

Democratic Watchman

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Ink Stings.

He's shot a mighty Rhino
And a daisy, sleek gazelle
The way our Teddy's shootin' things
Certainly does beat—bein' President.

—The first time that Senator ALDRICH has been brought to realize that he is living in a glass house while building his tariff bill was on Tuesday when Senator ROOR began to throw stones.

—WALTER WELLMAN has sailed for Norway to prepare for another air ship attempt to reach the North pole. The nice thing about these north pole expeditions is that they always have the pole left.

—If "Bwana Twomb" ROOSEVELT and KERMIT have killed half the wild animals the newspapers have given them credit with it merely confirms the WATCHMAN's ofttime declaration of his bloodthirstiness.

—The white frost of Wednesday morning probably didn't do much damage to vegetation but it certainly must have been consoling to the gardener who has been late in setting out his tomato plants.

—Such a ticket for the State Democracy as VANCE McCORMICK, C. LARUE MURPHY and J. C. MEYER, would make up, would not only be beautiful to look upon but very honorable and eminently fitted to vote for.

—The Hon. VANCE McCORMICK, of Harrisburg, would make a splendid nominee for Auditor General. His selection would be a most happy one; not only because of his peculiar fitness, but as well because of his eminent integrity.

—Philadelphia is having another spasm of righteous indignation against machine methods in that city. No cause for alarm, however, the malady will be over before November, in time for everyone to vote right on all machine measures.

—Governor STUART has swung the veto ax again to good effect and six proposed new judgeships have died a born. As long as Governor STUART shows a disposition to kill new offices he will be rendering a great service to the Commonwealth.

—The BOYLES will come to the conclusion that possible they could have earned ten thousand dollars had they let the kidnapping business alone and spent the balance of their lives in honest pursuit instead of being behind the penitentiary bars.

—Mr. BOYLE will spend his life in the penitentiary; at least Mrs. BOYLE will put in fifteen years in the same place. Thus is the proper notice served on others who would steal children that their time might be better occupied in more legitimate lines.

—The suggestion that Mr. ROOSEVELT be a candidate for Mayor of New York might ultimately lead to an invitation to Mr. BRYAN to attend a TAMMANY banquet. If TEDDY should go after New York city TAMMANY would need a band of "spies" sure enough.

—A purely amateur baseball league with Bellefonte, Look Haven, Jersey Shore and Renovo in it would be fine. Let there be no salaries for anyone and the players confined to the towns represented and there will be clean baseball, an abundance of sport and enthusiasm, win or lose.

—Governor STUART last week signed the bill increasing the marriage license fee from fifty cents to one dollar and now the girls who failed to land a man at the old price will have to put up a pretty stiff bluff to make the right man believe it is worth three times thirty cents an then some for the privilege of marrying them.

—The name of Hon. J. C. MEYER has been under consideration as a possible nominee of his party for State Treasurer. Such an honor would be very worthily bestowed by the party and, who can tell, Mr. MEYER might be elected, should the Republican machine insist on its present policy of cramming a most objectionable ticket down the throats of the party in this State.

—After the apple season the town of Zoar, Ohio, is to have free cider for everyone. The town cistern is to be filled with it and all any passerby will need to do is work the pump handle and slake his thirst. Zoar is in a local option county and while it may seem a long time to wait to the zoologists of that place, we'll bet the announcement of the plan had some refreshing effect on them.

—It seems to us that the reading of such acts of charity as characterized the life of Mrs. CHRISTOPHER MAGEE, since the death of her husband, would make some people—not a million miles away from this town—feel like wakening up to realize that unless they provide some sort of a memorial for themselves soon the coming generation won't even recognize the name when they chance to see it carved on a marble slab up in the Union cemetery.

—Dr. VICTOR C. VAUGHN, of Ann Arbor, Michigan, in an address before the association of American physicians at Washington, on Tuesday, said the "mind cure is a dogma without scientific support" and that its application to the treatment of diseases "has led to conscious or unconscious charlatanism." He used a lot of other big words and what he says might be convincing even to the mind curists if it were not for the fact that they promptly make up their mind that Dr. VAUGHN, doesn't know what he is talking about so there is no argument to it.

