

Ink Stings.

—Be a booster today and help the ball club to victory.

—The President has probably given ALDRICH and CANNON a PAYNE.

—The Democrats beat the Republicans in a base ball game in Washington, so who cares whether we ever beat them at the election.

—Mr. ROOSEVELT has stopped shooting long enough to write a book. It remains to be seen whether he will prove his pen mightier than his gun.

—The lady who jumped into the sea at Atlantic City because she thought she had lost her God was manifestly going in the wrong direction to find him.

—Everyone will agree that we have a very good ball team, but it isn't quite good enough to win games consistently. Possibly it has only delayed striking a winning gait.

—An income tax always was and always will be popular. Mainly because it would not hit the fellows who are accustomed to howling loudest about governmental affairs.

—From the *repartee* in Congress on Monday one can scarcely tell whether the Hon. JIMMY BURKE, of Pittsburg, thinks Pennsylvania to be "a great and pure State" or whether he does not.

—The general deficiency bill carries an appropriation of twenty-five thousand dollars for the President's traveling expenses. TAFT must be planning another raid on the southern pastris.

—The *Atlantic Constitution* remarks that "trousers for women should not create such a sensation." Sure, they shouldn't. But since so many of the people profess to be from Missouri! now-a-days, Ah! There is the rub.

—What if you are a Republican? The WATCHMAN's politics won't do you any harm while its local news will give you more satisfaction and pleasure than that of any other paper in the county. Why don't you subscribe for the WATCHMAN?

—President TAFT has a roof garden on the White House now and the first function there was a dinner to the tariff tinkers. It was fitting that it should have been up in the air for there is where all official Washington seems to be over the schedules just now.

—The death of Lieut. JAMES N. SUTTON, which occurred at Annapolis nearly two years ago, is again being investigated by a military board of inquiry. Of what use is it? Army and Navy boards are a good bit like they say doctors are: "They bury their mistakes."

—It cost the people \$2,519,534,867 to run the government under the CLEVELAND administration while the cost under the ROOSEVELT regime was \$4,627,355,383. It is not probable that any one will say that ROOSEVELT gave the country twice as good service as did CLEVELAND.

—The meeting of the Democratic State Central committee in Harrisburg, on Wednesday, was a very harmonious one and resulted in the re-election of Senator ARTHUR G. DEWALT as state chairman, Harrisburg was selected as the place for holding the next state convention and August 4th the date.

—Incidentally, the town's daily paper being a thing of the past tell your friends that if they want a really good newspaper the WATCHMAN is it. It always has and always will be a good, live newspaper and is usually just about a week ahead of all the rest with the things you want to know most.

—When it comes down to a variety of weather the past two weeks have done better than anything we have in memory. When the mercury falls from 94° to 40° in less than three days the man with the mosquito netting underwear and skeleton clothing has reason to think that he has landed on an iceberg.

—So the new North ward school house is to cost \$35,601.13, the heating \$8,850, the foundations \$11,000 and the demolition of the old building \$600, making a grand total of \$56,051.13. This is probably the reason that the public was told at first that the whole thing would cost \$32,000, and was not taken into the confidence of the Board until it found that it could not get any more money to spend unless the public voted it.

—EDWARD WESTON, the veteran pedestrian, started to walk from New York to San Francisco in one hundred days; an average of thirty-seven miles a day. Unforeseen obstacles prevented the fulfillment of his contract as to time, but when it is considered that he is seventy-one years old and was only five days late on arrival his performance is a wonderful commentary on the sticktoitiveness of the fellows who start for church Sunday morning and give up when they are only a few squares from home.

—Mr. FRANCIS J. HENEY, special counsel for the Department of Justice, received twenty-three thousand dollars from the government last year for which he performed no service. His department cost sixty-nine thousand dollars; the balance having been paid to other lawyers for conducting the graft cases that HENEY draws a salary to conduct. Either one of two conclusions is inevitable. HENEY is incapable of doing the Government's work or he is too lazy. In either case it looks like there ought to be a job open for another man.

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Misinterpreting a Statement.

