

Democratic Watchman

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Ink Blings.
—There was a thunder storm on Tuesday. It made a noise just like spring.

—The man or woman who has a garden and wasn't in it on Tuesday missed a day like the like of which any weather maker might be proud of.

—Congress has cut the tariff on oil from twenty-five to one per cent. Poor JOHN D. It is like stealing money out of a blind beggar's hat.

—A Lapidarian can travel about one hundred and fifty miles a day on his skates. The American usually gets a ride in the hurry-up wagon on his.

—Many a fellow will spend ten dollars for flowers for his best girl on Easter and straightway lend his little gab to the hard times stories that are floating round.

—Two patients in the Wills eye hospital, both there having their sight restored, fell in love at first sight and were married instantly. That's what comes of seeing things sometimes.

—Congress has agreed on free hides. The cattle are about the only things this body isn't skinning and that is because so far as Congress has to do with them they have been skinned already.

—The Governor's three million dollar state-highway bill has passed the House. The most important part of it, to our mind, is the question as to whether the highway will pass Centre county.

—The employees of the American Line and Stone Co., are the first working men in this section to get a taste of the good times we are supposed to be having. There was a general out in the wages of the men of that corporation on Monday.

—Six students of the graduating class of the New Castle High school put limberger cheese in the piano and hid it about the school room. Of course it raised a big stink and the culprits were expelled with the result that a bigger one has been raised.

—One of the schedules of the PAYNE bill was to make stockings higher. What for? The ones in ordinary use no one sees the tops of now and the ones in use on the stage couldn't be any higher unless they'd put a seat in them and call them by another unmentionable name.

—The eighteen thousand milk producers who supply Chicago are reported to be about to form a union in order that they can buy their supplies cheaper. We had noticed that the price of either chalk or water was at a prohibitive figure in the vicinity of the Windy city.

—The total appropriations made by this Legislature will aggregate sixty-four million dollars. Large as this sum appears to be the people of the State would not think it a bit too high if they were only certain that it will be judicially expended and that there will be no graft in it.

—President TAFT and Governor General SMITH, of the Philippines, have had a disagreement, and the latter has resigned. Whatever their difference may be it is next to a certainty that they agree on the proposition that the islands comprise a very bad investment for Uncle SAM.

—The last few days must certainly be like the kind of weather that inspired a little couplet we heard years ago that ran like this:

Providence sends the wicked wind
That blows our skirts knee high
But God is just and sends the dust
That blows in the bad man's eye.

—The Rev. Dr. WILLIAM R. HUNTINGDON, rector of Grace church, Broadway, New York, found a check for forty thousand dollars under his plate at the breakfast table a few mornings ago. Do you suppose the very reverend gentleman sang the doxology before he called up the bank to see whether it was good?

—Bellefonte, Ohio, is practically without a cent to meet current expenses because it voted dry last fall and thereby lost an annual income of eighteen thousand dollars from liquor licenses. Now it is proposed to tax vehicles, loans, moving picture shows, and everything else they can think of in order to make up the deficit.

—Franco has decided to tax every German balloon that lights on her soil one hundred dollars and hold the aeronauts in custody until it is paid. This is hard lines, sure enough. But still most people who go up in a balloon ought to be glad enough to land at all that the matter of a hundred dollars fine for doing it would be a pleasure.

—"Polly of the Circus" will start in this paper next week. It is a new and intensely interesting story that would cost you more in book form than the WATCHMAN would cost for an entire year. If you don't take the WATCHMAN don't fail to borrow your neighbor's paper next week and start POLLY, for if you do that you will want to borrow it every week the story runs and then some.

—The supervisors of Spring and Boggs townships could do a little work just now that might mean thousands of dollars in saving in the future upkeep of the new state road between Bellefonte and Milesburg. Longer neglect in repairing the holes that have appeared in it will probably result in general destruction of a splendid highway and we trust that the good judgment of the gentlemen in charge will prompt them to make repairs before it becomes necessary to make new roads.

By, What a Fuss!

