

Ink Slings.

Congress is in session. God save the country!

It turns out that the Holy Rollers of Kansas City are really holy terrors.

This is apple week and if you haven't eaten at least one apple a day the apple growers of the land will imagine that you are not doing your duty by them.

How many of the Centre county farmers who are holding their wheat for a dollar ten or twenty-five will finally have to take eighty-five or ninety cents for it?

Scotch tavern keepers have been throwing CARRIE NATION out of their establishments with a promptness that indicates that they are trying to emulate their American brothers.

The President's last message to Congress contains twenty thousand words. They are not all different words, however, but they are words, all right, and they are about all there is to it.

There is yet time before the fourth of March for the boss trust buster to get after that Chicago undertaker's combination that sells at two hundred and fifty dollars a casket in which there is good profit at fifty.

While we have no sympathy with "Uncle Joe" CANNON's methods as speaker of the House we do believe he is right when he tells the President and the President-elect that it is the business of Congress to make the laws and not theirs.

JOHN F. SHEATZ is no more capable of making the kind of an United States Senator that Pennsylvania should have than is any other man of mediocre ability. If a fight is to be made on PENROSE why isn't a man of the KNOX type taken up to rally about.

The much talked of election bar' isn't in it for a minute with the one brought into court from Howard Tuesday. It was a very common bar' at that, but it took the judge and jury, two lawyers and twenty witnesses most of the day to find out who stole it.

The Chicago man who has brought action for divorce against his wife because she insists on having the alarm clock go off every morning at five o'clock has our sympathy. Yet, after all, there must be something wrong with him else she wouldn't want to crawl out so early.

The importance of the criminal cases in court this week was such as to indicate that certain justices of the peace might have saved the county considerable expense, as well as insured to their own reputations for good common sense, by refusing to give the litigants a law.

To Mahanoy City, that is contemplating closing the bars on Christmas day, Bellefonte sends greetings and wishes to assure our sister town that based on our own experience nothing she could do would add more to the real spirit of the day or prove more generally satisfactory.

A French army officer has invented eye glasses which enable the wearer to see on all sides, as well as in the rear. It might not be a bad investment for the borough to purchase ten of them for the use of our councilmen and the solicitor during the progress of this allaboring water proposition.

Ohio is gradually voting dry. County by county the State is excluding the booze. The result, of course, is problematical. It is probable that the papers will be giving more space to "boot-leggers," "speakeasies" and "pigpens" in the Buckeye State ere long than is now required to tell of the dry victories.

ROOSEVELT is standing pat again on "my policies." The election is over, TAFT is in and TEDDY once more begins to brandish the "big stick." Fortunately for the country the days of his blustering and bluster are numbered and after March he can beat it for Africa with the same God-speed from us that CARRIE NATION got when she left for the other side.

The Commoner has been busy ever since the election, and is still busy trying to explain the mystery of 1908. Of course you will understand it means the election. But why worry about that? It is over and there doesn't seem to be much mystery about it unless it is regarded as such because Mr. BRYAN didn't get as many votes as we would like to have seen him get.

The Sunbury Daily celebrated its thirty-sixth birthday by issuing a special edition on Monday illustrative and descriptive of its splendid new building and equipment. The Daily and its parent the Democrat and their owner Mr. DEWART are all to be congratulated on so splendid an achievement for with the facilities now at hand there will be improvements along all lines and what have been heretofore excellent journals will become even more so.

If you are a parent and have children remember that the prettiest, sweetest, most gladome days of the child's life are those of the Christmas season. Fringed with the most captivating legends, fables of the purest type, and the always sweet story of the child Christ these are the days that the little folks love and the days when they absorb more of good than at any other time in their lives. Don't shatter their Christmas idols. Encourage their beliefs in them and long after they are grown to man and womanhood the dearest memories they will have of you are the ones centered about the Christmas-tide when their innocent young souls were full of hope and love inexpressible.

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Still Holding the Burr.

