

Democratic Watchman.

BY P. GRAY MEEK.

Ink Blot.

—Work is good to look upon; that is, when some one else is doing it.

—It is up to Governor STUART now to make or break much bad legislation.

—The day of the ice cream cone is not so far distant that you would be unwise in laying up a few nickles for the kids.

—A car load of Chinamen being smuggled into this country consigned as beans were discovered through a crack in the ear. Murder will out.

—The trout fisherman is "the man with the smile" these days. It is not the kind produced by good luck, however. It is bottled in his inside pocket.

—The Sultan was too good to the young Turks. Had he cut their heads off about Thanksgiving time he wouldn't be in such danger of having them gobble him up now.

—It has just been revealed that LEIGH HUNT is the person who is to foot the bills of ROOSEVELT's expedition into Africa. Naturally it is a hunt in every sense of the word.

—Some wealthy cattle raisers were lynched in Oklahoma on Monday. They probably were "malefactors of great wealth" and eminently "undesirable citizens."

—The end of the business depression or some other equally pretentious crisis must be arriving. A Philadelphia politician has voluntarily resigned a ten thousand a year job.

—It is a question as to whether as a plain nuisance the stink, the noise and the dust of the automobile will be able to beat out the horns they are putting on some of them now.

—Many a man who is worried over his lawn grass now will be wishing it never had grown when the hot days of July and August arrive and there is no one else to push the lawn mower.

—The Daughters of the Revolution should arrange to hold their next Congress in one of those Southern American Republics so as to give the revolutionists down there a show of what real fighting is.

—Sugar manufacturers, scientists and the customs officials are now involved in a wrangle as to whether the beet is a vegetable or an unmanufactured article of commerce. It is both, just the same as "pigs is pigs."

—JIM JEFFRIES having finally decided to re-enter the prize ring the only regret is that the time he has set is not early enough to save the public from being appalled by that colored gas house that was built over in Australia.

—President TAFT went to a baseball game on Monday and the team he rooted for lost. Now that couldn't have happened had TEDDY been there. He would have proven the empire a liar on every decision against the home team.

—If everything the poor man wears and most all he eats is to be taxed through a tariff for the benefit of monopolistic interests why shouldn't the incomes of the wealthy be taxed for the benefit of the government. If the poor have to keep up the rich, the rich should keep up the government.

—The Steubenville, Ohio, girl who refused to marry FRANK BEEFSTAKE, of Ironton, after it flashed through her mind that she was becoming a Mrs. BEEFSTAKE, made a veritable hamburger out of poor FRANK's affections. Her love for him wouldn't stand for such a name and she stoutly refused to change it.

—What's the use of that Indiana man wearing himself out on his invention to make the day twenty-four hours long. We will be allowed to work only eight of them just the same and in summer time we would never have a moment's rest from the flies nor be able to enjoy any of that pestilence that walketh in darkness.

—After while there won't be anything of the real girl left. The little bit of hair she has after concealing her rat she uses as an anchor for a lot of pinned on pulls; then she covers it all up, her face as well, with a peach basket hat, puts a rubber form under her jacket, blows it full of wind, and mimes forth because her skirt is so narrow she can't step and the high heeled suede shoes she wears are so painful that her antics border on the ridiculous.

—The best and most effective application of the tariff idea to the daily life of the ordinary man was noticed on Tuesday. For the past year and a half there has been great industrial paralysis in this country, thousands of men are out of employment and other thousands are on half time. Ordinarily prices of commodities fall during such a period. That is, they adjust themselves to the ability of the masses to pay. The reverse has been the case during this depression. Everything the poor man needs for his table has gone up in price and flour has been dearer than it has been at any time in twenty-five years. This has been due to the high price of wheat, which touched \$1.30 last week, but what happened Tuesday. The price of wheat fell in a few moments to \$1.22. Why? Because talk of taking tariff off it was started. All that was needed was the mere suggestion and the gamblers who were cornering it let go at once. And that is what the tariff does in many instances. It does not help the producer, it robs the consumer and puts the loot into the pockets of the gambler.

Democratic Watchman.

STATE RIGHTS AND FEDERAL UNION.

