

Next Tuesday will be ground-hog day. Sausage would be apropos for breakfast.

Here's good wishes to the new State Chairman of the Democracy and hopes that his successes for the party may be frequent and great.

The candidate for office who seeks your support by telling tales about his opponent is likely to be one of the kind about whom others might be told.

If they abandon the idea of making it a look-alike and adopt the new one of making it a tide-level canal let us all hope it will be built "on the dead level."

The new license law in Tennessee prohibits a saloon within four miles of a school house. It remains to be seen whether the school houses or the saloons will be moved.

"C. Q. D." has turned out to be the wireless code signal of distress sent out by ships at sea. It is the call of supreme emergency and means that help is needed P. D. Q.

Statistics show that there are twenty million horses in the United States and that the average price is \$35.64. This puts a rather high value on WESLEY JARRET'S mare and a correspondingly low one on IZZY BAUM'S red ribboner.

It often happens that the man who buys everything he can from the cheap catalogue houses, like Sears-Roebuck & Co., and Montgomery Ward, is the very fellow who, when he has a little misfortune in his home, is around with a paper asking the merchants with whom he ought to deal to help him out a little.

The new pension bill that is before the Legislature doesn't please some of the old boys. It proposes a pension of six dollars a month to all soldiers who enlisted in 1861 and 1862 but the provision that those who are already receiving a pension from the federal government or holding an office are not eligible for this one is the thorn in the flesh of many of them.

The matter of paying twelve dollars a page for printing the Legislative Record is coming in for a little airing at Harrisburg just now. At that rate the cost of the index alone was something over thirty thousand dollars. It does seem a little high for so worthless a work, but things are high in Harrisburg. Now if it had been a real record of some of the Legislators it might not have been unwisely spent money to have found out what crooks some of them are.

Trouble is beginning to develop at Harrisburg already. Senator SNYDER, of Schuylkill, has introduced a bill increasing the fee for a marriage license from fifty cents to two dollars. What a hold-up of poor Hymen, and what an outrage upon the girls. Lots of them that look good at the present price of fifty cents might remain on the shelf forever at two dollars. Better, far better, tax the bachelors than attempt to secure additional revenues by making it next to impossible for some to get married.

The sinking of the steamer Republic off Nantucket on Saturday morning was a miraculous marine disaster. There were seven hundred and seventy-two persons aboard the steamer when she was rammed by the Florida and only six of them lost their lives. It was the first emergency of great moment that has arisen since wireless telegraphy has been in practice and though the boats in collision were in a dense fog and twenty-six miles from land in ten minutes after the accident had occurred the wireless telegraph calls for help had been picked up, both on shore and at sea, and no less than four boats were away to the rescue before the passengers on the ill-fated Republic were fully aware of their danger. It is true that the Florida was not crippled too badly to stand by and take the Republic's passengers, but it is also true that she might have been in and in that event the wireless messages would have been the means of saving probably all the lives, for the Republic was kept afloat until after many of the rescuing vessels reached her side.

The New York woman who has brought a suit for divorce against her husband under the Thirteenth amendment to the Constitution, which forbids slavery within the boundaries of the United States, has instituted a proceeding at once novel and interesting. She claims that she is virtually a slave now because she has one child and as her husband gets only twenty dollars a week if any more should come her bonds would be complete. While it is true that many husbands make slaves of their wives, either by drunkenness, negligence, indolence or the mistaken notion that a woman is merely a creature that should defer at all times to the superior (?) whims of man, this particular woman is manifestly not the right wife for the man who is earning twenty dollars a week. If she were the kind of a wife he ought to have she would be the happiest little soul in the world and each new babe would add an additional ray of sunshine to the home. For if she were doing her share there would be no thought of slavery. Everything would be so easy that it would be a pleasure. We know of many couples in Bellefonte who have bought homes and paid for them and raised large families on about half the salary that this New Yorker is getting and instead of thinking themselves slaves the women are so full of honest happiness and comfort that they make the home a veritable Heaven for the one who earns the wage.

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Hogishness vs. Servility.

If there could be anything more disgusting to the better thinking people of the State than the "hogishness," as the discarded Mr. McCLELLAN called it, of the city combine, in the matter of distribution of the honors and patronage belonging to the Legislature, it is the whining subserviency with which the Representatives from the country districts accepted the little that was doled out to them.

With less than one-third the membership of each of the Legislative bodies at Harrisburg, Philadelphia and Pittsburg, through the arrogance and dictation of the bosses controlling the Republican organization of the State, deliberately took to themselves everything of honor or value within the gift of the Legislature and then superciliously distributed among the country membership the little that was left. And like whipped hounds the Representatives of country districts whiningly licked up the crumbs that had fallen from the political table, and will sit round, during the balance of the session, licking their jowls in expectation of being able to snatch a bone or two before the session ends.

