

Ink Stings.

If you bought yourself an auto That had a habit all its own Of getting most contrary At the furthest point from home...

—Mayor MAGEE, of Pittsburg, has selected a fine cabinet for his administration; the Pittsburgers don't think.

—It looks as though that three million dollar state highway is to have a rocky road to travel in this Legislature.

—More power to President TAFT in his instance that there shall be no additional tariff put on the necessities of life.

—The fellow who has to fit has some consolation in the thought that the house-cleaning job is done at the same time.

—Old Crazy Snake has run the WHITLA'S clear out of the sensational newspapers. Verily, fame is a short lived thing after all.

—A failure of the Delaware peach crop will be welcomed by the women of fashion. They will need all the baskets to keep up with the style in feminine beadgear for the spring and summer.

—A New York society leader has just announced that no gentleman can get along with less than thirty suits of clothes. Not, and profess to be in the clothing business. Certainly not.

—President TAFT'S announcement that he does not regard federal judgeships as patronage perquisites of the Senators and Congressmen is a credit to his good judgment and a guarantee of the integrity of the courts.

—It is expected that Governor STUART will veto the two million dollar capitol park bill that will very likely pass the Legislature. The Governor is handy with the ax and this would be one of the good places to use it.

—Lo, the poor Indian tried to jump into the spot light for a last spectacular play, but there is no room for runaway Indians now-a-days. Modern civilization has them so completely hemmed in that the uprising of the Creeks scarcely made a flash in the pan.

—About the shabbiest thing we have heard of for some time was done by two gentlemen a few evenings ago. They were invited to another gentleman's home to enjoy a little game of pinochle and each of the guests took a sandwich in his pocket for lunch, without even thinking of taking one along for the host.

—It is very evident that Representative MEYER is looking after Centre county in Harrisburg. \$769,000 for The Pennsylvania State College and \$18,000 for the Bellefonte hospital looks as though the decision Centre county made last fall is going to prove quite profitable in addition to its having been so creditable.

—The JONES and LAUGHLIN Co., of Pittsburg, yesterday announced a ten per cent. cut in the wages of all its men; affecting about twelve thousand employees. The same day the price of flour went up still further. Thus it is that labor always gets the short end of the deal; that is under the beneficent system it voted to prolong.

—The WRIGGINS, the air ship experts, are going to destroy war ships by hurling projectiles at imaginary vessels while they are flying through the air. The practicability of their plan would, of course, depend on the inability of the warship to send a few solid shot into the bowels of their air ship before they get ready to hurl the destroying projectile.

—The discovery that smokers have been paying a tax on tobacco ever since 1898 is a little late, but better late than never. When the tax was increased on tobacco the manufacturers were permitted to make the packages smaller, but when the tax was taken off the manufacturers forgo (?) to restore the original size to the packages. As a result of their absent mindedness it is estimated that smokers have paid them just forty five million dollars more than they should have received under the old regulations. Easy money. Watchful government, nit.

—The new school code for Pennsylvania got a set back in the Legislature, on Tuesday, that might result in its failure to pass at this session. And such an eventuality would not prove a bad thing for the schools of the Commonwealth. The code is entirely too comprehensive in its scope and radical in its changes of present regulations to be passed in a precipitate manner. The public school interests of Pennsylvania are so diversified and conditions necessarily vary so much in different communities that what suits one is entirely unadapted for another. For this reason the code should lay over until the next session in order to give two years in which its application could be carefully analyzed by educators and school directors and its final passage made in such manner that it could become a statute without necessity of further and bothersome changes.

Democratic Watchman

STATE RIGHTS AND FEDERAL UNION.

VOL. 54

BELLEFONTE, PA., APRIL 2, 1909.

NO. 14.

The Deceptive Tariff Bill.

