

Forty-one days more of ROOSEVELT. JOHN D. has given another million to Chicago University: "Let your light so shine ***." The public pays for the oil.

According to the papers both Congress and our Legislature seem imbued with the idea that their one and only mission is to spend money.

The way President-elect WILLIAM H. TAFT is making gooey eyes at the South makes it look as though he is already planning for 1912.

License applications in Northumberland county, if granted, would give a bar for every forty-nine voters. Such a condition of affairs could not leave much room for going dry in Northumberland.

And now they say poor ABRUZZI is willing to give up everything in order to get the ELKINS girl. While we understand that he would be giving up a lot we understand, also, that he would be getting a lot.

The explosion of four tons of dynamite near Woodbury, New Jersey, on Wednesday, scared the natives into the belief that they were having a first class earthquake. Any big noise nowadays is enough to frighten the timid.

With TAFT in the presidential chair, ROOF and BURTON both in the Senate and KNOX in the cabinet ROOSEVELT can depart for Africa feeling that he has done just about what he wanted to do with this government of ours — no, we mean his.

The Johnstown Democrat is wrong in surmising that because we proved to it that a negro is a colored man that we think he should be called a colored man. We hold no such opinion and always believed that he should be called just what his disposition merits.

A late compilation of their costs shows that the armies and navies of Europe are consuming four million dollars a day. Just stop and think long enough to realize what an awful burden of taxation this must place on the producers. And we are emulating the European idea of armies and navies just as rapidly as we can.

The Senate has voted to raise the salary of the President from fifty to one hundred thousand dollars per year. What for? Is WILLIAM H. TAFT going to be worth twice as much to the country as any of his able predecessors or did Brother CHARLES quietly let it be known in Washington that he was tired putting up for BILL?

Pennsylvania is pardonably proud of the fact that Senator PENROSE has consented to represent her in the upper house of Congress for another six years. He is such a clean, such an able man, so brilliant in the Senate that a great Commonwealth like Pennsylvania can hold her head high among sister States and say: Look what represents us.

The importance of electing capable men to fill small offices should be realized by every voter. Don't nominate men merely because you like them or because they are good fellows. A good fellow doesn't always make a good official, but nearly always men who are prudent and careful with their personal affairs will be the same way with public matters.

The flying devil that has been leaving hoof-prints in the New Jersey snow for a few nights past has a lot of them guessing. We are not surprised at the reports of his nocturnal visits and we wonder that there are not more devils out of a job in New Jersey just now, because you know there are a lot of them who have nothing to do when the season is not on at Atlantic City.

Representative WILLETS, of New York, may have had ample reason for wanting to tell President ROOSEVELT a few things and we must confess our regret that all of his vituperative speech did not become public, yet the floor of Congress is not the place to vent spleen nor indulge in language unbecoming a member of so great a body.

Tomorrow the primaries for nominating a ticket for the spring election will be held in all parts of the county. Tomorrow will be the time, then, for every good citizen to do his duty. In the first place, attend the primaries. In the second, when you are once there vote for only such men as you believe are qualified for and will give their best efforts to the offices to be filled.

Centre county fared well in committee appointments in the House. Our Representative, Mr. MEYER, has been assigned to place on the three best committees, viz: Appropriations, Ways and Means and Judiciary General. It is rather unusual for a new Member to secure such important places but men of Mr. MEYER'S ability are rare in legislative halls in Pennsylvania and it is proper that they should be recognized.

About all there is to the local political fight is the contest between WILLIAM B. RANKIN and EDWARD GERRET for the Republican nomination for Treasurer. Both of the gentlemen have been playing the political game long enough to know something about it and we fancy they will make it very interesting for one another before the polls close tomorrow night. It is a fair field, both are competent, both are politicians in their way and the fight is theirs.

Democratic Watchman

STATE RIGHTS AND FEDERAL UNION.

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The Cost of a State Highway.