It would be amusing if it were not so grave a matter, to see how seriously some of our contemporaries, and, according to the Washington correspondents, some of the statesmen take an incident which happened at the White House the other day. It seems that some ultra tariff mongers in Congress who want to secure the passage of the ALDRICH bill called on the President with the view of getting him to lend his moral and official influence to their purpose. The President took the matter as a joke, obviously, and chaffed the gentlemen, more or less, about their selfishness and finally declared that the party pledges require a revision of the tariff downward and inasmuch as he is the titular head of the party, at least, he must see that the platform pledges are fulfilled. This declaration, according to the correspondents, created the greatest consternation among the stand-patters and the most unmitigated enthusiasm among others.

There is nothing to fear on one side and little to rejoice over on the other, on account of this incident. It doesn't mean that President TAFT will veto a bill revising the tariff upward, no matter how radical it may be or whether ten or ninety per cent. of the people favor or oppose it, and equally certain it doesn't mean that Senator ALDRICH will recede from his high tariff position because the President is on the other side of the subject. As a matter of fact it means simply that the President, who is nothing if not a politician, proposes to please the so called progressives of his own party by professing to be in accord with their views and gladden the hearts of the reactionaries by so acting as to guarantee the success of their plans. In other words he hopes to "work both ends against the middle," and make himself solid with his party whether one faction of the party or the other wins the battle.

It can be set down as a certainty, in any event, that President TAFT will not veto the ALDRICH bill whether concessions are made to him or not. The cunning chairman of the Senate committee on Finance has got the President into the toils and intends to keep him there until the end.

He may consent to a trifling decrease in the tariff on iron ore, scrap iron and coal. Such a change in the schedule would amount to absolutely nothing and it will enable the President to "save his face" by claiming that there was at least a trifling revision downward. But on all the important schedules, that is to say on all subjects in which the trusts and predatory monopolies are concerned, the tax will be placed at the highest notch and kept there. The steel trust, for example, doesn't care whether the tariff tax on iron ore is forty-five cents a ton. Either levy is prohibitive and that is all the stand-patters want.

The Governor's Error.

While the question of unlawfully cutting the appropriation bills was worrying the Governor, a few weeks ago, the WATCHMAN freely and frankly advised against the outrage and admonished the Governor that there was no necessity for violating the constitution and his oath of office by cutting appropriations other than such as the fundamental law authorized the veto. The revenues, we pointed out, supplemented by the treasury surplus, would be amply sufficient to meet all the appropriations with the exception of a few which never ought to have been enacted. There was no more occasion for violating the constitution than there was for crippling the charities.

That we were not mistaken in this conjecture is proved by the statement issued from the office of the Auditor General the other day. "With total receipts of State revenues for the seven and a-half months of the fiscal year which began December 1, last, amounting to \$15,968,141.71, credited to the department at the close of business for the week just ended, Auditor General ROBERT K. YOUNG shows an excess in total receipts over the same day in 1908 of \$2,537,306.75," writes the correspondent of one of our metropolitan contemporaries. That ratio, which is more likely to be increased than diminished, would raise the total for the year to upwards of \$25,000,000.00.

The Governor was frightened or beguiled into cutting the appropriations for charities by the statement that unless he did so there would be a revenue deficit and treasury default before the year end. The purpose of those who thus deceived him was to continue a vast treasury surplus for the use of political speculators and bankers of easy conscience and well developed cupidity. In cutting the appropriations the Governor has served this purpose and the only apparent recompense to him will be the remorse of conscience which must come to those who deliberately violate their oaths of office and the laws they are sworn to "support, obey and defend."

—You miss a good thing if you don't take the WATCHMAN.

The State Capitol Grifters.

On March 15th, 1908, three State officials, Dr. WILLIAM P. SNYDER, WILLIAM L. MATHUES and JAMES M. SHUMAKER, and a contractor for furnishings for the State capitol, were convicted, in the Dauphin county court, of conspiracy to defraud the State. Just a year and four months from the date of conviction the verdict of the trial court was affirmed by the Superior court, and thus the conspirators are brought within the shadow of the penitentiary. But they are not behind the bars by any means, as yet. They have the Supreme court, into which according to the late Senator QUAY, judges have been outspitted at intervals, to appeal to. That body may give them the immunity which the inferior courts have justly and wisely denied. There is no telling what a machine made tribunal will do.

