

The ground hog seems to have a case of intermittent fever.

The Hon. T. R. tells the farmers to be careful to water their stock, but the same rule does not apply to corporations.

An epidemic of sore eyes is prevalent in some parts of the county. Caused, of course, by strains in looking for that business boom.

Governor STUART is going to try to stop lobbying in the legislative halls at Harrisburg. A splendid idea, but will he be able to do it.

The President doesn't mind words in talking about the Senators so the Senators can scarcely feel called upon to do otherwise in talking about him.

The King and Queen of England are on a visit to the Emperor and Empress of Germany. The low-towing and slavering in Berlin will probably be beyond the imagination of we people who have assigned one President to the Ananias club and hail the other as "Big Bill."

The people in the neighborhood of Hecla Park claim to have seen the Jersey flying devil in that section a few days ago, and we are willing to grant them all the distinction they can get out of the winged Satanas visit, as there is enough of the old time Nook around Bellefonte to keep it hot enough for us.

Thank Heaven, girls, for Mr. AILMAN, of Juniata county; as solely through his oratorical efforts on Wednesday the bill to increase the marriage license fee from fifty cents to two dollars was defeated. Mr. AILMAN's most effective argument was that he was married once himself and that fifty cents was all the license was worth.

The captain of the Georgia has been relieved of command of his boat and is on the road home to face a possible dismissal from the service for being drunk on duty. Too bad, just when he was on the last leg of that wonderful cruise around the world. But probably it was because it was the last leg that he lost his balance the more easily.

Philadelphia's good citizens gag at Salome this week while next week they will vote all the roosters, who make the corruption in that city, right back into office. They would stand for a SAM SALTER stealing the head of WILLIAM PENN, but when it comes to SALOME it is too awful for such a goody-goody(?) place to sanction.

It would seem that Senator KNOX is ineligible for the office of Secretary of State. That is, if the constitution is not to be violated. Of course if he were to be President ROOSEVELT's Secretary the little matter of a fractured constitution would not be serious. We await with interest Mr. TAPP's view of the situation. It may throw an interesting side light on the way his administration may be expected to regard the basis upon which our government stands.

The illness of the veteran actor DENMAN THOMPSON at his home at West Swansy, New Hampshire, has filled his friends with fear lest it prove the last of the quaint original character in "The Old Homestead." Mr. THOMPSON has made an enviable name for himself on the stage and little was it thought by those who knew him as a bar keeper in the old Pennsylvania house in Bellefonte years ago, that some time he would become the most noted actor in his particular line on the American stage.

It will doubtless be a matter of much surprise to the tax payers of Bellefonte to know that if all the tax duplicates were paid in full to this date the borough would not have more than ten thousand dollars in hand. The impression is almost general that sums ranging from twenty to thirty thousand dollars are due from the collector but such is not the case. In fact Mr. JOHNSTON has settled his 1903 04 and 05 duplicates in full. The 1906 and 07 duplicates could be settled in full to-day if it were not for legal complications involving the only two properties against which the taxes for those years have not been settled. So the only obligations outstanding that the tax collector really has are for the 1906 taxes and as they are all paid over down to about seventy-five hundred dollars it speaks very well for the tax collector, as well as the tax payers.

One of the best laws that we have seen proposed for passage by our Legislature in years is the one introduced last week affecting Judges on the common pleas and orphan's court benches throughout the State. If it should be enacted into law no Judge would be able to draw his pay unless the warrant be accompanied with a sworn statement to the effect that no cases remain unsettled on his docket for a longer period than sixty days prior to the date of the warrant. If any cases remain unsettled for a longer period than that no pay can be drawn unless a certificate signed by the attorneys and litigants on both sides of the case, stating that the delay has been sanctioned by them, accompanies the warrant. Such an act ought to be passed, because it often happens that the delays of cases in court work greater hardships than the ends of justice compensate for. Judges and lawyers frequently seem indifferent to the necessities of litigants and use their own sweet time in the trial of cases. Such a law as the one proposed would put an end to dilatory tactics everywhere and would be hailed with delight by laymen.