When the taxpayers of the State contemplate the magnitude of the proposition to build a high-way from Philadelphia to Pittsburgh, it is to be expected that many of them will conclude that the expense of the undertaking will be far beyond the ability of the State to meet without resorting to the most onerous taxation. We do not so understand it. If our conception of the idea entertained by those advocating the early beginning of the enterprise is correct the additional tax, if any is required, will be very, very small for many years at least.

This improvement, if undertaken, would be for the future much more than for the present. Under the most favorable circumstances it would be years before it could be completed—and many additional years before additional roads connecting it with the county seat and populous communities, distant from the counties it would traverse, could be built to intercept it. Until every foot of the highway is completed, and the State so gridironed with intercepting roads that it would be available to all, it would be little less than robbery to ask the people to begin to pay for it.

Were its construction to be begun within the next twelve months and pushed with the greatest energy, there would be thousands of the older tax-payers who would be where public roads are not needed and taxes are unknown, before it could be ready for use. Surely it would be unjust to expect these men, who would never have any benefit from it, to pay for it for the use and enjoyment of others. So it would be with thousands of others who would remove from the State before its completion, and others who would be greatly benefited by it today would be so situated that when completed it would be practically useless to them. Consequently the idea of paying for this improvement before the public can have the benefit of it, would be both impractical and unjust.

And the amount that this high-way should cost the people should not be any overwhelming sum. Calculating its length, if it is built to connect different counties seats of the counties through which it passes and the more populous communities of the State, at 350 miles and the cost at \$90,000 per mile it would be a total of \$31,500,000 for a single year—or about twenty one millions of dollars. Sixty thousand dollars per mile ought to build a most complete and magnificent road-way and in addition allow for all the "graft" that decent or reasonable public thieves would demand.

But for the sake of being on the safe side let the total be swelled to \$35,000,000. This could be put in the shape of State bonds, payable in fifteen, twenty and thirty years, and placed upon the market at a very low rate of interest. If at three and one-half per cent. the cost for the first fifteen years, to the tax-payers, would be but \$7,500 per year, or less than nine cents for each taxable inhabitant within the State, if an individual tax were levied. But as the greater portion of our state taxes come from the gross earnings, and capital stock of corporations, license fees, etc., the cost to the citizen would not be even this infinitesimal sum.

By the time these bonds would become due, the natural increase in the wealth, the business and the taxable property of the State would have so swelled its revenues, which are now \$42,000,000 per year, so that the payment of these bonds would be a matter that would cripple no interests nor work hardship to any one.

Strong Reason for Insisting. So we are to understand that part of the "sluething" to cost the people the enormous sum of \$33,000,000 last year, was done abroad and upon some governments with which we are pretending to maintain friendly relations. In other words the information comes from the White House that the reason the President refuses to give Congress information on the subject is that some of the Secret Service work having been done abroad the publication of it might disturb our peaceful relations with the governments concerned in the operations. To our mind that is the best reason thus far given why Congress should insist on a full and complete answer to its inquiry. If the President has been sending spies into all sections of the world the people have a right to know it.

No thoughtful man has doubted, anytime within the last three years, that President ROOSEVELT has been trying to foment war with some foreign power. It is reasonable to believe that he would have preferred some weak power, so that as in the case of the encounter with Spain, it would be something like a picnic of a year or two, which could be wound up in a blaze of glory. But it is not the glory of the country that influenced him to such intrigues as are implied in the sluething operations in Europe. Any kind of a foreign war would have served his purpose which

was to force his party to renominate him for the Presidency. No act was ever more reluctantly performed than the act of retiring from public life which will be performed by him on the 4th of March next.

But what warrant has the President of the United States to send spies to Europe or Asia or Africa in order to get secret information of the movements of any prince or potentate? Suppose the Emperor of Germany or the Mikado of Japan is displeased with some things which the people of this country or some of the brain-storm public officials have done. Does that justify the President of the United States in dispatching a lot of secret service detectives to shadow the Emperor or the Mikado or somebody else? Certainly not and the Congress of the United States owes it to the civilized world as well as to the people of this country to fly rebuke to the outrage upon the foreigners who were shadowed by ROOSEVELT'S detectives. No better service could be undertaken.

More Taxes Wanted.

