Democratic Watchman.

BY P. GRAY MEEK.

Ink Slings.

—We're for BRYAN and KERN.

—Did you celebrate the Fourth joyously.

—Does the ticket suit you. It ought to, because it is a good one.

—This is the year for BRYAN's election. The third time is always the charm.

—BRYAN and KERN sounds Irish enough to please most any of our celtic voters.

—What a different looking man TAFT will be after the steam roller goes over him.

—"BRYAN and Business!" is the campaign cry. And we can't have too much of either.

—The platform is broad enough, sane enough, and sound enough for anyone to stand on.

—With Illinois, Indiana and Ohio in the Democratic column next fall the chances of success are more than good.

—The Denver convention is over, the harvests soon will be and then we will begin to talk politics to you right.

—The price of ice has advanced in Philadelphia, probably because it requires so much to keep Mayor REYBURN cool.

—There is a per capita circulation of $35 in the United States at present, but the trouble with it is that it doesn't circulate.

—About the most discouraging thing we have heard yet concerning the chances, is TOM LAWSON's prediction that BRYAN will win.

—Even Vice President FAIRBANKS thawed out at the home coming reception given candidate KERN at Indianapolis on Wednesday.

—The newspaper attempt to manufacture a business revival reads like fairy tales, but fairy tales don't make the dinner pail full.

—The Texas onion crop will net nearly a million dollars this year. Quite a handsome sum, but not a circumstance to the smell it will raise.

—However opinions may differ on the question at issue there can be no denying the fact that Pennsylvania was about all there was to the Denver convention.

—The soldier boys have gone into camp for their annual season of field practice. May good weather, good order and good health prevail while they are at Gettysburg.

—Delaware advices are to the effect that that State has a great peach crop this year. We have a few here ourselves that can be found lying 'round on the grass most any of these moon-lit nights.

—The attempt to catapult Mr. KERR into the leadership might have more justification if it were backed by any evidence of fitness for the position based on his leadership in his home county.

—Mr. TAFT will have troubles of his own in Ohio. In fact the probability of his losing his home State is so great as to make it almost a certainty that the Buckeye electoral vote will be for BRYAN.

—The sun has enough heat left to last thirty-seven million years, so scientists tell us, but the scientists probably didn't calculate on old SOL getting so lavish with it as he has been during the past few weeks.

—The famous BROUSE—OLIGER case involving eight dollars and four cents has been passed upon at last, after having been in the Superior court for more than a year, and BROUSE wins. It is to laugh! Even for the donkeys.

—A fourteen months old baby fell out of a fourth story window in Pittsburg and was unhurt. The baby didn't even cry when picked up. There are a few new daddies in Bellefonte just now who would love to own such an angel of a kid.

—Since the Denver convention there are some who realize for the first time what Mr. BRYAN really meant when he said, some years ago, "The people who, in 1776, rejected the doctrine that Kings rule by right divine will not, in this generation, subscribe to the doctrine that money is omnipotent."

—During the past year the federal government ran behind nearly sixty million dollars, but that doesn't seem to have worried Mr. ROOSEVELT. He is a good bit like some Methodist preachers we know of who are continually getting their flocks into debt and leaving the burden of paying them for their successors.

—Because she is said to have smoked a cigarette and attended races the Prohibition national convention withheld an invitation from Mrs. NICHOLAS LONGWORTH to visit the body while in session. Of course Mrs. NICK will feel very badly about this expose of her frailty but she won't feel as badly as the curious people who attend the convention because she isn't there to be ogled.

—It is decidedly germain to the question uppermost in Democratic discussion in Pennsylvania just now to ask Mr. KERR's apostles why they declined to support Mr. BERRY's aspirations for the Vice Presidency in Denver. It is scarcely logical for them to use BERRY's so called ill treatment at Harrisburg as ground for argument in the face of the fact that Mr. KERR's delegates flatly refused to support Mr. DEWITT C. DEWITT who had prepared the speech to put BERRY in nomination for the Vice Presidency.

THE Democratic Watchman.

STATE RIGHTS AND FEDERAL UNION.

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The Democratic Platform.