There Should be a Campaign of Education.

The United States, the most advanced government in the world is probably the most backward in the matter of public highways. For centuries English, French and Italian roads have been so fine that if we were to have the most ordinary one of them here we would regard it as some splendid boulevard. Even in India the roads are maintained as such a standard of perfection that one main highway traversing a distance of over twelve hundred miles is forty to sixty feet in width and so constantly looked after that never a stone nor particle of litter is to be seen on it by a traveler.

While such perfection is neither necessary nor possible in this country we can have roads approaching those of England and France and there is no reason why we should not have them. But before we can hope to get them the American public must be educated. The idea of being satisfied with what we have must be dispensed and our system of road building must be changed.

While the WATCHMAN is not prepared at this time to make suggestions as to a better system than we have now it is our hope to see people thinking on this matter. Because we have confidence enough in American brains and determination to believe that once aroused they can outstrip the world in road making as readily as they have in every other great movement.

Strange to say most of the opposition or indifference to good roads is to be found in the rural districts, the very places where one would suppose the condition to be the reverse. Some of it is engendered by the old fog notions that road making must be done just the same as it was fifty years ago, some by pure ignorance, some by fear that good roads will require more taxes and some by petty jealousies over the successful work of a supervisor. And another unwarranted notion we have heard advanced is that the people in "the rural districts are not building fine roads for automobiles." While it is true that automobiles afford much more pleasure on good roads it is equally true that an automobile can be run over roads, and make good time, that a farm team can scarcely get through; so that good roads are not absolutely essential to automobiles.

Good roads are essential to economy. They save time for the travelers, they save repairs on vehicles, they save horse-shoeing, they save horses and they save taxes. There is no denying the fact that a good road once built is cheaper to maintain than the temporary kind we are accustomed to throwing up in the spring and having washed away in the fall. The day was when the farmer with plenty of sons or other help could take a few days off and work out his road taxes without missing it. But in these days of higher education the sons are not lingering on the farms like they once did and other help can scarcely be had at any price; so that the average farmer who makes a study of the matter will find that the actual time he has spent working out his road tax has cost him more in sacrifice of farm work than it would have done had he paid his tax in cash.

We know that few of them will coincide with this view of it, yet we are certain that only a few years more will bring most of them to understand its truth. And here is where the campaign of education must begin.

We venture that enough work—if its equivalent in cash had been expended in proper and permanent road improvement—has been wasted in every township in Centre county to have built such roads as would be durable for an hundred years to come. And we venture that had such roads been built originally the road taxes of today would not be more than one quarter of what they are.

If a spoke breaks in a wagon wheel, if a spring or a tire breaks, you don't wait until the wagon collapses before having it fixed. No, you have the repairs made at once; knowing that it is cheaper than buying a new wagon. Therefore why isn't the same policy applicable as to keeping up the roads. A very few dollars a year will keep many miles of country roads in splendid repair yet it requires many hundreds of dollars to build a very few miles of new road.

The whole question is an interesting one and we trust that the public will become aroused to the alarming rate at which they throw away money for something that they do not take care of.

—The warm weather, rain and sunshine of the past week have brought out the foliage on the trees until the woods are quite green, while the grain and grass are both looking remarkably thrifty. So far the gardens have not gotten the right kind of a start, owing no doubt to the weather staying cool so long, but with a continued warm spell it will not be long until those who are fortunate enough to have a garden will be eating their own onions and such like.

Senator Crow and the Auditor Generalship.

If it is true, as indicated in the political gossip of the leading newspapers, that State Senator WILLIAM E. CROW, of Fayette county, is disinclined to accept the Republican nomination for Auditor General, for which he has been slated by Senator PENROSE, it is not for the reason that he abjures himself for the benefit of his neighbor, the rich and liberal Mr. THOMPSON. No doubt Senator CROW is exceedingly friendly toward Mr. THOMPSON. It is very certain Mr. THOMPSON is kindly disposed toward Senator CROW or else the Senator would be in the enjoyment of the pleasures of private life at this blessed moment. Nobody gets office in Fayette county without the consent and co-operation of Mr. THOMPSON. Besides owning most of the coal land in the county he has a controlling influence with the banks and if he doesn't like any candidate for any office he simply buys votes enough to elect the other fellow.

