rather pessimistic view he says it will be thirty-six years after the completion of the canal before it will be earning two per cent on the investment.
—Did it ever occur to you that the manufacturers of outlery have overlooked an opportunity to place a novelty on the market in which there might be millions. How really sensible and practical it would be for them to manufacture a small shovel to go along with the knife and fork. This would be a great utensil for the fellow who can't pile enough food on his fork as well as relieve the man who shovel in with their knives of the constant danger of cutting the corners of their mouths.
—If, as it is rumored, there is a disposition to pave Allegheny street, from PARKER'S drug store to Bishop street, why would it not be well for the street committee of council to apply AT ONCE for a section of state road extending from the new road near McCoy's, through the borough to the east Bishop street line. This would save at least one-third of the cost of paving, for when passing through boroughs with state road the State has signified its willingness to pave instead of laying macadam.
—The first of April is drawing near and there are still many subscribers on our list who have made no arrangement for having their paper continued after that date. The policy of the publisher has always been to treat everyone fairly and courteously so if it don't suit those who are in arrears to pay all of the bill in cash at this time some satisfactory arrangement can be made. Come in, or write, do the best you can if your subscription is more than a year back and we feel sure some adjustment can be made that will insure you the paper as well as comply with the ruling of the Post-office Department.

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Bogus Investigation Indicated.

The language of the resolution submitted to the House of Representatives by JOHN DALZIELL, on behalf of the Committee on Rules of that body last Friday, reveals the sinister purpose of the Republican leaders. The palpable intention of the author of the resolution was not to investigate the boat company of New Jersey, against which charges had been made by Representative LILLY, of Connecticut, but to warn all members of Congress that exposures and investigations are unpopular and those who have the temerity press them will suffer in their legislative estates. As a matter of fact the resolution and the report accompanying it are susceptible of no other interpretation.

"Whereas" the resolution states "Mr. GEORGE L. LILLY, a Representative from the State of Connecticut, on his responsibility as a member of this House, before the Committee on Rules, has among other things, stated in substance that the Electric Boat company, of New Jersey, and their predecessors, the Holland Boat company, have been engaged in efforts to exert corrupting influences on certain members of Congress in their legislative capacities, and have, in fact, exerted such corrupting influence." It will be noticed that the note of disapproval is against Mr. LILLY rather than the culpable corporation and to emphasize the reprobation of Mr. LILLY he was not named as a member of the committee to investigate.

It is small wonder that Mr. LILLY is discouraged over the outlook for the investigation. "He declares that he is beaten at the start," according to the Washington correspondent of a Philadelphia contemporary, "and the whitewash for the Electric Boat company has already been prepared." That is undoubtedly true. The Republican managers understand that a successful investigation on the eve of the presidential election would be fatal to the party and the plan is to prevent it. According to all parliamentary precedents LILLY should have been made chairman of the committee to investigate. But it was known that he would investigate in earnest and he was left off the committee.

The Republican Legislative Struggle.

The WATCHMAN has learned from a semi-authoritative source that all efforts to persuade the Hon. WM. M. ALLISON, of Spring Mills, to become an aspirant for the Republican nomination for Legislature have failed. That gentleman finds his business engagements too pressing to enter the political field at this time, though two years hence, it might be possible that he will enter the contest for Congress. The effort to draw Mr. ALLISON into the legislative fight was designed to cripple the candidacy of BERT TAYLOR, who seems to be running right away with the Republican nomination, much to the discredit of the party leaders who have had reason to question BERT'S regularity in past campaigns.

The failure to make a stalking horse of Mr. ALLISON leaves Messrs. FOSTER, FISHER and EWEY as the only opponents of the Bellefonte candidate. Of this trio Mr. FOSTER is probably the stronger, though it is a question as to whether, if all should unite on him, he will be strong enough to overcome the powerful organization that is building up back of TAYLOR'S candidacy. There was some talk of trying to get Mr. C. P. LONG, the well known Spring Mills merchant, to enter the contest, but if it ever amounted to more than talk the situation evidently didn't appeal to Mr. LONG. He has been out of politics for some years past, attending strictly to business, with the result that having found his way onto "Easy Street" the political game is not as attractive as it once was to him. We would not be surprised, however, to hear of Mr. LONG'S getting back into the harness within a very few years because, as you all know, politics is hard to drop once a taste for it has been cultivated.

Whatever the outcome of the struggle it is a Republican mess, not ours. It is amusing to witness how completely a man whom the most of them don't want dominates the situation.

Taft Admits His Servility.