The Democratic national platform has the paramount merit of candor. It is a custom among platform builders in political conventions to assume that the people are easily decieved, or as the late Mr. BARNUM stated it, "like to be fooled." Acting upon this notion the Republican national convention purposely obscured every important public question. It promised reforms of the tariff, currency legislation and such modification of the powers of the courts as would check the abuses of the writ of injunction. But in each instance the language employed is so ambiguous that it may be construed either way. The promise with respect to the tariff might be fulfilled by enacting a prohibitive law. In the matter of injunctions the platform pledge is a copy of the existing statute.

In contrast with this shilly shally jugglery the Democrats declare that "we favor immediate revision of the tariff by the reduction of import duties. Articles entering into competition with trust controlled products," it adds, "should be placed on the free list, and material reductions should be made in the tariff upon the necessaries of life, and especially upon such manufactures as are sold abroad more cheaply than at home." There can be no misunderstanding of that statement of purpose. It admits of but one interpretation and embodies such a regulation of the trusts as will completely deprive them of power for evil. No inquisatorial processes into private affairs will be necessary. The trusts will simply be forced to the adoption of fair business principles or retire from the industrial life of the country.

The plank which relates to injunctions is equally explicit and it is small wonder that the real labor leaders of the country have come to the support of the candidates and platform. "We deem that the parties to all judicial proceedings should be treated with rigid impartiality and that injunctions should not be issued in any case in which injunctions would not issue if no industrial dispute were involved." This manifestly just proposition is supplemented by a protest against the "abridgment of the right of wage earners and producers to organize for the protection of wages and the improvement of labor conditions," and together create a bulwark of safety for the industrial element of the citizenship that is both safe and secure. Financiers as well as hod carriers may stand contentedly on that proposition.

All in all the Democratic platform is an admiral expression of the aims of constructive statesmanship. The abuses of power, the needless multiplication of offices and the profligacy which has characterized recent administration of the government, are condemned in becoming phrase but there is more a purpose to build up than tear down expressed in the declaration of principles promulgated by the Denver convention. The Democratic party is aggressively in the conflict for improvement and its coming victory will mark the beginning of an epoch of commercial and industrial prosperity which will endure.

A Too Perilous Undertaking.

The policy expressed by PATRICK HENRY when he declared to his compatriots that they "must die together or hang separately," has been followed too closely by the public press of this country. That is to say the newspapers have been too much disposed to stand with one of their number who happens to be accused of the violation of the libel laws. The press enjoys, under the constitution, the largest liberty consistent with public order, in its treatment of public men and questions, and so long as it remains within the limits of reason, it is entitled, not only to the support of its craft but to the approval of the public.

But we are unable to defend our Philadelphia contemporary, the *North American*, in the litigation in which Mayor REYBURN has involved it. Mayor REYBURN is not a model of official conduct or civic excellence. He has done many things which should be reprobated and our Philadelphia contemporary has not only exercised a right but fulfilled a duty in condemning him, under such circumstances. But because he is wrong in most things is no reason why he should be abused in all things and the Philadelphia *North American* is so indiscriminate, as well as unfair, in its criticisms of men and measures, that it is both dangerous and unjust to give it either moral or material support.

The *North American* has no code of morals other than the frequently absurd caprices of its editor. Venomous in the extreme he assails, with all the mental and physical energy of employed talent, any man who happens to disagree with him. In cartoon and editorial he perverts facts and prostitutes conditions to vilify and condemn. What he has said of Mayor REYBURN may be in part or not at all true. But that is a matter of indifference to him. His aim is to force agreement with or acquiescence in his opinions, mostly vicious, and supporting such a journalistic pirate, right or wrong, is a perilous venture.

The Democratic Ticket.

The result of the Denver convention, so far as the nomination of candidates is concerned, is in no respect surprising. Mr. BRYAN was practically nominated a month in advance of the meeting, if not from the moment of the announcement of his candidacy. He has so complete a standing in the affections and confidence of the people, that no one had the ghost of a show against him, and probably no one, friend or foe, had a better understanding of the conditions than those who opposed him in the convention. Judge GRAY, of Delaware, Governor JOHNSON, of Minnesota, and Colonel GUFFEY, of Pennsylvania, equally keen of intellect and faithful to the immortal principles of Democracy, were aware of the trend of public sentiment. But they cherish with commendable tenacity the rights of individual opinion and without antipathy to Mr. BRYAN preferred a candidate other than that distinguished and capable gentleman.

