

Task Sitings.

-It is hard water for many of the Centre county farmers just now.

-Well, we have won a game at last. We hope it will not be the last.

-Thursday seems to be the only day on which the rain maker even tries to do any work.

-Three men in a boat seem to have run aground off the Schuylkill county bar of justice.

-Tomorrow you may legally fish for trout. After that it must be bass or suckers for years.

-The new municipal hydro-electric plant seems to have a bad case of morasmus just now.

-Every movement has its ups and downs, but tariff revision and that seems to be always up.

-A rapidly traveling spot has been discovered on the sun. It hasn't shut off any of the heat as yet.

-And somebody told us that there was a lot of good, sturdy backbone behind that genial smile of TAPP'S.

-The price of wheat is getting back to a point where it is really possible for a poor man to put white bread on his table.

-HARRY THAW says he is sorry now that he killed STANFORD WHITE. But sorrow doesn't bring back the dead architect.

-President REYES, of Colombia, has resigned. At least that is the polite way of saying he gave up a job he could no longer hold.

-Dr. OSLER has passed his sixtieth milestone and it is probably because he is a spry chicken no longer that no one has given him the ax.

-A few of the finer points of the game are all our team needs to make it as smooth a working base-ball machine as one can hope to see in a bush league.

-WILLIAM J. BRYAN is credited with having determined to move to Texas. If it is true it means that he really wants to go to the United States Senate.

-The Democratic State Convention will meet at Harrisburg next Wednesday and name the ticket that everyone should vote for. A great many won't do it, however.

-A Frenchman sailed across the English channel in an airship on Sunday and England is seared silly again. Right away she has placed orders for four super dreadnoughts.

-A Burrows town, Lancaster county, farmer lost a leg by getting it caught in the family washing machine on Monday. He was helping with the washing. The moral is plain.

-Talk about it being hot in Washington just now for some of our national lawmakers. Why the capitol is a cold storage warehouse compared to the homes of some of them when they get there.

-"Pigs is pigs" in Wilmington. The Board of Health won't even permit educated ones to remain in that city. The order is very hard on the four footed variety but the others have not started an exodus from Wilmington yet.

-According to the auditor's statement of the borough's finances the borough is now \$103,017.79 in debt; counting every available asset, good and bad. During the year the water department appears to have netted \$3499.31.

-JOHN W. GATES, once protectionist, is now a free trader. JOHN W. is a man of affairs, financial and otherwise, and he may think he is looking a long way into the future but he has only seen what others saw long ago.

Democratic Watchman

STATE RIGHTS AND FEDERAL UNION.

VOL. 54

BELLEFONTE, PA., JULY 30, 1909.

NO. 30.

Party Men and Morals.

No man in public life is either better or worse than his party. If he is better, he fails to fulfill the purposes the managers had in mind when he was chosen, and he is dropped.

When Justice ELKIN aspired to the office of Governor a few years ago his ambition met with the cordial approval of his party. He had demonstrated his fidelity to the machine and his service to the bosses.

The highest aspirations of the Republican party is the spoils of office. This is shown by the party actions in the cases cited. If QUAY had believed it possible to elect ELKIN to the office of Governor in 1900, he would have preferred him to any other candidate.

Senator Aldrich's Idea.

During a discussion of the question of the tax on hides and leather, the other day, Senator ALDRICH remarked that it would be necessary for those interests to "get together."

That is precisely what the wool growers of the west and the manufacturers of woolsens in the east did last fall. While the Presidential candidate of their party was promising tariff revision downward, they were in conference, or conspiracy, in Chicago, agreeing with the Republican Congressional committee that there would be no change in consideration of a generous contribution to the campaign fund, which was subsequently subscribed, the DIXON schedules would be incorporated into the new tariff bill.

As a matter of fact, however, it is a complete subversion of that instrument. All legislative power is vested in Congress "which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives. The "getting together" of special interests, therefore, and agreement upon certain schedules of taxation, essentially legislation, is a usurpation of prerogatives which belong to Congress.

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

The Tax on Hides.

The President's insistence, with respect to tariff revision downward, has finally been refined down to a demand for free hides. It has been asserted, and practically proved, that free hides will benefit nobody except the manufacturers of shoes and other leather goods who compose one of the great trusts.

Free hides could only work public beneficence if they would give the people shoes and other leather products at a lesser cost. Shoes are essential to public health and comfort and making them cheaper to the consumer is a most desirable purpose.

If the President is willing to concur in the iniquity of overtaxing woolsens and cotton fabrics in consideration of free hides, he is either a fool or a knave. The public protest has not been especially against the tariff tax on hides. Notwithstanding that tax American shoe manufacturers have been able to invade the markets of the world.

West Favors Income Tax.

One of our esteemed metropolitan contemporaries remarks that "the western States are for an income tax." Naturally, the western people are for justice. They ask no special privileges, as a rule, and prefer to take equal chances with their competitors under the inexorable, but uniform law of the survival of the fittest.