If the PRUNKER orphanage hasn't been able to cause the unearthing of more than one inmate since its opening it has been the centre around which there has been no end of commotion for the past week or more. All of it started when W. MILES WALKER, of this place, and J. T. ATLEE, of Tyrone, were appointed auditors to go over and make an accounting of the trust since the death of the benefactor Col. E. J. PRUNKER. The result of their efforts is a very concise and intelligent statement of income and expenditures covering a period of five years. Accompanying the statement are some suggestions for the good of the estate, no doubt inspired by the careful investigation the auditors must have given its affairs in order to secure the complete accounting they present. But here is the rub.

Resolutions were passed by the Tyrone council censuring the auditors for making such suggestions and incidentally, Bellefonte council was asked to withhold approval of the bills presented by the auditors for their services. Naturally the auditors got mad. Then the auditors had discharged Dr. R. G. H. HAYES with \$200.00 of his bill for managing the business immediately after the death of Col. PRUNKER and before anyone else was authorized to take charge of it. Honestly we don't think Dr. HAYES was mad, but he had a right to be. Council made good to him on Monday night by directing the auditors to withdraw the surcharge and there was another fuss in that lately serene body.

And now it appears that the poor innocent WATCHMAN has hurt somebody's feelings when it had no more intention of doing it than it has of supporting the next Republican candidate for President. It merely published a statement to the effect that the auditors had said the estate had not been properly managed, meaning of course, during the time when no one was actually authorized or responsible for its management, and they tell us that Mr. JARED HARPER, one of board of managers during the past year, was grievously wounded; considering the article a reflection on him. He has resigned from the board and we repeat now what we said when he was appointed that the board had lost a good man; especially good for that kind of work because he is conscientious, prudent and practical.

We trust that the various dissenting and dissatisfied elements will get their troubles fixed up. And while the WATCHMAN was opposed to the orphanage proposition solely on the ground that it did not believe there would be enough income to support it its opposition ended when the councils of the boroughs of Bellefonte and Tyrone decided to undertake it. Therefore we would not do or say anything inimical to the best interests of the institution and if we were disposed to criticize we would join cause with the auditors, for they were right in intimating that some reforms are necessary in handling an estate valued at \$200,000.00 that has accumulated only \$2900.00 in a period of five years.

Cruel Process of the Steel Trust.

The executive committee of the Steel Trust has practically determined to make a cut of fifteen per cent. in the wages of all its employees. The aggregate wages of the employees of the Steel trust is \$160,000,000. Of this amount fifteen per cent. is \$24,000,000. There are 200,000 men on the pay roll of the Steel trust and probably they feed more than a million mouths. Taking \$24,000,000 out of their earnings will create many a sad heart. It would be bad enough if necessary. As an expedient to force unjust legislation it is a crime worse than cold blooded murder.

ANDREW CARNEGIE has said that there is no necessity for tariff tax on steel products in this country. We can make steel as cheap as any competitors on the face of the earth, he declares. Intelligent and observant people didn't need this information from him. The fact that American manufacturers of steel have been for years underselling their competitors in the very homes of those competitors was sufficient evidence on the subject. But the Steel Trust proposes, by a cruel process which will spread hunger if not starvation among thousands, to force legislation which will perpetuate to them this source of graft.

The American people are patient and long suffering and they wouldn't submit to this atrocious outrage. It is encouraging to them, however, to know that they won't have to submit long. As true as that there is a heaven above the people will resist this crime against their own children and those of their neighbors. But they will do it in a quiet and lawful way. They will vote down the party which cherishes these cruel criminals at the expense of the people who labor assiduously and suffer constantly because of the inequality of the burdens of government and the injustice of the laws of our land.

—Subscribe for the WATCHMAN now and get the full story of "Polly of the Circus."

The Two Feuding Tariff Bills.

The President has practically declared his sympathy with the Republican Senators in Congress as against those of the House of Representatives on the tariff bill. There is not a great deal of difference between the two measures, as a matter of fact. But the President is afraid of the tax on tea direct and the countervailing tax on coffee, which is an unknown quantity. The oil tax in both measures is a perplexing proposition. The House bill provides for a countervailing tax on that essentially trust product. That is to say, it would levy a duty on oil imported equal to the export tax imposed by the country from which it is imported. As Russia is the only country which exports oil and Russia levies a considerable export duty, the proposition contained in the House bill is a practically prohibitive tax and the Republican leaders are very much afraid of the effect of such legislation on the public mind.

