

Ink Stings.

-Let us see! Is California really one of our pacific States? -Evidence has been accumulating since Tuesday to prove that the ground-hog is right on his job. -To those holding government jobs February is a regular multum in parvo. Three legal holidays in the shortest month of the year.

-The local political pot is boiling so that some of the candidates are stepping mightily lively lest they be scalded when the spill comes on the 16th.

-If the capital park at Harrisburg is to be extended we hope it will be extended to some very remote corner where that QUAY statue can be planted in solitude.

-Any way, if the Japs should decide to make a landing along our Pacific coast they couldn't march to Washington before spring and then our precious TEDDY would be far away.

-The Panama canal and that new Pennsylvania station at Johnstown are both booked for completion in 1915. Of course this will be a little sudden for the Flood city for she will scarcely have correlated that winning hall team by that time.

-What on earth can Senator TUSTIN mean by wanting to have the necessity of having paid taxes eliminated as a qualification for voting? Surely a man who will pay no taxes for the support of his government should have no voice in its conduct.

-From our point of view we would rather take chances with that "uncivilized" Jap boy, whom the "civilized" students of California University beat up because they declared him to be "uncivilized" than with the party of "civilized" boys who did the beating.

-It is so much easier to be a builder than a demolisher that we wonder that there are not more people with their shoulder to the wheel. A genial, optimistic disposition in some movements is worth more than thousands of dollars in cash subscriptions.

-Nine men have assumed the responsibility of the sixteen thousand dollars necessary for a two weeks campaign by evangelist GIBBY SMITH in St. Louis. Strange! We were under the impression that nine of this kind of men could not be found in that place.

-Auditor General YOUNG is up on his high horse because Representative BLEWERTZ wants to investigate his department. While we haven't much interest in their scrap we hope it continues because the public is bound to learn something that has been concealed.

-F. E. B., who ever that is, writes in the Daily News of yesterday that our historic old "Eagles Nest" is not the place that we have been showing off up Spring creek for many years, but is located a mile below Milesburg. Right or wrong "F. E. B." is an iconoclast and so far as the general needs are concerned the one up Spring creek will do quite as well for show purposes as the real genuine article, if such it be, below Milesburg.

-In a cube of street mud, that is a bit about one-quarter of an inch square, there are said to be so many bacteria that if placed side by side they would cover a distance of two hundred and fifty-nine feet. Think of it! And they told us when we were kids that eating dirt was the healthiest thing in the world and mud pies—Well, they were veritable delicatessen in those days. After all, we wonder, some times, whether some of the sores that science gets up are not merely sores.

-Judge LANDIS has just handed down an interesting decision in a Lancaster county election dispute. Two men were applicants for a nomination on the Republican ticket in a certain township. One filed his name with the township committee and paid his assessment; the other did not. The one who did not do it received the most votes in the primaries but Judge LANDIS ruled that his name should not be printed on the ticket because he had not complied with the rules laid down by the party of which he was trying to become a candidate.

-The federal government expenditures for January were more than fifteen million dollars in excess of the receipts. This should not be a matter of much concern to the unthinking taxpayer who was satisfied last fall to "let well enough alone," but possibly he will begin to think some if Congress decides to resume some of the Spanish war revenue raising schemes and even go so far as to put a tax on coffee and tea. These means of increasing the revenues are being seriously advocated at Washington. Of course the matter of cutting down expenditures as a means of saving some money never enters the head of the average Republican Congressman.

-A new public school bill that is to be presented to the present Legislature by the commission appointed by Governor STUART last year proposes very radical changes in the law. Among the most noteworthy changes would be the compulsion of directors to furnish education for the blind, the dumb and the deaf, as well as to furnish transportation for all scholars living more than a prescribed distance from a school house. The bill would make it impossible to change text books oftener than once in five years and compel all publishers to make and maintain one price on their books. Under this bill Centre county would have an assistant county superintendent at a minimum salary of twelve hundred dollars.

Democratic Watchman

STATE RIGHTS AND FEDERAL UNION.