A great many people will agree with us that it would be much more sensible, and much better for the public generally, if our law-makers at Harrisburg would turn their attention to cutting down some of the exorbitant and unnecessary expenditures in the different departments of the State government, in place of spending their time wrangling about what kind of property can best stand additional taxation, or what new objects can be found upon which to impose them. And many of the same people who will admit that this would be the wiser and better policy, will still go on voting the Republican ticket no matter how great the extravagances that compel additional taxation, or how little effort is put forth to save the people from the onerous taxes that are being fastened upon them.

If what we hear from the State Capitol is correct a great portion of the work of the Legislature, just beginning its duties, will be to discover additional objects of taxation upon which levies can be made for sufficient funds to meet the ever increasing expenditures that come with the continuation of Republican rule. It has been the same since that party took control of the affairs of State. Every two years new and exorbitant outlays are demanded, and the State is raked over as it were with a ten-tooth comb for something new that taxes can be wrung from or something old that it is thought will bear a little heavier assessment.

This thing has become so common that it is so surprise to be told that among the first measures that will come from the Ways and Means committee of the House, will be a bill placing a tax of from one to three cents per bushel on all bituminous, and from three to five cents per bushel on all anthracite coal mined within the State. The same measure, it is said, will authorize the taxation of the capital of the manufacturing corporations, which has heretofore been exempt, to the extent of from 2 to 3 mills. On the business of trust companies which comes from trust business alone 5 mills, and on the face value of their stock a fixed rate of millage is to be designated in place of permitting them to choose between a 10 mill face value or a 4 per cent. book value. Companies manufacturing gas and which have heretofore escaped state taxation are slated in the same bill for an 8 mill tax on their gross receipts.

From the tax on coal it is estimated that many millions will be raised, although this will vary largely as the business of the country is prosperous or otherwise. From capital invested in manufacturing, corporation, an income of over \$2,000,000 per year, it is said, would be derived, at the rate of millage stated; from trust companies not less than \$500,000 and from gas companies not less than \$50,000. All told it is expected that the proposed measure will increase the revenues of the State, which now reach the enormous sum of \$42,000,000 annually, not less than \$10,000,000, giving the Commonwealth a yearly income of \$52,000,000.

Of this, about twelve millions go for educational purposes; about eleven millions for charities and three millions for roads. Can any tax-payer imagine to what legitimate use the other twenty-six millions can be put by the different departments that have control of and disburse this vast sum?

This is the conundrum the tax-payers should solve before voting again to continue conditions that are proving so terribly expensive to them.

Dr. F. K. WHITE, of Phillipsburg, who retired Monday as County Treasurer of Centre county, to give place to G. G. Fink, a former mischievous New Millport boy, is credited with having made one of the very best and most faithful officials in the history of the county. This record is a proud one and will no doubt call Dr. WHITE to higher official duty as he has demonstrated that he conscientiously believes and practices the honest doctrine that "a public office is a public trust." Public Spirit.

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Roosevelt's Last Absurdity.

When the President in his absurd special message spoke of the presentation of the editor of a New York newspaper for the government of the United States, reasoning men dismissed the subject as too preposterous to talk about. But it appears that President ROOSEVELT doesn't take that view of it. It will be remembered that we said at the time that libel had not been declared a crime by act of Congress and that the federal courts have no criminal jurisdiction except in cases of the violation of federal statutes. Our authority for this was a decision of the Supreme court of the United States and the opinions of several very eminent lawyers. But ROOSEVELT is not to be influenced by such considerations. Right or wrong, just or otherwise he proposes to carry out his threat.

On Saturday last several Washington newspaper correspondents representing the World, of New York, and one or two other papers were subpoenaed to give evidence before federal grand jury "in connection with statements appearing in their publications bearing on the Panama canal purchase." That was the subject that had so greatly incensed the President. Some of the papers had intimated that the President's brother-in-law had participated in the division of a vast amount of spoils which has not been explained away and it was pointed out that the President had changed his mind on the matter of routes after his brother-in-law had become intimate with NELSON CROWELL, the sales agent of the French Panama canal. His indignation was pardonable but what has followed isn't.