But it is difficult to see how the reasoning of Judge PORTER, who handed down the opinions for the court, can be evaded or refuted. The strong point upon which the defendant contractor depended was the regularity of the measurements under which he billed the supplies to the State. Judge PORTER holds that the "per foot" measurement was not only irregular and unusual but adds that it is not even "a familiar term in the trade" and has not been recognized by law. His answer to the main contention of the official defendants is equally convincing and conclusive. They held that inasmuch as the State had employed an expert to pass upon the question of values and decide upon the quality of the supplies they were absolved of their official obligations to examine the property supplied while the courts protest that it only made the obligation more binding.

Of course there will be an appeal to the Supreme court on behalf of the surviving conspirators, it being the opinion of eminent lawyers that there can be no appeal on behalf of SANDERSON and MATHUES who have died since their conviction. If that be true there may be some hope of restitution, in part, at least, of the loot. But it is not likely that either of those convicted will be sent to prison. Even if the Supreme court should concur in the views expressed by the courts below, there is the pardon board to intervene. It will be remembered that in the case of WILLIAM H. KEMBLE, convicted of bribing Legislators in relation to the Pittsburgh rail claims, the board of pardons recommended and the Governor acted upon the recommendation, while the convict sat smoking a fragrant Havana in the corridor of the Harrisburg jail. The authorities are not likely to be less lenient in the present instance.

An Obvious Conspiracy.

One of the most interesting developments in relation to the tariff question was brought out the other day by a New York contemporary. It appears that about the time President TAFT was pledging his party to tariff revision downward, the wool growers of the West and the manufacturers of woolsens in the East were in conference or conspiracy to prevent any change in the tariff schedules relating to wool and woolsens. After reaching this determination the conspirators secured a ratification agreement from the Republican Congressional committee and joined in a generous subscription to the Republican campaign fund.

It is worthy of notice that in both the PAYNE and ALDRICH bills there is practical agreement upon the schedules on wool and woolsens. In other words, both Houses of Congress have kept faith with the Republican Congressional committee and both have utterly and absolutely disregarded the pledges of the presidential candidate. But this fact has had no influence on the presidential mind in the matter of tariff revision downward. Wool is essentially a raw material and the President has taken pains to assure the conference committee that he is not absolutely committed to the principle of free raw materials. The plain inference is that in his recent address to the galleries he left that loop hole of escape for the stand-patters and the Republican machine.

That the agreement was a conspiracy admits of no doubt. That it was a usurpation of the powers of Congress is equally certain. Of course the Republican leaders in Congress are culpable in the matter, for no such scheme could be consummated in the absence of their acquiescence. But it clearly involves a sacrifice of the people to the cupidity of the wool growers and woolsen manufacturers and that with the advice and consent of the managers of the Republican party. It reveals, moreover, the absolute servility of the Republican party to the combinations and trusts which are despoiling the country.

—The wheat crop in Centre county has about all been cut and housed, while a few farmers have had some of their grain threshed. The hay crop has also been gathered in and the next thing in line will be the oats harvest. But it will be a week or more before the oats will be ready to cut, as the season has been late for them.

The Democratic State Committee.

No Democratic State committee meeting in recent years has revealed as much hope and shown as full a measure of confidence in the political future as that which assembled in Harrisburg on Wednesday. Not only was there a full attendance but every man in the meeting seemed to be inspired with a feeling that party success is certain at the ensuing election. There was a well defined sentiment with respect to candidates, moreover. Irrespective of local environment and notwithstanding the proverbial preference for "favorite sons" the members of the committee expressed a preference for the nomination of C. LARUE MUMSON, of Williamsport, for Justice of the Supreme court.