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Not That Kind of a Change.

The fool proposition to further complicate our miserable and unfair election laws, and make the matter of voting, as he desires, more difficult and doubtful for the ordinary citizen, has already been submitted to the Legislature. Like all the other abortion, in the shape of election laws, that we have tried since the first tinkering with the ticket began in 1891, this one comes from Philadelphia and its sponsor claims to be a reformer.

The change proposed, as we understand it, is to abolish the square on the present ticket and require each voter to hunt out and place his mark opposite the name of each and every candidate he desires to cast his ballot for, no matter how many offices there may be to fill or how many different candidates for each there may be. Every intelligent citizen knows that with a dozen or fifteen offices to be voted for and with half that many parties having candidates named for each place, what a job this would be and how very few would be able to exercise the right of franchise without assistance.

Were such a law to be enacted we have doubts if one fourth of the votes would be polled for any candidate, and if even that proportion of the voters could, of themselves, mark a ticket so that he would be voting for each of the offices to be filled.

To resort to such a method of voting would either disfranchise one-half of the voters of the State, lose the different candidates, scores of votes at every polling place or require the assistance in the booth of some one who could show the many and proper places marks were to be made.

If there is to be a change in our election laws, and every one who knows the many, many faults and weaknesses of the system we now have believes there should be, let these changes be such as will simplify them, and enable the voter to cast his ballot without any excuse for demanding assistance.

For it is the privilege allowed of having assistance in the booth that nine-tenths of all the evil of our present method springs. It is where the dependents are intimidated. It is the hiding place of the ball-dozer. It is the fortress and protector of the briber.

Any measure calculated to increase the expense that mercenaries, bribe takers, and hoodlums may have for demanding aid in the booth, is in the interests of the very wrongs and crimes that the people demand should be abolished and rendered impossible.

Under any conditions, if this proposed change in the election law is to be made, in order that the measure making it would not be declared unconstitutional for the reason that the title does not clearly set forth the purpose of the act, we would suggest that—

If assistance in the booth is to be denied, then the measure ought to be entitled an "Act to disfranchise the voters of Pennsylvania."

If aid is to be allowed the voter, then its proper title would be an "Act to encourage bribery and enlarge the opportunity of debauching voters."

Where Additional Taxes Could Be Secured.

If our law makers at Harrisburg have convinced themselves that additional revenues must be had, to meet the necessary expenditure for State purposes, why not get down to work and ascertain if all the corporations privileged to do business within the State are paying their proportionate share of taxes. Two years ago this paper secured and published a list of the offices of the Adams Express company within the State, and the amount of business done at each, and when compared with the report of that company as filed with the Auditor General it showed that this one corporation at least, was paying but about one-third of the taxes that an honest return of their business would require them to pay.

There are other foreign corporations benefiting by privileges given them in Pennsylvania that are doubtless making the same kind of returns, and getting off with the payment of little or no tax at all. Hunting these up would be just as easy a matter as finding new sources from which to demand additional revenues. Take for instance the Pullman car company and the United States Express company, twin brothers with the Adams Express company in the crossness of the charges they make against our people for the little return made, and neither pay any tax as compared to the amounts our home corporations are compelled to hand over.

And these are foreign corporations, the owners and beneficiaries of which pay no other taxes or have no other interests in the State from which revenues could be derived. They are protected by our courts. They are given a monopoly of the business they are in. They are allowed to charge our people what they please. Is there any reason why they should not pay their full share of the State taxes? They are not doing it now. They never have done it.

Criminal Demagoguery.

President ROOSEVELT is again fomenting the absurd fear of trouble with Japan. He knows as well as he knows that he is alive that there is no such danger menacing the country. Japan yielded to the terms upon which hostilities with Russia were discontinued three years ago because her financial resources were exhausted and the vast sacrifices of her soldiery made it necessary to do so. It is estimated that nearly a quarter of a million of men were killed or maimed during that savage encounter. She has not recovered from those losses yet. She is not either physically or financially able at this time to engage in war with any power capable of making a strong resistance.

