

Ink Sillings.

The voice of spring is so hoarse now that its song has ceased entirely. The BERRY season is over in the state treasury field and they say the pickin's were poor.

The returns from Texas indicate that JOE BAILEY is still "some pumpkins" in the Lone Star State.

The open pulpit in the Episcopal church is only open so far as Episcopal talkers are concerned.

With two electric theatres in town there ought to be enough to divert the minds of the unemployed.

BRYAN has captured Ohio and TAFT has secured the endorsement of Connecticut. Thus the leaders get further in the lead.

It is said that brains are preferred to wealth in New York society. How natural for people to want most what they have least of.

A Chicago woman doctor declares that she saw souls leave two bodies. My, what are women coming to in their race to outstrip the men.

This will be positively the last issue of the WATCHMAN that a number of old readers will receive unless they answer our last letter before next Friday.

Tyrone council having appointed the committee to act for that town the proposed PRUNER orphanage is another step toward the place where something is to be done.

The motto of the new National Prosperity association is "Give us a Rest and Sunshine." Strange, we had always associated that sentiment with the corner loafer class.

Breathitt county, Kentucky, is minus one more feudist. On Tuesday someone stabbed sheriff Ed. COLLAHAN to death then the sheriff's son shot the stabber. So it goes in Kentucky.

The QUAY statue is completed and now the question is as to where to put it. Surely the capitol nor the capitol grounds will not be decorated with an effigy of such a political corruptionist?

Though May was ushered in with snow and a few flakes of the beautiful fell for several days, we are likely to have the real thing in spring weather before Memorial day, so don't get discouraged.

The general conference of the Methodist church is just now engaged in discussing the matter of worldly amusements. Ping-pong, tiddledy-winks, five hundred and grab bags will probably be put on the free list.

If some of the Pennsylvania Democrats would get half as busy on "BRYAN'S strength" after he is nominated as they are now the party vote in this State would probably show results more to their credit than it usually does.

"The full dinner pail" will probably have no place in the presidential campaign of next fall. At least those who talked most of it four years ago will not be so handy at waving it from every political stump in the country.

MAXINE ELLIOTT is planning to establish an ideal theatre in New York. Just what the lady has in mind has not been made public but it is a safe guess that part of the idealism will be to make herself a "head-liner" all the time.

Uncle JOSEPH CANNON found out on Tuesday that there are times when some Congressmen own, express and back an opinion. His determined effort to drive them to the support of the VRELAND currency bill met with signal failure.

Swarthmore college has expelled a quartet of the best athletes in the institution for stealing pies from the college pantry. Can it be possible, after all, that Swarthmore is getting ready to reconsider the refusal of the Mrs. JEANES millions.

Last fall EDWARD H. HARRIMAN was the scape-goat of all the financial swindlers in the country. Now the speculators who were so busy blaming their troubles on him are proclaiming him the MOSES who is leading the country out of the financial wilderness.

The President conversed in German, French, Italian and Dutch with visitors representing all those nationalities on Tuesday. Of course they were delighted to find our President so versatile. But, hush! don't tell them that talking is his principal accomplishment.

HETTY GREEN has given up a nineteen dollar a month flat to take up her abode in a thirty-two dollar a day suite in New York's most expensive hotel. HETTY always was so eccentric that no one will ever know whether this move is for comfort or for curiosity.

What has Congressman BARCLAY done for this district since he has been its Representative in Congress. Can anyone point to a single official act of his that has benefited his constituents. A rich man is no recommendation. Why not put a man who does things there and send W. HARRISON WALKER to represent us.

Some one in the lower end of Bucks county wants a concrete wall built somewhere by someone so that the northwest winds that sweep over Pennsylvania from October to June might be broken up. He claims that it would give them "a sooner summer" in Bucks county. How nice "a sooner summer" would be, but we'll bet this chap would sooner let summer be as it is than build the concrete wind-brake.

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Imposing on Old Soldiers.

The platform adopted by the Republican state convention in Harrisburg, last week, has many curious features, but it contains nothing more remarkable, as an expression of "nerve," than the last clause. "We again acknowledge the nation's everlasting debt of gratitude to its heroic soldiers, and sailors," it declares, "and express our approval of the action of Congress in the passage of the Act of February 6, 1907, for their increased relief and the Act of April 19, 1908, extending the class and increasing the pension of widows."