In other words because the President's personal and official integrity has been brought into question he proposes to pervert the powers of the government so as to override a decision of the Supreme court of the United States and subvert the very fundamental principles of the government. Of course he will utterly and absolutely fail in his purpose and be made a subject of ridicule in the mind of every student of the science of government in the whole world. But what does that matter to an insanely vain man who believes, or at least acts upon the theory, that whatever he wills is law and that his caprices are above the constitution. It means much to those who believe in constitutional government, however, and hope for the perpetuation of the Republic.

An Honor Worthily Bestowed.

The Democrats of this Senatorial district have reason to be proud of the compliment paid to, and the distinction shown, the district, through its Senators by the unanimous vote given him on Tuesday last, by the representatives of the party at Harrisburg, for the high office of United States Senator. Other districts have representatives who have been in public life much longer than he has, and other men of note and importance in the State would have been pleased to have been the party nominee for the position; but unexpected and unlooked for the honor came to Mr. DIMELING, with a unanimity that shows the hold he has upon the good will of the Representatives of the party, as well as their anxiety to recognize his ability as a leader and his service to the cause of Democracy.

A little over two years ago, when Mr. DIMELING was elected Senator, he was practically unknown to the Democracy of the State. Before his first session was half over he had so risen in the esteem of his fellow Senators that he was looked upon as one of the safest advisers and most sturdy Democrats of that body. When Mr. DONNELLY decided to resign the position of chairman of the Democratic State committee, through the influence of his fellow Senators and the members of the House, he was unanimously chosen to that position, and, although at first refusing to allow his name to be mentioned in that connection, was finally induced to accept its duties and responsibilities. It was the good work he did in that capacity; the loyalty shown to every candidate upon the Democratic ticket, whether national, state or county; the untiring efforts he made to harmonize and unify the party; his unselfish labor to bring victory to the party nominee, and to build up and strengthen its organization in this State, that pointed to him as worthy of and entitled to the honor. And it was given him without one dissenting or doubtful voice. For this recognition and action Mr. DIMELING and his constituency both have reason to be proud.

What will perhaps be the best basket ball game of the season will take place in the Y. M. C. A. gymnasium, this (Friday) evening between the Bellefonte Academy and Dickson Seminary teams. Both aggregations have been playing football and as there is a certain spirit of rivalry between the students of the two institutions the game is sure to be a hot one. Game will be called promptly at 8:15 o'clock. The price of admission is only twenty five cents and you don't want to miss it.

How Much it Cost To Do Nothing.

The Cleveland Plain Dealer calls upon congress to "save the secret service," regardless of the president's "defiance of official propriety." This appeal represents the attitude of many newspapers which have been misled by Mr. Roosevelt's statements and believe that congress seriously crippled the police work of the national government when it restricted the activities of the treasury department's secret service to its lawful functions.

How many persons know that only 20 secret service men were affected by the amendment which Mr. Roosevelt made so much fuss about, while the total appropriations made by congress last year for "secret service and service of that character" aggregated \$7,214,593.35, an increase of \$792,000 over the previous year? How many persons know that congress gave Mr. Roosevelt \$500,000 to investigate land frauds alone, an increase of \$250,000? How many persons know that congress gave him \$250,000 to enforce the anti-trust law, besides \$500,000 to pay such "miscellaneous expenses" as the attorney general should authorize?

How many persons know that congress gave him \$1,100,000 to enforce the interstate commerce laws, an increase of \$406,705 over the previous year?

How many persons know that congress gave him \$3,000,000 to enforce the meat-inspection laws, \$1,000,000 to enforce the postal laws and \$700,000 to enforce the pure food law?

How many persons know that congress gave him \$115,000 to suppress counterfeiting; \$125,000 to prevent violations of the internal revenue law; \$300,000 to prevent frauds in the customs service, and \$500,000 to enforce the Chinese exclusion act?