Years and years ago, when the writer hereof was a bit of a boy cooing his way barefooted through a stubble-field in the upper end of the county, he remembers witnessing the performance resulting from placing a chestnut burr under a colt's tail. It was the work of a few mischievous school boys and furnished an exhibition that will never be forgotten. Buffalo BILL's bucking bronchos weren't in it with that colt. His trained ponies and his howling Indians, as a show, was nothing compared to its antics. How that little beast, after the burr got to work, clapped down its tail, humped its back, snorted and kicked and cavorted round, how it laid down and rolled and got up and kicked again and then run and kicked and rolled, and with its back humped higher and its tail humped over kept on running and rolling and kicking until it was so played out that it didn't know whether it was a colt, or a mule, or what it was, can never be described. And all the time it kept hugging that jagging burr as if it was something it didn't want to get rid of.

A few days later a second trial brought a repetition of the first day's exhibition. At the third trial, about one week following, the colt had gotten onto the job and when cornered and caught and the jaggery old burr put in place it simply relaxed the muscles of its tail and down the burr dropped. Try as the boys might it was impossible to get that colt to hug that burr or kick again. So far as that particular animal was concerned that kind of fun was ended.

But you will ask what had that to do with anything that is going on today? Nothing, only that it was called to mind by the excitement, the fuss and the agitation, caused by the fool announcement of a few days ago, that BRYAN would probably be a candidate again in 1912, among a certain lot of people and papers that have been coveting round and kicking in the political field so long that they, or no one else, know if they are Democrats or not.

For years they have been hugging their prejudices against, and their dislikes of, Mr. BRYAN closer and closer, and have kept on kicking whenever his name was mentioned, because they always had these causes with them. Unlike the colt they have never, in the twelve years these political borrs have been irritating them, learned that relief will only come when they are dropped. Let them relax their hatred, their mistrust and their prejudice in this matter, just a little, and see how quickly they will discover that there is nothing to kick about. That even this report of the probability of Mr. BRYAN's candidacy was started only to put them off again and to secure a repetition of the political antics that have so amused and gratified the Republican party for the past twelve years.

Mr. BRYAN will not be a candidate in 1912, nor would he stand a ghost of a show for the nomination if he should be. Both he and the Democratic people have too much sense for that, hence the folly of going into hysterics, as some people are trying to do, over an unauthorized report of an unauthenticated interview.

A Billion a Year.

There was a time when the proposal to pass an appropriation bill of over one billion of dollars, to pay the expenses of the government for but a single year, would have caused such an upheaval and an uproar that the party proposing it would at least "sit up and take notice." Such does not seem to be the case now. Congress met on Monday, and the only work it is expected to do during the three months it will be in session will be to appropriate money to meet the enormous demands now made upon the Treasury. The lowest estimate of these aggregate over one billion of dollars, or more than eleven dollars for every man, woman and child, including negroes, Indians, foreigners and inhabitants of every kind.

It is doubtful if one man in ten realizes the enormity of taxation that this amount of expenditure entails upon the people. It is certain that but few understand how they are robbed and impoverished to furnish means to meet the extravagant public expenditures now prevalent. The system of raising money for governmental outlays, is a "shut your eye" system. It is on the principle of "what you don't know don't hurt you," and if you don't realize that you are being robbed, there will be no excuse for making a fuss about it.

But whether they don't feel it or don't realize it, every cent of the billion dollars that Congress will appropriate comes out of the pockets of the people. They pay it in the additional price that tariff duties add to the necessities they must have, and to the luxuries that some indulge in. It is a shrewd way of preventing the people from knowing what the government is costing them. It is a slick method of shutting the eyes of the masses to the enormous cost of maintaining the government, and a highly satisfactory way of robbing the public

without its knowing that a wrong is being done. It is specially calculated to prevent inquiries as to the need of such extravagant outlays as we are now experiencing in every department of the government, and is one of the greatest safe-guards that the public thief and a rotten and reckless administration can have.

