

Ink Stings.

The order to put the profile of "Honest Abe" on the new copper cents to be minted should not be construed that that is all the people rated him at.

Pennsylvania has decided to continue having it in the schooner, in the bottle and in the keg and by so doing had to give it to local option in the neck.

The new tariff bill proposed contemplates putting a tariff of four cents a pound on coffee. Of course the average citizen will be able to make up for this through the proposed twenty-five per cent. reduction on pig iron. He will, nit.

Pittsburg is said to have had eight hundred and forty converts to Mormonism last year, and this doesn't include the number known to be in Pittsburg who have some of the habits and inclinations of the Mormon, but who are not directly affiliated with that church.

Local option got a black eye in the House of Representatives on Tuesday night. After a three-hour debate, that failed to change the mind of any one, a vote on the passage of the measure on second reading showed 66 for and 137 against, or thirty votes less than were cast in favor of placing the bill on the calendar of the House two years ago.

Pennsylvania is not to have local option, that is not for two years at least. The Legislature settled that question on Tuesday night by a vote of 137 to 66. While the idea of the referendum is the last analysis of the fundamentals of popular government Pennsylvania has not had popular government for years; consequently the individual could not expect to be given a chance to vote his preference in this particular matter.

PATRICK, the New York lawyer who is serving a life sentence in the penitentiary, for murder, has appealed to the courts for a sentence that will give him either liberty or death. He still protests his innocence but insists that cannot be established in the judgment of the law he prefers to die. Believing, always in the old idea that where there is life there is hope we are prone to interpret this move on the part of PATRICK as either a decidedly clever grand stand play or the act of a very torpid and broken spirit.

The steel workers in the Montour Rolling mill at Danville got their first taste of TAFT prosperity on Tuesday. Over one thousand of them were notified that a reduction of 15 per cent. in their wages would be made on the 15th, and the wonder among the most of them now is, why they were such fools as to vote for a continuation of conditions that made this out necessary. They are doubtless wiser now than they were in November, but that increased wisdom will scarcely compensate for the decrease in the amount of bread and butter their shortened wages will allow them.

We notice from the Johnstown Democrat that the theatre goers of that city have the exasperating habit of marring the effect of the final curtain falls by premature preparation to leave their seats. We thought Bellefonte about the only place where such inconsiderate actions are indulged in. Just why there should be such a veritable stampede to get out of a theatre before the program is completed we are at a loss to know. As the Democrat states often the very best lines of a play or the most effective ensemble just precede the final curtain and for the most part it is lost on the audience, and for those who desire to look or listen cannot do so because of the entirely unnecessary commotion set up by a lot of thoughtless people in their scramble to be first out.

The decision of Judge MCPHERSON, of the United States district court, in which he declared the railroad rate law passed by the Legislature of Missouri, unconstitutional, because it is confiscatory, was not much of a surprise. The roads affected by the law had protested, but, at the same time joined with the State in a proposition to demonstrate that the fixed rate was not such as would honestly support the roads. The trial was made and the fact revealed that the railroads could not be operated at even a six per cent. profit under the rate. The decision followed of course. It was a sensible proceeding in all of its phases and if more corporations were disposed to act with the spirit of the Missouri railroads they would secure full justice and the public be satisfied that they are not the robbing lawless organizations they are popularly believed to be.

Dr. CHARLES ZUEBLIN, formerly of Chicago University, and a man who has attained considerable eminence either through his superior mental attainments or natural dambophilousness—the future will reveal which—rather stirred Pittsburg up by saying, during the delivery of a lecture in CARNEGIE hall on Monday night, that that city "is one of the most stupid imaginable" on Sunday because everything is closed up and there is nothing to do. He was right when he said "It is decidedly foolish to think that because everything is closed everybody is good," but he was wrong to assume that everything should be open so that there would be a chance to be bad. It will take more than the higher and liberal educational views of men like Dr. ZUEBLIN to break down the old fashioned American idea that the Sabbath is a holy day and is not made holier by doing just such things as can be done during the other days of the week.