If ever there was such an exhibition of unadulterated hogishness as that displayed in the organization of the present Legislature it is back of the time that any living man can recall or point to.

Of the 257 Representatives in the Senate and House, the two cities of Philadelphia and Pittsburg, including the county of Allegheny, have eighty-one—or less than one-third of the total membership. And to this third the country Members allowed to be given.—the two United States Senators, the Speaker of the House, the chairmanships and control of the most important committees of both bodies, with many of the best and most profitable minor positions, accepting for themselves and their constituencies, outside of these two cities, three or four clerkships, a few assistant sergeant-at-arms and postmasters, and such number of pasters and folders, boot-blacks, water-closet watchers and spittoon cleaners as they were allowed.

And not a manly protest from one of them against this outrageous theft of patronage and power!

And to this exhibition of the greediness of this city combine, to hog everything within sight, is yet to be added its ability and determination to force upon the State such legislation as suits its purposes and will best aid the bosses in continuing their control.

DAVID H. LANE, one of the oldest and most respectable leaders of the Philadelphia machine, it is already heralded, has prepared and will bring to Harrisburg for enactment, a new election law, a new primary election act, an act abolishing the present poll tax, amendments to and change, in the present registration law, and the good Lord alone knows how many other measures. And every one of them will be in the interest of the "gang"—will tend to make its power more impregnable and its rule more intolerant.

And that these will pass and become laws is almost a certainty. For what can be expected of the two-thirds majority that have cravenly submitted to being robbed of their rights in the organization, when the whip is cracked to line them up for such legislation as the bosses demand—but the same servility that has characterized every movement they have yet made.

There will be unending and intolerable talk about a combination of the country Members. There will be a few feeble protests. There will be continued and unmitigated whining, and—that will be all.

To look for any good from the Legislature of 1909 will be a useless waste of time. There is too much of hogishness on the one side; too much servility on the other.

The Pennsylvania Democrats.

The Democratic State committee wisely elected Colonel JAMES M. GUFFEY to membership in the Democratic National committee for Pennsylvania. We have never believed that there was a vacancy in that committee. At the Denver convention Colonel GUFFEY was elected to the office by an overwhelming majority of the Pennsylvania delegation and has never resigned or in any other way relinquished his claim to the seat. But under some malign influence the committee admitted to its body a man who had never been elected and under the parliamentary principle that all such bodies are judges of the election and qualification of its own members, there may have been a technical vacancy upon the death of the gentleman so recognized and it was well enough to fill it.

The committee was equally wise in the selection of State Senator ARTHUR G. DEWALT, of Lehigh county, as chairman to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Hon. GEORGE M. DIMELING. In common with all Democrats intimate with existing conditions, we regret that Senator DIMELING felt that he ought to resign. He proved not only an efficient but an intelligent and industrious chairman. Only those familiar with the work of a campaign know the arduous and difficult labor which devolves upon a state chairman. It is not invidious to say that no chairman in recent years has performed this work more faithfully than Senator DIMELING. He was alike vigilant, earnest, unselfish and efficient. But it may be predicted that Senator DEWALT will be a worthy successor.

The proceedings of the meeting of Tuesday were fitly finished by eloquent and appropriate addresses by national committeeman GUFFEY and chairman DEWALT. Both gentlemen pleaded for harmony and activity in the party and each pledged himself to the full measure of personal endeavor. The Democratic situation is not in despair. As a matter of fact the vote of last fall, notwithstanding the adverse conditions under which it was cast, is most encouraging. The State committee labored assiduously and unselfishly for the success of the ticket. Colonel GUFFEY was both generous and vigilant in behalf of the party. Now that all the elements which make for factionalism have been eliminated, there are reasons to expect better results in the future.

The Naval Appropriation Bill.

The House of Representatives in Washington passed the naval appropriation bill finally the other day. It appropriates \$135,000,000 for the use of the navy during the fiscal year beginning on the 1st of July. Of this vast sum \$38,719,595 is for new ships of war. These include two battleships of the Dreadnaught type which will cost \$10,500,000 each, four torpedo boat destroyers, four colliers, a sub-surface boat, whatever that is, and four submarine torpedo boats. This leaves something like \$87,000,000 for maintenance and equipment, a proposition which would have appalled the people even a dozen years ago. The spirit of profligacy appears to have taken absolute control in Washington. Money is appropriated as if it grew on trees and cost nothing to gather.