The minority members of the House Committee on Ways and Means in Washington have admirably stated their objections to the PAYNE tariff bill in a report submitted the other day. In the outset they point to the revenue deficit as an ample reason for tariff reform. "There are only three ways of curing a deficiency," the report declares. These are: "First, cut down expenditures; second, increase the taxes and third, issue bonds."

The report then proceeds to show that the decrease in rates where there are reductions are more apparent than real. In other words the items are juggled so that what seem to be reductions are actually increases. In wool for example, commodities that are little used are reduced in rate but those that are essential and in common use are increased, through the trick of language. Blankets and flannels for example, will be taxed at a higher rate under the PAYNE bill than under the DINGLEY law.

In window glass there is a decrease of one-eighth of a cent a pound on sizes exceeding 720 square inches, while the rate on sizes in common use is not changed. But how many citizens want glass in sizes exceeding 720 square inches? Merchants who have show windows or millionaires who have castles may be benefited by that reduction but nobody else will. In the iron and steel schedule there have been some reductions but none below a level that is prohibitory. In other words the cut in half about which Mr. PAYNE boasts still leaves the tax rate so high that present prices, or even those which prevailed before the Steel trust made its recent out to cripple smaller concerns, could easily be maintained, so far as foreign competition is concerned. Tea is taxed heavily, and through the process of countervailing duties, coffee is also taxed so that the promise of tariff reduction has been betrayed all around.

President TAFT is reported to have said to a number of Congressmen the other day, that delay in passing the PAYNE tariff bill is costing the country at the rate of \$10,000,000 a day. He bases this estimate upon conjecture of course. Large concerns, he says, refuse to make new contracts or renew old ones as long as there is uncertainty about the tariff schedules. The result, he imagines, is industrial inactivity which cuts out wages, profits and exchanges to the amount of his vast figures. Clearly he is passing the moment the tariff bill is passed everybody will rush headlong into work. The hum of industry will make merry music in all parts of the broad land.

This is a beautiful dream in which our amiable chief magistrate is indulging himself, and we greatly fear without reason. There was no uncertainty concerning the tariff schedules in October, 1907. There were no commercial or industrial clouds on the horizon. We had just passed a harvest season of extraordinary bounteousness. The mills were taxing their capacities and the railroads exhausting their resources. Money was plenty and contentment permeated the atmosphere. There was nothing to disturb our expectations of a serene and plentiful future. But suddenly a panic came and spread industrial and commercial paralysis over the broad and smiling surface of the land.

During the ensuing session of Congress Mr. VAN CLEAVE, president of the American Manufacturer's association, came to Washington and told the Republican leaders in Congress what was the matter. The DINGLEY tariff, through its excessive tax rates had been robbing the wage earners of the country of a million dollars a day, he said. The pending tariff bill adds twenty per cent. to these excessive tax rates and in view of that fact it is not easy to see how the speedy passage of the measure will have so strengthening an influence on business. As a matter of fact we are very much afraid that the President is mistaken. It looks to us as if he had misinterpreted the signs.

Present Industrial Conditions.

During the last campaign the wage earners of the country were assured that industrial prosperity depended upon the election of the Republican candidate. In West Chester, this State, a manufacturer gave notice that in the event of Mr. BRYAN'S election his factory would be closed down and his hands turned out of employment. In Youngstown, Ohio, 8,000 employees of the Republic Iron company were induced to march in a procession on the occasion of the opening meeting of the Republican campaign, carrying banners which declared that industrial life would end and soup houses open in the event of the election of BRYAN. In other sections the same false representations were made.

The other day the mills of the Republic Iron company in Youngstown, Ohio, were closed down and the chances are that within a month half the 8,000 men who marched and carried the banners predicting industrial paralysis in the event of Mr. BRYAN'S election, will be thankful for the nourishment supplied by soup houses. The Republic Iron company was a part of the property of the Tennessee Coal and Iron company purchased by the steel trust, in violation of the law, under the assurance of THEODORE ROOSEVELT that the law against the crime would not be enforced. It has been closed in order that the steel trust may continue to fix the prices of the commodity it produces. The election of Mr. BRYAN could have achieved no worse results for those men.