Democratic Watchman

STATE RIGHTS AND FEDERAL UNION.

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Profligacy Rampant.

It is not to be wondered at that those who give attention to such matters, are feeling more convinced every day that an early return to the oppressive war time taxes, when every thing we used, from a box of matches to a bed-room suit, was ornamented with a government tax-stamp, will be a necessity, unless a general change in methods, in administration and in the purposes of the Federal government is made very quickly.

A steady outlay of over two and one-half million of dollars each day of the year, —(\$1,008,000,000 annually)—is a matter that should cause those who are taxed to raise this amount to sit up and take notice. And then when it is known that of this enormous sum, seventy per cent., or almost three-fourths of the entire amount, is going to pay for what war has done or is going to do, and to still further enlarge the navy and increase the army thus fastening this vast expenditure upon us for all time, and making excuses and reasons for still increasing it, the necessity for some protest from the people is the more imperative and necessary.

And even with this two and a half million per day of our outlay, the government expenditures for 1908 exceeded its income over \$143,000,000, and for 1909 the estimated shortage is placed at \$15,000,000 per month or a total deficit for the year of \$180,000,000.

It is for those who must make up this enormous sum—and every man, woman and child in the country, who wears clothes, eats food or buys any of the necessities of life, pays his proportion of it in the tariff taxes that are charged up against everything he must have—that should awaken to the enormity of the wrong that is being done them through the extravagance and profligacy of those in power.

It is but few who know that 'a single' broadside from the 12-inch guns of the new 26,000-ton battleships which Congress is expected to authorize will cost some \$20,000. Each time a single gun is fired it will send forth a shot weighing 550 pounds, and costing \$310. Each shot requires 250 pounds of powerful powder, which costs \$300, making \$510 in all. But even this is not the total expense of firing one of these big guns. Each of them costs \$65,000, and when one hundred shots have been fired through one of them it is about ready for permanent retirement. This means \$650 per shot to be charged to depreciation. Therefore, without counting the labor required for firing one of these guns, the total cost of firing it reaches the tremendous total of \$1,160 per shot."

Would you believe it? And yet these are the official figures showing why the expense of the navy has grown to such an enormous amount. And with these figures staring the administration in the face, and with a deficiency of \$15,000,000 a month being charged up to the tax account of the people, a fleet of sixteen vessels, carrying anywhere from sixteen to thirty guns each, has been sent around the world, to burn up coal, salute royalty, and show to all countries what reckless and consummate asses we can make of ourselves when it comes to a matter of spending money.

Is it not time for the masses to awaken to the condition that is upon them? Congress can put a check to the profligacy that has brought about the state of affairs now existing, and the people can put a stop to the political existence of the Member of Congress who fails to do his duty under the circumstances.

Or do they prefer still higher taxes and harder times?

Should Either Shut Up or Show Up.

Evidently the Members of the Legislature have little faith in the department stories of such a shortage in the revenues as will necessitate the serious paring down of many of the appropriations proposed for charitable and educational purposes within the State.

Already two propositions to draw from the limited funds, now said to be at the disposal of the Treasury, despite the reports of an insufficient amount to meet the demands for public charity, have been presented and may probably be enacted into law. The one is for a thirty thousand dollar appropriation to cover the expenses of Governor STUART, the heads of departments and a few of the favored military companies of the State on a trip to Washington to participate in the inauguration of President TAPP. The other is to appropriate four thousand dollars to furnish the Senators and Members a free frolic to the same place on the same occasion.

Of course, the poorly(?) paid heads of the departments at Harrisburg and the over-worked(?) Senators and Members should, and doubtless will, be cared for whether the Treasury is short or not—and without reference to the effect the proposed junket may have on the charities that can be meted out to the State's unfortunates. But we submit, in all earnestness, that the

proper thing for those who are in a position to know the exact condition of the State's finances, to do, is to either shut up about the shortage or speak out boldly and in time against the proposed inaugural raid upon the funds we do have.