The Senate bill is preferable to that of the House of Representatives in one respect, however. It provides for the application of the minimum rates in the beginning. That is to say, the tax upon a commodity imported shall be fixed at a figure agreed upon whether the country whence it comes favors us in trade relations or not. In the event that the country from which the product comes doesn't include the United States among "the most favored nations," however, it is given a year to get into line and if at the end of that time it has not altered its commercial conditions, the maximum rate, which is practically prohibitive, is put on. The House bill applies the maximum rate in the beginning and cuts down if the other country favors us and to some extent, in proportion to the favor. Of course this is only an expedient to justify the highest rate of tariff taxes for at best it will take some time to adjust matters so as to get the minimum rate.

Neither of the measures fulfill the promises of the Republican candidate of the party platform, however. The platform pledged tariff revision on a basis that would afford the consumers relief without impairing the legitimate profits of the American manufacturer. That was entirely too general to satisfy the public, however, and the Republican candidate personally pledged himself to a tariff revision downward. Neither the Senate bill nor the House measure attain this result. The only reductions are upon commodities upon which the DINGLEY rates were prohibitive, and after the reductions are made, they will still be practically so. This is not the tariff reduction which the people demanded. They asked for a tariff revision which would save to them the million dollars a day which Mr. VANCELEAVE says is stolen through the excessive tariff taxes of the country.

More Democratic Treachery.

Through the recreancy of Democrats the Republican congressional machine won another signal victory on Monday. It was a matter of little consequence, probably, for the result would have been achieved in the end anyway. But the Republican machine had undertaken to force an arbitrary rule providing for a vote on the PAYNE tariff bill, and would have failed if the Democrats had been faithful to each other and to the party. Such failure would have been damaging to the machine and given the true Democrats more time to expose the iniquity of the measure. The consequence was fully appreciated by the machine managers and they exhausted every resource to achieve their victory.

A Republican victory obtained in a fair fight is not half as bad as one acquired by the prostitution of Democratic recreants. The industrial and commercial interests of the country would be vastly benefited by the passage of a tariff bill at this time which would be just to the people. The DINGLEY law robs the industrial life of the country of a million dollars a day through its excessive tariff tax rates. The saving of this vast sum to those who earn it would not only inspire hope but it would stimulate industrial activity. The PAYNE bill increases the rates by at least twenty per cent. and will continue the robbery. But the Democratic party could endure that iniquity better than it can the treachery of JUDAS ISCARIOT in its official ranks.

The DINGLEY bill will pass of course, and it will prolong the industrial paralysis of the present for a time. But no question is settled until it is settled right. At the next congressional election the Democrats of the South will out out the traitors who have betrayed them and those of the North and South together will elect sufficient of the membership of the House to secure the passage of a bill which will relieve the wage earners of the burdens of excessive tariff taxation. It is an expensive delay but one for which the Democratic party is not responsible except in so far as it is responsible for the traitors who have stolen its livery in which to serve the enemy.

—Subscribe for the WATCHMAN.

Roosevelt's False Pretense Revealed.

We are all wasting sentiment, not to say apprehensions, upon THEODORE ROOSEVELT'S African adventure. That is to say, we have been imagining that Mr. ROOSEVELT is going into a dangerous jungle, at the certain sacrifice of every creature comfort and considerable hazard of his life and personal safety. As he has ostentatiously announced that his mission is in the interest of science and for the purpose of extending human knowledge of animal life, a good many amiable people have been greatly distressed. It gives us more than ordinary satisfaction, therefore, to assure our readers that he is incurring no risks and sacrificing no comforts.

During his sojourn in the jungle Mr. ROOSEVELT will occupy the bungalow of Mr. WILLIAM N. McMILLAN, a very wealthy Englishman who has a passion for hunting big game. It is located thirty miles north of Nairobi, British East Africa. The bungalow, writes a correspondent of the New York World, who has been there, "contains all the conveniences that are found in any New York home, including baths with hot and cold water." It is surrounded by wide verandas, low easy chairs and set in the centre of a large smooth lawn, generally decorated with flowers. "At night the bungalow is ablaze with light," continues the correspondent, "from a current generated by Mr. McMILLAN'S own plant."

