

Ink Blotting.

—Is the rain holding off for the great Centre county fair?
—Don't forget that your taxes must be paid by Oct. 3rd or you can't vote.

—The campaign is fairly well under way now, but it is too dry for much mud slinging.
—Vote for SMITH for sheriff and put a man in office who looks like a sheriff ought to look.

—From the time of the metropolitan papers these days one would infer that HEARST and ROOSEVELT are the candidates for President.

—Seeing that they are only Academy boys the lads that gave State the hook on Saturday had a right to celebrate a little Monday evening.

—DUNLAP and WEAVER have been cutting down the county debt very rapidly. Keep them at it. Don't swap horses in the middle of the stream.

—It is a little early to make predictions, but you can paste this in your hat right now. MEYER will have a majority of at least eight hundred in the county.

—The way Mr. BRYAN has them all up in the air makes it appear as though that old 16 to 1 Shibboleth might be heard again in November. That is, sixteen BRYAN electors to one for TAFT.

—That Buynus, Ohio, farmer—who has reported that it has been so dry and hot out there that his pop corn actually popped on the stalks before he could get it husked ought to be in this Standard Oil equable. Some of those excited worriers would call him what he is quick enough.

—A few drops of rain fell yesterday morning and for awhile we had hopes, but they were all blasted by ten o'clock when the sun tried to peep out through the smoke that has overhung the county for weeks. Thus even the change of the moon has been as disappointing as was the Granger's picnic.

—Well, it is just as we expected. TEDDY has jumped into the game and now TAFT, HITCHCOCK and all the rest of the fellows who thought they had something to do with the Republican national campaign find out that they are mere pin-head politicians when the great swinger of the "big stick" begins to do business.

—Because the husks on the corn are very thin it is said we are to have an open winter. Because the weeds are so high it is said the snows will be many and deep. Thus do the signs of the times conflict and leave the unweatherwise to abide what comes with the consciousness that whatever it may be it will be best for us.

—Why all this talk about what Mr. TAFT has done? What has TAFT done? He has held office nearly all his life and has never been elected to anything. He comes of an office-hunting family, all of them having been appointed and none elected. Mr. TAFT has never done anything to arouse even comment except when as a judge he issued the first injunction ever issued out of a court against labor.

No, when it comes to having done things, Mr. TAFT has nothing on Mr. BRYAN.

—That proverbial little bird that seems to find out all things told us that chairman HARRY KELLER and the other local satellites had a regular leg-pulling fest when the Hon. BARCLAY was here a few days ago. They landed on him like a lot of buzzards on a dead sheep and began to tear five thousand of his good round simoleans right out of his inside pocket. But the congested gentleman from Sinnemaunough fought back in such a way that they really got only four hundred. He told them that he didn't expect much from Centre county, which was very nice of him because it will be so easy to fulfill his expectations. In fact, just as easy with four hundred as it would have been with five thousand.

—Are you on Mr. TAYLOR's special list? While talking with a gentleman a few days ago as to how his chances appeared in a certain district, the young legislative candidate was told that several Democrats were going to vote for him. Then he asked whether any Republicans were going to vote against him. Upon being told that some were, with that characteristic manner of his, he handed his informer a little pass book and said: Here I want you to write down in there every name of a Republican that is going to vote against me. Are you on any of these lists? Of course it is really none of our business, but it is interesting to know just how Mr. TAYLOR regards those of his party who do not intend supporting him.

—The average man considers his own interests first, especially when the question at issue affects his living expenses. That is the question at issue in the contest for commissioners of Centre county. It is a question now whether the old board shall be re-elected or a new one put in its place. It isn't much of a question, after all, for the prudent man will prefer to take no chances on a change when the present administration of the office is as economical as it is. When Messrs. DUNLAP and WEAVER went into office three years ago the county was very much in debt and the public properties run down. They have served three years, reducing the indebtedness materially and improving the public property everywhere. Under such circumstances it would be entirely without warrant to make a change.

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Taft, Sherman and Foraker.

SENATOR FORAKER's relationship with the Standard Oil company has been revealed. He was the agent, equal in power and authority, with Senator ALDRICH for that corporation in the Senate.

As a matter of fact the Republican candidate for Vice President, JAMES SCHOOLCRAFT SHERMAN, maintained precisely the same relations with the Standard Oil company in the House of Representatives that FORAKER held in the Senate.