How, or when, or if ever a change will be made is past telling, and all that we poor mortals, who boast so loudly and sing so earnestly about the blessings of this land of the free and home of the oppressed, can do about it is to remember that under the blessed rule of the Republican party it is costing each man, and woman and child among us, over eleven dollars a year, when fourteen years ago the per-capita expense was less than five dollars.

That, however, was a time when a Democrat occupied the presidential chair, and a Democratic Congress allotted the money that could be expended for the upkeep of public officials, and the management of public affairs.

Have you paid for your WATCHMAN? If you haven't done it don't you think you would like to. The post-office authorities tell us we dare not send the paper to you if you don't. We don't want to stop it, but you see we can't help ourselves.

Mr. Galtly Only With Object.

Tuesday's news dispatches indicate that the Democrats in Congress purpose demanding an investigation of the charges made during the campaign, relative to the \$40,000,000 paid by the government for what was alleged to be French claims against the Panama canal. Reputable newspapers charged that of the amount less than one-half went to actual claimants and that the larger balance, or over \$20,000,000, was divided up among a syndicate of Republican politicians, of which President ROOSEVELT's brother-in-law was one, and President-elect TAFT's brother was another member. These same papers specified the amounts that went to different persons and added, that after the facts became known and were made public, that all documentary evidence tending to prove or disprove the truth of the charges had been removed from the departments in which they were first filed or taken away and destroyed.

There ought not, and we imagine will not be any trouble in securing an investigating committee in a matter like this. One would think that he President and the President-elect would both demand it, at once. At least an ordinarily honest man would, and in addition would lose no time in compelling a full retraction of the scandalous story, or proceed to secure justice by bringing a suit for libel against the originator and circulator of it.

And there will be no difficulty in tracing the sources from which these statements were first furnished to the public. They came from a most reputable journal—the Indianapolis News—published at the home of, and said to be partially owned and largely controlled by Vice President FAIRBANKS.

During the campaign no attention whatever on the part of those implicated was given these charges. When Mr. ROOSEVELT was asked what he had to say about them he shut up like a clam. When Mr. TAFT was requested for a statement regarding them, he refused to open his mouth. Now Mr. ROOSEVELT comes out in a letter to "Dear DUDLEY," denouncing as liars everybody and every paper that repeated the story, and branding them as more untruthful than was old Ananias and more dangerous to the country than the unwashed and unshaven Anarobist. But he don't say a word about an investigation, nor promise any proof as to the falsity of these charges.

If they are untrue he will want an investigation and there will be no trouble for the Democratic Congressmen to secure one. If they are true, then the public can expect that opposition to an inquiry, whether open or covert, will come from both Mr. ROOSEVELT and Mr. TAFT, and particularly from Representatives in Congress who are the personal friends of the outgoing and the incoming President.

No other view can be taken of this matter and we will all be wiser when it gets farther along.

Centre county had its second snow of the season on Sunday night when between three and four inches of snow fell. Towards morning the weather moderated and instead of snow it rained, rendering the pavements very disagreeable for travel on Monday morning. By evening of the same day it was twenty degrees colder and everything frozen up, and the next day it was clear and cold.

This is the last week for filing applications for liquor licenses in Centre county and the list filed numbers thirty-seven, the same number as last year. The date for holding license court will be Saturday, December 19th.

Won't Stand the Comparison.

Some of our contemporaries that are in the habit of hailing the flag and glorifying the government (because it is controlled by Republican politicians) as the only honest government on God's green globe are now pointing to Venezuela as an example of how other people are robbers, and what the tax-payers of other countries are compelled to submit to.

Down in that country they have had a bad streak with their Presidents of late years. President CASTRO has just left for Europe ostensibly to receive medical treatment, but in reality to enjoy the sixty millions of loot he was able to accumulate while filling his high office, as well as to avoid the possibility of paying it back or being shot. His immediate predecessor got away with twenty-five millions, and the fellow who occupied the place prior to him was satisfied to quit and leave when he got twenty millions.

These are the horrible examples presented to us! They aggregate ninety-five millions stolen during their administrations.