Thus the false pretense of the African trip of Mr. ROOSEVELT is revealed. He has plainly invested it in an atmosphere of danger for the double purpose, no doubt, of exciting popular interest on one hand and commanding a higher price for the rubbish he proposes to write on the other. But as a matter of fact he is in no danger while there. The correspondent continues: "As my mule jogged on toward Joja Farm * * * around me were many zebra; gazelle grazed in hundreds. Three hundred yards away two rhinos were trotting along, suspiciously waving their heads as they wended me; beyond these was a herd of milch cattle in front of a man's dwelling." And ROOSEVELT, blood thirsty and cruel-hearted, is off shooting these harmless creatures under the false pretense of promoting the interests of science.

Exhaust the Surplus.

We are constrained to agree with those Representatives and Senators in the Legislature who insist on appropriating the vast surplus in the State Treasury for needed public improvements. The machine managers are strongly averse to this course. They insist that the appropriations should be kept within the revenues and the surplus allowed to remain intact. That has been the policy of the State for as much as fifteen years and during the administration of WILLIAM A. STONE even the school appropriation was not to maintain it. Governor STONE and Governor PENNYPACKER also cut items in the general appropriation bill in violation of the constitution in order to preserve the treasury surplus.

Of course there was but one purpose to subvert by this course which was the "farming" of the funds for the benefit of machine politicians. The law requires an interest payment on State moneys on deposit of two per cent. But there has been no trouble, during the last dozen years or more in placing it at four per cent., the extra two per cent. on an average balance of over \$12,000,000, being a matter of \$240,000 a year to divide among the machine managers or apply to the campaign fund. Of course some of the favored banks were not charged the two per cent. but recompensed the machine by making loans to members as in the case of the transactions between the Enterprise National bank of Allegheny city and "Bull" ANDREWS.

In taking this position on this question we would not be interpreted as favoring prodigal appropriations as a rule. On the contrary we believe in the former practice of the Legislature of limiting the appropriations to the actual needs of the public service. But there are many public improvements, such as building highways, enlarging the capital park, pensioning veterans of the Civil war and other things to which the present surplus might be applied to the advantage of the public and when it is exhausted the taxes ought to be reduced, or refunded to the counties, to an extent which would prevent the future accumulation of such a surplus. The usage of the surplus is right from every point of view.

—Republican state chairman Wesley R. Andrews on Monday issued his call for the state convention which will be held in Harrisburg on June 16th. Under the new apportionment of delegates as based on the vote cast at the presidential election last year Centre county will be entitled to only two delegates instead of three as formerly, and in the entire State there will be 372 as against 425 in the last convention.

—Thunder and lightning! We had both on Tuesday, as well as some rain.

Celebrate Taft Prosperity.

From the Johnstown Democrat.
Jones & Laughlin celebrate Taft prosperity with a noble whoop by cutting wages 10 per cent. But do we not say for them to lie about it in doing so? "On account of the depression in business due to the fear of a reduction in the tariff," they say, "it has become necessary to cut down expenses in every direction." Evidently Jones & Laughlin think their employees have shown wisdom. Men with thinkingpots big enough to hold a memory over night can hardly have forgotten that the "depression in business" came long before there was any "fear of a reduction in the tariff." But waiving that point, is there any real fear of a reduction in the tariff at this moment? Do not all the signs point to higher rather than lower duties? Isn't President Taft lined up openly with Cannon, Aldrich, Forney and Dalzell? "To meet present prices a reduction in wages is unavoidable," says Jones & Laughlin. Yet the Iron Trade Review bluntly says that present prices are substantially the prices which the Steel Trust has long maintained. A lot of lying has been done about the "open market" and its effect. There has been a little shading of prices here and there, but there has been no real talk than anything else. The reduction in wages is made, not because of any fear of tariff cutting, not because prices have been lowered, but because labor is helpless. It can't resist. It has reached a point where it is a choice between the terms offered by the trust and starvation. And this is the fine conclusion of the great Taft prosperity show.