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Anything But Promising.

During the recent campaign great emphasis was given to the promise of the Republican party that in case of the election of Mr. TAFT the policies of Mr. ROOSEVELT would be continued.

President TAFT, in fulfillment of these promises, in his inaugural address, gave particular emphasis to his intent to carry out and enforce these policies to the fullest extent and left the impression that his is not to be a new administration, but simply a continuation of the old, or that, while he will draw the salary of the office, with its increase of twenty-five thousand dollars a year, the ROOSEVELT ideas, the ROOSEVELT purposes, and as a consequence the ROOSEVELT times will continue.

What a prospect for our people! For with all our boasted intelligence, our opportunities of understanding what has been done and what should be done, in a public sense, we doubt if there is one man in ten thousand or in ten times ten thousand, who can tell or explain what these much vaunted and incessantly talked of "policies" of ROOSEVELT were.

We have the same trusts, with the same power to rob and oppress the people, we had when he became President. We have the same railroad combinations to exact exorbitant freight and passenger rates that were complained of when he went into office. We are suffering today from the power of capital to combine and crush individual enterprise, just as we were when he took the presidential oath. Under his policies the government was robbed of millions upon millions of acres of its best lands; expenditures in every department of the public service were doubled and in many instances tripled; public officials were multiplied and public salaries increased; imperialism ran rampant and extravagance characterized every undertaking or purpose.

These were the results of his administration, and if it required any particular line of "policies" to bring them about other than the promises, the threats and the bombast he so much indulged in, the public is certainly without understanding of what they were.

And if these are to be continued, as Mr. TAFT promises they shall be, during the next four years, and we are to have the same results—the same paralysis of business, the same bad times with the want and suffering and destitution that is seen everywhere—the legitimate fruits of the ROOSEVELT policies—then the Lord be with us till another chance for the people comes around.

Taft's First Great Blunder.

President TAFT began his administration of the office of President auspiciously, in the main, but he has already made one grave mistake. The appointment of WILLIAM LOEB JR., to the office of collector of the port of New York, under the circumstances which attended it, was a prostitution of power. The term of the collector in commission had not expired, he had not resigned and consequently there was no vacancy to fill. The collector in commission had failed in no public obligation. There had been no complaint of the quality or character of his service. The people who come in contact with him in an official way protested against his removal with singular unanimity. Yet for the reason that Mr. LOEB was out of employment and ROOSEVELT owed him favor he was appointed to the office.

The most reprehensible use of public patronage is that which makes office a form of currency for the payment of personal debts. It had become a habit with ROOSEVELT even before he was elevated to the Presidency through the medium of assassination.

ROOSEVELT'S obligation to LOEB ought to have been repaid by TAFT as his method of paying his barber was condemned. It was a sinister obligation at best. LOEB had frequently assumed responsibility for ROOSEVELT'S blunders. But there is no just reason why such obligations should be discharged by ROOSEVELT'S successor by a shameless and unlawful prostitution of the public service. TAFT has injured himself beyond repair by this immoral public act. It can be said, of course, that it wasn't on his own account or upon his initiative. But the fact remains that he committed the outrage and that the craven and recreant Senate ratified the act. We are inexpressibly sorry for this incident. We would infinitely prefer to praise TAFT rather than condemn him. But such things can't be condoned.

Ben Getzell shipped another carload of Lores to West Chester on Wednesday.

Impending Slaughter of Legislation.

Preparations have been made for a general slaughter of bills in the Legislature. The final adjournment has been fixed for a month from next Monday and even if there were inclination it would be impossible to consider many measures, other than the big appropriation bills, in the twenty days or so left for sessions. But in this case there is no inclination in that direction. The corporations are raising objections to additional tax burdens and the machine can't afford to offend the corporations. Therefore the tax bills will be put through the strangling process at once. The school code is also doomed to a pigeon-hole interment. The new road law is equally certain of defeat. Even the Philadelphia to Pittsburg boulevard bill, the Governor's pet, is heading for the legislative boneyard.