Monopoly's Greatest Triumph.

The merger of the Steel trust and the Tennessee Coal & Iron company was easily the greatest victory which monopoly has achieved in this country from the beginning of the government. The Tennessee Coal & Iron company, with a capitalization of only \$30,000,000, was vastly greater in resources than the Steel trust. If the combination which was contemplated with the Republic Steel company had been completed the power of the Steel trust would have been completely broken. Nobody understood this fact better, or even quite as well, as the managers of the Steel trust. For that reason they entered into a conspiracy to prevent that result and whether President ROOSEVELT knew it or not, they used him and his great office to further their purposes and make their conspiracy successful.

In the light of recent revelations it is not extravagant to say that the panic of 1907 was organized to prevent the consolidation of the Tennessee Coal & Iron company and the Republic Steel company. Large sums of money were needed to consummate that enterprise and shares of the companies were being used as collateral security to procure the money. About October, 1907, the Wall street manipulators, under the direction of J. PIERPONT MORGAN, created a currency famine and black-listed the shares of the Tennessee Coal & Iron company. As a consequence of this loans made upon that security were called and the owners of them were compelled to liquidate. But funds were inaccessible and they were in despair. At this stage of the game the proposition was made that the Tennessee Coal & Iron company be sold to the owners of the southern property but they had no alternative. They were obliged to acquiesce or go into bankruptcy.

When this crime had been practically perpetrated, however, it was discovered that the laws could intervene to prevent the fulfillment of the conspiracy. Then Judge GARY and HENRY C. FRICK went to Washington to see the President. It was on the eve of a presidential contest in which ROOSEVELT had much interest and large sums of money would be needed to carry on the campaign. The President knew that the insurance companies could not be depended upon as they had been in previous campaigns. He knew also that an acute panic would be almost certain to defeat his party and that Wall street could stop or prolong the panic. With these thoughts in mind he agreed that the government would not intervene to prevent the merger and thus gave not only his sanction but his assistance to the violation of the law and the consummation of the conspiracy.

Tells Its Own Story.

It is but a little over a year since DAVID H. LANE, of Philadelphia, in about the only public speech he ever known him to attempt to make said: "As for this talk about civic righteousness it is about time it was stopped." Philadelphia was then in the throes of a fight for the enforcement of the law, that the evils that were stalking over that city un molested might be abridged; that the white slave business that was brazenly carried on and flourishing without fear of molestation or danger of punishment, might be blotted out; a fight between the moral and the immoral, between decency and indecency, between civic righteousness and unbridled debauchery. And in that fight, in that entire city, the dive and the den keeper, the speak easy and the debaucher, the brothel and the bum, had no warmer defender or more open apologist than DAVID H. LANE. It was during that contest that he uttered the words above quoted.

On Saturday evening last this same excuse, of municipal debauchery, this same opponent of civic righteousness was given a dinner and at it, 500 of Philadelphia's "best citizens," we are told, presented themselves and took part in honoring this man. Is it strange that Philadelphia is weighted down with a reputation that blights its business, disgraces its citizenship and makes it a stench among the municipalities of the country? Is it any wonder that when other cities become so rotten and depraved that words fail to fully express the depths to which they have been forced, that their condition is always compared to that of Philadelphia?

Think of it. Five hundred of that city's best citizens doing honor to this defender of immorality, this sneerer at civic righteousness; this apologist for indecency; this protector of the brute whose business it is to debauch young girls! And after this exhibition of the moral obliquity of its best citizens can there be any doubt as to "what is wrong with Philadelphia?"

A Stirring Up When Stirring Up Seems Necessary.

One of the best and most sensible propositions in the way of suggested legislation, that we have seen since the opening of the present session of the Legislature, is a bill presented by Representative SCOTT, of Philadelphia, to require each Judge of the several courts within the State to make affidavit, when presenting his monthly requisition for salary, that no case held by him for decision has been in his hands for a period exceeding sixty days without the consent of the parties interested and their counsel.