But ROOSEVELT starts these preposterous war scares in order to influence the public mind to acquiescence in his imperial policy of enlarging the navy. He understands that the people of the United States have a great veneration for the office he occupies. He estimates that they will be likely to imagine that no Chief Magistrate of the great Republic would be influenced by ulterior motives to wilful falsification. That no other President would so abuse himself is true. But ROOSEVELT is a moral pervert. He has been convicted of falsehoods a dozen times and is again deliberately misrepresenting facts in order to dragoon Congress into carrying out his programme for the navy.

Just before the naval appropriation bill passed the House of Representatives at Washington, the President began this agitation of war with Japan. He wrote to the Governor of California to intervene to prevent the passage of legislation pending in the Legislature of that State. It was a rank case of impudent obstruction, but that made no difference to ROOSEVELT. It had the desired effect, however. The House passed his naval bill as he wanted it. It was confidently expected that the Senate would concur and ROOSEVELT sent a bulletin that the differences with Japan had been adjusted. But the Senate balked and he immediately renewed the rumors of war. Such demagoguery is worse than criminal.

What Was the Reason?

On Saturday night last former Ohioans who are now resident citizens of Philadelphia gave their annual dinner at the Ohio society. Governor HARMON, the newly elected Democratic Executive of that State was the guest of honor. An invitation to preside at the banquet was extended Governor STUART and requests to be present and participate sent to Senator PENROSE, Senator KNOX and Mayor REYNOLDS. It is courtesy was shown these gentlemen, we presume, on account of the official and representative positions they hold, and in accordance with the universal custom when the executive of a neighboring State is to participate in a semi-public function of the kind.

Strange to say, not a single one of the gentlemen invited was present. Governor STUART gave no reasons for his absence nor did he send regrets; Senator PENROSE was not heard from; Senator KNOX had courted enough about him to write that he could not find time to be one of the party, and Mayor REYNOLDS simply refused to recognize the invitation.

The why of this is the occasion now worthy of these former citizens of the Buckeye State, most of whom are Republican voters and have been glorying in the manner Republicans of Pennsylvania do things. They are not so vociferous in their praise just now, however. Some of them are wondering if the absence of these Republican leaders was because HARMON, who was being honored, was a Democrat, and through fear that some decent word, they might be compelled to say for him would be used in the campaign of 1912 when there is a possibility of his being the Democratic nominee for President? This suspicion might be right, but it would be an awfully narrow mind that would be influenced by such reasons.

But then there are awfully narrow minded men in politics in Pennsylvania.

So Old that It's Moss Covered.

The public should not get frightened because of the cry coming up from Harrisburg that additional revenues will be required or a great reduction in the appropriations resorted to. This is a biennial scare that has grown so old that its whiskers are gray and the moss has to be shoveled off it every time the Legislature meets.

At other times than when appropriations are being considered the State revenues are usually believed and admitted to be about forty-two millions (\$42,000,000) annually. There is no reason why they should be any less this and next year. And yet if we are to put credence in what we are told no half of this amount will be available for the institutions and charities of the State and those who have to get along with much less than heretofore, unless new sources of revenue can be found.

It was the same thing last year, and after

the charities were cut and hospitals crippled, and all the appropriations provided for it was discovered that the Treasury had a surplus of over six millions. And this was in the hands of favorite bankers in different parts of the State.

Are our revenues to be used for the benefit of bankers or are they to be put where they will best aid and benefit the people?

Roosevelt is Not Disturbed.

The President is not the least bit disturbed over the developments in relation to the absorption of the Tennessee Coal and Iron company by the Steel Trust, a trifle more than a year ago, according to the Washington correspondents. "As a matter of fact," writes one of these observant gentlemen, "the President is a bit disdainful about the whole business. He takes the attitude that Boss TWEEED used to take," continues this chronicler of events, "when he would ask what are you going to do about it?" That the law was violated is of no consequence to him and he is equally indifferent to the fact that the constitution is subverted and his oath of office falsified. There is no way to bring him to punishment and that is all he cares about.