Some pending bills will be passed, of course, but only such as will conserve the interests of the machine. The public welfare is a matter of no concern to the managers. Public sentiment is clamoring for legislation to reorganize the State Highway Department and institute a system of road construction and maintenance that will be free of graft and effective for results. But the money is needed for other purposes. The present State Highway Department is a valuable party asset. It is a refuge for superannuated politicians, crippled in person and morals. It would be impossible to pass any road bill without providing for a reorganization of that department. For that reason no such legislation will be enacted. It is better that the people's interests should suffer than that the party machinery should be impaired.

During the past several days the machine managers have been in consultation on the subject of frequent intervals. During the next few days these conferences will be continued and before another week a program will be agreed upon. But it will not be one of advantage to the people. No additional revenues will be provided for and the appropriations will be greater in volume than ever before. These facts will cause a deficit in the revenues beyond question, but the Governor will be instructed to "shave" the appropriations in the unlawful way invented by Governor STONE and practiced by PENNYPACKER. It is shabby treatment of our amiable, but not too particular Governor, but it is the safest and best way to serve the machine and that is the first consideration.

Being Paid Back.

Although the iron workers are greatly responsible for the election of Mr. TAFT, we doubt if his promise to continue the ROOSEVELT policies will cause much joy a long term. It was these policies that produced the times we are having and it is the times we are having that is just now worrying the iron workers to a considerable extent. Last week a big iron establishment at Pottstown cut down the wages of its puddlers something over twenty-five per cent., and the other industries of the same kind in that place purpose following its example on the 1st of April. In Sunday's papers the announcement was made that the Eastern Pig Iron Association, which is an association of the iron works of the entire eastern part of the country, will make a general cut of ten per cent. in the wages of all employees, which will mean less to eat and wear for the tens of thousands of working men now employed about the pig iron mills and furnaces throughout the eastern States.

This may not be encouraging to them but it will at least be a fulfilment of promises made them before the election. They were warned by the Democrats, and promised by the Republicans, that they would have a continuation of the ROOSEVELT policies—and consequently the kind of times that these policies produced if Mr. TAFT was elected. They voted for him with this knowledge and understanding and while the result may not be what they anticipated they are getting exactly what they worked for on election day.

And before its all over other classes of working men will be treated to a touch of the same kind of "Republican prosperity," or the signs of the times are without significance.

Said for a new graft harvest at Harrisburg was planted on Tuesday last when the Senate passed what is known as the Capitol Park Extension bill. It carries an appropriation of \$2,000,000, for the purchase of additional grounds, and by the time the State gets all the property contemplated, and the improvements that will be demanded and made, the steal in the capitol building will compare in size with the graft that will be in this job, about as a fly-speck would with a full moon.

It is too bad that the door in President TAFT'S new automobile is too small to admit him unless he squeezes in sideways. The spectacle of a President of the United States squeezing into anything must be, to say the least, most undignified.

A Record that Will Live.

One man who has made a record that will be a monument to his integrity, and devotion to the principles upon which this Republic was built, as long as the government lasts or the rights of the people and the freedom of the press is worth contending for is JOSEPH L. KEATING, United States District Attorney at Indianapolis, Indiana. Rather than assist in usurping a prerogative of a State and violating a right he believed to be guaranteed! by the constitution to every individual citizen—that of trial by a jury of his peers within the Commonwealth in which the alleged crime had been committed—he preferred resigning his office, giving up the fat salary attached thereto and living hereafter as a private citizen.