And thus it goes all over the country. The coal miners of Pennsylvania are forced to work upon the terms fixed by the mine owners or go hungry. The iron workers at Reading have struck or are to strike against a reduction of wages. The locomotive works at Lewistown are idle or practically so. The big steel works at Steelton, Pa., have reduced wages. Notice of a reduction has been served on the employees of the Bethlehem Iron company and at Pottstown and other places within a short distance of that town wage reductions have occurred or are about to. How much worse than this could it have been if Mr. BRYAN had been elected? Not any, and it may be added that if BRYAN had been elected the miners in the anthracite region would not have been forced to the extremities that confront them.

While we have no desire to appear as an iconoclast or a pessimist we do fear that it will take more than JAMES J. HILL'S turning optimist to make business revive.

A Significant Incident.

The resignation of United States District Attorney STIMSON, of the southern district of New York, may be a very significant incident in the public life of the country. STIMSON was largely responsible for the prosecution of JOSEPH PULITZER of the New York World, and DELEVAN SMITH, of the Indianapolis News, for lese majesty. Of course BONAPARTE was the prime mover in that absurd enterprise. There is nobody else foolish enough to be guilty of that crime against liberty. But STIMSON did all the work. He prepared the indictments and collected the evidence. He was literally "the cheese."

Soon after Attorney General WICKESHAM was inducted into office he dismissed a lot of absurd suits which BONAPARTE had accumulated for the purpose of deceiving the people into the false notion that he was an active reformer. That was the first sign of the resumption of reason in the law department of the government. But the accumulation of those trivial cases wasn't the greatest of BONAPARTE'S offenses. That distinction belonged to the lese majesty suits in which it was sought to drag American citizens to trial in an alien jurisdiction for crimes that didn't exist. Presumably it was the interference with those cases that influenced STIMSON to resign.

But the reason is less consequence than the result. The resignation of STIMSON has, unless appearances are misleading, put an end to the lese majesty cases. Of course it would have been better if the trials had gone on and the courts had fittingly thrown them out with a becoming rebuke to the responsible for their being there. In the course of time we may have another strombrain President and crazy Attorney General in which event such absurd proceedings might be inaugurated again. If the courts had passed on the question, however, that would have been impossible. But it is well enough as it is.

The legislative appropriation committee on Monday evening recommended an appropriation of \$28,000 for the Bellefonte hospital—\$6,000 for maintenance and \$12,000 for building purposes. The latter will enable the hospital management to complete the new building as originally designed.

The public sale season in Centre county came to an end this week and the farmers now will all give their undivided attention to tilling the soil and patting in their spring crops.

A Matter for Sober Reflection.

While the WATCHMAN believes that Bellefonte is in real need of more and better school rooms and that council is actuated by a sincere desire to accomplish a money saving proposition in the establishment of a borough lighting plant it also believes that these two contemplated improvement constitute a matter for serious thought at this time. The borough is already carrying a bonded debt of about \$107,000.00. In addition to this there are borough notes outstanding approximating \$20,000.00. The bonded indebtedness of the Bellefonte school district is in the neighborhood of \$25,000.00. The proposals being made now are to add about \$40,000.00 to the debt of the borough for a new lighting plant and \$30,000.00 or \$40,000.00 to the debt of the school district for a new building to replace the old North ward school.

While both the borough and the school board have property more than covering their total indebtedness and an increase of seventy thousand or more dollars in it would not affect the credit of either the real question is the one of the increased taxation that would be necessary to meet the interest on the increased indebtedness. Bellefonte property holders are paying thirty mills now, in addition to the state tax, and these proposals must certainly mean an increase of four, possibly five mills. Can we stand such a raise.