For Geese Only.

From the Pittsburgh Post.
In 1896 the country paid large heed to the McKinley sophistry that cheap coats make cheap men. The deluded laborer was told that if he voted to give the manufacturer a big bonus, the latter would care for him. And yet when hard times struck a year and a half ago the very interests that were given the largest protection under the Dingley schedules shut down.

The mills and factories of the Pittsburgh district closed. Their workmen were compelled to hunt any sort of labor, to live a sort of hand-to-mouth existence. This city issued park bonds to make work for them. Their employers went to Europe, or otherwise continued to enjoy life as before. It is not on record that interest on securities, or even dividends on grossly watered stocks, were much reduced. It is not recorded that any drastic cuts were made in high salaries or that any of the owners were put on half time or less.

The policy of the mill owners put off that reduction of prices which would have stimulated trade and kept the men going to the last moment. And now these interest and dividend men, many of whom have become suddenly and grossly rich beyond any merit or ability of their own, tell the country that if the tariff makes any difference in their gains, poor, half-starved labor must stand it. Wages are to be reduced; a local out has already been announced. Will salaries, interest and dividends be cut, too? If not, why not? Why should labor stand it all?

A Chance for the Big Stick.

From the Lancaster Intelligencer.
The little Central American republic of Nicaragua appears to be at the head of the line for the first treatment of the big stick to be given under the administration of President Taft. Both Washington and Southern advisers say that diplomatic relations may be severed at any moment, and a curious world will then await developments with the keenest interest, not because the world cares much about the trouble or even understands anything at all about it, but because the world wants to know whether Mr. Taft will wield the big stick as Mr. Roosevelt might have been expected to wield it. Just what is going to happen to President Zelaya and his faction if he fails to adjust things is the point of curious interest. Will there be active and armed intervention or a revolution and a readymade republic of the Panama sort with a bill of costs for Uncle Sam? Who knows?

The one thing certain is that the prospect of Central American peace and unity, which seemed so bright and real to some cheerful people but a short time ago, was but a dream. The dove of peace will need both gentle and firm suasion to alight upon that Central American peace palace which Andrew Carnegie has paid for.

At Honorable Men.

From the Philadelphia Record.
The casual mention of the fact that 80 per cent. of the history made in this country is sold through a single selling agency sheds a good deal of light on the mystery of the increased duties on stockings. If there be one thing more than another to which Republican congressmen are subservient it is a trust. If four-fifths of all the history is sold through a common agency there is practically a Stocking Trust; and wherever there is a combination in restraint of trade there will the Republican Congressmen be gathered together to receive their orders—and also other things, perhaps; not, of course, in a personal, but in a party way; for the Congressmen are all honorable men.

They Need Each Other.

The World's Work.
The plain truth is that Missouri needs the Standard Oil company and Kansas needs the Harvester company and the companies need to do business in these States both have been convicted of crime and forbidden to do business. The two States are therefore, trying to find a proper and profitable way to reconcile the practical needs of the situation with the demands of the law, and the companies are trying to do the same thing. They will succeed before long.

—Read the opening chapters of Margaret Mayo's great story, "Polly of the Circus," which will appear in next week's WATCHMAN.

Spawns from the Keystone.

—John B. Maloney, of Greenburg, has been notified by English barristers that he is one of three heirs to a fortune in Ireland estimated at \$480,000.

—Ira J. Packer has sold 854 acres of land in Lycoming county to the State for a consideration of \$1,933.33. The land will be used for forest reserve purposes.

—The country districts about Uniontown have been scourged with epidemics of scarlet fever, diphtheria and black measles, many deaths having resulted and several schools having been closed.

—Harvey Pennington, of near La Joco, Clearfield county, while driving in the darkness Sunday night, went over an embankment, the loaded wagon falling on him, killing him. He was 35 years old.

—After many delays in the construction of the plant, Potstown people expect to find out this month how much of an improvement filtered water will be over the present mixture from the Schuylkill river.