Few men in this great country of ours, in these days of greed and graft, could be found with the convictions, conscience and courage that Mr. KEATING has shown and because of the few the greater the honor to those who have and who are guided by them. In refusing to serve the Federal officials in the wrong proposed Mr. KEATING writes:

"I am not in accord with the government in its attempt to put a strained construction on the law, to drag the defendants from their homes to the seat of the government to be tried and punished, while there is a good and sufficient law in this jurisdiction, in the state court. I believe the principle involved is dangerous, striking at the very foundation of our form of government. I cannot, therefore, honestly and conscientiously insist to the court that such is the law, or that such a construction should be put on it. Not being able to do this I do not feel that I can, in justice to my office, continue to hold it and decline to assist."

The case referred to is that of the Government vs. the New York World and the Indianapolis News charged with libeling a brother-in-law of ex-President ROOSEVELT, a brother of President TAFT and a couple of other individuals who it is alleged pocketed a greater amount of the swag that came out of the purchase of the French interests in the Panama canal by the United States.

No Betterment of Road Laws.

To those who have kept in touch with matters about Harrisburg, and noted how little attention has been given legislation, it looks very much as if nothing worthy a Legislature or beneficial to the people is to be expected during the present session. Outside of a new election law, possibly the most needed reform in the State is legislation that will secure the improvement of our public roads. And on this subject there is no promise of anything except a continuation of the system we now have, that eats up taxes without any beneficial result, and breeds graft as a dog does feces.

There is no denying the fact that that which would add most to the comfort of our citizens, the value of our products and the wealth of our State, would be good public roads. These we need even more than improvements to our school system, and why the Legislature refuses, or neglects to take some action looking to the abolition of our present rotten, expensive and worthless road system, and fails to try, at least, to adopt some measure for the betterment of our highways is beyond our conception.

If it could do no more, it could stop appropriating money to be wasted—literally thrown away—as it now is—under the pretense of building State roads.

But it won't do even this much. For favorites must be fed, positions must be furnished those who do the bidding of the bosses. Contracts and graft must be provided for holders whose services are at the disposal of the few who control and dictate the policy of the party that dominates everything of a public character in the State.

And the tax-payers and the public must continue to suffer.

The editor of the Gazette, who claims to be somewhat of a hunter, is just now indulging in a rather wordy controversy with Dr. KALBFUS, secretary of the state game commission, over proposed changes in the game law. In addition to calling the Doctor "an amusing old one!" the editor of the Gazette says that "he knows it all and knows he knows it all." If it were true and not sarcasm there would be no further ground for argument. But knowing the editor of the Gazette as we do we fear this assumption of superior knowledge might be charged to his account, as well as to that of Dr. KALBFUS; so there you are: Two men with the same dispositions arguing on a point on which, to say the least, there is a great diversity of opinion. It will amount to nothing, this war of words, other than the personal satisfaction they may have in coming off cock-robin or sparrow in the conflict.

Fortunately for Bellefonte her citizens were on their good behavior on Tuesday night. Otherwise police protection could not have been expected; because both of the officers we boast were necessary (?) to maintain order in the opera house. This does not mean that the order was so bad there, for it was really so good that a first class house officer employed by the management could have maintained it without necessitating the appropriation of the entire city force.

To Be Avoided.

From the Harrisburg Star-Independent.

Colonel Alexander K. McClure has given to the public an estimate of the character of Theodore Roosevelt which is more nearly correct and without prejudice than any other which has appeared lately. Mr. McClure is himself a Republican, and his contributions to the political, industrial and social history of the country have been valuable. Therefore whatever he says about Mr. Roosevelt may be accepted as unbiased.

He says that Mr. Roosevelt will not take rank in impartial history as a great statesman, but as the most strenuous, dramatic and times-fantastic of the men who have been President of the United States. Every syllable of this is true. It were folly to call Mr. Roosevelt a statesman. He hardly knew the meaning of the word. Further, Mr. McClure says that he was right in principle but wrong in practice; that is, that his policy was "fundamentally right, but he strenuously attempted to do the right thing in the wrong way." It must be said in his defense, however, that some of his offending was due to the fallacious flattery of men who told him in effect, if not directly, that a President was absolute and could do no wrong.