VOL. 54

BELLE FOLLE, PA., APRIL 23, 1909.

NO. 17.

Will the Supervisors Do It?

State road building in Pennsylvania is largely in the experimental stage. The future is a problem. There are so many conditions surrounding the State's efforts to make better public highways that it is impossible to say just how far the work that is now under way will be carried forward.

To our mind the most serious and possibly the most effectual drawback in the entire system or theory to be worked out is and will be the attitude of the road masters or supervisors of the precincts in which State roads have been built. For thousands of dollars have been expended in constructing a perfect highway, if a couple of stubborn, contrary or just plain ignoramuses who can't and won't see, permit it to be destroyed for want of slight expense in maintenance there will be an end of State road building. What would be the use of building roads at a cost of from five to ten thousand dollars a mile which is straight way allowed to deteriorate into common country highways such as they replaced? It would be the grossest waste of money.

Centre county has secured several sections of State road. All of it has been built more durable than the average in other counties. One section extending from Bellefonte to Milesburg cost approximately sixteen thousand dollars. Of this amount the State paid twelve thousand, the county two thousand and the townships of Boggs and Spring two thousand dollars. All of that money was put into the road two years ago and to this minute we do not know of a cent that has been expended in taking care of the investment.

As to whether the State, the county or the townships is responsible for its upkeep is not the question. The fact is that the road is disintegrating for the want of a few small repairs that probably wouldn't cost fifty dollars. And as the supervisors of Boggs and Spring townships are the men on the job they are the ones who should be held to accountability for the destruction of the two thousand dollars in cash that the tax payers of those townships had to put up to help build the road.

Common business sense and judgment should prompt them to make the necessary repairs in the right way and wait for the future to decide who is really responsible for the upkeep. If it is let go until too late the value the townships have put in it will be gone and they will have the road to maintain anyway, but then it will be just as it was before the improvement was made.

Conditions are the same on all the other sections of road that have been built in the county. The WATCHMAN refers especially to the Milesburg section because it is more familiar with it, but what it has to say applies to all of them. It is certainly a lamentable affair, whatever may be the cause, and if the supervisors or roadmasters do not awaken to the duty the tax payers should demand their attention. The State will certainly not continue building roads in communities where the roads are not looked after and even if it should it is a very short sighted policy that permits a good road to become a bad road again, especially when a minimum of repairing would keep it good.

Senator Aldrich's Base Purpose.

Senator ALDRICH knows, if he knows anything, that his statement in the Senate, on Monday, that his tariff bill will produce ample revenue to meet the requirements of the government, was not true. The revenue deficit for this year is \$150,000,000. The appropriations of the last Congress for the next fiscal year amount to \$60,000,000 in excess of those of the present year and the revenues can be no greater under existing laws. That would indicate a deficit next year of something like \$200,000,000.

Accepting Mr. ALDRICH's statement of the revenue possibilities of his bill there would only be a revenue gain of \$30,000,000. That would be a deficit at the end of the fiscal year 1910 of \$170,000,000. With a deficit of \$150,000,000 this year which ends June 30, 1909, and \$170,000,000 on June 30, 1910, the entire surplus, including the legal reserve, would be exhausted and the country would be at the mercy of the money lenders. Anybody who has been obliged to borrow in an emergency knows what that means.

The purpose of Senator ALDRICH's misrepresentation of the facts in the matter is to prevent the passage of a provision for taxing incomes. He is essentially the representative in the Senate of "the Standard." He is the attorney in fact of the Standard Oil company and the Steel trust. Because of his relation to these corporations he is also the leader of the Republican party in the Senate. He is striving to make the government of the United States a creature of the corporations he represents.

At a recent meeting of the directors of the Bellefonte Central railroad company the office of general superintendent was abolished and Mr. F. H. Thomas, of this place, was made vice president and general manager.

The Income Tax.

The esteemed Philadelphia Ledger characterizes the income tax as "a blow at wealth." Several other esteemed contemporaries have fallen into the same pernicious habit. Why do they do this, except upon the broad principle that any tax is a blow at the subject taxed, we are unable to understand. An income tax is certainly no more inimical to wealth than a tax on the necessities of life is injurious to poverty. Either proposition involves payment by one to another. Nine times out of ten the payment upon the necessities of life goes into the safes of some corporation or the pockets of a favored individual. Ten times out of ten the tax on incomes will go into the public treasury as revenue for the government.