—Running between the rails with a fast approaching locomotive rapidly bearing down upon him, venerable J. W. Lyons saved the life of his aged friend, Mrs. Charles Kinsbury, of Sunbury, at that place.

—The Business Men's association of Huntingdon, which was agitating the question of an Old Home week celebration for that town, has given up the project for this year and postponed the matter indefinitely.

—York county commissioners have decided to make a temporary loan of \$15,000 to replenish the county treasury. With only about \$6,000 on hand the county officials have claims of \$13,000 awaiting payment.

—The Pennsylvania Railroad company has given William Gaul a check and a permanent pass over its lines for saving a passenger train from running into a landslide near Frackville, Schuylkill county, a few nights ago.

—Howard Burkhardt has been arrested in Johnstown charged with defrauding Italians out of money. Twenty-seven separate informations were lodged against him and he was held in \$300 bail on each charge—or \$8,100—for court.

—Pittsburg coal is soon to be carried across the seas to foreign markets in the same vast quantities it now is carried up the lakes to the region of the northwest. Ships capable of carrying 20,000,000 tons a year will carry the coal to southern Europe and return laden with iron ore.

—The commissioners of Northumberland and Union counties have entered into an agreement with the Milton Passenger Railway company for the exclusive use of the inter county bridge at Lewisburg. The railway company will pay to the two counties \$45,000 in cash before occupying the bridge.

—Within a few weeks contractors will begin the erection of twenty new houses at Nanty-Glo, Cambria county, for the Springfield Land company, an adjunct of the Springfield Coal company. The coal company has a big opening at Nanty-Glo and is preparing to increase the output considerably.

—About 600 blast furnace employees at the four furnaces in the Shenango Furnace company, at Sharpshooter, have been cut ten per cent. in their wages. The men had anticipated the reduction. These are the only furnaces in operation, but it is said the four others will make a similar cut when they resume.

—Three thousand carrier pigeons, some of the best in the eastern part of the United States, will start on a race from Huntingdon at daybreak on the morning of May 23. The birds will fly from Huntingdon to Baltimore and Washington, and the pigeon which arrives at either of these cities first will win \$1,000 for its owner.

—Coleman K. Sober, of Lewisburg, known throughout the United States as "chestnut king" on account of his extensive investment in cultivating chestnuts, has purchased 166 acres of timberland in Cleveland township, Columbia county, known as the "Pine Swamp" on which he will plant another chestnut orchard.

—Judge Smith, of Clearfield county, has ordered the release of L. H. Baunister, who had been arrested at DuBois because of his failure to keep up payments on a set of books he had purchased on the installment plan. In his opinion the judge said: "Personal liberty is too sacred to be involved in mere jugglery in legal requirements for the vendors of these installment goods."

—Valuable deposits of fire clay have been found in the vicinity of Clearfield and a company has been formed to develop them. Quite a number of options on land in the vicinity of Rector and points in Union township, in Clearfield county, have been closed, and a large brick manufacturing plant will be put up at DuBois if a suitable site can be secured and equitable rates can be obtained from the railroads.

—The health authorities of Williamsport and other towns along the Susquehanna river, together with Wilkesbarre and nearby coal towns, are in receipt of communications from Dr. Dixon, of the department of health at Philadelphia, notifying them to be on the lookout for passengers on the Merion, which, with several cases of smallpox among its 500 steerage passengers, came to port and allowed them all to escape.

—Before many months the sewage of the Pennsylvania Industrial Reformatory at Huntingdon, will be taken out of the Juniata river, where it now goes along with that of Huntingdon and other means will be prepared for its disposal. The Legislature recently granted the institution an appropriation of \$27,000 to erect a disposal plant. Now it will be a question as to how soon the plant will be built, which will be up to the State Board of Health, who will have to prepare the plans.

—W. H. Wheeler, of North Cameron, Tioga county, met a horrible death the other evening when he went to the barn to care for his cattle and other stock. Falling to return at the accustomed time, his wife, fearing some misfortune had overtaken him, went to the barn in search of her husband. Among his stock was a large bull, which to all appearance had suddenly attacked Mr. Wheeler as he was feeding him and the unfortunate man evidently had been trampled and gored by the infuriated beast till his life had been crushed out.