But how about ourselves? It may not be our Presidents who get away with the loot in this country but there is no denying the fact that their friends and their supporters who put up the millions that buy their election, do. During the present administration, in a single transaction down in Panama, forty millions disappeared, and no one knows what for or who got it. Under forms of law enacted for the special benefit of those who contribute for campaign purposes, millions are collected daily and pocketed by the favored few. Only two years ago eight millions of money belonging to the tax-payers of Pennsylvania was taken from the treasury and distributed among a gang who claim to be the bosses, or the backers of the bosses, who control and manage the affairs of the State. And every day the stealing and the grafting goes on, not only about Washington, and under our national administrations, but in every State and in every municipality in the entire country until it has reached such an extent that when we come to compare the ninety-five millions, stolen from the Venezuelans during three of their administrations, with what our people are robbed of yearly by its Republican methods, it is in size about like an oyster cracker would be beside a ten-cent loaf.

And then you will observe that official thieves leave Venezuela. They have to or are hung.

Here it is different. Our people are robbed of ten millions to every million the Venezuelans are, and not a one of the rascals who do it are either driven from the country, punished by the courts or get the bounce. Most of them are re-elected and encouraged to continue in the same old way.

Are we better than the Venezuelans because we continue our thieves in office? Or would it be more to our credit if public sentiment were such that it would demand their punishment, or drive them from the country, as it does down there.

The President's Message.

President ROOSEVELT's annual messages are very much like annual jokes. At first they were interesting on account of their unconvictionality. All previous Presidents had followed certain fairly well beaten paths and in grave and sober language detailed the operations of the government in all directions, suggesting one improvement here and another change there. But ROOSEVELT adopted a different course. He rushed into the matter like a foot ball team hits the line and we own that while it was novel it seemed interesting. This year, however, he is neither interesting nor amusing. He is simply tedious and tiresome.

ROOSEVELT recognizes no incident in the history of the country that occurred previous to that sad tragedy which elevated him to an office he was unfit to fill. "The financial management of the nation's interest by the government during the last seven years," he remarks at the outset "has shown the most satisfactory results." The financial management of the country during that period has revealed a measure of imbecility that would have been disgraceful if it had not been worse. But submerged in his insane vanity ROOSEVELT doesn't know but that it was admirable and probably imagines that the industrial paralysis and commercial distress of the past year is an evidence of wise administration.

President ROOSEVELT would "make the national government supreme over all railroads and other instruments of interstate commerce," he informs us in the message. In fact he would completely subvert the government "of the people, for the people and by the people," and put in its place an oligarchy, sometimes as wild as a tornado and as unstable as his own storm-tossed brain. His message contains nothing that is informing and no thought that is enduring. As a matter of fact it is of no value except in so far as it may serve to admonish the people against the election of a man to the presidency who has no mental or moral perception.

"He and God."

Rear Admiral Joseph B. Coghlan, whose satirical verses "Hooh der Kaiser" set the whole country laughing several years ago and aroused such feeling among German officials that it threatened to become an international incident, died suddenly on the 5th at New Rochelle, N. Y., aged 64 years. The following are the verses that caused the world to roar, and made Germany so mad.

Der Kaiser von Jes fatherland, Und Gott und I all dings commands. We two—ach! Don't you understand? Meinselb—and Gott.

Vile some men sing der bower divine, Mein Soldiers sing "Der Wacht am Rhein," Und drink der health in Rheinisch wine, Of me—and Gott.

Der's France, she swaggers all around; She's ungepeldt—she's no aground; To much we think she don't amount, Meinselb—and Gott.

She will not dare to fight again, But if she should, I'll show her brain Dot Elass and (in French) Lorraine Are mein—and Gott.

Der's grandma, dink's she's nicht small beer, Mit Beers und such she interiere; Mit tears none owns die hemisphere But me—and Gott.

She dinks—good frau—from ships she's got Und soldiers mit her scarlet goats; Ach! We could knock dem, post! Like dot Meinselb—and Gott.

In dines for peace beklare for wars, I bear der helm and spear Von Mars, Und care not for den toubant ears, Meinselb—mit Gott.