A tax on shoes, hosiery, gloves, blankets, lumber, hats or any other of the essentials to healthful life is a blow at poverty which works great hardships on the victims of the injustice. A tax on incomes may be justly regarded as a blow at wealth but one which in no respect impairs its powers for usefulness or evil. The tax on the necessities of life goes to the protected favorites whose product is shielded from competition and enjoys the advantage of monopoly while the tax on incomes goes into the treasury of the country where it conserves the interest of the public. In other words, the tax on incomes is a burden laid upon an object best able to bear it and serves a useful purpose while a tax on necessities is a burden on objects least able to carry the load which works a vicious result.

The esteemed New York World states the case accurately and happily when it says that an income tax, "taxes wealth, not poverty." The prime object of all taxation is to raise revenue. But it is almost equally important that in levying a tax for revenue it be so adjusted that it will be most easily borne. A tax which takes from the needy things they require for the maintenance of health is an iniquity. A tax which exacts from those who have abundance a small per centage for the public good is just. A tax which goes into the treasury and serves the purposes of government is helpful to all citizens. But a tax which simply adds to the profits of favored individuals or corporations robs the many to benefit the few and is an abomination.

An income tax produces revenue. A tax on necessities creates profits for favorites. In view of these facts there is something fundamentally wrong with an individual or a newspaper which condemns a tax on incomes and favors a tax on necessities. Such a man or paper lacks intelligence or integrity and may be deficient in both. In any event it is serving the cause of wrong at the expense of the principles of right. It is advocating a policy which is unjust and unfair. It is fighting the battle of iniquity and against the cause of justice. Probably the people may be deceived by the sophistry of injustice. But there will be a day of reckoning when popular intelligence and public conscience will resent the fraud.

The Tax on Lumber.

The National Conservation League protests that a tariff on lumber affords no protection to American manufacturers. It adds that the only person protected by a tariff on lumber is the timber owner and might have added that the timber owner is the lumber trust. "The removal of the tariff," the League continues in a statement recently issued to the public, "will reduce the price of lumber and conserve the American forests most desirable results." No man of rational mind will dispute either of these propositions. They are irrefutable and almost self-evident.

A considerable decrease in the price of lumber would stimulate home building in every direction. The difference of two dollars a thousand feet in the price of lumber amounts to a good deal in the cost of a frame house in the country or suburbs or any kind of a house in town or city. Hundreds of artisans have refrained from building homes because of this difference in the cost of lumber, attributable to the tariff tax of two dollars a thousand feet. Thousands of mechanics have been deprived of employment because this difference in the price of lumber prevented artisans and others from building homes.

Talk about the conservation of forests and reforestation while there is a tariff tax of two dollars a thousand feet on lumber is absurd. That tariff tax on lumber is actually and absolutely prohibitive. One result of it is that nobody builds except those who have to build and those who are obliged to build consume domestic lumber faster than the most energetic reforestation can replace it. As a matter of fact there ought to be no tariff tax on lumber or forest products of any kind. A tax of a dollar a thousand feet is quite as prohibitive as if it were double. It means that our own forests will be denuded.

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The Two Tariff Bills.

There is no material difference between the ALDRICH and PAYNE tariff bills except that one was evolved in the House and the other in the Senate. The PAYNE bill graduates the tax so that the poor pay more than the rich in the ratio of about three to one. The ALDRICH bill aims for about the same result. In the ALDRICH measure hosiery is taxed a trifle less than in the other. But on flannels the schedule of the PAYNE bill is lower. In both cases the main purpose is to foster monopoly. The tax reductions are alike on the luxuries which are accessible only to the opulent. It is essentially a scheme of the tariff mongers to tax the people for the benefit of favorites.