Concerning the Act of February 6, 1907, we have little information except that it passed both Houses by a unanimous vote, was in no sense partisan and is universally approved by the people. With respect to the Act of April 19, 1908, however, we have some inside history. That bill was originally introduced by Hon. WILLIAM B. WILSON, the superb Democratic Representative from the Fifteenth district of Pennsylvania. It was the intention of the committee to pigeon-hole it, when the Democratic members made such a disturbance that that plan was abandoned as dangerous. Then the committee made some trifling changes in the phrasing and reported it, not as Mr. WILSON'S bill, but as a committee bill. This was to deprive a Democrat of the authorship of so popular a measure.

Even at that the intention was to stifle the measure, the plan being to "lose" it in the Senate. The Senate refused to take this responsibility, however, and though the measure made slow progress it passed finally in March and was committed to conference. This afforded an opportunity for the stragling process and the Republican managers of the House determined to name no conferees and thus let it die of neglect. More than a month passed before this trick was discovered and then the Democratic members threatened an exposure unless the measure was given fair treatment. This forced the Speaker finally to name managers on the part of the House and the bill became the subject of conference. The process was drawn out as long as possible but finally a compromise was reached on the Senate amendments.

With this record of treachery and bad faith as a basis, however, the Republican State convention has undertaken to impose on the credulity of the old soldiers with a hypocritical profession of friend-ship. As a matter of fact the Republican managers of Congress didn't intend to pass the windows pension bill. They prefer to appropriate the money for battleships and distribute it among favorite contractors for public buildings and other uses in which there is a larger proportion of graft. Old soldiers should understand this.

Mr. Habgood's Services and Reward.

Some of our esteemed Republican contemporaries are sedulously trying to create the impression that the honor of an election as delegate-at-large was bestowed on Representative ROBERT P. HABGOOD, of McKean county, because of an act of self-abnegation in connection with the presidential candidacy of Senator KNOX. When HABGOOD was elected president of the Pennsylvania League of Republican clubs, the story goes, the manager of the TAFT campaign wrote him a flattering letter soliciting his support of the ponderous Secretary of War. Instead of proposing terms, as he might have foolishly done, HABGOOD wrote that Pennsylvania has a candidate to whom the allegiance of all Pennsylvanians is due.

That story is interesting mainly because it is so absolutely without foundation in fact. The TAFT manager may have written as stated, and Mr. HABGOOD may have replied in the language ascribed to him in the columns of our too credulous Republican contemporaries. Indeed it would have been a sign of hopeless insanity if he had answered in any other way. At the time Senator KNOX was being used as a "decoy duck" to beguile a lot of wavering independents into the machine camp in order to prevent the election of Hon. JOHN G. HARMAN to the office of State Treasurer. The answer of Mr. HABGOOD to the suggestion of Mr. VORYS, therefore, may be regarded as a part of the general plan.

But the compliment bestowed upon him by the Machine State convention was not in the nature of a reward for that answer. It was for a vastly more substantial party service. It was for suppressing, last winter, the evidence of one of the most outrageous cases of graft which has ever been pulled off in Pennsylvania. The conspiracy which resulted in increasing the price of the Legislative Record from less than \$3 to more than \$12 a page, coming on the heels of the exposures in the capitol building funds, would have been disastrous and HABGOOD prevented the exposure by suppressing the evidence which was forced upon him in abundance. That is why he has since been so highly honored.

Subscribe for the WATCHMAN.

Piratical Craft in Trouble.

The esteemed Philadelphia Record is having all sorts of trouble with itself. It is trying to reconcile its blind and unreasoning worship of ROOSEVELT with its duty as an honest purveyor of news exponent of Democracy and the inconsistency is so great as to make it a subject of ridicule. In a single issue recently, for example, it contains an absurd cartoon representing ROOSEVELT in heroic proportions as the champion of public opinion, an obviously fake dispatch from Pittsburg giving an account of a marvelous boom in industrial life and an editorial paragraph referring to the idle cars and locomotives in the yards of the Pennsylvania railroad. The latter is the expression, probably, of the honest and intelligent editorial department and the cartoon and fake news item the impulse of the ROOSEVELT mania in control.