The passage of this bill would clean up the court dockets in the different counties of the State in little or no time.

It would give litigants the chance of obtaining prompt decisions, and would do what no other power seems able to do or accomplish, compel our judges to attend to the duties they were elected to perform first and their personal or outside matters afterwards.

The fact is that the business of the courts of Pennsylvania, with but few exceptions, is further back and more tardy in being determined than in any other State of the Union, notwithstanding the fact that we have more judges in proportion to our population than any other Commonwealth. And the seemingly strange thing about these truths is that the greatest complaint of the failure of prompt action, on the part of the judges and of delays in securing the decisions of the courts, comes from the counties in which the judges have the least to do.

When it is known that, in the 56 judicial districts into which this State is divided, we have 116 judges and that in 38 of these 56 districts less than 50 days of actual court are held during the year, it will be wondered why the business in any of them should be back and why cases are not taken up and disposed of at once.

It may be in this as in other cases where there is little to do, and plenty of time to do it in, the disposition to do anything grows less and we fall into the habit of delaying those things which must be done until the very last moment. Or it may be that these judges not having enough of judicial business to require all their time, go into other matters that finally demand their attention to such an extent that their work as judges is crowded back in order that their personal matters may have the attention required.

Whatever may be the cause, however, there is no excuse for delay in judicial decisions in the districts we have referred to and but little in the others, and if the passage of Mr. SCOTT'S bill will aid in righting the wrongs that the people are suffering through judicial indifference, carelessness and inattention to duties devolving upon our judges, it will be a measure that will meet the approbation of every citizen of the State and should be enacted into a law at once.

Is There a Stamp Tax Coming?

With a deficit of fifteen millions in the government revenues for the first month of 1909, the prediction that we will have to go back to the odious stamp taxes of the days of the Spanish war, is founded on more than a probability. Last year the deficit amounted to over one hundred million. January's showing, if the other months in the year do as well in running behind, would indicate a shortage for this year of almost double that of last, and a condition of affairs that should make thinking people demand a halt in the unnecessary expenditures and flagrant extravagance of the party in power.

To think of getting back to the days when the principal labor of one lot of people was to lick stamps for the benefit of the government, and the great hardship of everybody else to earn money to pay for them, is certainly anything but a pleasant prospect for the American people. But it has come to a point where expenditures must be lessened or the stamp business resorted to. It is up to that now.

Decreasing revenues and increasing expenditures can have but one ending, and that is—debt and taxation.

And these, under the reckless rule of a President with a swelled head, and a Republican Congress without conscience are now upon us. How these conditions are going to be met, is for those who have brought them about, and have the power to change them to say. There is no intimation that it will be, as it could be done, by economizing in the various departments where economy could be practiced without any injury to the public service; nor is there any promise that the enormous outlays that have been going on for years, to build up a navy and an army for the sole purpose of glorifying over the fact that even the monarchies of the old world do not equal us in these lines, are to be diminished in the least.

And it is doubtful if the people are not too bigoted to see or too prejudiced, politically, to heed the danger and the conditions that confront them. Possibly a stamp tax will open their eyes.

Through California Glasses.

From the San Francisco Star.

President Roosevelt has no sort of authority over the California legislature. He was not elected as governor of this state nor as the legislative department of our state government, and he has no business to interfere with our legislature or our state government unless there is violation of the laws of the country.

The legislature of California is under no obligations to yield to the demands of the president of the United States, for he has no right to make a demand of it. He deliberately slapped our state in the face when he urged congress to enact a law giving to Japanese the right of naturalization. It was a deliberate insult to us, because he knew the feeling in California against the Orientals, against all Asiatics.

It is very evident that unless Californians stand up for their rights, those rights will not be respected either in Washington or in Tokio. If we don't make the necessary disturbance to protect our rights, no one else will make the disturbance.