How many persons know that the aggregate amount appropriated last year "to be used in whole or in part to prevent frauds on or depredations upon the various branches of the public service, to protect public lands from fraudulent entries and to punish other violations of the law" is \$23,558,770, an increase of \$2,931,660?

How many persons know that during the last two years alone Mr. Roosevelt has had nearly \$4,000,000 to prevent and punish violations of the law? Mr. Roosevelt in his special message of Jan. 4 especially emphasized the important work done by the treasury secret service men in the detection of land frauds. Secretary Garfield told the house sub committee last year that the interior department no longer employed treasury secret service men to investigate land frauds, their lack of knowledge rendered their investigations and reports practically worthless. Secretary Conklyn's report showed that there had been no secret service details from the treasury department to the interior department for two years and that there had been only thirty-two details to all the other departments in that time.

The only issue between congress and the president was whether each department should employ its own investigators and detectives or whether the treasury secret service should be transformed into an irresponsible spy system. Yet Mr. Roosevelt, who has had appropriations aggregating nearly \$4,000,000 during the last two years to enable him to enforce the law and has not yet sent a single "malefactor of great wealth" to jail, sought to convince the country that a congress of crooks had deliberately paralyzed the machinery of justice because "the congressmen did not themselves wish to be investigated by secret service men."

One Good Job at Least.

Perhaps the most important of all the messages of President Roosevelt to congress was that of Saturday. It probably marks an epoch in the history of the country and with every word of it this paper is in complete accord.

Mr. Roosevelt in this message occupies solid ground. He has never taken a stand more admirable nor has he ever taken one that so thoroughly entitled him to public applause. It is a pity that it is likely to be lost amid the ruck of messages and papers with which he has flooded congress and the country. Yet in spite of this it will challenge attention and exert a powerful influence in a direction vitally concerning the future of this country.

Mr. Roosevelt declares open war on the creation of water monopolies. He says that no grant of water rights shall be made in perpetuity. He asserts the paramount rights of the public and he sets himself unreservedly against any proposition looking to an impairment of those rights. His veto message is a strong and convincing argument along single tax lines. It squares absolutely with the principles of "Progress and Poverty" and it involves a recognition of an economic proposition that must carry the one who accepts it to its logical conclusion in the withdrawal of all special privileges.

Graft in Our Road Spine.

In some of the counties the authorities are taking a stand against any more road building under the present system. The chief dissatisfaction is with extras which have to be paid for. The Harrisburg Patriot gives figures showing the cost of some roads in Danphin and York counties which are significant. On three pieces of road in Danphin, the contract price of which was \$41,673.43, the extras amounted to \$12,202.02, and on five pieces of road in York, the contract price for which was \$34,890.39, the extras were \$6,602.45. As the counties and townships have to pay their proportion of the extras, as well as of the original contract price, it is not very surprising they should complain. There is such uniformity in these charges for extras as to have aroused very general criticism, and unless there is some change in the system road improvement will hardly go on well in the future.

J. Willard Hall has been appointed registration assessor of the North ward in place of Sam Bell, deceased.

Spawls from the Keystone.

Blairsville, Indiana county, is to have an armory erected by the State at a cost of \$25,000.

Repairs that are being made to the Saxton furnaces are nearing completion and the plant will go into blast in about a week.

An extensive plan for the manufacture of terra cotta sewer pipe, is to be constructed in the vicinity of South Fork, in the near future.

The school directors of Downingtown will ask the residents to authorize them to borrow \$60,000 for the erection of a new High school building.

Walter Ritz, of Leas Bridge, Berks county, has during the winter months captured 37 skunks, four raccoons, 594 muskrats, and a number of other fur-bearing animals.

The Penn township oil field, in Butler county, the scene of Harry W. Hoffman's big strike a few months ago, is again in the limelight with a 250 barrel gusher, brought in by McCulloch & Co.

The State Forestry commission has just closed negotiations for the purchase of a large quantity of forest land in Elk, Cameron and Clinton counties, which run the total of the State reserves up to \$60,000 acres.

Negotiations are said to have been closed Monday for the sale by the Kennerly Coal company to interests representing the United Coal company, of Pittsburgh, of 4,000 acres of lands in Bent Creek valley for \$675,000.