Besides the story that Mr. CROW is inclined to decline the tender of Senator PENROSE's favor in order to promote the success of Mr. THOMPSON's ambition to be Governor, is absurd. The election of CROW or any other friend and servant of THOMPSON's this year wouldn't impair THOMPSON's chances for the nomination and election next year. On the contrary it would be the greatest help to Mr. THOMPSON. The importance of the office of Auditor General is not fully appreciated by the average citizen. The incumbent of it is invested with vast power. He practically assesses the taxes on all the corporations of the State and if so inclined can make a difference of half a million or so on the taxes of each of half a dozen corporations. With Mr. CROW in the office, therefore, and invested with that power, it is easy to see how he might enlist influences in behalf of the nomination of Mr. THOMPSON for Governor that simply couldn't be ignored.

If Senator CROW declines the favor which Senator PENROSE is inclined to bestow upon him, therefore, it is not with the purpose of leaving the field open for Mr. THOMPSON next year, as the gossip indicates. There is a vastly more personal and pertinent reason for the coyness which Senator CROW is manifesting in relation to the matter. Political conditions in this State, this year, are very much like they were in 1905, when an attempt to present the Philadelphia gas works to some machine favorites developed a political revolution. The machine has just succeeded in selling the people of the city to the electric railway organization and it doesn't bring on another political revolution which will wash away in the fall. The day was when the farmer with plenty of sons or other help could take a few days off and work out his road taxes without missing it. But in these days of higher education the sons are not lingering on the farms like they once did and other help can scarcely be had at any price; so that the average farmer who makes a study of the matter will find that the actual time he has spent working out his road tax has cost him more in sacrifice of farm work than it would have done had he paid his tax in cash.

Governor Stuart's Wise Veto.

It would be clearly unjust to Governor STUART to withhold from him a full measure of praise for his veto of all bills passed by the Legislature during its recent session, creating new courts and increasing the number of Judges in the State. There were several bills of that sort. It is a favorite method of the machine for rewarding sinister service and a few imagined that the Governor would assume the responsibility of disappointing the bosses. But he did so most effectively. He struck down every one of them and there will be weeping and wailing among the expectants of the commissions.

We can imagine nothing less needed than additional judges in Pennsylvania. There are already so many of them that half the number are threatened with dry rot because they have insufficient work to keep their brains actively employed. But bills were passed creating a new court with three judges in Allegheny county, providing for an additional judge in Cambria county and another in Erie county. The only excuse for another judge in Cambria county is that the sitting judge is a Democrat. The excuse in Erie county was that there is a political favorite there who needs employment and money.

It is to be hoped that this will put an end to the strife on the part of the machine for new judges. There are already one hundred common pleas judges and sixteen judges of Orphans' courts. Half this number could perform the judicial service better than the whole because the lesser number would feel that they ought to work. But the machine imagined that it could impose this additional burden upon the public and increase the political patronage. But Governor STUART has disappointed them. He vetoed every bill of the kind that was left to him and the public ought to show its appreciation of the service.

—The fact that the distinguished hunter in Africa is reported as having captured a "What is-it" should not be regarded as meaning that he has shot himself.

What Roosevelt Would Have Done.

The difference between the recent and present administrations of the government at Washington is shown in the special message of President TAFT to Congress on Monday last. The subject of the message was Porto Rico. There has been a dispute between the legislative and the executive departments of the government of that "insular possession," if we may use that phrase. The executive department undertook, after the fashion recently in vogue in this country, to coerce the legislative branch, whereupon the legislative branch adjourned without having first made appropriations for the maintenance of the executive branch. The President of the United States wants Congress, under authority conveyed by the FORAKER act, to make provision for the expenses of the government of Porto Rico out of the public treasury.