It is not because we want trouble that we insist upon Asiatic exclusion, but because we don't want a race war, but because we don't want a race war that we are making the present disturbance. It is not because we want a race war, but because we don't want a race war that we are making the present disturbance.

What sinister influence is behind all this? Is it not that we have raised the race question, and made it acute? But it was President Roosevelt, who heedlessly and foolishly insisted upon naturalization of Japanese, and belabored Californians with abuse because they wished to be rid of a race question.

A Proper Veto.

From the Lancaster Intelligencer.

We are in sympathy with the president in his veto of the not to take the next census, because of its provision for the appointment of the army of men needed in the work, or, at least, to be used in the work, without going through the civil service examination, which is provided for the work of supporting the government, and which can be well adapted to determining the fitness of those who will take the census, and who should not be appointed without adequate examination, even though the appointments are required to be non-partisan.

We know all about non-partisanship in such matters, and that all we get from it is a tickle-me-and-I'll-tickle-you selection of men who are not fit for the work and cannot be expected to be fit, since the only qualification they have ever shown for it is ability to do the dirty political work of supporting the government, and the boss politicians they serve, and who seek their payment out of the public treasury for their service to him.

It does not matter to the country what politics a census taker may profess, but it does matter to it that he shall be competent to do his work well, and that he should do honest work. There are good men in all parties, and when the politicians offer to make non-partisan appointments to office, we have learned to understand their agreement is wholly selfish and never in the public interest; but only made so that the work of supporting their adherents at the public expense may be made easier.

The census has come to be a great grab game for these men, and the consequence is that it has become costly to a degree far beyond its value, and we do not think that the country will suffer if the bill to take the next census should die. All the needed work of the census can be done in a few days, and yet it hangs on for years, resulting in the production of mighty volumes that produce state data of little use or interest.

Too Much Legislation.

From the Washington, (Pa.) Record.

Seven hundred bills have been presented in the Senate and House so far this session although the Legislature of 1909 is but three weeks old as far as business is concerned. This number is so far ahead of all previous records up to this time that some of the members and officers of the two houses are wondering when the end will be.

Practically none of the department bills have come in yet and it is said that some of them will take at least a fortnight to put into shape.

Speaker COX says that it will soon be time to put a limit on the presentation of bills as there will be an enormous mass of legislation to digest between now and the fifteenth of April. Last session the time for presentation of bills expired about the middle of April, leaving the law-makers close to four weeks in which to do their work.

As in former sessions the House leads in number of bills put in, having 482 to its credit, 118 of which were read on the first night on which bills could be received. The Senate has 215 as its total, ninety having been put in this week.

Each and every one of the distinguished orators at the testimonial dinner to Dave Lane forgot to quote the most characteristic public utterance the guest of the evening ever made—"As for this talk of civic righteousness, drop it!"

Spawns from the Keystone.

Scarlet fever is becoming very prevalent in Johnstown. Seven new cases were reported on Monday.

The total output of coal at Erton mine, Clearfield county, last Thursday was 2,600 tons, exceeding all previous records.

Eight puddling furnaces at the George B. Lessig Iron works, in Potstown, which have been idle for over two months, resumed operations on Monday.

Indians is making an effort to secure a State armory for its company of the National Guard. The requirement is that a suitable plot of ground be furnished without cost to the State.

The revival meetings, in the Methodist Episcopal church in Mount Union have been closed, after an accession of about sixty members, bringing the membership of the congregation up to 600.

Miss Nettie Nunnell, a teacher in the Wilmering schools, near Pittsburg, declaring that formaldehyde used to disinfect the school made her ill, has brought suit against the school board for \$10,000 damages.

The residents of Pottsville have reason to be excited. It has been discovered that six hundred spurious silver dollars have been unloaded on that city and the authorities are busy hunting evidence as to where they came from.

The number of inmates committed to the Huntingdon reformatory during the past two years is largely in excess of that of any previous year, that for 1907 was 457 while that for 1908 was 530. The highest number confined at any one time was 867 on August 10th, 1908.