While the measure was pending last Friday a motion was made to strike out the provision for the two battleships and BURKE COCHRAN, of New York, a political Heian and parliamentary adventurer, turned the tide by holding up for the contemplation of his associates in the House the danger of a war with Japan.

"Suppose a Japanese were lynched on the Pacific coast," he remarked, "what will they do in Tokio then? They have no American laborers to lynch," he continued, "but they have American merchants, tourists, missionaries and officials." What absolutely absurd rubbish. If Tokio will patiently endure such an aspersion upon Japanese intelligence, there is nothing to apprehend from any other insult or outrage. And that preposterous nonsense, addressed to the American Congress, was just discovered that the brown tail moth is going to fly through the Pennsylvania atmosphere soon in such myriad millions as to make human life unendurable. His warning is timely for it gives every one time to conjure up a picture of the Professor with a new squirt gun standing on the boundaries of the old Keystone State waiting for the skirmish line of the brown-tailed hordes. The Professor is the man behind the gun and if his bucket runs dry of emulsion there will be enough wind left to blow every brown-tailed devil clear to Mars and the swirl will probably be so great that the terrible "Saint Joes" scale will be carried away in their wake.

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Bonaparte's Ignorance of Law.

The childish ignorance of the law of Attorney General BONAPARTE was revealed in the United States circuit court in New York, the other day, when Judge WARD quashed the subpoenas which had been served upon two employees of the New York World, to give evidence in the less majestic case against the editor of that newspaper. Mr. BONAPARTE has personally conducted this case from the beginning. Being a member of the Baltimore bar it was probably he who informed the President of the existence of the Maryland law of 1891, under which the proceedings have been undertaken. It was certainly BONAPARTE who arranged the details of the prosecution and directed the issue of the subpoenas.

In the opinion handed down by Judge WARD invalidating the subpoenas, that learned jurist plainly conveys his doubts as to the honesty and fairness of the prosecution, the President of the United States and his agents in the matter, Attorney General BONAPARTE and United States District Attorney STIMSON. He says that the District Attorney contends "that the protection of witnesses may safely rest on the presumption that neither the grand jury nor the United States Attorney will do anything unfair or oppressive." If he had believed that statement of the United States Attorney he would probably have affirmed the validity of the subpoenas. But so far from doing that he took the opposite course and declared the service invalid.

Of course Judge WARD has won the everlasting enmity and hatred of THEODORE ROOSEVELT by thus preventing a contemplated outrage, not only upon the witnesses in question but upon the defendant in the proposed crusade against his liberty and property. ROOSEVELT doesn't care for the fact that in this proceeding the law is being perverted to the basest purpose that could possibly be imagined. It is a matter of no concern to him that in every step in this proceeding he has violated his oath of office and his obligation to the people. In his cackled heart and brain he cherishes nothing except malice and he hopes to punish a citizen, not for violating any law, but for offending his vanity.

A Reform Abortive.

Of all the attempts to reform the elections in this State that have been made yet, the Uniform Primary method has proven the most ineffective and abortive. In place of securing an honest expression of the honest people of both parties, as to their nominees, it has afforded the traders and mercenaries the opportunity of placing on the different tickets just such men as they desire.

Particularly is this so in the greatly congested districts, and those having overwhelming majorities for either party. Both in Pittsburg and Philadelphia at the recent elections, Republicans voted their candidates onto the Democratic ticket in a number of districts, and in one Pittsburg district, where the Republican majority was so large that there was no hope for any decent Democrat to have a showing at the election, and none could be found who would accept a nomination because of that hopelessness, two trading Democrats were put on the Republican ticket as against two reputable Republicans who had filed their papers and were willing to stand as candidates.

The present act has proven itself as the most profligate aid to scoundrelism and mercenaryism that has ever been experienced. If the law cannot be amended so that its multiplicity of weaknesses can be cured, it would be better by far to repeal it and go back to the old and simple means of selecting candidates.

In that case at least, if errors occurred or wrongs were committed, they would not be accomplished under the forms and protection of law.

Prof. H. A. SURFACE, the chief bugologist of the State and the big noise maker at most of the agricultural gatherings, has just discovered that the brown tail moth is going to fly through the Pennsylvania atmosphere soon in such myriad millions as to make human life unendurable. His warning is timely for it gives every one time to conjure up a picture of the Professor with a new squirt gun standing on the boundaries of the old Keystone State waiting for the skirmish line of the brown-tailed hordes. The Professor is the man behind the gun and if his bucket runs dry of emulsion there will be enough wind left to blow every brown-tailed devil clear to Mars and the swirl will probably be so great that the terrible "Saint Joes" scale will be carried away in their wake.