This is a most unfortunate attitude for the President to assume. It implies a complete moral perversion and an absolute indifference to the principles of honor and integrity. No man of proper impulses is indifferent to his reputation. Only recreants get into that frame of mind and a public official who will violate one law because he is immune from punishment would commit any other crime if he was equally certain of escape from the penalty. Therefore the attitude of the President is most reprehensible. It indicates a bad heart and an evil nature. Such a man if brought to account for his unlawful actions is invariably a moral and physical coward and will resort to any expedient to avert the rightful course of justice.

There ought to be a way of punishing the President for this manifest conspiracy to violate the law. Judge GARY and HENRY C. FRICK told him in plain terms that the merger which they were going to undertake was a violation of the anti-trust law. They conveyed to him, no doubt, the full particulars of the transaction. But it was on the eve of a presidential election in the result of which he was deeply concerned and as he bargained with EDWARD H. HARRIMAN for tainted money to debauch the ballot when he was a candidate himself, he entered into this conspiracy in order to get funds to buy votes for his puppet candidate last year. Under any circumstances such action is abhorrent. But when the exposure of it only provokes disdain it is atrocious.

More Commissions.

Really if this thing of appointing "commissions" to codify, prepare and propose legislation, continues much longer the persons who are elected as Senators and Members of the House at Harrisburg will have little to do when they meet hereafter other than to pass on the reports of the different bodies of this kind they have made, and appropriate money to pay themselves and the fellows who are doing the work they were elected to do.

With a commission to codify and propose changes in our tax laws, with another to overhaul our election laws, with another that has just reported a 260 page law relative to the management of our public schools, and with "commissions" to run our roads, control our game, boss our forests, dictate our water supplies, prescribe our physics, tell us what we shall eat, and in fact manage and control everything with which the State government has to do, it is a question whether it would not be just as well to abolish the Legislature, burn the Constitution and allow the courts and these "commissions" to do with us as they please.

For years, whenever the Legislature has had to tackle any particularly knotty question, or was up against a duty that would require some thought or honest work, it has shirked the responsibility by naming a commission, and paying it out of the State Treasury, for hunting up facts, making suggestions, preparing enactments and doing the very work that the Senators and Members are paid for doing.

It is an easy way for the 257 men we have chosen to make our laws to earn the fifteen hundred dollar salary, the postage, the mileage and other perquisites they are paid. But we submit that it would be fairer to the State and more honorable to them, if they have to hire others to do the work that falls to their lot as Legislators, to pay these substitutes out of their own salaries.

And if they will not do this, or return to the old practice of preparing and enacting such legislation as public necessities demand themselves, then the positions ought to be abolished, and the whole thing turned over to the tender mercies of the many "commissions" the State is now forced to pay for such work as the Legislature is chosen and paid to perform.

Under Canvas.

From the Pittsburg Post.

After all, there is nothing amazing in the proposition of a circus promoter to give Theodore Roosevelt a job as headliner for 30 weeks at the magnificent salary of \$10,000 a week. Of course, no person believes that Mr. Roosevelt will accept, as he has set his heart on that African trip, and is even so alluring an offer as this could be expected to induce a postponement of even six months.

Is this proposition so very much more spectacular than jumping seven-bar hurdles for the photographer?

Is it much more of a circus performance than that memorable campaign in which a certain Rough Rider circles a State in his Rough Rider togs, making Rough Rider speeches?

Is it so much more of a circus than luring unsuspecting statesmen into the open and wearing them to a frazzle by compelling them to "follow my leader" over 50 foot precipices and waist-deep through icy streams?

Is it so much more unconventional than a 98-mile horseback ride at top speed? Is it so much more spectacular than a hundred things we have gaped at during the last seven years?

Let us not think too harshly of this man Atlas.

A Masterly Retreat.

From the Springfield Republican.