Some friend of Secretary TAFT having recently stated that in the event of his election to the Presidency he would be independent of ROOSEVELT and other malign influences, the Secretary of War promptly repudiates the statement. He will not be independent of ROOSEVELT, he declares. The ROOSEVELT policies will be his policies and they will be administered under the ROOSEVELT supervision. This is a startling announcement, but there was reason for it. It was a precautionary measure adopted to keep ROOSEVELT in line for TAFT.

When the so-called predatory trust magnates were threatening to organize a formidable opposition to TAFT, the President notified them in one term, "you'll have to take TAFT or me" and the project melted like snow under a mid-summer sun.

They don't want ROOSEVELT and yet they know if he says the word they will have to take him. TAFT would probably like to appear independent but he understands that if he so declares himself ROOSEVELT will demand the nomination for himself and get it. ROOSEVELT has them all under a state of terror.

This is the result of a servility to power that is increasing with frightful rapidity. At no other period in the history of the government could a President force the selection of his own choice on his party. President ARTHUR attempted to dictate the selection of a Governor of New York and brought disaster to himself and his party. But ROOSEVELT waxes the big stick as the wand of a magician and everybody obeys. It is a sign of the coming of that dread period "when wealth accumulates and men decay." It is the beginning of the end.

Pennypacker and the Capitol Graft.

The wonderful panegyric pronounced on Governor PENNYPACKER by LYMAN D. GILBERT, counsel for former Auditor General SNYDER in the graft case at Harrisburg, last week, is exciting a good deal of speculative comment. "No one has a right to challenge his integrity and never has there been an attempt to do so," he said, and added, "he was the Governor and he had been a judge. He makes or appoints judges to declare the law. He is the source and spring of the vast power which is called the power of government. * * * You've seen him and you've heard him talk, and there is no man more tenacious in his opinions, more self-contained, more self-reliant than Governor PENNYPACKER. He is one of the most honest, fearless men in the State."

To the average mind which has followed the affairs of this Commonwealth since PENNYPACKER wrote his marvelous eulogy of QUAY, extolling him as the superior of WEBSTER and CLAY, this fulsome praise appears like madness. But it is the madness which is regulated by method. The plain purpose of it was to show what the WATCHMAN has repeatedly asserted, that PENNYPACKER was the real culprit and that Auditor General SNYDER and State Treasurer MATHEWS were influenced by his legal interpretation to violate the law. SNYDER was not a lawyer and might easily have been deceived by the reputation of PENNYPACKER for legal learning and personal integrity. MATHEWS hadn't that excuse but it is not improbable that he, too, was deceived by PENNYPACKER.

The inference to be drawn from this incident is that PENNYPACKER ought to have been indicted with the others. Obviously he was the principal offender. It may be that his office shields him from the legal consequences of his misfeasance, but he ought to have been included in the indictment, nevertheless, and thus been put upon the necessity of exculpating himself. In that event Mr. GILBERT would have been stopped from putting the responsibility of the crimes of SNYDER and MATHEWS upon his shoulders which appear to be immense. Not a dollar of the graft could have been taken if he had been faithful to his obligations. Not a shadow of the scandal could have been possible without his acquiescence. Therefore the language of Mr. GILBERT is pertinent.

The Coming Congressional Election.

Two years ago the Democrats of Pennsylvania elected seven out of the thirty-two Representatives in Congress which compose the delegation. That was a gain of six over the previous election of Congressmen and was a rather gratifying result under the circumstances. The country was prosperous beyond measure. The people were, generally speaking, contented. The only cloud on the Republican horizon was the capitol graft scandal and that was denied with such earnestness and unanimity, that the voters were deceived. Vast numbers were made believe that the party had been maligned and voted the ticket out of resentment.

This year the party ought to hold every district won two years ago and add four to the total number. The districts have been unfairly formed with the view of giving advantage to the Republicans, but even with that a dozen out of the total is only a fair proportion for the minority party and under present conditions the Democracy ought to get what is coming to it. The laboring men of the State can hardly be deceived again into the delusion that excessive tariff schedules guarantee industrial activity. The issue this year ought to be on the level.

Two years ago WILLIAM B. WILSON carried one of the strongest Republican districts in the State and GEORGE W. KIPP was elected in another. Both these gentlemen made their fight on individual merit and industry. Both have "made good" in Congress and will stand for re-election, with the chances, according to present indications, vastly in their favor. Equally good candidates and equally energetic efforts will give us five more districts at the coming election and the party managers should see in time that the opportunities are not wasted by the selfish ambitions of unfit men. The primaries are approaching and that is the time to act.