The difference between President TAFT and Colonel ROOSEVELT in the treatment of such a condition is that TAFT asks Congress to give him authority to act without authority. As President TAFT states in his special message, the government of the island must have money to keep its machinery in motion. If the functions of government are not fulfilled, anarchy becomes inevitable. In other words the government of the mob is the necessary consequence of the failure of government by authority. But government by authority must have the sanction of law. There is no advantage in government by authority if it is not according to law. Usurped authority is only a bad form of lawlessness and is absolutely certain to develop into anarchy. If ROOSEVELT had had another term of office anarchy would have followed certainly.

President TAFT is fundamentally wrong, however, in his statement that the people of Porto Rico were given their liberty too soon. No individual and no nation comes into their heritage of liberty too early. The idea that men are unfit for self-government at certain stages in their progress toward higher civilization is absolutely absurd. Even in the darkest periods of barbarism there were governments which maintained order and preserved some measure of discipline. The tribal governments of the Indians of this country were reasonably just and not far from efficient. But ROOSEVELT would have taken precisely the same view of the subject adopted by TAFT and he would have dispatched warships loaded with marines and soldiers to compel obedience, not to the law, but to the foolish caprices of the man with a big stick and a heart for slaughter.

That New State Highway.

The WATCHMAN devotes considerable space this week to automobile news and it has been done cheerfully because we believe the automobile probably more than any other thing has been a leading factor in the prevailing and ever growing sentiment in favor of good roads. And we also firmly believe that when every well regulated farm will have as its pleasure vehicle an automobile instead of the prevailing horse and carriage. And therefore farmers and others throughout the country should feel just as great an interest in the good roads movement as present owners of automobiles.

For this reason a united effort should be made to bring all the influence possible to have the route of the proposed state highway from Philadelphia to Pittsburg, provision for which was made in a bill passed by the last Legislature, laid out through Centre county. This is an object the Bellefonte motor club should seek to attain. But to do it will mean an active organization and a lot of hard work. You cannot merely organize and then hold perfunctory meetings every month or so. You will have to harmonize all your forces to one end, the securing of the state highway through Centre county.

While the route suggested by Governor STUART runs through the southern tier of counties, it is hardly likely it will be selected as it would not be of any benefit to three-fourths of the State it so located. The only logical route is one that will run as near through the central section of the State as possible. This would mean west through either the Susquehanna or Juniata valleys. If the former route it would have to come through Centre county; if the latter it ought to come by way of the Seven mountains and through the southwest portion of the county on the way to Tyrone and the western section. These are facts that cannot be gained by any who have taken the trouble to study the matter. And upon this basis every man in Centre county who wants the state highway to pass through these parts should do everything possible to attain that end.

—An interesting track and field meet will be held at State College tomorrow when the strong Swarthmore team will be there to contest with the State athletes.

Robbing the Poor.

From the San Francisco Star.
By putting a high tariff on foreign stockings, the American manufacturers have been given the power to charge more than a fair price for their product, and their "infant industry" has grown up and become one of the big family of tariff protected trusts. But the wages of the factory workers have been cut again and again, regardless of the protective tariff, and those workers are among the poorest paid of the American wage earners. Now the greedy manufacturers beseege Congress again and ask for still more protection, which will enable them to charge still higher prices to the American consumers.

Under the Dingley law the manufacturer's license to loot the pockets of the consumer is broad and wide enough in all conscience; but they demand more. Yet see how careful the stocking manufacturers are not to offend the wealthy, how careful they are to place the heaviest burden on the poor, who are least able to bear any burden at all. Stockings that cost seventy cents a dozen abroad must pay under the Payne bill 115 per cent. tariff tax.

That is on \$10 worth of such stockings the tariff tax would be \$11.50. But on foreign stockings worth \$5 a dozen, the Payne bill tariff tax is the same as the present Dingley tariff tax—50 per cent.; that is, on those high priced stockings, worn by the wealthy, on \$10 worth the tariff is now and is to be under the Payne bill only \$5.50, or 50 cents less than half as much as the Payne tariff tax on \$10 worth of stockings worn by the poorest class! And that is the rule of the Republican tariff laws—the tax is always higher on the articles worn by the poor.