Both bills are defective, moreover, because they will fail to produce the revenue that is needed. The deficiency in the treasury this year will amount to \$150,000,000. In two years, at that rate, the treasury will be bankrupt. It has been proved that the Republican party is incapable of decreasing the public expenses. The two pending tariff bills indicate that it is equally incapable of increasing the revenues. It can issue bonds just as an opulent spendthrift can borrow money as long as his property lasts. But what sane man would trust the management of his business affairs to one who could neither increase his resources nor reduce his expenses. He is an incompetent.

For nearly ten years this country has been enjoying an era of extraordinary prosperity. Labor has been liberally employed and generously rewarded. The taxes have been high but out of an abundance they have been paid without inconvenience. Things are different now, however. The high taxes continue but the resources to meet them are diminished and the result is inevitable. Poverty is the unavoidable consequence of such policies. Governments like individuals exhaust their resources in the end if they spend more than they earn. That is what this government has been doing for the last two years. We have been sowing to the wind and will reap the whirlwind.

The Quay Monument.

The Legislature of Pennsylvania fitly finished its work by providing a place for the QUAY monument. For nearly two years that memorial of our civic iniquity has been hardening the storehouse of the sculptor who chiseled it out of marble. The commission which had been charged with the procuring and putting it in place on the capitol grounds have been afraid to act. The public conscience was in a state of uncertainty and resentment was apprehended. But Senator MCNICHOL was not afraid. He has the courage of his depravity and provided a solution of the problem.

And why shouldn't this course have been adopted and now that it has been wisely shouldn't it meet with the approval of the Republican party? QUAY was no worse than his political associates. He has been dead for more than four years and the management of his party has not been improved. In fact it is a matter of record that QUAY had during the closing years of his life admonished his associate leaders that they were going too far. He said that most of those who were connected with the graft in the construction and furnishing of the capitol would be sent to the penitentiary. That he took too gloomy a view of conditions has been proved by subsequent events. Nobody has been sent to the penitentiary and no one is likely to be. But if he had lived things might have been different. He might not have had the nerve to do what has been done by his successors.

An esteemed contemporary has said that "QUAY was a soldier who never participated in a battle. He was a legislator who never wrote a law or advocated a measure for the public good. He was a fiduciary officer who betrayed his trust and set examples to his associates which led to misery and ruin." But he was precisely the kind of a man the Republicans and Pennsylvania wanted for "a guide, philosopher and friend," and it is proper that his effigy should be set up as an example for them to emulate. If he had been better he couldn't have given satisfaction. His successor in the leadership is quite as bad.

—The first snake story of the season was told a day or two since by J. C. Harper, who said that one day last week he and a companion were walking through Emerick's graveyard in Pennsylvania when they came across a snake crawling around in the short grass and apparently as lively as in midsummer. They killed the reptile and according to Mr. Harper's measurement the snake was about four feet in length. And he further declares that it was a garber snake at that.

—A new concrete pavement and steps were put down this week in front of the Forest building opposite the court house.

—Governor, spare that hospital bill of ours. We want no GEORGIE WASHINGTON stunts on it.

Not Enough to Go Around.

From the San Francisco Star.

Fifty years from now," says Prophet James J. Hill, "the people of the United States will have to scramble for bread—there may be enough to go around." It may be suspected that President Hill is getting ready to put up some job on the people, for he has a habit of predicting calamity when he has a scheme up his sleeve. He is trying to scare us now by predicting that unless we raise a great deal more wheat we won't have enough bread in 50 years from now.

Let Mr. Hill turn his attention to the present. The enough to go around doesn't go around. There is enough bread, enough clothing, enough shelter and material for shelter to go around, enough of all the comforts of life to go around; but they don't, and President Hill, the railroad monopolist, is one of the comparatively few who are responsible for the fact that they don't go around. Instead of predicting terrors for 50 years hence, President Hill would be in better business were he paying more attention to the don't-go-around condition of the present.

If we of today do our full duty, we need not fear for the condition of our children and grandchildren of 50 years hence. We are producing enough wealth to keep in comfort all who earn or are willing to earn a living, but the fault is in the unfair distribution of the wealth produced. He that assists in bringing about a fair, a just distribution of the wealth that is produced today need not fear that the future population will starve, or even want for the necessities and comforts of life. All that we need do, but the least that we are in duty bound to do, is to leave to posterity just laws and righteous conditions.