Of course it may be said for the electric lighting plant that under the cost to the borough is to be little, if any, greater than under the present system, but that is estimated. If the plant is to cost \$30,000.00, interest and sinking fund for it would certainly amount to \$2500.00 a year, which would leave only \$2500.00 a year to maintain it without going in excess of the present cost of lighting, which we believe is in the neighborhood of \$5000.00. If this can be accomplished, well and good. But we think it time for our property owners to ponder the matter carefully, so that an intelligent consultation can be had with both school directors and councilmen concerning the wisdom of doing anything that will raise the taxation materially at a time when it is already a great burden.

Higher taxes can mean only one thing: Higher rents. As we have said before the WATCHMAN does not want to be construed as opposing either proposition, but it believes that the time to thresh out such things is before and not remain silent only to complain after they are completed.

The Pending Fish Law.

The House committee on fish and fisheries of the Legislature has rejected the measure recently drafted by a committee of practical fishermen and reported for consideration a bill which has the approval of the department of fisheries. The rejected bill was one of considerable merit. It classified the fish in a way that could be understood by a man of ordinary intelligence, and provided for such regulation in the taking of fish as is reasonable. It provided just penalties for taking fish illegally but prohibited the punishment of men on the suspicion of fish warden. In other words the act required that it be shown that fish have been illegally caught before a penalty could be imposed. It was fair both to the State and the citizen.

The commission's bill has little if any merit. Its main purpose seems to be to multiply the number of officials in the department and increase its power over the people. It contains no provision which will increase the protection of the fish from pirate fishermen or illegal devices. It simply makes it more difficult for farmers' boys and country residents to supply their tables with wholesome and nourishing food from the streams in their neighborhood and easier for fish warden to prove their suspicions of illegal fishing. So far as it related to the propagation of fish it is all right. But those features of the measure might have been put into the other bill to the advantage of the State and the comfort and convenience of the fishermen.

The trouble with the authorities at Harrisburg is that they imagine every citizen of the State is seeking opportunities to violate the laws. Influenced by this absurd idea they are constantly urging the Legislature to enact oppressive and absurd legislation. The game laws are quite as bad as the fish laws in this respect. It is even proposed to tax men for shooting game on their own lands and inaugurate a sort of surveillance upon every citizen who owns a gun. This form of paternalism should be condemned by every citizen and Representatives in the Legislature who give their votes and influence to such legislation should be condemned by their constituents. What is needed are laws which will protect fish and game without oppressing the public.

Mr. HARRIMAN is pleading for government economy. He doesn't say so but we presume that he would like to apply particularly to the assessment of campaign contributions.

The Payne Tariff Bill.

From the Washington Herald. Putting all these facts together, and looking at the Payne bill as a whole, the conclusion is reached that it is a highly protective measure. Such revisions downward as appear are wholly in the interest of manufacturers, who are given freer access to raw materials, but every native industry is exceedingly well protected, even the iron and steel interests, with which no foreign makers of iron and steel products could compete on even terms, even if there were free trade in those products. The principle of free raw materials is a proper and wholly commendable one, of course, but it remains to be seen whether the "ultimate consumer" will gain any advantage therefrom in cheaper food, clothing, or shelter. It is certain that the "ultimate consumer" can find little or nothing to his direct advantage in the Payne bill. If anything comes to him it will be through concessions on the part of highly protected manufacturers in control of the home market—a condition that makes for larger profits rather than cheaper prices. On the other hand, the "ultimate consumer" is asked, as heretofore on the bulk of imported commodities, and in addition must pay a duty on tea, coffee, cocoa, all now on the free list. To offset this, he gets some concessions on lumber and window glass.

Finally, the poor Filipinos are handed a beautiful lemon in free trade, with restrictions that promise to make the sugar business in islands a sort of gamble. Our importations of sugar not above 16 Dutch standard from the Philippine islands in the calendar year 1908 amounted to approximately 500,000 tons or 200,000 tons in excess of the limit imposed in the Payne bill. Should sugar production in the islands continue to develop, the restriction on imports of sugar therefrom simply means that a part of the Philippine sugar will come to free, and the remainder will have to pay the regular duty or seek a market elsewhere. No wonder a howl goes up from Manila exporters that the Filipinos are being shamefully treated in the Payne bill. They should reflect that it is a bill for the protection of American, not oriental industries.