Mr. Jerome's epistolary entrance into the government's Panama libel suit against a masterly retreat by the federal department of justice from the case. Newspaperdom will sympathize with the World's regent appeal to the government to proceed on the original lines marked out by Mr. Roosevelt and his lawyers. Let the case now be pushed through as the president conceived it should be. It is of real importance to the entire press to have definitely and finally determined by the highest judicial authority whether the United States government, as a government can prosecute for a libel on itself and not on a particular individual. The press is anxious to know what hoops hoops of old laws remains under which the government might prosecute a journal under the legislation of a libel committed on a distant government reservation. The press seeks exact information as to whether jurisdiction over it in libel suits growing out of political criticism is to be transferred by legislative processes from state to federal courts.

These most interesting and exceedingly important issues appear to have been raised by this move of the government against the World, and now that they have been raised let them be taken before a tribunal which, we have faith to believe, will know how to decide them without violating the constitutional guarantees of the press in republican America.

A Tax on Marriage.

From the Harrisburg Star-Independent.

Marriage ought to be as free as salvation, and is said that salvation is free. Wherefore the proposed increase of the marriage license fee lacks popular support. A bill introduced in the Senate of Pennsylvania would increase the cost of the marriage license from fifty cents to two dollars. The why and the wherefore of this increase have not been stated, and the public is in the dark concerning them.

The license law was not intended to be a revenue raiser, but to provide a record of marriages and to prevent runaway marriages. The fifty cent fee for the issue of licenses was intended only to make the new bureau of the government self-sustaining. In twenty years of its operation the law has been satisfactory. The conduct of license business has not become more expensive than it was in former years, and there is no real necessity for the increase.

The new bill would impose a tax on the oldest of industries. It would stand in the way of happy marriages. It would prevent the union of loving hearts and destroy American home building. It would stop the rearing of families and the increase of population, and weaken the defenses of the Union. But, all this aside, why should a man be taxed because he wants to get married?

Constitution-Makers Not Prophets.

From the Sandusky Register.

Those wise men of a hundred years ago did not realize that a century later there would appear on the American stage of action a man, not a lawyer in any sense of the word, utterly unpossessed of any legal qualifications of mind or by education, who would hold that the federal courts under his direction could do as they pleased regardless of the constitution or the people. They did not foresee a Roosevelt when they rendered that decision. Marshall was the greatest supreme justice the United States court ever had. He easily outranked even Salmon P. Chase, able as he was, and we will never have his superior and perhaps never his equal, but what did he know compared with Roosevelt and Bonaparte?

The Way it Always is.

From the Philadelphia Record.

There is hardly a member of the General Assembly at Harrisburg who has not up his sleeves some measure involving a new drain on the Treasury. Yet this is a time when all business and employment is going forward at a slackened gait, and when the chiefest concern of men and women is to adjust expenditure to lessened income. The real task before the Legislature should be to devise economies that should help the people to better bear the burden of government; but this is a labor for statesmen which political buccaniers disdain to even consider.

-The municipal water plant of Franklin shows an annual profit of about \$15,000.

Spawns from the Keystone.

-Diphtheria is prevailing to such an alarming extent in Selinsgrove that the schools have been closed and religious and other public meetings prohibited.

-The new Presbyterian church in Philipsburg, erected at a cost of \$30,000, was formally dedicated to the worship of God with appropriate ceremonies on Sunday.

-Throughout the potato belt of Berks county there are yet large quantities of potatoes in the cellars of farmers, as they have been holding them for higher prices.

-Although Schuylkill county must pay \$30,000 this year for State road making done last year, the tax rate of the county has been fixed at six mills, the same as last year.

-More than two hundred children are ill and one has died in Avalon, a suburb of Pittsburg, from drinking polluted water, and scores of adults are ill from the same cause.

-The Eldersridge Creamery company, of Indiana county, during 1908 manufactured 34,000 pounds of butter, all of which was sold in Pittsburg at an average price of 29 1/2 cents per pound.

-George Gerraian, an oyster opener of Wilkesbarre, on Wednesday found nine good sized pearls in one oyster, several of which were of large size. Gerraian has opened oysters for many years but this is his first find of pearls.