It would be amusing were it not morally criminal for a man like President Hill to pose as a prophet of calamity when he, the beneficiary and upholder of special privilege, insists on taking from the people the most farthing that his monopoly will grind out of the pockets of the people.

He that predicts want in the future should not cause want in the present. He that would be a missionary for plenty in the future should not practice the black art that causes dire want and poverty in the present. If President Hill would teach us how to sow and reap plenty of wheat in the future, he should set a good example in the present by ceasing to reap wealth that he has not sown.

As President Hill says, "the food problem itself has numerous collateral issues." But the first and most important issue of the food problem is the matter of preventing any man, whether Hill or Harriman or Rockefeller, from taking from another man without compensation what that other man has earned or produced; and that is but a part of the issue or problem of giving to each one his right to use the earth without paying any other man for the use of the earth. It is not the "food problem," but the Man-and-Man problem. It is not a problem of sowing wheat, but the problem of forcing a few men, of whom President Hill is a type, to get off the necks and backs of other men, and leaving to the other men the simple matter of working out their own salvation.

There is plenty to go around, and there will always be plenty to go around if we follow nature rather than Hill. And after a few years of experience with both, we believe that nature is the safer guide. At any rate, nature is just to the laborer.

A Flood of Bills.

From the Harrisburg Star-Independent.

The Legislature sent to the Governor 798 bills and 51 resolutions as the product of its labors on about forty working days. Of course the session covered more than forty days, but the working time, except as relates to committees, did not. Nearly every measure sent to the Governor was passed in violation of the Constitution, a fact which nobody can dispute. But that is a matter of no importance, for in Pennsylvania the Constitution has been a dead letter for the last thirty years. Bills were passed at "high pressure" in order that they might be jammed through without passing members an opportunity to study them and protest against their enactment, or to ascertain whether or not any snakes were hidden in them.

With the exception of the charitable and penal appropriations, some of which could have been dispensed with, many of these new laws were unnecessary. Among legislators there is a passion for making laws, and it has been well developed in Pennsylvania. It is better to pass wisely a few necessary laws than to pass unwisely many that are not necessary. That does not appeal to the average legislative body, however, and the more bills it passes the more it is praised for a "working body" and a "business session." It will always be so. The average human being loves to pass laws for the government of somebody else.

Snuggling Up to the Octopus.

From the Hartford Courant.

Not every man's hand is against the Standard Oil Company. The people of Louisiana seem to be pleased that the Standard has taken out a charter in that State and organized a company with a capital of \$5,000,000. It is announced that the company will spend two millions in building a refinery at Baton Rouge and will lay pipe lines from the Caddo, Jennings and other fields. Very large deposits of oil have been found in Louisiana, and there is a general opinion that in providing money to develop these deposits the Standard is doing the work of a good octopus.

—John Sebring last Saturday sold Dr. John Robinson, of State College, a model 1909 Buick roadster automobile with a double rumble seat. He traded in the doctor's old Ford machine and the same day sold it to Wade H. Barnes, of Scranton. Mr. Sebring has also several other prospective purchasers of Buick machines in view and expects to land some of them in the near future.

Spawls from the Keystone.

—The oil field at Gaines, Tioga county, is to be further tested by putting down twenty wells.

—Punkstunawny has developed quite a building boom and during the present week foundations will be begun for a dozen buildings, mostly dwellings.

—The store of E. B. Kyler, at Bigler, Clearfield county, was entered the other night and robbed of shoes, gloves, hosiery, watches and other goods.

—By a little effort on the part of the business men of DuBois the Queen's Run Fire Brick company has been induced to locate a \$250,000 plant in that place.

—Mrs. Frank Bonawitz, of Pottsville, was preparing plans for the use of the family on Sunday, when she found a pearl in one of the claims which jewelers estimate as being worth \$150.

—The bakers of New Castle will not increase the price of bread per loaf, but have decided to decrease the size of the loaf, which is only another way of arriving at the same object.

—Two hundred octogonarians attended a unique Mexican War Veterans anniversary in Pottsville Sunday. It was in honor of the sixty-second anniversary of the battle of Cerro Gordo.