The matter with the home made, or American, protected stocking is that the tariff tax enables the manufacturer to hold up the consumer. The matter with the protective tariff system is that it enables the manufacturer to cut down the wages of the workers on one hand, while contributing campaign funds for the election to Congress of such agents of loot as Sereno Payne and Joe Cannon.

Political Cowardice.

From the Pittsburg Post.
Everything now points to the probability that President Taft intends to "go along" with his party leaders in the matter of tariff revision. Even the more progressive members of his party in the Senate, who have been inveigling against the tar of re-enacting the Dingley law in a slightly modified form, are convinced that they have been howling against the sale. It is a significant fact that Washington correspondents now quote them as entertaining the belief that they will have to be satisfied with the very slightest concessions.

Republican leaders apparently make no bones of the fact that they do not intend to redeem party pledges. There is not even to be a transparent effort to save the people who last fall put a Republican administration in office with the understanding that the consumer's burdens would be lightened. The depth of the presidential promise has been sounded, and it is increasingly apparent that it was not needful to probe far before the bottom was reached.

Governor Stuart Scotches a Snake.

From the Philadelphia Record.
Among the jobs quietly sneaked through the Legislature at its late session was a bill providing for the annual inspection of all boilers generating steam to the pressure of ten pounds or more, outside of cities of the first and second classes by a casualty company "or by a competent person approved by the Chief Factory Inspector." As the Harrisburg Patriot points out, the object of this beautiful scheme was to provide for some happy machines not responsible for the State a berth worth a king's ransom. One or two locomotives alone, of which there are upward of 15,000 in the State the fees at a minimum of \$5 per inspection would have amounted to over \$75,000 a year—and there was no limitation set upon the fee that the "competent person" selected by Factory Inspector Delaney might have charged!

Governor Stuart has won the gratitude of the intended victims of this enterprise of plunder by pointing out the iniquity of the bill and killing it with his veto. Pennsylvania's eyes were open to the gross abuses of the fee system at the time of the exposure of the insurance scandal under the Durham administration of the Insurance Commission. This boiler inspection job would have out-Durhamed Durham. The people will not be without hope that an Executive who has such a keen eye for legislative snakes will not relax his vigilance until the obnoxious School Code bill shall have been properly disposed of.

Poor Old Philadelphia.

From the Sacramento Bee.
The Philadelphia Rapid Transit company, which enjoys a virtual monopoly of street car traffic in that city, is to discontinue the sale of six tickets for 25 cents, and propose to make all fares uniformly 5 cents. It also means to discontinue or limit present transfer privileges.

And yet this great corporation has in the past obtained from the corrupt city government, free of charge, franchises worth millions of dollars. It will be remembered that some years ago when a very valuable franchise was about to be given away by the local law-making body, John Wanamaker offered to pay a large sum for it, and deposited a certain amount for the amount in evidence of his good faith. But the city government ignored his offer, and brazenly proceeded to donate the franchise to the corporation seeking it. The inference was plain that bribery had been found cheaper than open purchase of the desired privilege.

Spawls from the Keystone.

—One of the features of a recent Lancaster dinner, served to a number of the intimate friends of Hon. W. U. Hensel, was a gigantic rock fish that weighed seventy-two pounds.

—Eggs don't seem to be particularly scarce in the eastern counties. One huckster near Philadelphia collected 1,400 dozen during one trip, a single farmer selling him seventy-two dozen.

—For the first time in its history the National Tube company plant, at McKeesport, was closed last Sunday and the 1,200 employees were permitted to enjoy the Sabbath with their families.

—A gang of postoffice robbers is operating in Clarion county. The postoffice at Sligo and Eimersburg were looted. Three hundred dollars were secured at the Sligo postoffice and a small amount at Eimersburg.

—Samuel Slusser, wife and five children, left Mount Holly Springs, Cumberland county, Wednesday morning for the State of Colorado. They have a pushcart and army tent and will travel the entire distance on foot.

—Hon. George M. Dimeling, of Clearfield, and Hon. J. C. Meyer, of Bellefonte, are among the number recommended to Dr. Nathan Shaffer, as State trustees of the Lock Haven State Normal school. Dr. Schaffer will select three of the six gentlemen named.