The committee wisely determined to hold the convention in Harrisburg. Political conventions like other departments of government, for ours is a government of parties, ought to have a home and habitation. Other cities than Harrisburg may offer greater inducement for the convention but the question of convenience and expense to the delegates is of greater importance and in selecting Harrisburg as the seat of the convention the expense in mileage is reduced to a minimum. The charge for transportation from Harrisburg to Allentown, for example, would be an additional burden to at least seven-tenths of the members of the convention. At present cost of living that is an object worth considering, and the committee gave it the weight it deserved.

In selecting officers the committee was equally wise. Senator DEWALT, of Lehigh county, who has been elected chairman, is a gentleman of splendid ability and large experience. The new treasurer of the committee, SAMUEL KUNKEL, of Harrisburg, is a Democrat of the unselfish type. There is probably no office he would accept and there is no sacrifice he would not make, within the limits of reason, to promote the success of the party. Taking it all in all, therefore, it may safely be said that the work of the committee was admirably performed and the future of the party is all that could be desired. The Republican party is distracted and disgusted and the Democrats are confident and full of energy.

The School Appropriations.

A year ago we heard all sorts of felicitations of the State Treasurer because of his promptness in paying the school appropriations. The reform which was expressed in the punctuality was not initiated by our friend Treasurer SHEATZ. His Democratic predecessor in office, Hon. WILLIAM H. BERRY, had set the wholesome example and though he had a good deal of trouble in getting the school boards to send in their reports, for the reason that they were not used to prompt payments, he nevertheless broke all recent records in discharging that sacred obligation of the State in the interest of educational progress.

Treasurer SHEATZ found a different condition when he entered upon the duties of the office, however. The school boards having discovered that it was possible to get money out of the State Treasury when due, sent in their reports promptly and it is only just to say that payments followed with equal promptness. But this year, according to credible information, there has been a change in the recent practice of the office. In other words, though the warrants were due on the first of June not a single payment has been made. Probably there is some good reason for the apparent return to the old methods. But it is not that there is a lack of funds in the Treasury. On the contrary the surplus is growing dangerously large.

We are not disposed to unjustly criticize State Treasurer SHEATZ for his failure to carry out the wholesome practice inaugurated by Mr. BERRY and followed by himself last year. Possibly the fault lies in the Department of Public Instruction. The school district reports are made to that department and are certified to the State Treasurer. But Treasurer SHEATZ and his friends were so boastful of his achievements last year that his delinquency, if it is ascribable to his neglect or design, challenges public comment. That the school funds should be paid promptly is a self-evident proposition and if this obligation is not fulfilled the public has a right to know why.

—A scourge of small brown moths is sweeping over the State according to reports from various places and Bellefonte suffered a visitation of the insects on Tuesday night when millions of them swooped down upon the town. They floated like a cloud around every electric light and Wednesday morning the streets and pavements were strewn with thousands of dead ones. So far as can be discerned they did no damage to any kind of vegetation. In fact they made their appearance after nightfall and the only ones to be seen the next day were the dead ones.

—A slight fire at the Morrison home on east Lamb street yesterday morning caused the sounding of the fire alarm.

Trading on the Free List.

From the Philadelphia Public Ledger. A diverting game of politics is being played at Washington in the conference for the revision of the tariff. The tariff has grown so extremely complex that no human being can tell, beyond his own speciality, whether the revision has been "upward" or "downward," except by certain conspicuous additions to or removals from the "free list."

The House made no sweeping disturbance of the Dingley rates, though many of them were cautiously modified while others were advanced; but the House made some spectacular concessions of "free raw materials," with an obvious reference to future compromises. These items proved of great value for trading purposes in the Senate, where the revision is commonly understood—though without precise exposition—to have been generally more upward. And the Senate, as was expected, restored most of the duties on raw materials.

It is in the conference that the free list becomes important. The President is understood to be for revision downward, but few persons could tell, from the tariff itself, which way the conference had left it. Attention is accordingly concentrated upon hides, lumber, oil, coal and iron ore, which everybody is supposed to know about. These are to be "adjusted." The Senate is to have its way on lumber, which is the most important, and the duty on hides is to be compromised. There is to be a compromise also on coal, but the House will prevail on iron ore. Oil, which obviously needs no protection, is to be on the free list.