The truth is that there is a conspiracy to deceive the public as to the industrial and commercial conditions of the country and the Philadelphia Record is among the conspicuous participants. The object of the conspiracy is to continue the ROOSEVELT control of the federal government and policies by the election of his political legate, Secretary TAFT. The most certain way to achieve this result is to create the opinion in the public mind that the present industrial paralysis is an imaginary condition. That there was a brief business slump during the late fall and early winter is admitted. But it is claimed that the sagacious management of ROOSEVELT and his associates in the present administration instantly grappled with the adverse conditions and conquered them and that now the country is bounding away on the crest of a tidal wave of industrial and commercial activity and prosperity.

It is all right for the esteemed Philadelphia Record to practice this deception in the open. If it will withdraw its pretense of representing Democracy and like any other pirate raise the black flag, we shall make no complaint of its recreancy. But we do protest against the false pretense expressed in this persistent and insistent laudation of ROOSEVELT'S policies as an oracle of Democracy. There are not now and never have been public policies as diametrically opposite to the principles of JEFFERSON as those claimed to be the policies of ROOSEVELT. What he has not stolen from the Populist he has inherited from the Federalists and we protest against the laudation of such heresies in the name of Democracy. Democrats should unite in protest in the only way that is effective. They should refuse to pay for such rubbish.

Proper Solution of a Problem.

According to authentic information which comes from Luzerne county there is a probability that Hon. JOHN T. LENAHAAN may yet consent to a re-election to Congress. Two years ago Mr. LENAHAAN was elected by a plurality of 6,549 over his leading competitor and a safe majority over all other candidates though the Socialist candidates received 5,197 votes. But congressional service didn't appeal to him. He revealed a splendid capacity for the work and soon won the highest respect of the leading lawyers in the body on account of his mastery of legal problems and splendid erudition. But his heart was in the courts at home and he declined to offer himself for re-election.

Mr. LENAHAAN'S Democratic associates on the floor, not only from Pennsylvania but from all parts of the country, tried to dissuade him from his determination on this subject but without effect. The time limit for announcement fixed by law expired, and though the field was left open to him and he was importuned by friends and neighbors, he made no announcement and another competent man was chosen. But the rank and file of the party is dissatisfied and it is now said that the nominee expresses a desire to withdraw on condition that Mr. LENAHAAN will accept the nomination to fill the vacancy. We understand that he is very much disinclined to yield but the pressure is being made so strong that he may be obliged to.

It is not invidious to say that we hope that the problem will be solved in that way. No doubt the nominee is eminently fit and entirely capable and that his election would guarantee the constituency splendid service. But LENAHAAN'S election would be absolutely certain and as it is practically admitted that the next Congress will be Democratic there will be great need for strong men and LENAHAAN will be a tower of strength to the new Speaker. He is able, eloquent and always ready in debate and his legal attainments especially fit him for the work that will be required during the next Congress. We hope, therefore, that he will consent to run and feel certain of the result.

The Free Methodist quarterly meeting which was held in the court house, this place, from Thursday evening of last week until Sunday was quite largely attended and drew very fair audiences at every meeting.

The Corruption Fund Controls.

JOHN SHARP WILLIAMS, the magnificent leader of the Democratic minority in the House of Representatives at Washington, gave the Republicans of that body a "had quarter of an hour," the other day. Having been graciously allowed fifteen minutes to discuss, on the part of the minority, an important pending measure, Mr. WILLIAMS properly made a joke of the affair. It would have required hours to properly present the minority views on the subject and fifteen minutes would hardly have been sufficient time to state the case. So instead of attempting an impossibility he presented a petition to the Speaker asking that some member be recognized to move the passage of one of the many bills on the calendar putting wood pulp and white paper on the free list.