We have no wish here to measure Mr. Roosevelt's character again nor to renew any criticisms of the conduct of his office. The administration that comes to an end without criticism and denunciation is the exception and not the rule. But it may not be in any wise objectionable to warn his successors, of whatever party they may be, against repetition of his mistakes. No man has better and greater opportunity to serve all the people than the President of the United States. But if he would give valuable service he must remember that he is the President of all the people and the not the fortune of a few, and still less is he bound to consider nothing but his own preferences and nobody but himself.

The man who in exalted position does his best to serve the greatest number doesn't go far wrong, for the greatest number usually wants what is best in government and business. But he cannot serve them well by openly approving and supporting their policy and secretly substituting his own policy or that of the minority; he cannot help them by preaching about class differences nor by abusing and vilifying an official of the government. If a President denounces any other branch of the government frequently enough he is bound to gather an interested, and finally an approving, audience; but he will not improve the government nor serve the people. Nor can he correct abuses by reckless utterances unsupported by proper actions, and still less when the utterances represent the sum total of the Executive activity in the premises. The public interest could be best served by an attack upon the citadel of corruption without any pretense of a trumpeting and vituperation at all. Let actions speak rather than words. We have passed through a period of denunciations and pronouncements, and the harvest has been almost nothing. That sort of thing doesn't pay.

Helping the Jingoos.

From the Johnstown Democrat.

Mr. Birrell, chief secretary for Ireland declares that President Taft has pronounced the doom of disarmament in his inaugural address. "There is a universal feeling abroad in which the United States now joins," said Mr. Birrell, for increased armaments. "It is enough to make angels weep," he added, "but in face of it it is our duty to maintain our navy strong enough to keep Great Britain's shores inviolate."

So this is Mr. Taft's first contribution to the world's progress. He has given a fresh impulse to a tendency which alarms every conservative mind. He has gone perhaps even further than Mr. Roosevelt cared to in appealing to jingo sentiment and in putting new arguments in the mouths of those in Europe and elsewhere who urge greater and greater effort in the race for naval armament.

It had been hoped abroad as it was at home that Mr. Taft would set his face more or less definitely against jingoism and all that it implies. Chief Secretary Birrell evidently had anticipated a different note from that actually sounded by the new executive and he does not conceal his disappointment and regret. The attitude of the United States as determined by the president clearly plays into the hands of the jingoos of Europe and Great Britain finds her hand forced by conditions which she cannot control.

Gone Navy Crazy.

From the Des Moines Register.

The country has gone navy crazy, and has launched out on a scale of expenditure that involves not only the millions that are now being invested, but the whole future of the country, for Senator Hale never said a truer thing than when he told the senate that the initial cost of a battleship is the least part of the expense.

It is to be remembered that "Liberty enlightening the world" was erected in New York harbor by grateful foreigners before we had enlarged the navy or made a triumphant toner of the world with battleships. It is time we began to have some care that Bartholdi's statue does not point with a finger of satire.

Spawns from the Keystone.

—There were 4,000 births in Washington county in 1908 and 2,396 deaths.

—The big plant of the Sisson Brick company, of Kingston, Westmoreland county, which had been idle since early last summer started up with a full force of workmen on Monday.

—The school at Grass Flat, Clearfield county, and six other schools in that section of the county, closed for two weeks on account of an epidemic of scarlet fever, were reopened on Monday.

—Forty men were on Saturday laid off at the Reading car shops at Junction, near Williamsport. They had been employed on repair work. A short time ago thirty-nine were laid off.

—The borough of Honeybrook has no burgess and is minus two councilmen because those elected to these positions had failed to file their expense accounts, and complaints were filed against them in consequence.

—The Reading Iron company will, at the end of the month, cut its employees' wages from 7 1/2 to 15 per cent. The cut, it is claimed, is made necessary by the aggressive competition and decline in the prices of mill products.

—The municipal authorities of Danville have decided to impose a license tax on dairymen seeking milk in the town, and their right to do so is disputed by the dairymen, on the ground that they produce on their farms all the milk that they sell.