In fact, I humor efray whim Mit aspect dark und visage grim, Gott pulls mit me and I mit Him, Meinselb—and Gott.

A Minority's Power.

Everybody probably has heard of the stubborn jurymen, who stood out against his eleven colleagues until one by one, they came to his understanding of the case and rendered a unanimous verdict, according to his judgment. If the truth were known, that occurrence is more apt to be the rule than the exception. And it may be accepted as a token of the power of a minority. Not that it is stubbornness alone that wins the battle. Quite frequently, perhaps oftener, the minority is right and the majority is not.

It is not supposed for one little instant that the minority in the House of Representatives can be compared to the stubborn juror, nor that, under existing circumstances, it could obtain the results attributed to him. Nevertheless, the Democratic minority in the House would do well to keep the comparison in mind against that time when it shall not be a minority. Measures can be accomplished through unity of action on their part, by fidelity to the principles they represent; in short, by comporting themselves as though they were not outnumbered by the enemy. Congressman Clark, on his election to the leadership, made clear to his colleagues that might be expected of them during the forthcoming session. In effect, it spelled "unity," all in capital letters. Let the minority not forget that it represents a great political party. May it and its leaders be found always working in conjunction and with perfect harmony for the best interests of the whole people.

Milked But Don't Know It.

The Hon. Edgar Dean Crumacker, Representative in Congress from Tenth Indiana District and a member of the Ways and Means Committee, is a protectionist of the right kind. On Thursday he listened attentively to a witness who described from his own knowledge the shifts and tricks of some persons in the wool trade that put cotton and sizing on the backs of those innocents who seek and pay for woolen clothes. The story of petty fraud moved Mr. Crumacker. He asked: "What's the difference if they (the buyers of fake woolen goods) don't know?" Here is the unanswerable argument of the high degree protectionist. Sometimes "the foreigner pays the tax." Sometimes "infant industry" needs pap. Sometimes a trade asking no favors has them forced on it that the contrast with others may not be too glaring. But at the bottom of all the true philosophy of the protective doctrine is: "What's the difference if they don't know?" Under banners bearing this inspiring motto the milking of consumers is carried on joyously and with great profit to the milkers; nor will it be abandoned or moderated until its victims give positive and unequivocal evidence that they do know and are determined that their exploitation shall cease.

Will Get Better Clothes.

The tariff committee has announced a further continuance of its hearings. There is no telling just what kind of a tariff bill will be presented, much less what kind of a bill will be passed after it has been debated and amended, but there is strong hope among tariff reformers that there will be large additions to the free list in the way of raw material, such as wool, hides, lumber and coal. It is well known that we cannot have the best woolen fabrics made in this country because the finest fleeces of Australia and South America go to the looms of England and Germany and France, while American manufacturers, on account of high tariff, are obliged to eat out their scanty supply of wool with cotton and shoddy.

The Manufacturer's Outlet Clothing company in the Bush Arcade are now offering clothing at big old holiday prices. Some of the biggest bargains ever heard of are shown at this store. See their prices as advertised on the sixth page of today's paper then go and see what they have to offer therefor.

Spawls from the Keystone.

There were twenty-eight cases of diptheria in Latrobe during November.

At Harrisburg State Dairy and Food Commissioner Foust announces that all Philadelphia firms engaged in the oleo traffic will be prosecuted.

Somerset has practically been accepted as the site of the next encampment of the Second brigade of the National Guard, says the Somerset Herald.

Fifteen brakemen on the Beech Creek were ordered to report at Williamsport this week to take examination for promotion to positions as conductors.

William S. Ober, of Somerset county, an operator on the Baltimore and Ohio line, has just returned from an 8,000 mile trip through twenty-two states of the union.

Fresh laid Berks county eggs are a scarcity in the Reading markets and the farmers have raised them to 45 cents a dozen. Cold storage eggs are selling at 30 cents.

There is a bad outbreak of hog cholera near Eagle's Mere, State veterinarians, on the lookout for apthous fever, discovered the disease and took measures to prevent its spread.