This is not a very great victory for the downward revisionists, but it is expected to satisfy the President, and thus to dispose him favorably to the completed bill. The party will thus be assured of harmony, and will point with pride to its promises fulfilled. Whether the revision has been upward or downward, or has left the rates about the same, the country will find out later, after the new tariff is at work.

The Capitol Grifters.

From the Harrisburg Patriot. One year and four months to a day elapsed between the conviction of the capitol grifters and the affirmation yesterday of the trial court by the superior court. Seven months less four days, have passed since the convicts were sentenced to two years in the penitentiary. Since then two of them have died, but not one of them has been locked up.

Their right of appeal is now exhausted, unless some able lawyers who defended them are able to find that some constitutional question is involved, but probably no one will be much surprised to hear that some justice of the supreme court has granted an allocatur that will take the case before the supreme court, involving another delay of several months at least.

We do not imagine that any disinterested man, lawyer or layman, who read Judge Kunkel's exhaustive and lucid review of the case denying the convicts a new trial, believes that they have any real grounds for appeal. But men in such positions as Snyder and Shumaker now are, always fight for delay in the hope that something may happen to their advantage. It is one of the great wrongs of our administration of the law, that men with money and influence can secure almost interminable delays after conviction and sentence.

The encouragement they receive from appellate courts is one of the chief causes of a lamentable loss of confidence by the people in the impartial administration of justice.

With the cases of the capitol grifters fresh in mind are the voters of Pennsylvania going to elect to the supreme court a man selected by the boss of the machine who made the capitol grifting easy; the machine that protected and defended the thieves as long as protection and defense were possible?

The Amendment's Chances.

From the Pittsburg Post. Conditions for the adoption of the income tax amendment are about as unfavorable as can well be imagined. Most of the State Legislatures hold biennial sessions, and in the old years, and hence the conclusion of the matter cannot come until well along in 1911.

A few States, like Georgia, Massachusetts, New York, New Jersey, Rhode Island and South Carolina, hold annual sessions, while Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, Vermont and Virginia hold biennial sessions, but on the even years, and hence will settle the amendment question, so far as they are concerned, in 1910. Of these States more than half will probably vote against the amendment; possibly the proportion will be even larger, considering the kind of Senators most of them now have at Washington.

Thus the campaign for the amendment in 1911 will open under a heavy handicap, unless the people should surprise the politicians who have framed up this deadfall by electing a different type of Legislature on this very issue. Then we would see, rejoicingly, from some of these States a different sort of United States Senator, too. Had the amendment proposers been acting in good faith, they could have provided for a special constitutional convention in the several States and have settled the matter within a few months, at the latest.

Hard on the Sunday School.

From the Sacramento (Cal.) Bee. That holy old fraud and hypocrite, John D. Rockefeller, said at a Sunday school of the Euclid Avenue Baptist church in Cleveland the other day: "I want to say that joining the Sunday school was the best thing I ever did. It brought me more happiness than anything else I ever did. Stay in the Sunday school, all your lives, as I have done." Joining the Sunday school may have brought much happiness to John D. Rockefeller, but it is most certainly conferred no credit upon the Sunday school.

—Subscribe for the WATCHMAN.

Spawls from the Keystone.

—Poyestown near West Brownsville, has an epidemic of diphtheria and scarlet fever. Six children died with these dread diseases during the last week.

—Northampton county had such a number of tramps who sought lodging in the jail last year that it cost the taxpayers \$2,973.49 to feed these worthless nuisances.

—Cambria Steel officials have been looking up land in Rosedale, Johnstown, during the last couple of weeks, with a view, it is thought, of enlarging the plants.

—All the washeries in the hard coal mines at Pottsville started to work yesterday. There will be 5,000 men re-employed, there being a demand for the steam size of hard coal.

—To shorten the distance between Pittsburg and DuBois twenty-seven miles the Pennsylvania railroad is going to build a short line between Kittanning and DuBois, according to rumors.