Hard On the Needy.

From the Pittsburg Post. It is possible now for a man to say, as Champ Clark said in Congress the other day, that the tariff is a tax without being hated by the protectionists. And they no longer try the fallacious argument advanced in the McKinley days, that the foreigner pays this tax. Everybody who thinks about the matter knows that the American consumer not only pays the tax but the profits on it that is figured against him by the importer and others.

And the vicious thing about this tax is it falls much harder on the individual of small means than on the well-to-do. The humbler classes spend a very large proportion of their income on living expenses, clothing and shelter. The tariff has taxed clothing, sugar and lumber, out of which the homes of the poorer classes are almost invariably built. It proposes to tax tea, and levies, underhandedly, a tax on coffee. In other things, people are expected to contribute according to their means, but the tariff, even when for revenue, bases its demands upon the necessities of the people. This system makes a few millionaires so fat they don't know how to spend their money wisely. It keeps the rest of the country paying tribute to them; and the men dependent on them for work must guess how they will live from one year's end to another.

The Truth Will Out.

From the Harrisburg Star-Independent. Contemporaries that are always demanding expansion of the navy and insisting that the present navy is so weak that it cannot defend the United States against the attack of any Power with a good navy, are not always consistent. They make the mistake of forgetting the country's alleged weakness while extolling its strength. Thus the plan of Mr. Andrew Carnegie for an alliance of the United States and Great Britain is commended, and would be advocated if it did not involve a radical departure from the time honored American policy of avoidance of entangling alliances. In case of such an alliance the United States would defend Canada and Great Britain would defend the possessions of the United States in the Orient. That it is said would be an easy thing for each of the Powers to do. A contemporary that is well pleased with the plan declares that "in such an event the United States navy could be depended upon to do a great deal more than protect our coast line and that of Canada."

Yet when there is talk of the necessity of adding several great battleships annually to the United States navy that same contemporary says that the United States are now able to defend their own coast lines.

Mr. Taft's Preference.

From the Springfield Republican. President Taft's studied preference for the ablest corporation lawyers finds further expression in his selection of Lawyer Bowers of Chicago as the next solicitor general of the United States. Lawyer Bowers comes from the legal department of the Chicago & Northwestern railroad and probably the former general counsel of the Illinois Central, who is now secretary of war, recommended him highly. Mr. Taft must command admiration for his defiance of the corporation prejudices of the country. He is evidently hunting for the best lawyers and kuwos where to find them.

The Way It Works.

From the New York World. If we are to have \$8,000,000 from tea the poor man must pay on even terms with the rich man—or give up his beverage. Eight cents a pound means eight cents a pound on the cheapest as well as on the most expensive brands. The millionaire can drink no more and will pay no more than the mechanic. Taxing consumption works in this all along the line.

Spawns from the Keystone.

—Three baby girls were born on Sunday to Mrs. Anna Greenleaf, in the maternity ward of the Chester hospital.

—Eight thousand yellow poplar trees will be planted in the Caladonia forestry reservation in front of the Graffenburg Inn. The land is now being cleared by a force of workmen.

—The body of J. Holderman Herr, a rich farmer of Manor township, Lancaster county, was found beside a spring, with his head in the water, death having resulted from drowning.

—Eight pudding furnaces opened up at Pottstown yesterday. There are improved conditions in other industries and many workmen are unable to secure homes for their families.

—A placard has been placed upon the doors of a Clearfield hotel which reads: "Guests will please not bathe on Sunday, as the hot water is needed for the wash Monday morning."

—An epidemic of diphtheria which effected East Bangor and resulted in the closing of the schools, has been checked there but has broken out in North Bangor, Northampton county.