—Workmen in the wood department of Frick company's machine works in Waynesboro, in which over fifty men are employed, were on Monday put to work in the evenings so as to make thirteen hours a day, to enable them to fill orders more promptly.

—The Morrisdale Railroad company has been chartered to build a railroad four miles in length to Clearfield county, its location being in the vicinity of the town of Morris. The capital is \$40,000 and the president is Charles Steele, of Northumberland.

—Huntingdon's new mayor, R. W. Jacobs, has started on a new plan to punish offenders brought before him as besides imposing fines, or when they fail to pay their fine for disorderly conduct and similar offences, he compels them to work out sentences by cleaning the streets.

—Rev. Father Gilbin, assistant rector of St. Joseph's parish, of Renovo, while eating oysters last Friday bit into something hard embedded in one of the oysters. Upon taking the substance to Smith Bros for examination, they pronounced it to be a pearl worth \$250.

—A new national bank with a capital stock of \$25,000 was opened for business at Loganston, Clinton county, on March 1, with T. A. Harter, a prominent lumberman, as president, and William A. Morris cashier. The deposits on the opening day amounted to \$30,000.

—A new Camp Patriotic Order Sons of America was organized in the opera house at Hastings, Cambria county, last Tuesday evening, by Gostlan L. Nelson, of that place, who is a member of the Phillipsburg camp. There are sixty-six names enrolled. The camp will be instituted Wednesday evening, March 17.

—The report of the auditors of the accounts of the Boyertown Relief association of the opera house fire of January 13, 1908, has just been made showing that the total receipts were \$22,099.99; expenditures, \$21,636.44, leaving a balance of \$463.55, which will probably be used to erect a monument over the victims.

—Saturday was the last day for filing remonstrances against licensing liquor dealers in Lycoming county, but there was only one remonstrance entered, against a colored man's saloon, for selling liquor to minors. This is an unusual condition as usually the anti-saloon people entered remonstrances against a large number of saloons.

—Edgar Noble, aged 22 years, of Millintown, while visiting his brother, Charles Noble, in Lewisstown, was shot with a pistol on Friday evening, the ball entering the left breast near the heart, inflicting a fatal wound. Mystery surrounds the shooting, as he said no one was to blame, but would not say whether it was self-inflicted or accidental. The young man had been in poor health for some time.

—Mrs. Edgar Miller, of Latrobe, aged 19 years, weary of life because she thought her husband did not love her, after putting her baby to sleep on Saturday afternoon, wrote a note to her husband and then taking a .32-calibre revolver, shot herself twice causing her death. The act discovered was made when Mr. Miller returned home from his work a few hours later. Deceased had been in poor health and it is believed that her reason had been dethroned.

—Judge O'Conner, of Cambria county, has handed down a decree giving to Directors of the Poor Conrad Bader and Phillip Hertzog, each a salary of \$900 instead of \$350, the amount paid them for the year 1907, as based on the population of the county, they having brought suit for the balance of \$350 which they claimed to be due them. In allowing this increase the judge held that the constitutional provision against increasing salary during the term of office does not apply to them.

—Charles Gilligan, of Glen Hope, Clearfield county, who was placed in the Danville insane asylum recently, escaped from that institution about a week ago and boarded a passenger train for Williamsport. When the conductor asked for his ticket he became very indignant and would not recognize him. At Williamsport he was handed over to the authorities for illegal car-riding and confined in prison. After trying of prison life he told the officials that he had escaped from the Danville asylum.

—Alexander Cooper, 78 years of age, a resident of Pocopson township, is confined in a cell of the Chester county prison for non-payment of his road and school taxes, amounting to \$1.50. He has been a prisoner several days and many of his friends would gladly settle his indebtedness in order to obtain his release, but he insists that he will not permit any such friendly acts. He has no children to go to school and he declared that because of this he should not be taxed. For twenty years he has failed to comply with the request of the tax collector.