—William Fallmer, of Williamsport, through his attorneys, has brought suit for damages against the Pennsylvania Railroad company, for the death of his daughter, Edna Fallmer, who was accidentally killed by being run over by a train on May 11, 1909.

—The Electric Steel company, with headquarters at Cleveland, has purchased 300 acres of land ten miles north of Butler and on the site will erect a \$50,000 plant for the manufacture of steel and machinery. The new works will give employment to about 500 men.

—A movement is on in DuBois to secure more industries for the town. At the present time the community must depend on coal mining for its existence and the present troubles between the miners and the operators shows how uncertain coal mining is as a means of livelihood.

—J. H. Holtzinger, of Tyrone, is president of an organization of the heirs of the deceased Baron von Sittler, which held a meeting in York to send a representative to Germany to lay claim to a fortune of \$123,000,000. The baron, it is said, left a fortune of \$12,000,000, which, after being on interest 100 years, was to be divided among his heirs.

—Jasper Reeder, of Flemington, died at the Lock Haven hospital as the result of being run over by a heavily loaded wagon. The boy was playing with a number of companions when they all climbed on the wagon to take a ride. Reeder lost his balance and fell to the ground and the hind wheel passed over his chest.

—When the citizens of Clearfield conducted an investigation to find out why the paving of Turnpike avenue and Daisy street was not commenced they found that the state highway commission had no funds to spend for roads in Clearfield county because during the past four years that county has only once paid its share in the cost of its roads built by the State.

—Some person, jocularly inclined, in a rather lopsided way, tied one of the guy ropes of a balloon which was to ascend in Luna park, Johnstown, to a telegraph pole, and when the vessel rose the pole broke off and was dangling in the air above the heads of the crowd, endangering many lives. The great weight would not allow the balloon to rise very high, making matters worse. The aeronaut, Johnny Mack, had several hair-brain escapades.

—Notices are being sent out by Secretary Kalbfus, of the Game Commission, calling the attention of the wardens to the fact that, while the new law denying foreign born residents the right to own firearms went into effect May 1st, the commission desires to be fair in the matter and no prosecutions are to be brought against the foreigners until a reasonable time after the notices telling them of the law shall have been posted. These notices were delayed in printing and are only now being sent to all parts of the State.

—Ex-Mayor Cupper, of Lock Haven, who was in some trouble about postoffice affairs but against whom the suit has been withdrawn, was at the time indictments were brought against him furnishing aluminum paint to paint the mail boxes and was paying for this from his own pocket, expecting to be reimbursed by the government. When charges were brought against him he did not get \$7,000 back and being unable to get it by peaceable means has decided to take the thing into court. He will sue for the principal and interest.

—At noon on Friday the whistle on the big saw mill of Brown, Clark & Howe at Williamsport gave its last blast and operations on that plant, which was erected in 1865, ceased forever. Since the mill and machinery are to be sold it is observed that the last log has been sawed there. An interesting circumstance in connection with the mill is that in the 45 years since it was erected it was never destroyed by fire, although there have been several narrow escapes from the fiery element. Among the trusty employees were several who have been in continuous service for over 30 years and all regret that the plant had to close.

—It is said that A. G. McCloskey, J. N. Farwell and S. S. Mummah, land owners on the south side of the Susquehanna river, opposite the village of Hyner, have closed a contract for the drilling of a number of test oil wells on their properties during the next three months. These properties contain the natural gas wells sunk a few years ago by the now defunct Susquehanna Gas company, of Renovo and Williamsport. The gas struck then is in use at the present time in several residences in that neighborhood and is a genuine article still flowing in great abundance. The test oil wells will be put down to a greater depth than the gas wells.

—The men in northern Cambria county will probably not accept the reduced rate for coal mining which the companies say is necessary for them to meet competition with the Somerset and West Virginia fields. The men say that these two last fields are worked by non-union labor and even if the united Cambria workers should submit to a cut in wages so as to bring their scale on a level with the non-union workers, the operators of the non-union men would immediately reduce their rate of wages even lower, so that the Cambria operators would not be benefited after all. The real reason why Cambria mines are not working is said to be scarcity of orders, something a cut in wages could hardly help.