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Economy: Not More Taxes.

An increase in taxation is not needed in Pennsylvania. Already the revenues are enormous and they must continue to grow. What we need is a bit of honest economy in public expenditures and less thieving in connection with public works. The \$9,000,000 graft in the capitol job should not be forgotten. With that sum a magnificent boulevard from Philadelphia to Pittsburg might be built. With \$9,000,000 the schools might be relieved as to all present needs. With \$9,000,000 the state institutions which are crippled for want of funds might be placed on a thoroughly efficient footing.

But that \$9,000,000 has gone and gone for good. It will never find its way back into the looted treasury. Just where it went and who got it, can only be inferred. But the salient fact is that it is not available for public use. Its loss should exercise a chastening effect on the party responsible for the tremendous robbery. It should impel that party to a course of severe economy until a balance has been restored and instead of planning new taxes and larger extravagances it should devote its energies to the lopping off of every sinecure and the saving of every dollar that now hints of gratuity.

Unfortunately Pennsylvania has become more and more lavish in the expenditure of taxes. These are almost wholly indirect and in consequence the people do not feel as they would if they were taken out of their pockets as city and county taxes are taken. But the people have to pay the indirect taxes nevertheless. They do not fall upon privileges and monopolies. They are taxes that are passed along with added profit from the apparent payer to the consumer. And the is hurt without knowing precisely what hurts him.

It is therefore important that the mass of the people of this state should protest against any proposed increase of state taxes. They should insist rather on genuine economy. They should demand that there be a rigid accounting for all money appropriated. And they should make it clear that they will not stand for a riot of extravagance in the disbursement of public funds.

Mr. Roosevelt's Latest Discovery.

We can well understand Mr. Roosevelt's distrust of a judiciary that exalts the constitution of the United States above My Policies. So far as Mr. Roosevelt is concerned the case against the World has already been tried in a message to congress. The crime is "to libel upon the United States government;" "the real offender" is the proprietor of the world. Mr. Roosevelt has found him guilty, and that ought to settle it. Yet here comes a federal court which deliberately refuses to sustain the Bill of Rights, and takes no cognizance of the fact that Mr. Roosevelt has tried the case, rendered a verdict and is impatiently waiting to impose sentence. It is time for another message to congress exhorting the courts for obstructing the administration of "Roosevelt justice."

Having found that the constitution is still in force, Mr. Roosevelt will also find that this is a government of law; that there are courts to administer the law; that these courts are a co-ordinate branch of the government of the United States, and that the administration of justice is not in his hands but in theirs. The case against the World is not going to be tried in messages to congress, or in White House harangues, or in executive orders, or in star-chamber proceedings, but in courts of law, by due process of law and in accordance with the constitution.

These courts will be no more tolerant of lawlessness in office than of lawlessness out of office. If this is treason Mr. Roosevelt will have to make the most of it.

Extremity of Presidential Ire.

The government's suit against "certain newspapers," which at first seemed to be simply the rather wild threat of an old aged potentate, appears to be actually taking shape. It is rightly regarded as an attempted assault upon the freedom of the press. No newspaper could possibly libel the United States. \*\* For the United States government to undertake to defend the name of the president-elect's brother or the president's brother-in-law is manifestly out of place. The circumstances give it an undignified and ugly suggestion of intimidation. So wholly foreign is such a step as this to the intent of our original statutes that the obliging Mr. Bonaparte has been sorely pnt to it to end any law under which such could conceivably be brought. In desperation, it is said, he has actually fallen back upon an old law covering crimes committed upon governmental reservations and will base his case on the fact that newspapers containing the "libel" were sold and circulated on Governor's Island, at West Point, and the like.

To such extremities will presidential wrath go.

Making a New Crime.

Now that the matter has been brought to an issue it is imperative that all the facts should be brought out. The people are entitled to know the reason for the sudden vehemence of the president after he had remained quiet for so long, and in general they have a right to know where every dollar of their money has gone and for what purpose it was expended. Every citizen, be he president or hod-carrier, has the right to protect his good name by suits for libel against the authors of calumnious publications, but no authority in our laws can be found for the attempt to construe a criticism of the president and his friends into an assault upon the government and criminal libel against the country. This attempt to create a new crime by judicial construction will be watched with interest by lovers of justice all over the country.

Spawts from the Keystone.

The 900 women graduates of Bryn Mawr college have undertaken to raise an additional endowment fund of \$1,000,000, and \$100,000 is already in sight.

The largest order ever placed for steel car wheels was received on Thursday by the Carnegie Steel company, Pittsburg, from the Chicago Street Railways company.