—Mrs. Mark Rickard and Mrs. Cassie Amey, daughters of John Glas, of Fallen Timber, are making a comfortable income by cutting props and bank ties for the Anderson Coal company.

—Peach growers in the southern part of Franklin county estimate the loss to the peach trees during the recent severe cold spell at 50 per cent. But they expect will probably average better than that.

—The heirs of the so-called Sifter fortune in Bavaria, estimated at amount to \$200,000,000, held a meeting in York the other day and chipped in sufficient money to send a representative to Bavaria to look into the fact.

—The members of the Young Men's Christian Association of Williamsport are about to enter a campaign to raise \$20,000 for the payment of the floating debt and a part of the mortgage on the association building.

—The initial work of tree planting from the two-year-old state nursery at Asaph commenced this week and 48,000 two-year-olds, of which 16,000 are hardwood and spruce, will be immediately set out on barren lands.

—Mrs. Elizabeth Baker Dunn, Clinton county's oldest resident, on Sunday celebrated the 57th anniversary of her birth, at the Dunn farm, on Great Island, near Lock Haven. She is enjoying very good health for one of her years and is remarkably bright.

—Mrs. Rhoda Lovell, aged 80 years, and a widow, was robbed of \$10,000 on Friday night, which money she carried in a leather treasure belt. She lives in a tent along the Lancaster pike, and was not until Sunday that she reported her loss to the Bryn Mawr police.

—Ex-State Treasurer Berry is opposed to the state board of health directing the city of Chester to put down a sewer system, and advises that a fight be made. He says the \$600,000 should be used for improvement of the public highways instead of building a mammoth sewer.

—The mystery surrounding the disappearance February 16 of William Swibert, a wealthy farmer of the southern end of Washington county, was cleared up last Saturday when his body was found floating on the waters of Ten Mile creek. He had been shot and thrown into the water.

—John Hauser, with his portable mill, has just finished the cutting of the timber on the John Forzy tract, near Wallaceton, from which he realized about 200,000 feet of lumber, and will this week move his mill to the Beaver Run tract, near Blue Ball, where he will have about 500,000 feet to cut.

—In the libel suit of Lewis Emery versus the Butler Eagle, the case went to the jury with instruction from the judge to find a verdict for the plaintiff; the jury to fix the amount. A sum of \$5,000 was fixed. The case grew out of the story published during the gubernatorial fight two years ago that Mr. Emery had been guilty of misdeeds in opening oil refineries.

—The will of the late Charles E. Ellis, street car magnate of Philadelphia, who accidentally shot himself recently, leaves the whole of his residuary estate, valued at not less than \$2,000,000 for the establishment of the Ellis College for Fatherless Girls. It is to provide for the education and maintenance of fatherless white girls, preferably natives of Philadelphia, between the ages of 13 and 17.

—A meeting of the stockholders of Newton Hamilton Camp Meeting association was held at Newton Hamilton last Thursday. There was a good representation and business was transacted of importance to the future of the place so well known as a summer resort and camp meeting ground. President J. W. Lowther, of Ballwood, presided at the meeting. The adjustment of the insurance on the buildings recently destroyed by fire was accomplished in a satisfactory manner and the future of the grounds was then taken up. Naturally, there were those who advocated rebuilding, but after careful deliberation, it was decided to offer the grounds at public sale. The date of the sale has not yet been absolutely fixed, but it will probably be Tuesday, May 4.

—The ministerial association of Mars and Valencia, in Butler county, has adopted a code of reforms which it believes should obtain regarding funerals. It says any one is entitled to a decent Christian putting away, and nothing more; deprecates the holding of Sunday funerals; declares one minister is sufficient; that church funerals should be discouraged; that a funeral is properly conducted by reading a passage of Scripture, followed by prayer, and if an oration is desired, no mention should be made of the dead, except perhaps the reading of a brief biography, prepared by friends; that flowers, while being a beautiful means of showing respect to the living, are out of place on the casket of the dead; that the "promenade" viewing of the remains is a relic of barbarism, and that state and local laws should be respected, especially in cases of infectious or contagious diseases.