The fairest tax that has ever been conceived in the human mind is a tax on incomes, graduated, of course, so that it will burden the meagerly recompensed as little as possible. An income of less than \$1000 a year should not be taxed at all for the reason that such an amount is required to pay the ordinary expenses of the average family.

But the east is not in favor of such a tax. That is to say the portion of the population of the east which controls politics and elects representatives to Congress and the Legislature is opposed to an income tax for the reason that it would tax wealth instead of poverty and put a fair share of the burdens of government upon those who derive the greatest advantage from government.

-In the advertising columns of today's WATCHMAN will be found the ordinance passed at the last meeting of borough council relative to the licensing of livery buses and automobiles. For hacks and carriages the license is \$1.00 for one horse and \$1.50 for two horses; omnibuses, \$2.00 and 2-50; express, freight or baggage wagons, \$1.00 and \$1.50, and motor cars from \$2.50 for four passengers to \$10.00 for a car carrying fifteen or more passengers.

Discouraging Home Building.

It is impossible to even conjecture the reasons which influence the Republican managers to their policy of opposition to home building. From the beginning of civilization the encouragement of home building has been a fundamental feature of social and political economy.

In view of these obvious and admitted facts it is strange that the policy of the Republican party has always been to make the acquiring of homes as difficult as possible. In other words every material which is essential to the building of homes is taxed to the utmost limit with the result that the cost is so enhanced that even men of comfortable fortunes are scarcely able to build homes, and mechanics and working men find it absolutely impossible to build or buy homes.

We have watched with absorbing interest, during the special session of Congress, the efforts of the Republican managers to maintain the prohibitory tariff taxes on lumber, glass, nails, roofing materials and every other article that goes into the building of a home.

Democratic Local Tickets.

The Democrats of Pennsylvania never approached a campaign under more auspicious conditions than those which now confront it. At this time in 1905, the year in which our candidate for State Treasurer was elected by an overwhelming majority, there were no signs of the political revolution which subsequently developed.

Even so auspicious a condition doesn't guarantee success, however, unless victory is deserved. In other words the Democratic State convention which meets in Harrisburg next Wednesday must nominate good candidates and the Democratic voters must perform their full duty in order to achieve the election of the candidates nominated.

The surest way to accomplish this result is to form a perfect alliance between the State and local organizations. So far as our information goes the local tickets of the Democracy throughout the State are admirable. This year, at least, so far as the Democratic party is concerned, the uniform primary election law has produced the best possible results.

The stone foundation walls for the new High school building are practically completed and a large number of the steel beams and girders have already been placed in position. Messrs. Miller and Wallace, the contractors for the completion of the building, expect to begin work on the brick part of the structure early next week.

-A number of farmers throughout Centre county are already ploughing for their fall seeding, inasmuch as the oats crop is not yet ripe enough to cut.

When Clothes Were Cheap.

When a Democratic congress and president had the courage to put wool on the free list American mills produced in abundance cloths rivaling the best fabrics of European looms. More wool, domestic and imported, was consumed than in this country than now, notwithstanding the addition of millions of men, women and children to the population.

Yet thus far the efforts to obtain some abatement of the iniquitous duties on wool and woolsens appear to have made as little impression upon President Taft as upon congress. The wholesale and retail clothing merchants, who constitute no Trust, have shown how deleterious is this barbarous schedule to the interests of their customers. Manufacturers of woolsens with mills all over the land have pleaded almost pathetically for some mitigation of duties on these materials, and have been brutally told to get into some other business.

No Exemptions in Income Tax.

The National Manufacturers' association holds no commission from the workingmen of the country to speak in their behalf on such an important matter as taxation. The indignation that this somewhat militant body has thrown itself into over the patronage of the workingman by politicians is funny, indeed, though the evil is all true.

Every man should therefore enjoy a patriotic sense of citizenship and become a part of this government and one of its defenders; a condition making for merit, ease and safe material and avoiding the present much-to-be-deplored effort to make supporters of one class and enemies of another.

Direct taxation of this all-inclusive sort would make dodging difficult, dangerous and notorious. It would spell the doom of the evil theory of supporting government by indirect levies. The poor man would save on shoes, sugar and clothing what is now slyly siphoned from him by protected trusts.

Fooling the Crowd.

Don't be alarmed by these little displays of temper in congress. Everybody knows the familiar device by which pickpockets get up a fake fight, draw a crowd of gaping onlookers, who, absorbed in the hostile, fall easy prey to astute, light-fingered confederates of the fighters.

Jawing each other about the respective merits of their districts and States will serve to blind their constituents to the fact that nobody who should be giving a bang about the general welfare.

The Coming Leanness.

Mr. Hill's economic formula is simple enough, but it needs interpretation. It is true that meat is soon to be beyond the reach of our wage-earners, his meaning is that they must presently subsist upon cereals and vegetables. It is a continuing sentence that he passes upon them.