It would be absurd to assume that because a man, or group of men, were not favorable to the nomination of Mr. BRYAN, they are opposed to his election. The individual right to opinion and the acquiescence in the decision of the majority are equally fundamental principles of the party. To abandon an idea because others are of opposite opinion, before the question has been submitted to the party, is poltroonery. To refuse allegiance to the party for the reason that the appeal to the parliament has disappointed expectations, is recreancy. Neither Judge GRAY, Governor JOHNSON nor Colonel GUFFEY, is guilty of this fault and their friends are quite as blameless in the matter. They had their ideas and expressed them in the only way that was available and having been overruled by the majority, cheerfully consent to the verdict. Having manfully exercised their right they freely bow to their duty.

The nominees of the Denver convention are the candidates of the Democratic party and every individual and collection of Democrats is in honor bound to the faithful and earnest support of the ticket. Happily they are men of the highest standard of excellence. Morally and mentally they are fit for the high honor that has been bestowed upon them by a party which embodies the loftiest ideals of the science of government and the requirements of civic righteousness. Individual Democrats may have differed as to the availability of the candidates but no man, whatever his political affiliations or party preferences, will question the regularity of the choice of the convention or the fitness of the candidates it has chosen. Therefore we are, as we ought to be, a united and militant force for the ticket and the principles it represents. Thus influenced victory is certain.

The Question of Publicity.

It is somewhat ostentatiously announced that Judge TAFT, the Republican nominee for President, has declared in favor of the public ity before the election of campaign contributions and expenditures. That of course is, like the Chinaman's card game, "a trick to deceive." During the recent session of Congress a law providing for such publicity was introduced by Representative MCCALL, of Massachusetts, but was not passed. Pending its consideration Mr. TAFT wrote Senator BURROWS, of Michigan, that he favored the passage of the bill, but he marked the letter private and it went into the Senator's inside pocket where it remained until it was too late to use it in support of the measure.

There is no question that the misuse of money in political campaigns is the most prolific source of corruption in office and it is equally certain that the only cure for the evil is in publicity, before, rather than after the election. Yet Mr. TAFT's party refused to make such a requirement by law and the convention which nominated him refused to promise it in the future. These delinquencies clearly commit the Republican party to the abuses which have been a public shame in the past, and Judge TAFT is to blame because his demand for the law while Congress was in session would have placed it on the statute books and his demand would have brought the promise from the convention.

The Democratic convention and the Democratic candidates occupy a vastly different position on that subject. Before the platform was completed Mr. BRYAN insisted that such a proposition be embodied and his wishes were respected just as the promise will be fulfilled. The contribution to campaign committees of corporation funds which belong not to the officers who make them but to the stockholders, is denounced with equal force and relevancy, and it is not an after thought. These are subjects upon which the Democratic candidate and Democratic statesmen have thought long and carefully. They are discussed, not in the cursory and careless way which Mr. TAFT treats them, but in the grave and earnest manner becoming so important a subject.

Roosevelt's Scheme to Fool the People.

President ROOSEVELT is also entering upon a scheme "to fool the people." Hitherto he has pretended a strong faith in the intelligence of American citizens. But he has finally determined to try their credulity. The convention went as far as it could in that direction and TAFT took a flyer that indicated little respect for the intelligence of the average voter. But ROOSEVELT skins them all. His scheme is not only an asperiion upon the mental equipment of the people but inferentially raises a doubt as to their honesty.

Mr. ROOSEVELT's scheme is to create an artificial prosperity and to make the people believe it is the genuine thing. That is equivalent to substituting base for precious metal in a ring left with a jeweler for repairs. It is no better than obtaining money under false pretenses and little worse than stuffing ballot boxes, one of the favorite methods the Republicans have used in maintaining themselves in power. But ROOSEVELT doesn't mind a little thing like that. He went into a criminal conspiracy with "Dear HARRIMAN," four years ago, and subsequently betrayed the confidence of his "pal."