—While returning home Sunday morning Councilman William Feit, a merchant of Franklin, was held up and robbed of \$400 by two men who severely beat him. One suspect has been arrested.

—Considerable agitation is going on in Cambria county looking to the reorganization of the Fair association and the reopening of the annual fairs, which were formerly an important feature in Ebensburg.

—William B. Stanley, 71 years old, and Mary A. Pessie, aged 69, both of Pike township, Columbia county, have been granted a marriage license in Williamsport. Each signed the application by making a mark.

—The contract for the erection of a new wing to the First National bank of Johnstown, has been awarded and when the improvements are completed the banking house will have one of the finest homes in the State.

—A number of railroad officials some time ago visited Johnstown and completed arrangements for the erection of an overhead bridge. It is said a new station will be built in Johnstown before one is built anywhere else on the division.

—The price of milk has taken a drop in Williamsport to six cents a quart, and one independent dealer is selling the fluid at five cents a quart and threatens to drive the other dealers out of business unless they come down to his price.

—H. L. Poteschet, postmaster at DuBois, Pa., reported to the Williamsport police Sunday night that his home had been entered by thieves during the temporary absence of the family and \$200 in cash and \$300 worth of postage stamps taken.

—Jesse Robinson, 40 years old, tried to commit suicide at his home at Tyler, Clearfield county, by shooting himself. The bullet entered his mouth and came out near the ear. His condition is serious. He is a married man and has several children.

—Charges of a grave nature have been preferred against two Johnstown attorneys before the Cambria County Bar association and have been referred to the grievance committee for investigation. The nature of the charges has not been divulged.

—For stealing a two-cent newspaper, Thomas Smith, a colored man of North Wilkes Barre, was fined \$3.50. The same dose administered to some of the newspaper stealers in other places might put a stop to the habit which some people have acquired.

—George W. Topper of Mt. Jay township, Adams county, did a big business during the past winter. Up to the present time he has shipped the hides of 2,091 muskrats, 252 skunks, 112 opossums, 22 raccoons, ten foxes, four minks, and four cats. For these pelts he received \$1,005.88.

—Those promoting the Williamsport fair project have practically decided to wait until 1910 to establish the fair. A legislative measure that may have an important bearing on the matter is pending. It provides for state appropriations for fairs such as the proposed Williamsport fair is to be.

—Some 250 men, nearly all skilled mechanics, have been given work at at New Castle, after having been idle for the past ten weeks. One hundred and fifty men who have been idle for the past ten months have been re-employed by the American Sheet and Tin Mill company at the same place.

—The Pennsylvania Railroad company has presented the borough council of Greensburg the plans for its proposed improvements at that place. The borough will be asked to vacate several streets and to sell the ground upon which the municipal building stands. The cost of the improvements will be over \$1,000,000.

—The Pottstown council which had directed the warden of the jail not to shelter tramps has rescinded its order and tramps will now be welcome to the battle. The change was made after two tramps who had been refused lodging, robbed the Hotel Denman and the station of the Buffalo, Rochester & Pittsburg railroad.

—The maple sugar crop this year in Somerset has so far been the best in years and there is prospect of several more good runs. During the past two weeks there has been an almost continuous run of the sap and the camp owners have been obliged to work Sundays as well as week days to keep the fluid from going to waste.

—In granting licenses in Westmoreland county Saturday Judge Doty removed restrictions on brewers and distillers which for five years had prohibited them from sending agents into prohibited territory to solicit orders. Everything the brewers and distillers asked was granted. Twenty nine out of 227 applicants were refused in the county.

—The big saw mill of the Pennsylvania Lumber company, at Jamison City, has resumed operations after an idleness of several months. There are enough logs cut and stored to make 6,000,000 feet of marketable lumber. These, together with those already sawed, will make a total of 16,000,000 feet in stock. One hundred men are employed at the mill.