Rev. Dr. Henry Griggs Weston, for over forty years president of Crozier Theological Seminary, near Chester, widely known as a preacher, author, teacher and extensive traveler, often called the "Grand Old Man" of the Baptist church, died on Saturday morning in his 89th year.

There are a number of cases of scarlet fever in Chambersburg and there are grave fears that the disease may become epidemic. As a precaution the schools were all closed on Friday and will all be thoroughly fumigated. There are also a number of cases in different parts of Franklin county.

Work at the coke ovens about Mount Pleasant, Westmoreland county, was quite lively last week. Late on Monday evening one hundred ovens were started at Standard, fifty on Tuesday and fifty on Wednesday. One hundred were also ordered to be fired on Thursday at Alice mine and forty at Central.

Caught, the police declare in the act of touching a match to the fuse that was to blow open the safe in the dry goods store of Fished and Reynolds, in Lewistown, Thursday night, Albert Gardner, an employee, and John Maybus, Lewistown, were arrested at the point of a pistol and lodged in the county jail.

While Rev. C. H. Dunlap, pastor of the Presbyterian church at Avalon, a suburb of Pittsburg, was preaching to his congregation on Sunday evening on the dangers of laying up treasures on earth, where thieves break through and steal, his home was ransacked and a quantity of silverware, jewelry and some money taken.

The city councils of Williamsport are considering a proposition to place a tax on passenger railway, electric light, telephone and telegraph companies, of one dollar per mile for each mile of wire suspended within the city limits, in addition to the pole tax of fifty cents per pole and an increase of the license for each trolley car from \$50 to \$75.

The grading for the connection at Brookville of the Franklin and Clearfield railroad with the Pennsylvania tracks has been completed. The Franklin and Clearfield line will use the Pennsylvania tracks from Brookville to Keating, thence to continue over the P. and E. division to a point east of Lock Haven, where there is a junction with the New York Central.

E. E. Stevenson, of Lock Haven, and two dogs had a most exciting encounter with a large female bear near the headwaters of Chatham's run last Friday afternoon and it was due to Mr. Stevenson's nerve and unerring aim on the second shot, after being wounded and was coming after him on the run, that the animal dropped and the battle was won. The slain animal weighed 200 pounds.

A free distribution of some pills, recommended for various ills, was made in DuBois on Thursday, by a traveling agent, and as a result a small child of C. H. Cadiz got hold of the sample box thrown into the hallway of his home. The child swallowed several of the pills and in a short time became violently ill, and it was for a time feared it would die, but the family physician, after working several hours, got it over the crisis.

Whatever the fate of the four men imprisoned in the jail at Messina, Italy, at the time of the earthquake, who are charged with the hold-up of Patrick Campbell, a mine paymaster, of Portage, Pa., in 1904, when Campbell was seriously injured by a dynamite explosion set off by the highway-men and robbed of about \$3,000, it is announced that there will be no further prosecutions in the case, so far as the authorities in this State are concerned.

A case which this week attracted considerable attention in the Indiana county courts was that of the five children of the noted zypsy, James Guy, deceased, against the Pennsylvania railroad company, asking ten thousand dollars damages for the death of their father who died of injuries sustained in an accident on the railroad near Blairsville last July. The Guy family are from Hagerstown, Md., and are well known throughout all Pennsylvania.

Simon S. Barr, who was born in Hollidaysburg in 1840, and who is now a resident of Altoona, has the distinction of being the last survivor of the 12 active pall-bearers at the funeral of Abraham Lincoln. Mr. Barr served through the Civil war, being wounded twice. While serving in the Veteran Reserve Corps, Mr. Barr was chosen as one of the first sergeants who officiated as active pall-bearers for President Lincoln, each of the 12 being six feet in height. After the funeral of President Lincoln, Mr. Barr was detailed as one of President Johnson's body-guards and served in that capacity until December 30th, 1865, when he was honorably discharged from the army.