Causes of the Panic.

The labored efforts to deceive the public into the belief that commercial prosperity has been restored, is not meeting with success. The facts are too palpable. Traveling salesmen make a different report. They find business growing worse instead of better. Merchants in the country are afraid to buy with their customary freedom. They apprehend that the day of reckoning may find them with heavy stocks and low bank balances, and to employ the language of one of the "commercial tourists," they "order only what they have to have." Manufacturing establishments are idle because there is no demand for their products and the railroads have unemployed motive power because merchants and manufacturers are cautious.

In this respect this panic is as unusual in its continuance as in its beginning. Previous panics have had natural causes. Failure of crops has hitherto been the influencing reason for panics. With meagre reward for their labor farmers are unable to renew machinery and implements and industrial paralysis follows, for after all agriculture is the principal source of wealth in this country. But this panic came on the heels of a phenomenally abundant harvest. It broke into the midst of an extraordinary period of industrial activity. As Senator BAILEY, of Texas, declared the other day in a speech, it may have been in part the result of over extension of bank credits or it may have been the too free use of the President's tongue. But it came and still remains.

It is probably right to strengthen credit by hopeful opinions but it is not right to deceive the public by misrepresenting the facts, and that is what a good many newspapers are doing. As a matter of fact the industrial life of the country is at a very low ebb and it may be predicted that it will continue to suffer as long as the people are burdened to feed a profligate government. The country is rich in products and almost illimitable in resources. But it is not rich enough to endure the robbery of a billion dollars a year from its earnings. That is what it has been doing for nearly a dozen years and the panic is simply the sign of exhaustion. No matter what financial system is in operation such economic folly will bring commercial distress and the remedy is in change of policies.

Chandler Admonishes Taft.

Former United States Senator WILLIAM E. CHANDLER, of New Hampshire, is in print with an admonition which the friends of Secretary of War TAFT would do well to heed. He is in favor of the ROOSEVELT policies, he declares, and has no personal objections to Mr. TAFT. "But I am indignant," he continues with the methods which are being used in his behalf, "and foresee defeat at the polls if they are not arrested. I do not believe," he adds, "that a candidate forced upon the party by the existing federal office holders, big and little as the controlling influence, will be elected."

In this view Mr. CHANDLER is absolutely right. The American people will not stand for the domination of officialdom. Public officers have the same right as other citizens to the exercise of the privileges of citizenship, but they have no right to use the patronage of the government to either bribe or coerce the people into the support of their favorites. It is a criminal misuse of power, and a patriotic people will resent it. It is a perversion of authority which must lead to the demoralization of the public service of the country and that is the certain and swift course to the destruction of the government.

Yet the TAFT people are doing such things. From the President down they are employing malign agencies to get delegates for TAFT by fair means or foul. In the South they are dragging negroes and mortgaging the offices for years ahead. In fact they are resorting to all the expedients known to political chicanery in order to get a majority of the delegates for TAFT and are not making much progress at that. The South will appear in the convention with contesting delegations sufficiently strong to prevent the nomination on the first ballot and as the organization is unfriendly the committee on contested seats will do things there that may be surprising.

While the WATCHMAN as a rule never extolls the virtue of any candidate for the nomination for an office until after such nomination is made on the grounds that every man should fight his own fight within the party, yet we call the attention of WATCHMAN readers and Democrats in general to the fact of W. HARRISON WALKER'S candidacy for Congress, and so, speak for him the most liberal support of every Democrat in the country. Mr. WALKER is the only candidate in the whole congressional district and he only consented to stand for the nomination after repeated urging to do so in order to fill out the ticket. He is a young lawyer who has already displayed considerable ability and is bound sooner or later to come more conspicuously to the front. He has risen to where he stands in his profession mainly through his own vim and perseverance and he is deserving of loyal support.

Will Teddy Keep His Hands Off.

From the Lancaster Intelligencer. The news from the Orient suggests that it is about time for our war-like presidential promoter of peace to get busy. Having won the Nobel peace prize by his activities in bringing Russia and Japan together in the negotiation of the treaty of Portsmouth, when they had both fought to a stand still and neither wanted to cry "enough," our master of the big stick suddenly found himself accredited with rare and undreamt-of powers of pacification.