There are 166 Democratic members of the House and Mr. WILLIAMS showed that the petition which he held was signed by 162 of them, the other four being absent. Thirty Republicans added to the signers would have made a majority and to facilitate the consummation Mr. WILLIAMS had a table, pens, ink and blotters placed in the aisle in front of the Speaker's desk. Then he implored the Republicans who pretend to favor the measure to come forward and sign. "It should be easy to get the thirty," Mr. WILLIAMS observed, "because almost that many Republicans have introduced free paper bills, and I know," he continued, ironically, "that every one of you who introduced a bill meant what you said." But there was no response. The bonds securely held the servile slaves.

The President has insisted on the passage of the proposed legislation but Speaker CANNON, DALZELL and PAYNE are under agreement to the Paper trust to give it at least "another year of good stealing." As has been said this tax is a burden on intelligence. It costs the publishers of books, magazines and newspapers vast sums annually and doesn't put a single penny in the treasury. But the Trust will probably contribute liberally to the Republican campaign fund next fall and the Republican machine is willing to sacrifice the intellectual advantages which free wood pulp and free paper would afford the people in order to secure that advantage to the Republican machine. "To this complexion have we come at last." The corruption fund controls Congress.

The Versatile Republican Machine.

The versatility of the Pennsylvania Republican machine is shown in the equal cordiality with which its recent State convention endorsed THEODORE ROOSEVELT and BOIS PENROSE. "We commend the wise and courageous administration of President THEODORE ROOSEVELT," these platform mechanics state in one sentence and "we recognize the influence in national legislation of our senior United States Senator, BOIS PENROSE, his energetic and faithful discharge of every duty," in another. One or the other of these declarations is pure buncombe. The Good Book says one can't serve God and Mammon. It would be quite as difficult for the same person to endorse ROOSEVELT and PENROSE at the same time.

These two men represent the antipodes of politics in so far as their public professions go. ROOSEVELT pretends to be a reformer, at least, and certainly aims at the centralization of power in the executive, while PENROSE is in complete accord with FOREAKER, HALE and ALDRICH in their desire to maintain, not only the dignity, but the prerogatives, of the Senate. Besides they entertain diametrically opposite notions with respect to the regulation of corporations. ROOSEVELT would make every magnate of power and wealth kowtow before him and PENROSE would make the rest of us kowtow to the magnates. The proverbial feat of riding two horses running in opposite directions would be a trifling task compared with endorsing both these public characters.

A convention guided by contractor MORTIMER, of Philadelphia, and participated in by the banditti of the two big cities is not likely to be very punctilious about what it says on any subject. The chances are, anyway, that less than one-fifth of the delegates know the difference between the principles of one party and the other and if PENROSE would tip the wink most of them would vote for prohibition or endorse the religious views of VOLTAIRE. The endorsement of PENROSE was probably the only sincere thing done by the convention and the only reason that any value attaches to that action is that it may fool some country Legislators into voting for him for re-election.

The repairing of the wall along Spring creek on south Water street by putting down a concrete foundation is a commendable job and one that should now make the wall at that place withstand any rush of water that can come down that stream.

Our "Black Cabinet."

From the Altoona Times. In Russia they have what they call a "black cabinet" or department of espial. In the United States we have the "secret service" at Washington which is supposed to consist of detectives to spy upon counterfeiter and smugglers. In Russia the detectives look for those who are plotting against the government, and no one is free from their espionage. Here the government detectives are supposed to confide their work to the protection of the treasury with all its numerous bureaus, but evidence was presented to the committee on appropriations that secret service agents have been used for all kinds of "spying" work, and there has grown up in the service a system of espionage that smacks strongly of the black cabinet of Russia.

At a recent hearing of the committee on appropriations some startling testimony was given concerning the case of a navy officer who suspected his wife of having improper relations with a midshipman. A secret service agent was put to work to get evidence at the instance of the navy department. Divorce proceedings resulted. This instance of activity by secret service agents outside the field of operations marked out for them in laws passed by congress prompted the committee to insert in a sundry civil bill a clause prohibiting secret service men from engaging in any duty other than guarding the person of the president and enforcing the laws against counterfeiting.