During the average year the government spends about $750,000,000, in constructive work and the purchase of materials and repairs. Contracts for this work are let at intervals during the year, to the best possible advantage of the government. This year, however, the President has arranged to make contracts for everything at once so as to create a fictitious prosperity by extraordinary industrial activity between now and the election. Under existing industrial conditions the machine managers know that TAFT will be defeated worse than HARRISON was beaten in 1892. But they have a hope that the people can be fooled.

A guttersnipe politician of the type employed to stuff ballot boxes might be expected to engage in such an enterprise but it was hardly to be thought that a President of the United States would debase himself to such a contemptible false pretense. But why shouldn't ROOSEVELT do it? He has deliberately violated his oath of office, bribed Senators and Congressmen to vote against an investigation of the Postoffice Department at a time when the inquiry would have revealed that he had been paying personal debts to railroads by giving contracts to carry mails at exorbitant rates.

Moreover he has maliciously falsified at a time and under circumstances when the victims of his mendacity might have been greatly injured, on one occasion, at least, a woman being involved. He has unjustly punished soldiers and others for no other offense than that they disagreed with him, and he has usurped power to the prejudice of the courts, the Congress and to the peril of the Republic. A man who will do those things is not above a case of false pretense, but it is not likely that one of that kind can fool the people very extensively.

A Hayes-y Claim.

It is said that Mr. JAMES KERR, of our neighboring county of Clearfield, purposes claiming the position of member from Pennsylvania of the National Democratic committee, notwithstanding the fact that but twenty-six of the sixty-eight delegates from the State voted for him as well as the additional fact that these twenty-six held their caucus, if one was held at all, without notice of time or place to anyone, and three days after they had all taken part in the regular caucus of ALL the delegates which had acted upon this question. Once upon a time a man by name of HAYES made claim to the office of President to which another had been elected. Conditions, that he was able to take advantage of, enabled him to hold the position. History fails to record that either himself or his party ever received, claimed or were even accorded credit or glory for the theft.

——The Philadelphia *Record* has announced itself as unequivocally for the Democratic ticket. We congratulate it on this evidence of returning sense and sincerely hope that its efforts for the good cause from this time on will prove just as earnest and emphatic, as has been its work to disrupt, disorganize and discredit the Democracy of the State since it has been in the hands of the Republican newspaper syndicate that holds a controlling interest in its stock. The *Record* can be of great use to the party but it will take it a long time, and much labor, to undo the devilment it is largely responsible for in the politics of Pennsylvania and a longer time possibly to restore the confidence the Democratic voters, at one time, had for its opinions. It is, however, to be congratulated. Future results will tell if the same can be extended the Democracy.

——Because a Mr. Sellers, of Milesburg, had no more regard for the law than to strike the district attorney a blow on the chin he now is getting board at the county's expense in Fort Kline.

They Cannot Buy Prosperity.

From the Lancaster Intelligencer.

A sudden searchlight is thrown up on congressional extravagance.

Word has gone forth that the government is to spend as much of the billion-dollar total of appropriations as can possibly be expended before the election. That Republican prosperity is to be purchased if money can buy it. Arrangements for the disbursement of about seven hundred and fifty million dollars are gravely declared to have been ordered under the authority so generously given by Congress, and the president is said to have told the heads of departments before he went to Oyster Bay that the annual contracts for supplies must be immediately attended to, in consequence of which order, the usual summer vacations have been cut down, or altogether refused, and everybody is hustling to get in bids and place orders and pay out millions.

The object of this unprecedented summer rush is quite bluntly declared to be to apply the wealth of the government to the restoration of normal business conditions. It needs no expert in political economy, no master of commercial and financial affairs to teach the average reader that prosperity, real prosperity of a safe, wholesale and reasonably enduring sort, is not to be commanded by the mere spending of money taken from the people in taxes, no matter how great the sum, or how quickly spent.

The hundreds of millions of dollars' worth of government work to be thus hurriedly contracted for in the hope that a stimulation of business will follow with timely benefit to the party which has so foolishly claimed to be "the one and only party of prosperity," may, indeed, be expected to have a marked effect upon business. A landslide from a mountain top makes more of a splash than a fall of a single rock in the river that flows beneath, but neither affect the general course or flow of the stream.