And why not? His idea has ever been that both the dogs of war and the doves of peace may be best managed by treading softly and carrying the big stick. He has the biggest sort of a stick at command just now in the naval force now in the Pacific. Almost the whole of our navy is now in that ocean, and the main strength of it is on or near our own Pacific coast and within effective reach of the Far East. Not only the great fleet of battleships, soon to arrive at Magdalena Bay, Lower California, but also a powerful fleet of eight swift and new armored cruisers and three other good battleships are there available, while a dozen destroyers and half as many cruisers are to join in the projected San Francisco naval demonstration.

It is true that we, as a people, are not business people, and that the president himself, in asking for naval and military appropriations, has admitted that we are not ready for it, but in this naval force he has all the materials for a very picturesque bluff of belligerency, and it would be quite in character if he should make it; warning Japan that if she does not deal gently with China, we may mix in. Let us hope that the bluff, if made, will not be called.

Plummer and Penrose.

From the Philadelphia Record. The revolt of J. Lee Plummer, of Blair county, against Senator Penrose is significant as an indication of what is going on in this State. It may be taken for granted that Plummer would not have cut loose from the Penrose machine and set up for himself as an independent candidate for the Legislature had he not witnessed the evidence of a reaction against Machine rule not only in Blair county, but throughout the Commonwealth. In the feeling that is aroused against Penrose among the Republican masses of Pennsylvania he can be returned to the Senate only by gross betrayal of the constituencies.

To prevent this there should be a thorough organization against the Machine in every county in which it is attempting to send its tools to the Legislature. The work of fortifying the Organization has been begun already in Chester county by Larry Eyre and his confederates, who propose to give the opponents of Penrose one member and take the other three. But they intend in fact to take all four, as the odd member will go into caucus to vote against Penrose and obey the caucus decree should it be in his favor. In Philadelphia it may be possible, with energetic organization of the City Party and the other elements of opposition, to snatch at least a dozen members from Penrose. But without such organization and effort the prospect is that there will be no break in the ranks of the legislative banditti from this city. Apart from the question of Senator Penrose's re-election, Philadelphia owes it to her own honor not to inflict such a scourge upon the rest of the State.

Johnson in the Field.

From the Hartford Times. Governor Johnson, of Minnesota, has made it clear that he is no factionist, but his friends in Minnesota, acting, it must be assumed, with his consent, have also made it clear that they propose to stand up in the Denver convention and be counted for him, and against any other candidate.

This action of the Minnesota Democratic committee in declaring by a large majority in favor of presenting the Governor's name at Denver was taken in defiance of rather violent objections on the part of the agents and supporters of W. J. Bryan. This action will give satisfaction to the Democrats in other States who do not wish to see the Populists run off with the Democratic organization for a third time. It is quite possible that two-thirds of the Democratic delegates from New England will vote for the Minnesota man when the balloting begins in the Denver convention. The vote of New York and Pennsylvania will be cast in the same way.

If now some of the Southern Democrats who are tired and sick of Populism will go to the convention and vote their real sentiments, more than one third of the whole number of delegates will be opposed to the nomination of Bryan, and it cannot be accomplished. It is at the present time far from being certain that the Democratic campaign of 1908 is to be a repetition of the campaigns of 1896 and 1900.

A Misleading Promise.

From the Pittsburg Sun. Until compelled by the rising tide of public indignation at the failure of the Republican party to give any heed to its oft-repeated promises to reform the tariff there was no specific date set. Theodore Roosevelt was once a revisionist. Popular tradition accepts as a fact that there slumbers somewhere in the White House archives a presidential message on this very topic that was never sent. What accomplished the difficult feat of smothering this clarion call until all but its attempt was lost can only be conjectured. But smothered it was, and all other efforts likewise until now, by the might of the standpatters, who are postponing the (to them) day of reckoning, to a special session after the next regular session, thus putting the matter up to a new Congress. The chief interest to the country in the situation lies in this: The men who are making the promises are making them not for themselves, but for others, over whom they may not have control, and for whom they certainly have no warrant to speak. The promise, legally, morally and any other way, is absolutely valueless and therefore can be made only to deceive and by the men and the party which have already violated their pledges in this regard.

Spawls from the Keystone.

—Bright new counterfeit silver half dollars, dated 1907, which were extensively circulated in Pittsburg a week ago, have now put in an appearance at Indiana.

—The Harbison-Walker brick plant at Mount Union, Huntingdon county, is claimed to be the largest in the world of its kind, having a capacity for daily output of from 150,000 to 180,000.

—Seven Points, in the lower end of Northumberland county, is excited over a gold find in that vicinity. Gold was discovered at a depth of ten feet below the surface, at twenty feet silver was found.