The beautiful new B. F. Stevens Memorial Methodist Episcopal church, in Harrisburg, just completed at a cost of \$75,000, was dedicated on Sunday, Bishop William A. Quayle, of Chicago, officiated.

Groundhogs are reported as playing in the sunshine on Jack's mountain, near Lewistown. The mild weather seems to have been too tempting to keep them in their holes until the 2nd of February.

The Grand Army and patriotic organizations of Greensburg have secured William L. Swope, Esq., district attorney of Clearfield county, to deliver the principal address in the Lincoln birthday anniversary.

A new high school in Karthaus, Clearfield county, erected at a cost of \$7,655 was dedicated on Friday with addresses by County Superintendent Tobias and others. The citizens are well pleased with their new people's college.

Dr. Adella B. Wood was on Saturday nominated in the First ward, Erie, as a Republican candidate for school director. This is the first time a woman has been placed in nomination in that city. Mrs. Wood's opponent was a saloon keeper.

Northumberland county license court set on Monday with Judges Savidge and Auten on the bench. There were no remonstrances against 365 applicants, and they were all granted license at once, among them being six new ones. Three applicants were refused.

The commissioners of Tioga county in order to secure a fund sufficient to meet all bills, submitted for sheep killed and injured by dogs, has decided to levy a tax of \$1.50 on each male dog and \$3.00 on each female dog owned in the county. It is proposed to raise a fund of \$4,000.

After calling over a telephone for several hours for her husband and getting no response Mrs. Charles French, of Hickory, drove to an insulated gas station in Forest county, on Monday, and found his mangled body on the floor. He had been killed while starting a gas engine.

Considerable excitement has been aroused in and about Big Run, near DuBois, by the discovery of both oil and gas quite recently by drillers who are working in the interest of a number of Butler capitalists. The quantities are, however, not yet sufficient to be profitable.

The Loyalhanna Coal and Coke company, of Westmoreland county, has been compelled to cut down its operations to four days a week, because of a loss of a big order. The Railway Steel Springs company, at Latrobe, has also been compelled to lay off a number of men because of a slump in business.

Whooping cough, which developed into tuberculosis, has wiped out the entire family of James Morris, of Pottsville, the father, son Samuel and daughter Myrtle, having all died within three years. Myrtle's death took place on Thursday. All were robust before they were attacked with whooping cough three years ago.

The question of doing some street paving in Williamsport with wood blocks is at present receiving attention. The blocks of white pine, cured with a creosote preparation to make them more durable, would cost about 60 cents a yard more than asphalt or brick, but many property holders say they are willing to pay the difference.

Plans are being made by the state department of health to make thorough inspection of all the streams in the state. This will be done in order to ascertain if there are any sources of pollution. If there are, steps will be taken to have the abuse corrected at once. This is in line with the department's plan to rid all streams of pollution.

Although William Hoffmaster, of Reading, an engineer of a Pennsylvania railroad passenger train, was on Sunday morning badly scalded and almost blinded by steam that escaped because a connecting bolt on his side of the cab became detached, he yet bravely stood by the throttle until he brought his engine to the station at Pottstown.

The expenses of Williamsport the past year exceeded the receipts, and the estimates for the ensuing year, by maintaining the same rate of taxation are \$142,000 for receipts and \$172,000 for necessary expenses. How to make the receipts meet the expenses without increasing taxation, or increasing the city debt, is a problem councilmen are now wrestling over.

Alex. Haincock, who had his back broken by a fall of coal in the Gbem mines, near Coocosa Mills, about nineteen months ago, died last Wednesday morning at the Cottage State hospital, Philadelphia. The fact that he lingered so long, taking into account the serious character of his injury, was remarkable. The deceased was a native of Prussia, and was aged about 29 years.

Curwensville's two banking institutions—the Citizens National bank and the Curwensville National bank—have decided to consolidate, which will be consummated within the next month. The capital stock will be \$100,000. Seymour Russell, president of the latter bank, will be president of the new institution, and Hugh Lewis, of the former bank, will be vice president.

A. Nevin Detrick, who was private secretary to Colonel W. F. Hill, Master of the State Grange, has moved back from Huntingdon to his former home in Chambersburg, where he will continue the management of the Grange News. That publication had been entered in the Huntingdon postoffice and for six months past had been mailed to its many thousands of subscribers from that point.

Opening up a crater fifty feet in depth, 100 feet in width at points and 450 feet in length the mountain near Summit Hill, Schuylkill county, disappeared Sunday night, many thousand tons of earth and rock dropped from sight. The cave-in was caused by the earth giving way, when the supports of coal had been burned out in the old Spring tunnel workings, which have been burning for over fifty years.