Prosperity is not to be bought; it is not the monopoly of any party, or the assured reward of any unchanging policy of government. It is to be achieved, under the blessing of providence, by frugality, and not by extravagance, by readjustment of tariffs and commercial conditions to suit changing needs and the developments of commercial life, and by a broad and unselfish statesmanship sincerely striving to achieve the greatest good for the greatest number.

To pass from this broad view to the commonplace and near aspect of this political striving for prosperity it is to be noted that the usual absurd opinions as to the business effect of the success of either party are being given the usual absurd prominence. Newspapers find room for items about a Mr. Croaker, who declares that he will at once retire from business if Mr. Bryan is elected, or a Mr. Joker, who will emigrate to Manila if Mr. Taft is the next president.

The mild pleasantries of the dog days need no serious attention. The earth will continue to revolve regardless of political results, which are nevertheless quite likely to be revolutionary, stimulating and Democratic.

Campaign Contributions.

From the Altoona Times.

Notwithstanding that congress refused to enact one of the several measures regulating contributions to campaign war chests, politicians are falling over themselves in their eagerness to pay homage to public sentiment on the question. The Republican platform is silent, but Mr. Taft has made it plain that he is heartly in favor of proper regulations, and has instructed his campaign treasurer to publicly account for every dollar received.

The Democratic pronouncement contains a strong arraignment of the fat frying process and Mr. Bryan has for several years been a staunch advocate to publicity of campaign contributions.

While Mr. Taft is undoubtedly sincere in his position he will be confronted during the campaign with the persistent refusal of a Republican congress to consider this subject, although the Democratic minority had a standing offer to affiliate with thirty Republican members and enact a measure demanded by the public. He will doubtless have reason to regret the omission of the Republican platform that compelled him to give personal assurance that he is in sympathy with a law curtailing opportunity for the debauching of the electorate.

It is olny a matter of time until congress is forced to yield to the force of sentiment and pass a law making it obligatory on the part of campaign treasurers to account for every dollar received, from whatever source. The firm stand taken by the presidential candidates will accelerate the coming of this greatly-needed reform.

West Virginia Imbroglio.

From the Pittsburg Post.

That situation in West Virginia Republican politics must be an imbroglio. There is such a clothesline swish to the word, and it is foreign enough always to suggest a little more complication than it really means. The latest news is that Senators Elkins and Scott are to be sent to harmonize the Scherr-Swisher factions by having both withdraw. This resembles the kind of arbitration the asphalt trust has been proposing to Castro, that he back down. The platform of the Scherr wing denounces quite properly such veteran machine politicians as Elkins and Scott. If Swisher represents the State machine, how can the Scherr men be asked to retreat? Elkins as a pacificator closely resembles a broad smile.

George Cookman Sturgiss, of Morgantown, evidently thinks well of himself, deducing this idea from the page he devotes to his biography in the "Congressional Directory." He was also born in Ohio, like Elkins and Scott. He is said to be the dark horse under blanket after Elkins gets "chaos" arranged. But Sturgiss is merely an Elkins agent and thus arbitration runs off the track again. The whole trouble seems to be that Elkins and Scott would naturally embroil an imbroglio. The escape of oil and coal from taxation is an operative item in the Panhandle State.

Sparks from the Keystone.

—There were 103 births and fifty-eight deaths reported in Johnstown for the month of June.

—Sixty-four patients are now under treatment at the state tuberculosis dispensary at Williamsport.

—By a court decree the name of the Western University of Pennsylvania has been changed to University of Pittsburg.

—A plant has just been established in Mill Hall, Clinton county, equipped with the latest improved machinery for the manufacture of canvas gloves.

—Since the beginning of the present year the commissioners of Beaver county have spent over $1,000 for the Pasteur treatment of persons bitten by mad dogs.

—Of 212 applicants for license to practice dentistry who took the recent examination before the Pennsylvania State Dental Examining board 176 were successful.

—The seventeenth annual assembly of the Pennsylvania Chautauqua, at Mount Gretna, Lebanon county, opened last week with an enrollment of 348 students, the largest in its history. Of these 244 are teachers.