—The Farmers' league, of Lancaster county, has sent an appeal to the unemployed to seek work on the farms in the state. Appeals were addressed to the bureau of labor and immigration at Washington.

—Nearly a million tons of ice from twelve to sixteen inches thick and very solid and clear, are stored in the various great ice houses in the Pocono mountains, Monroe county, to supply the Philadelphia and New York markets.

—Lieutenant Charles Fenerstein, who has command of troop B, of the State constabulary stationed at Wyoming, is urging the purchase of a high power automobile for the use of the force. During last year the troopers traveled 136,383 miles and made 1,905 arrests.

—H. S. Corhey, Greensburg's veteran undertaker, who has been in business fifty-four years, has during that time buried 8,064 corpses. He is in his seventy-second year and is still the active head of the establishment in which his five sons are associated with him.

—Miss Stewart, the treasurer of the Mercer hospital, who refused to allow the books of the institution to be audited, has been given time until March 14th, by Auditor General Young to produce them at the capitol, and if she persists in refusing she will be sent to jail.

—The rumors afloat for some time that the plants of the Pressed Steel Car company at McKees Rocks, and Northside, Pittsburg, employing several thousand men would be closed indefinitely, were officially denied on Saturday, there being no intention to close them even temporarily.

—On account of the prevalence of diphtheria in Conemaugh the board of health has decided to have all the schools, churches and nickelodeums closed, so as to prevent, if possible, a further spreading of the disease. Twelve homes are now quarantined and there were two deaths since Wednesday.

—The Saxton Vitriol Brick company, of Saxton, Bedford county, a few days ago closed a contract with the Richmond Clay Product company, of Reading, to furnish a million or more paving brick this year. The contract really is good for all the paving brick the works can turn out in the year, even if the output be five million.

—On Friday night two colored men stole about 400 chickens from the henry of Mrs. Margaret White near Bryn Mawr, Montgomery county. Thomas White, a son, came home from the town as they were loading them on their wagon, and when they were questioned about it they said they had bought them from his mother, so they were allowed to continue their thieving.

—As a result of evidence given by Law and Order Society men from Philadelphia the licenses of thirty-six saloons in Williamsport have been held up so that each one could be determined by the court. The detectives testified that in all they found gambling machines, women were being given drinks in some of them, and that liquors were sold to men visibly intoxicated.

—Last Monday A. G. Beck who is head swayer on the Bickford mill, at Mill Hill, while driving to his home at Tylersville, spied three deer on the road between Lamar Gap and Cherry Run. The pretty animals had been to the creek to drink and as Mr. Beck drove up, they came up on the road and trotted along in front of his team for a distance of forty or fifty rods when they took to the mountain.

—Mrs. Sylvester Laper, 50 years old, cremated herself in the barn of William Hill, near Cochranton, Monday. It is believed that she was mentally deranged. She went into the barn alone, started a fire, and screaming wildly, she dashed into and out of the flames until she fell dead. Two horses, several hogs and a quantity of grain and farming implements, as well as the building, were burned.

—John Bender, a farmer of Reedsville, Mifflin county, was killed Monday afternoon at 5:30 o'clock by the barn on his farm collapsing by the weight of the snow which had collected on the roof of the building. The barn was an old landmark, having stood for the past fifty years. Mr. Bender was feeding the cattle at the time the structure fell. He was living yet when taken out of the wreckage, but died a short time afterwards.

—Forty-seven prisoners were taken to jail at Greensburg at one time early Friday morning by a posse of railroad officers who rounded them up in coke ovens and camps in and about Loyalhanna and Bradenville. For weeks numerous cars containing merchandise shipped to merchants in Latrobe, Greensburg and intermediate points have been forced open and great quantities of stuff stolen, which led to their arrest. They were tramps of different nationalities.

—Several residents of Blairsville are reported to have been victimized by sharpers recently. Frank Christian, who recently embarked in the wholesale grocery business to get the Italian trade, gave an order to a traveling salesman for \$500 worth of goods, paying \$250 in cash and giving his note for the balance. A few days ago he received notice from a New York distillery company saying they held his order for fifteen barrels of whiskey and as soon as he makes payment of the note the whiskey will be shipped. Christian says he ordered no whiskey, and has sent an attorney to New York to investigate the matter. A farmer named Clark Dunlap was approached by a stranger who said he had an \$80 buggy at Derry that he would sell for \$40, and also a lot of groceries that he would sell for \$10, away under value. The farmer bit and in turn was bitten, as he is unable to locate buggy or groceries. Two other farmers were done up on feed propositions.