Judge Allison O. Smith, of Clearfield county, on Tuesday issued a decree restraining action against the Buffalo, Rochester & Pittsburgh railroad under the two cent passenger rate law, thus permitting the company to collect fare at a higher rate.

The Lancaster county court on Saturday fixed the annual tax to be paid for telephone or telegraph poles in Lancaster city, at ten cents for each pole. The city had by ordinance fixed the tax at fifty cents per pole and the Postal Telegraph company appealed.

Greencastle is in the midst of a water famine, because of the extremely dry weather and consumers are allowed to use water but two hours each day, in the morning from 8 to 9 o'clock and in the evening from 5 to 6 o'clock. The Geiser shops in that place have been closed down.

Stepping out of the way of a string of loaded coal cars while coming out of No. 32 mine at the Berwind-White Coal company, on Saturday, C. C. Shaffer, of Windber, was run down by a string of empties and instantly killed. Both legs were severed from his body, which was also badly mutilated.

Bishop Darlington, of the Protestant Episcopal church, has decided to give up his residence in Williamsport and will hereafter make his home throughout the year at Harrisburg. Since the creation of the Harrisburg diocese the bishop has been making his old home in Williamsport his summer residence.

In the United States circuit court at Williamsport Saturday the jury in the case of Anna M. Goehrig versus George B. Stricker, builder of the Pine street Methodist church, awarded the plaintiff a verdict of \$8,800 for the death of her husband, William Goehrig, who was killed by falling from a pole June 3rd, 1908.

Miss Ida Watkins, of Shamokin, purchased a box of candy at the store conducted by Clarence Siffer at that place, on Saturday night and when biting into a piece of the candy discovered a very hard object. Making an investigation she found it to be a diamond, which a dealer upon examination pronounced to be a perfect stone worth three hundred and fifty dollars.

As a reward for the bravery of her husband, who lost his life in attempting to rescue Michael Maloney, a miner, from a fall of coal, Mrs. Blanche Pittsley, widow of David Pittsley, of Rositer, Indiana county, has received a medal awarded by the Carnegie Hero Fund commission. In addition Mrs. Pittsley and her three children will receive \$40 a month pension from the commission.

After being shut down in its entirety for about fourteen months, the Harbison-Walker fire brick plant at Wallaceport resumed operation last Thursday morning. The plant is one of the very best in that section, turning out a strictly high grade of brick, with a capacity of about 35,000 per day. Its resumption is the very best piece of news the people in Wallaceport have heard during the past fourteen months.

Joseph T. Ramsey, Jr., who is at the head of the New York, Pittsburgh & Chicago Air Line, which is surveyed to pass through Centre county, makes the announcement that work will soon be started on the road, and that it will be a low grade, double track line, operated from the beginning with electric locomotives. The enterprise is backed by British financiers, and it is estimated the line can be built in three years.

A very neat job of safe opening was performed by Captain J. E. Harder on Wednesday, in the office of the Madera Brewing company, at Madera, Clearfield county, when he opened a four combination safe lock on a Diebold safe which had been locked since the death of Andrew Veaser, of the company operating the brewery. The combination was worked out in about an hour of systematic, careful work by the captain, who has a wide reputation as a safe lock expert.

George R. Woodward, a farmer living at Penfield, Clearfield county, recently was annoyed by the disappearance of pigs and chickens from his premises in a mysterious manner. For over a week a close watch was kept and late on Thursday evening as he was going out of the kitchen door he met face to face a fierce looking wild cat. Both were taken by surprise and while they were sizing each other up, two large dogs came bounding around the house, when the wild cat fled to the mountains.

The State Live Stock Sanitary Board Sunday announced another outbreak of foot and mouth disease in Lancaster county. In addition to the seriousness of the outbreak itself, after it had been thought that the fever had been eliminated, this case presents the additional gravity of having possibly been in existence for a week, but purposely kept from the knowledge of the state officials. The cattle infected are on the farm of J. I. Leaman, in East Lampeter township. They number 23, and have all been condemned.