—Forty widows of Berwick, ranging in age from 23 to 82 years, held their second annual picnic on Thursday. They were a happy party—all merry widows—whether they wore merry widow hats or not.

—At the Ellangowan coal strippings, Shenandoah, a petrified leg of a man has been found by Patrick Donahue. The limb is perfectly formed, although it is larger than the ordinary size. It is of stone, and very heavy, requiring three men to carry it.

—A small scratch on the side of her nose, made by a splinter two years ago, on Thursday caused the death of Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Smith, of Lewistown. Cancer started in the sore and this caused the woman's demise. Deceased was in her 71st year and is survived by three daughters.

—Struck in the eye by a flying piece of metal, D. S. Searer, employed by the Standard Steel Works company, at Burnham, Mifflin county, had the member so badly cut that he will probably lose his sight. He went to Philadelphia and entered the Wills Eye hospital, where he will undergo treatment.

—A fine clock costing $1,800 is to be placed in the tower of St. Boniface Roman Catholic church in Williamsport. John Coleman is the donor of the clock. A set of chimes is to be connected with it, which with the bell for the hour signal, will cost $2,500. The latter will weigh over 3,000 pounds and is the gift of Andrew Berhle.

—By the capsizing of a boat on Sabula dam, Clearfield county, on Saturday night, Lloyd Barr, aged 16 years, who made his home with his uncle, James Duttry, was drowned. Three companions who were with him in the boat were saved by Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Moore, who heard their cries and went to their rescue in boats.

—The contest of the anthracite coal companies of Lackawanna county against the county commissioners for raising the valuation of coal lands $40,000,000 for taxation purposes was disposed of by the court on Monday which reduced the assessments to $60 per foot acre, making the total increase about $18,000,000. It may be carried to the Supreme court.

—Ella, the daughter of Michael Noviack, of Big Mountain, who was bitten by a copperhead snake while engaged in picking huckleberries about ten days ago, is lying in a precarious condition at the home of her parents and her case is one that is attracting widespread medical attention and notoriety. Her left arm is greatly swollen and very painful and the skin has turned to a dark copper color.

—Guy Kling, the 10-year-old son of Albert Kling, of near Mackeyville, who was bitten by a copperhead snake last week, has suffered considerable pain since. The boy was picking huckleberries near his home when the snake bit him. At first he did not know that it was a snake that had struck the middle finger of his right hand. He merely felt a sting on his finger and did not see the snake, which was afterwards killed by Mr. Kling.

—Fire in the house of a fire department company is an unusual occurrence, but that is what happened on Saturday morning at No. 3 station, Williamsport. The fire broke out in the hay mow, which had just been filled a few days before, and the hay was all ablaze in a short time. Two tons of hay and fifty bushels of oats were burned and the interior of the structure was considerably charred. It is believed the fire resulted from crossed electric wires.

—Miss Fannie Lechler, a resident of Williamsport, Friday found a diamond ring, valued at $75 which she lost about six months ago, and the finding of it on that day saved the life of a pet dog. Search had been kept up through the house from the time the ring was lost and finally it was concluded that the dog had found the ring and swallowed it, as he was in the habit of swallowing small things that he found. It was decided to kill him on Friday to look for the ring, but the finding of it averted the killing.

—For the second time within two days, Hostetter, Westmoreland county, was visited by the fire fiend on Friday evening when the large mule barn of the Hostetter-Connellsville Coal and Coke company, located less than 200 feet away from the store of the Farmers' Trading company, was completely wiped out by fire, together with about fifteen tons of hay, 200 bushels of oats, 200 bushels of corn and a considerable quantity of harness, entailing a loss estimated at from $6,000 to $8,000, fully covered by insurance. Forty-six mules in the stables were all rescued.

—James Guy, the patriarchal leader of a band of gypsies who camped on the north side of Latrobe a week or two ago, met a horrible death on Thursday afternoon near Graceton, on the other side of Blairsville Intersection, when the wagon in which he was riding was struck by the Indiana branch train and demolished, the engine having ploughed through it, killing Guy instantly, while two other members of the band had narrow escapes. Guy was 80 years of age, and was well known throughout Centre county as he always spent a month or more in this section every summer.