The truth is that FORAKER is no worse and probably no better than the other leaders of his party. They are all hitched up with the predatory trusts in one shape or another.

With President ROOSEVELT's consent and connivance there will be a saturnalia of corruption at the coming election that has never had a parallel in this country.

Why all this talk about what Mr. TAFT has done? What has TAFT done? He has held office nearly all his life and has never been elected to anything.

—The panic of the Republican managers has been revealed in various ways, lately. Last week we referred to the danger signal thrown up by the editor of the Chicago Tribune and the fear expressed by President ROOSEVELT.

But conditions are not as they were twelve and eight years ago. When Mr. BRYAN was in Delaware, a few days ago, he dined at the residence of Judge GRAY and slept at the home of WILLARD SAULSBURY.

—The prolonged drought is hard on the trout in the mountain streams. Many of the small streams have gone dry and thousands of trout were left stranded and died.

—John A. Whitman, of Milesburg, has secured the privilege to conduct the boarding house on the fair grounds during the county fair week after next.

Conspiracy of Fraud.

The Republican managers are thoroughly alarmed. The election in Vermont was advisory. The vote in Maine was discouraging. But that of the special elections held in Indiana the other day was disastrous.

Of course the ratio won't be maintained in all the States named. The Republicans will flood the country with money and try to buy the election.

When the Legislature passed the appropriation for county fairs within the State it was done as an incentive to build up such institutions because they are a good thing.

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Foraker as a Sacrifice.

That Senator FORAKER was an agent of the Standard Oil company in Congress has been proved by documentary evidence. He accepted big fees of the company and favored such legislation as it wanted and opposed such as its officers regarded as inimical.

But Senator FORAKER is no worse than his associates in the leadership of the Republican party. Senator ALDRICH, of Rhode Island; Treasurer SHELTON, of the Republican National committee; E. T. STOTESBURY, the financial agent of the party in Pennsylvania, and Mr. DUPONT, of Delaware, are quite as deeply involved as FORAKER.

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Richard Olney Writes.

From the Pittsburgh Post. Mr. Taft has been betraying a nervous fondness for diverting attention from current issues affecting the people's present welfare by voluminous references to past questions that were supplanted or settled by ordinary evolution of events.

Mr. Olney deftly removes the skin from Mr. Roosevelt and his fantasies, and while so doing is compelled to scalp Mr. Taft. With the voice and the spirit of the old Cleveland Democracy this letter inspires a united party to march onward to a now assured triumph.

One point Mr. Olney makes deserves special mention. To the slur of luck of constructive promise or suggestion by Democrats, he answers that plunging headlong in the wrong direction must first be checked before traveling in the right can begin.

From the Lancaster Intelligencer. The Republican journals do not like Hearst's disclosures of the Standard Oil's letter to Senator Foraker, which seem to prove clearly enough that he had been in their service in the Senate and in their pay.

They show, furthermore, the elaborateness with which this vehicle is equipped for the work given it to do, and how closely legislation is watched that touches Standard Oil interests.

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Spavils from the Keystone.

—Four car loads of potatoes were unloaded at Reading on Wednesday and sold at 75 cents per bushel.

—It is estimated that South Woodbury township, Bedford county, will have a crop of 4,000 bushels of cloverseed this year.

—Typhoid fever, which raged in Hastings' Cambria county, for nearly three months, but was gradually abating, has taken another spurt. On Friday three new cases were reported and it is feared there will be a number of others.

—In an effort to keep a cow from being killed, brakeman Frank McMullen, of Tyrone, stepped in front of a westbound freight train, just west of the Tyrone station, shortly after five o'clock last Thursday evening, and was instantly killed.

—The sixth case of smallpox has appeared in the Enola district of Cumberland county the patient being G. H. Burkholder, an employee of the Pennsylvania railroad. Precautions to prevent further spread have been taken and men are being ordered to be vaccinated at once.

—W. H. Myers, clerk to the county commissioners, has completed the computation of registered voters of Mifflin county and the books show that there are 7,168 voters in the county. Of this number quite a number will not be entitled to a vote owing to the fact that they have not paid their taxes.

—Edward Morris and Mrs. Margaret Hamilton, each aged 77 years, were married at Titusville on Tuesday evening. They were sweethearts sixty years ago, but became estranged and each married another. After all these years they met again as widow and widower and now are husband and wife.