Such use of public officials would be thought all right in autocratic Russia, but it is all wrong in the United States, with its Democratic-Republican government. This country is rapidly copying the ways of the monarchial countries of Europe. In fact, we have many of unpleasant trappings of czars and kings, with the increased power of the naval and military bureaus, spending as much, or more, money than empires, and aping the doings of autocratic governments.

No such use of the people's money as ever attempted, or even thought of, a short while ago, and such signs of growing subservieny to the demands for a centralized government should be checked before it is too late.

If the secret service can be used by the officials of the navy department to spy into the family affairs of subordinate officers, it could also be used for political purposes to spy upon the doings of Democrats and others who desire to reform abuses in the government which Republican policies have produced, or vice versa, were conditions reversed.

Exposed Hypocrisy.

From the Philadelphia Record. Ever since the exposure of the capitol looting by a Democratic State Treasurer the Republican managers in Pennsylvania have been vociferously expressing their righteous wrath over the betrayal of trust on the part of the Organization State officials involved. How genuine is their indignation? Let the following excerpts from the platform adopted by the Republican State Convention answer the question: "We believe that the business of all departments of our State government under Republican control is being wisely and honestly conducted." The careful limitation of this expression of confidence to the departments of our "State government under Republican control" is a deliberately pointed insult of State Treasurer Berry, he being the head of the only department not under Republican control. It was Berry who turned the light on the capitol thieves. It was he who made necessary the repudiation of the detected grafters in the Republican ranks by the undetected grafters. In revenge for the humiliation his steadfast devotion to duty has put upon the organization responsible for the plundering he is maliciously singled out from all the other State officials to be charged by implication with unwisely and dishonestly conducting his office.

If the leaders of the Republican party in Pennsylvania were sincere in their professions with regard to the wholesale robbery of the taxpayers in the capitol construction they would have heaped unstinted praise upon the courageous official who came to the people's rescue even in their state platform. In common decency they could have done no less. But they stand before the voters of Pennsylvania as self-confessed hypocrites. In their eagerness to slap the author of their misfortunes they have forgotten caution and publicly stultified themselves. Low cunning has blundered. The sheep's clothing of penitence no longer disguises the organization wolf. The people have in the Republican platform a vivid X-ray impression of the real attitude of the virtuous Republican party toward the greatest political crime in Pennsylvania's history.

Looks Like Arrangement for Stampede.

From the Pittsburg Post. Young Mr. Beveridge of Indiana has been openly insulted by the Republican national committee permitting the announcement to be made that by some helter-skelter style of voting it has displaced him as temporary chairman of the Chicago convention and selected Senator DOLLIVER, of Iowa. The reason is spread that fear was entertained that Beveridge in one of his peerless keynotes would stampede the convention to Roosevelt. This seems to lack substance. When did this committee choose Beveridge? How can a convention be stamped into a nomination before it is permanently organized? Lodge is to be permanent chairman and there would be a stampede for Beveridge. Beveridge is under binding instructions for Fairbanks. He can still start a stampede during a ballot by casting some votes for Roosevelt. This whole gaudy story looks like an arrangement for a stampede. It comes from the Roosevelt corner.

In their dual track and field meet with Syracuse University, at Syracuse, N. Y., last Saturday, State College was defeated by the score of 65 to 43. Tomorrow State will compete with the Carlisle Indians on Beaver field, at State College.

Spawls from the Keystone.

The Lehigh Valley Railroad company has begun storing coal at its large plant near Hudsandale, about twelve miles from Hazleton.

The Juniata Valley Electric Railroad company has decided upon a big extension of its line so as to cover Huntingdon with a complete network of trolley service.

In one year six cows belonging to John Keen, of Warwick, Chester county, produced seventeen tons and 570 pounds of milk, or an average of over 5,700 pounds, or 730 gallons each.

A new coal breaker is in course of erection at Jansville, near Hazleton, to be completed by fall, which will have a capacity of 3,000 tons of coal a day. It will be one of the largest in the anthracite region.

Out of forty-four candidates who took the examination for the position of mine foreman for the Tenth Pennsylvania bituminous district, only eleven were successful and have received their certificates for the position.

George Barr, wanted by the police for robbing the postoffice at Sterling Run, Cameron county, of \$125, was captured on Thursday by constable Mutterbaugh, of Medix Run, Elk county, after a two days' chase on freight cars.