Spawls from the Keystone.

-In spite of the fact that there is much talk of a falling off in the coal trade, the Blacklick line of the Pennsylvania railroad has shown heavy increases in shipments lately in coal. Conditions towards Hastings are not so favorable.

-Mrs. Jean Rich Steiner, of Philadelphia, while driving near Lock Haven, was stepping from her buggy, when she fell on her neck and broke it. She died in a short time. Beside her husband she leaves a ten month's old infant.

-Coleman & Co., of Williamsport, have started lumber cutting on a 300 acre plot near the Bloom farm, north of Ebensburg. Twenty men are working on the plot. In other places in Cambria county much of the remaining timber is being cut away.

-The trolley tracks between Kyrletown, Clearfield county, and Winburne have been taken up. The people of Winburne feel very badly over this but as the line never paid well, the tracks are going to be used through some better paying territory.

-Harvey Henderson, a miner employed in the Bear Swamp district of the Susquehanna region, on Friday killed a rattlesnake five feet in length and which had 18 rattles. The reptile put up a gamey fight and Mr. Henderson had some difficulty in dispatching it.

-The plant of the Northbed Illuminating company, of Northbed, Clinton county, is getting in readiness for September 1, a 1,000 electric light plant, that will supply the people of the home town together with the nearby places, Farwell and Gleasonton.

-Glasburner, the young man arrested in Philadelphia for forging notes on a couple of Curwensville business men, was taken to Curwensville where he was given his liberty after making good the amount of the checks. Glasburner had gone to Curwensville posing as a base ball player.

-The Jamestown, Franklin and Clearfield and the Geneva, Corning and Southern railroads were formally leased to the New York Central road by a vote of ninety-five per cent of the share holders. It is rumored that the stations on the Franklin and Clearfield division of the first road will soon be officially determined.

-H. A. Orwin, who conducted the National hotel at Mt. Union as a boarding house, and who recently disappeared, has left behind him bills amounting to about \$500, which will be a total loss. His household goods had been seized by the sheriff for other debts. Among those caught in the trap are grocers, butchers, bakers and furniture dealers.

-According to the report just issued of the 150 released inmates in the Huntingdon reformatory there are 139 serving their paroles in a creditable manner while four broke the required rules and have been returned to the prison. One returned voluntarily, for the same reason, while another who violated the regulations is still at large. Another died in the hospital.

-There have been rumors in Huntingdon that the Saxton shops of the Huntingdon and Broad Top road are to be moved to Huntingdon. Officials will not verify the reports, but they do admit that the Long Siding shops at Huntingdon will have to be enlarged, and to meet the new conditions many of the trainmen now living in Saxton will have to move to Huntingdon.

-There are a dozen morphia fends among the inmates of the Berks county almshouse and quite a sensation was caused when County Controller Rhoads in withholding the payment of the bill, brought to light the fact that 30,000 morphia pills had been consumed during the last six months. It is estimated that this is the largest consumption of this deadly drug by any institution of the same size in the state.

-The Rittenhouse farm, near Lewistown, has been bought by the Knights of Malta and they will erect a hospital and asylum on the plot. The grounds contain 135 acres and cost the society \$6,000. The proposed home and hospital, which will shelter aged and sick members, as well as the orphans and widows of deceased members, will cost about \$100,000. This sum will be raised by assessing the different lodges throughout the state.

-The work of laying track on the Shade Gap branch to Neelyton, Huntingdon county, is nearing completion. The road was graded in 1884 to a point near Burnt Cabin, but when work on the South Penn road stopped, the construction was stopped at Shade Gap. Now, however, the people hope to see the road extend to Burnt Cabin, and as there are valuable timber tracts, as yet untapped, along the route, the company cannot lose by the extension.

-John D. Smith, of Jersey Shore, who was buccooed out of \$1,200 by green goods men while visiting How's circus, has had his money returned. The man followed up the itinerary of the circus and after shaving off his whiskers took the police into a car and pointed out the thieves. The men showed fight but were quickly vanquished and in the end John Smith not only had his money back but the officers had all their costs and traveling expenses paid.

-Peter Seel, a resident of St. Marys, met with an accident, while in a somnambulistic state, Thursday night, which resulted in his death. He retired about 10 o'clock that night. Less than an hour later it was discovered by a member of the household that he was not in bed. A search disclosed him lying on the ground outside the house, dead. His neck was broken. He had evidently stepped or fallen out of a window. There were marks on his forehead showing where he had alighted. The distance he fell was not over six feet.

-The situation in the Hastings-Barrowsboro-Spangler coal region is very gloomy. Only about half the mines are in operation. The poor condition of business is said to be caused by the inability of the local operators to meet the prices ruling in the markets, and the fact that many of the best contracts were grabbed up early in the year by operators from other districts. There seems to be a general reduction, although it is said that some of the smaller mines may make an arrangement with their men which will amount to practically the same thing, although it will not have the appearance of a violation of the scale.