—When Daniel Cram, of Harrisburg, came to his home late on Friday night he found it in possession of some intruders who had the doors locked so that he could not enter and they laughed at his dilemma. He went for help and when he got back they had fled and carried with them much valuable plunder.

—In broad daylight on Wednesday afternoon a sneak thief entered the home of David Smith, a well known carpenter of Latrobe, and walked off with \$84 in cash, which Mr. Smith had allowed to remain in the pocket of a pair of trousers. The robbery was one of the boldest to be pulled off in Latrobe for a long time.

—Following the christening of a baby of a foreign resident near the California quarries, east of Tyrone, early Monday, and because he was elected from the place, Andy Martini set off eighty sticks of dynamite in front of the home of his enemy and was himself blown to pieces, various sections of his body being strewn over the road. The house was blown to pieces but the occupants were unhurt.

—Half a dozen men passed by a fat looking wallet lying on the Main street sidewalk in Monongahela, on Wednesday, each chuckling as he thought he was too smart to be fooled. Then Ernest Milward, a business man, came along, picked it up and found it contained \$257 in bank notes. He left it with a trust company and two hours later the owner came and identified it and left \$37 as a reward for Milward.

—A girl who gave her name as Mary Kelly came to the home of Mrs. John E. Marsden, in West Philadelphia, last Thursday, and applied for a position as domestic. She was engaged and got to work on Oct. 1. On Saturday she went out ostensibly to mail a letter. Time passed and the girl did not return and then it was discovered that she had looted the safe and carried away about five thousand dollars' worth of jewelry.

—A well was drilled at the Sunshine works in Unity township, Westmoreland county, that, notwithstanding the drought proved a gusher, the flow being sufficient to fill their reservoir and furnish water to start up their string of ovens. The stream is so strong that the water flows out of the top of the well in a stream. The well is 108 feet and the find insures them against drought hereafter as it will not likely ever fail.

—On Friday DuBois was surrounded on all sides by forest fires that were eating up millions of feet of timber and day and night a thick cloud of smoke hung over the town. Many people in the wooded districts were fighting the flames, several thousand men taking part in the unequal contest against the element that is going on in the surrounding country, but the scarcity of water prevented them from getting any decided advantage over the fire.

—Through attorneys Lewis, Jones & Lewis, of Coudersport, the Buffalo and Susquehanna Railroad company has filed a bill to set aside the county commissioners' power to fine the company \$1,000 for each passenger the company charges more than two cents per mile for carrying, as stipulated by the Dunsmore two-cent rate law. This is the same mode of procedure as followed by the Coudersport and Fort Allegheny Railway company, and undoubtedly will have the same outcome, which will enable the company to increase its rates to those in vogue before the Dunsmore bill came into force.

—The Monarch machine works at 714 and 716 Green avenue, Altoona, have received a sub-contract from Coleessor Bros. at Eldorado, for the steel die stamping of the initials of the United States government on the head of axes used by the forestry reserves. The axes are forged by the Coleessor Bros. at Eldorado by the thousand and sent to Monarch Machine Works to have the initials stamped on the head. The shape of the axes are unlike those used for chopping wood. The blade is the same but the head instead of being long and blunt is forged like that of a hatchet upon which are stamped the letters "U. S."

—Three Clearfield county men were arrested last week charged with being members of a gang which has stolen more than 200 head of cattle and disposed of their carcasses to butchers. Thousands of head of live stock are pastured in the mountains in the summer. It is alleged that Frank Hoover, Isaac Hoover and Edward Sallada, who were arrested after disposing of three heifers, made a practice of "rustling" fat cattle, butchering them in isolated spots and taking the meat and hides at night to nearby towns and selling them. Cattlemen estimate the losses at \$10,000. It is believed that the prisoners are only tools and that prominent men are concerned in the conspiracy.

Ohio Election Figures.

It is one of the remarkable coincidences of election returns that Mr. Bryan received exactly the same number of votes in Ohio in 1896 and 1900. Both years his total vote in the state was 474,882. In 1896 McKinley beat him by 51,000 and in 1900 by 69,000. But this increase was due to McKinley's gain and not Bryan's loss. The figures by counties show that in 1900 Bryan had lost votes in the agricultural counties as compared to 1896, but that he made up for this loss by increasing his vote in the centres of population.