Taxidermist Eidon, of Williamsport, has a busy season ahead of him, having to date the heads of 118 deer to mount and fifty bear skins to dress, with a prospect of more of each kind.

Hastings, which has been scourged with typhoid fever, has secured a fine never-failing supply of water from a well 540 feet deep. A remarkable fact in connection with the well is that it is soft water.

A case of apthous fever was discovered on the farm of Clarence Winters, a dairyman, near Newberry, Williamsport. The disease is traced to a Buffalo shipment. Other new cases have been discovered in Clinton county.

The Methodist Episcopal church at Muncy, Clearfield county, of which Rev. C. H. Campbell is pastor, is having a wonderful revival meeting. Seventy-eight were added to the church in one day, and the interest is unabated.

In the fall Pottstown residents became frightened over the fear of potato rot and paid \$1 per bushel for the tubers. Now hundreds of bushels of good potatoes are being shipped in and are being sold at seventy-five cents per bushel.

Judge Kooser, of Somerset county, in a recent decision takes the ground that a woman may not be prosecuted for an act of assault and battery committed in the presence of her husband. The husband is responsible for what his wife does in his presence.

Recently a conference was held by the members of the Council of Mechanical Engineers and officials of the Cumberland Valley Railroad company, and it is now asserted that a freight line will be built from the west shore of the Susquehanna through Mechanicsburg.

Farmers in Berks county who have been ploughing report that they have found worms, beetles, toads, grasshoppers and snakes, which they say forecasts a mild winter; because when there is a severe winter approaching these all go deeper into the earth.

William Weaver recently shot a gray eagle in Hare's valley, near Huntingdon, which measured 85 inches from tip to tip of wings. The bird had swooped down upon a chicken which it had caught under a fence and was chewing the chicken's leg when shot. It had devoured the leg up to the body.

Miss Dahl Allen, aged 21 years, of Lewistown, a former companion of Nan Patterson, the actress, is in West Penn hospital, Pittsburgh, bravely fighting for her life after an attempt to kill herself recently. A bullet perforated her intestines in seven places and her recovery will break records in surgery. She probably will live.

An excitement was raised in Clearfield last week by the supposed discovery of trachoma, the contagious Russian eye disease, among the school children. Dr. C. M. Hosner, a Philadelphia specialist, examined a large number of children and pronounced the disease conjunctivitis, a disease resembling trachoma, but neither contagious nor dangerous.

In the Washington county courts there is a case on trial which includes a claim for damages by Robert Ashmer against the Southwestern Pipe Line company, it is alleged, died from drinking oil that leaked from the pipes of the defendant company. The defense is that that well behaved dogs will not drink oil and that the drove died from other causes.

The usual thing has come to light in Berks county. There are now 500 cases of typhoid fever in Reading and the state authorities have turned their attention to the waters of Maiden Creek. Despite all efforts a number of the rural residents continue to pollute the stream and give as a reason that they have always allowed their drainage to go into the creek and do not propose to be interrupted in the practice now. If this charge be true it is time the state board of health sets rest busy.

The state armory board will ask the state legislature to appropriate \$90,000 for the building of armories throughout the state, considering that this amount is necessary because of the numerous demands for such buildings which have come from almost every county in the commonwealth. Among the towns for which armory propositions are now pending are Doylestown, which is in the hands of the First brigade committee; Altoona, Hollidaysburg, Johnstown, Sunbury, Lancaster, York, Pottsville, Allentown and Warren.

The Chestnut Hill Coal company in a unique suit obtained a verdict Thursday against the Pennsylvania Railroad company for \$13,937.66 damages for not placing a siding at its mines in Gulch township, Clearfield county, in the big anthracite coal strike of several years ago. The mining company brought this suit for \$100,000, alleging discrimination when the railroad company was furnishing sidings to other mines in the same territory. They alleged that they suffered great loss because they could not mine and market their coal. The plaintiff has filed a motion asking the court to enter judgment for triple damages under the law, and this motion will be argued this week.