E. S. Fenner, of Franklin, who was a Civil war veteran, on Saturday received a check from the war department for \$3.75, with a note explaining that it was due him since November, 1861, his pay for that month for some reason having been short that amount.

Thomas Smith, who was separated from his wife Annie, during the Johnstown flood nineteen years ago, met her on the streets of Pittsburg on Tuesday night. The recognition was mutual and the pair decided to celebrate, and got so hilarious that both were locked up.

The Boyertown relief committee, at a meeting on Saturday, decided to distribute a balance of \$9,900 yet in their hands among the fifty-six orphans left by the opera house disaster on January 13th. The money will be paid to the guardians or care takers of the orphans, who must be reliable persons.

Joseph Maulis on Saturday fell ninety feet down an air shaft at the Royal Oak colliery, Shamokin, and had his skull fractured. Rescuers lowered a chain attached to a rope on which he managed to seat himself and was pulled to the surface, when he became unconscious. He is not expected to recover.

Ike Eby the genial lieutenant of police during the Walker administration in Altoona has been appointed a special policeman to guard the property of the Spruce Creek Road and Gan club at Spruce Creek. The appointment was made by Governor Stuart at the request of the club and it has been filed with the county authorities at Huntingdon.

At the Philadelphia and Reading shops at Newberry Junction there has been a resumption of work on a small scale. Friday thirteen men were taken on at the shops, the increase in business making their employment necessary. This resumption of work has been forecasted and it is expected that work on a large scale will follow shortly.

While fishing in the Susquehanna river near Dauville, on Wednesday, Gearhart Campbell and his son, Cameron, hooked a carp measuring thirty-six inches in length and weighing sixteen pounds. So fierce were the struggles of the fish to get free that it pulled the older Campbell into the water and it required an hour's fight to secure the big fish.

About the last of the big timber in this State is now being taken out by A. Cook & Son, in Clarion county, under contract for the British government. The timber consists of spars to be used in the construction of English war ships in England. The average length of these spars is 45 feet and thickness 24 feet square. They are of white pine and without blemish.

The executive committee of district No. 2, United Mine Workers of America, met in Clearfield, on Friday and took up the matter of providing financial assistance for the men on strike or in distress through idleness in the several counties. President Patrick Gillday said that fully 5,000 men are idle in the district, most of them as the result of slack mining demand.

A new brick plant, with a capacity of 25,000,000 per annum, is being built at Clymer, Indiana county. Among the persons interested in the plant are Thomas Bellis, of Altoona, formerly of Philadelphia, and a partner of James Passmore in the coal business in Indiana county; J. L. Snyder, of Clearfield; H. W. Widowsow, of Mahaffey; W. D. Kelley, of Philadelphia, and Hon. I. S. Fisher, of Indiana, Pa.

The position of deputy internal revenue collector held by James W. Hayes, of Hollidaysburg, has been placed under the regulations of the civil service commission by an official proclamation of President Roosevelt, and as a result, Mr. Hayes and other officials of the department will continue in their positions. Mr. Hayes has held the position of deputy revenue collector during the past two administrations and has been a most efficient officer, being highly esteemed by his superior officers.

In divorce proceedings instituted by Mrs. Hattie Mahaffey, of Williamsport, against her husband, William S. Mahaffey, who resides on a farm in Clearfield county, testimony was given to show that the couple were married on April 28th, 1892, and lived together on the farm until April 16th, 1905, when Mrs. Mahaffey left him because of alleged cruel treatment. During all that time he never purchased her a pair of shoes and only two cheap dresses and she was obliged to go to the woods to cut wood so as to get some to burn.

Despite the fact that four organizations of detectives are working on the hold-up of Adams Express Messenger Noah H. Rosen by two men, who robbed the safe on the St. Louis express at Walker's Mills Thursday night, the sleuths confess today that they are completely baffled. The detectives have not the slightest clue that would lead to the identity of the two men, who are reported to have held revolvers at the head of the messenger, blindfolded him, bound him to a chair and, after taking four bags filled with money and valuables from the safe pulled the bell cord and escaped from the train.