—Harry Spritzer, of Windber, the other day paid \$300 for four earrings which he supposed were genuine diamonds but which proved to be paste. The men who worked the scheme on him were arrested but were given their liberty on refunding the money and paying the costs.

—From twenty-four acres put to corn last year by Levi Gann, of near Autos Fort, was harvested 4,000 bushels of ears. Three of the acres of especially fertile soil produced 636 bushels. Mr. Gann intends to put out twenty acres this year and is aiming to produce 250 bushels to the acre.

—Ned Galoney, of near Sand Beach, Dauphin county, is the owner of a cow that beats the record as a calf producer. The animal is only 5 years old, and in that time has given birth to eight calves. Four consecutive times she has given birth to twin calves, a circumstance very rare in the annals of calving.

—The people of New Castle are again mildly excited over the possibility that the mystery of the murder of Treasurer Blovin, in 1899, is on the eve of solution. Daniel Wilder, now an inmate of the western penitentiary, is accused by one Barnes, who is in the Venango county jail, of having been the principal in the crime.

—While engaged in preparing for a sale of his household furniture after his wife's death, at Windsor, York county, Henry Emenheiser suddenly discovered himself the possessor of \$600 which money had been saved up by his wife. The small fortune was rolled in a window blind and was all in bills of various denominations.

—A Butler county farmer has a cow which developed an abnormal growth between the forelegs and it was landed. From it were taken two ounces of small stones ranging in size from a pea to a robin's egg, two roofing nails, fourteen carpet tacks, several pins, three pieces of glass, a lot of oats, several grains of corn and some clover seed.

—Dairy and Food Commissioner James Foust on Monday directed that fifty-eight prosecutions be entered against violators of the new law prohibiting the sale of adulterated soft drinks in Beaver, Fayette, Washington and Westmoreland counties; also fourteen watered milk prosecutions in Blair, Cambria, Centre, Clearfield, Huntingdon and Mifflin counties; seven misbranded lard cases in Allegheny county, and nine cider vinegar cases in Fayette county. This made a total of eighty-eight prosecutions ordered that day.

—The new filter plant of the Pottstown Water company is now ready for operation. It has been tested and found to be in working order, and the plant will be in regular operation next week. There are six filter beds containing gravel and sand, and their capacity is 4,000,000 gallons per day. Each of two new Worthington pumps installed at the water works has a capacity of 5,000,000 gallons per day. Only one of these pumps will be operated at a time, the other being held as reserve. There is a reservoir in the south end of the filter building structure with a capacity of 1,000,000 gallons.

—Imprisoned by a fall of top rock for thirty-six hours, Thomas Basesavage and John Master, miners, employed at the Mores colliery, were rescued uninjured late Sunday night by the big force of workmen who had been engaged in the dangerous task of saving them. The men were imprisoned for ten hours before their condition became known, and shortly after the work of digging them out was commenced tapping was heard from the inside, indicating that at least one of the men was alive. They saved themselves from being crushed to death by improvised props made out of their picks and shovels.

—A forest fire which started last Thursday afternoon on the farm of Dr. H. G. Longdorf, near Centreville, Cumberland county, is beyond control. The burned area now comprises six square miles, and damage estimated at \$500,000 has already been done. The force of fire fighters numbers 125 and this will be increased. Timber on 5000 acres has been consumed, and even the roots killed by the heat. The fire is the most extensive and costliest in the Cumberland valley since 1872. It is reported that the fire was started by men out of work who are anxious to collect the 20 cents per hour allowed fire fighters.

—John Fossman, a Lycoming rural mail carrier, narrowly escaped drowning last Saturday morning. The bridge over White Deer creek was covered with water when he reached it but after examining it Mr. Fossman decided it was safe to cross the swollen stream. When about in the middle of the bridge one of the horses lost its footing, fell and dragged his mate down. The swift current floated the team and wagon down the stream while their driver who had jumped onto the bridge was safe. About 150 feet down the creek the wagon caught against a stump and held the nearly drowning horses there. The good offices of the telephone were called upon and pretty soon nearby farmers had come to the rescue and succeeded in saving the wagon and team, but most of the mail was lost.