-The Reading Railway company on Saturday suspended 250 employees at its car shops in Reading and about 150 were also laid off temporarily at other points. The cause of the suspension is attributed to less demand for cars.

-A new coke company has been organized by Pittsburg men that is to be known as the Western Coke company, and plans for the development of 1,000 acres of coal lands in Greene county are under way which will be followed by the building of a new coke plant.

-The report of the money paid out in Clearfield county for fire fighting in 1908 shows a total of \$12,285.22. Of this \$125 was paid out in February of that year and the balance during the many fires last September, October and November. The amount is probably larger than that of any other county.

-Dr. John B. Deaver, of the German hospital, Philadelphia, will be given a dinner on February 15th, at the University club, by 150 physicians and surgeons, upon every one of whom he has used the knife in a surgical operation. These doctors will come from all parts of the United States to honor the noted surgeon.

-Fanned by a high wind, fire practically wiped out the town of Patton, Cambria county, early Saturday. The fire was discovered in a skating rink and quickly communicated to the Central hotel. There was considerable excitement among the twenty guests, but all escaped uninjured. The loss is estimated at \$50,000.

-Using a flobert rifle which was loaded and left standing in the corner of the kitchen by an elder brother, John, the four-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. H. S. Shoemaker, residing on the J. B. Robinson farm, near Bloomsburg, shot and killed Friday afternoon, his little brother, Harold, aged about one year. The shot entered the child's brain and death followed in about an hour.

-The Scottish Rite branch of Free Masonry of the Williamsport Consistory, on Wednesday morning of last week, started a class of sixty candidates through the thirty-two degrees of that branch. The work was concluded Friday night. The Williamsport Consistory of this fraternity has now 1,640 members, and is one of the largest in the State, a number of Bellefonters being members of the same.

-Abraham Miller, of Somerset township, Somerset county, was driving along a road a few days ago, when his horse suddenly dropped out of sight, having broken through a thin layer of boards and earth that covered an abandoned well. The well was twenty feet deep, and had about eight feet of water in it, but after considerable work a number of men succeeded in rigging up a tackle and lifting the horse out of his ugly plight without any serious injury.

-With a view to further completing the four-tracking of its line from Altoona to Pittsburg, the Pennsylvania railroad has asked bids for widening the stone arch bridge over the Conemaugh river, just west of South Fork, on the Pittsburg division, to hold four tracks instead of three as at present. This is the first piece of new construction work authorized by the Pennsylvania railroad for more than a year. The addition to the South Fork bridge will increase its width from 38 to 58 feet. The work will necessitate the excavation of 1,500 cubic yards of earth for the foundations. The construction itself will require 5,500 cubic yards of stone masonry.

-The Pennsylvania Railroad company, in awarding a contract for the erection at Mt. Union, Pa., of a "one cylinder" plant for the treatment of timber by any standard process, has taken the initial step toward the preservative treatment of its cross-ties and other timbers. In connection with this plant two creosote storage tanks of 500,000 gallons capacity each are to be erected at Greenwich Point, Philadelphia. These tanks will have a combined capacity sufficient to receive a tank steamer cargo of oil, that will be shipped to Mt. Union in tank cars as needed. The treating plant will have a capacity of from 1,500 to 2,000 ties a day, if day and night shifts of hands are worked. This will give an annual output of about 500,000 ties.

-About four months ago Isaac Terrell, a youth of Irwin, Westmoreland county, found on the street a beautiful pin set with diamonds and pearls, which a jeweler said was worth \$140. The boy's mother advertised the pin twice, but no one came to claim it. On Tuesday young Terrell, being out of work, and needing some money, took the pin to Greensburg and offered to pawn it, but was made an offer of only \$5, when he left the pawnshop. The broker reported the case to the police, and the boy and a companion were arrested, but at the hearing proved that the pin had been found and had been advertised, when they were released. The pin will be held by the burgess of Irwin for a few weeks, and if no owner comes it will be given to the boy.