

-It was an ideal Thanksgiving day; with crisp, cold weather and just a suggestion of snow.

-We infer that the Circuit court thought that if it didn't put the Standard oil out of business the hook-worm would.

-It is beginning to look very much like a case of benevolently assimilating those Latin-American Republics.

-Plenty of people have changed their minds about "Oleo" since butter has been having such jumps in price.

-And this is the winter of discontent for the Sugar Trust, made glorious summer by what happened to the Standard Oil Co. on Saturday.

-The turkey is in great danger of losing caste on Thanksgiving day, unless he condescends to come down off that high priced perch of his.

-Football is the most profitable college sport—financially—and what the undertakers and doctors don't get the trainers and supply men make away with.

-Were you duly thankful yesterday. If you were not you must have forgotten that you have life and health, and opportunity to lift yourself out of any slough you may be in.

-The Wright's have formed a million dollar corporation to manufacture mechanical contrivances for aerial navigation. Let us give you a bull tip on this stock. It is certain to go up.

-Dr. Cook is said to have used fifty thousand words in his statement to convince Copenhagen that he reached the pole. Now look for that peevish expression on Commander PEARY'S face.

-The gentleman who paid forty cents a pound for turkey at a raffia match Monday night of necessity couldn't have been among the knucklers at the stores that charged fifteen cents the pound.

-The fact that JOHN D. hasn't acted a bit peevish since that circuit court decision makes it look very much as if he hasn't the least idea of outsting any of the tentacles off that Standard octopus.

-Just when council was sinking into that delightful oblivion of peace that it hasn't enjoyed for so long the Republicans has to try for a fall out of some of its members. Surely the lot of a councilman is not a happy one.

-Another water famine threatens Pennsylvania and should freezing weather set in wish springs, streams, cisterns and wells in their present low state suffering will no doubt prevail. Bellefonte knows nothing of such hardships. Were you thankful for our beautiful spring.

-Secretary KNOX has wisely decided to look before he leaps. The world was standing aghast at his precipitate haste in the Nicaraguan affair and his determination to find out whether those Americans were illegally executed before beginning hostilities is much more to the point.

-The Hon. BARCLAY, of Sinnamahoning, has formally announced his aspiration to return to Congress. Looking into the little matter of his record during the two terms he has been there the average voter of the Twenty-first district will be justified in informally asking: What for?

-Congress will be in session again before the country has fully recovered from the exhaustion of the foot-ball season. Then there will be that Nicaraguan rebellion on our hands, TEDDY'S arrival home, the Sugar Trust prosecution and what not to keep us in a turmoil. Surely life is just one thing after another.

-What strange things girls are. Here those Wellesley students who have volunteered to teach gymnastics in the public schools of Boston have done so only upon condition that the big boys are not permitted to look. These same toddlers would want none but the big boys to look when they disport themselves on the sands at the seashore.

-The desire of a coterie of ladies of Bellefonte for higher education has resulted in getting them in a position to sympathize with the victims of the old time Bohemian oats and lightning rod swindlers. Fortunately it was one of their own sex who "look them over" so poor down trodden man won't have to answer for this outrage upon their pocketbooks and gullibility.

-So the Hon. WILLIAM JENNINGS BRYAN has decided to leave the Democratic party and become a Prohibitionist. Our authority for this statement are the news dispatches—not the best in the world—but if there is any truth in it we congratulate our Prohibition friends. Congratulate them because when they need an experienced candidate for President the Hon. WILLIAM J. will be there with the bells on.

-The old ROOSEVELT crowd is framing up a job to nominate the mighty hunter for Governor of New York next year. What an anti-climax in the career of a President. Surely Mr. ROOSEVELT will not lend himself to the plans of self-seeking politicians like WOODRUFF, BARNES and LOEB when they would use the prestige he has won in the nation's most exalted office to further their desires to secure control of a state political machine.

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Good Advice to Democrats.

We are constrained to concur in the views expressed by Mr. FRANKLIN PIERCE, of New York, in his criticism of the advice to the Democrats of the country, handed out by Mr. HENRY WATTERSON, editor of the Louisville Courier Journal, the other day. Mr. WATTERSON had just returned from Europe where he had been indulging in intimate intercourse with crowned heads and other highly favored loafers who live off the labor of men on that side of the ocean and this, and promptly proceeded to lay plans and outline specifications for the future policies of the Democrats of the country. "The Democrats party has only to wait," Mr. WATTERSON declares, "until the Republican party blunders itself out of power."

In other words Mr. WATTERSON would have the six and a-half million voters who cast their ballots for the Democratic candidate for President last year "keep still and profit by the enemies' mistakes." He is good enough to promise an early result from this waiting for he professes to believe that the contention between the friends of TAFT and ROOSEVELT will bring about an irreconcilable division in the party in 1912 which will defeat the Republican candidate, whichever of the two happens to be chosen. If Mr. WATTERSON had spent more time at home and less in Europe during the last half dozen years he might think differently. But in any event the hope of such a result is no reason why the Democrats should keep still.

On the contrary PIERCE, whose name is a recommendation, advises the Democrats to "go at the Republican party bell bent on the questions of protective tariffs, imperialism, ship subsidies, extravagant government, costly navy, corruption and all the other abuses which they have been imposing upon this American people." That is the true and wise policy for the Democracy. "God hates a coward," and to remain silent while such outrages are being perpetrated is cowardice or something worse. The Democrats have been quiet long enough. People are beginning to think that they have become acquiescent and that impression, if it becomes fixed, will keep the Republican party in power forever.

New York and Pennsylvania.

The work of weeding out the crooks in the New York custom house goes merrily on. More than a hundred men who were connected with the weighing of sugar have been dismissed and a score or more of them are to be prosecuted. Other low-salaried men in the service are under suspicion and we would not be surprised if there should be a wholesale renovation of that sink of iniquity. All of the victims of this crusade against official venality are friends of ROOSEVELT but they are without influence, worth speaking about, and that point has not been raised in their interest. When those "higher up" are threatened, if they are threatened at all, it will probably be different.

The Sugar trust has been robbing the government consistently and systematically, for many years. In 1894 when the WILSON tariff bill was pending in Congress, an investigation of the charges that Senators had been bribed by the Trust was made. During that inquiry the late Senator QUAY frankly admitted that he had received shares in the corporation in consideration of his senatorial action and exulted in the profits he had acquired. Other Senators denied the accusations against them but QUAY knew that confession was perfectly safe. The men who controlled the Republican party of Pennsylvania and selected Senators for this State would not be influenced against a man because of a thing like that.

The false weights in the custom house in New York was the logical if not the inevitable consequence of the bribery of Senators in 1894 and the corrupt and dismissed employees of the New York custom house may find consolation by coming to Pennsylvania and viewing the effigy of QUAY in the place of honor in the new capitol at Harrisburg. They were a trifling unfortunate in living in New York instead of Pennsylvania but they can remedy that now, that they will have leisure to hunt new homes, in the light of information contained in the history of Republican politics. If they will locate in Philadelphia they will be taken care of as those who helped to secure immunity for SALTER have been.

Where the Responsibility Rests.

Now that Pomona Grange of this county, has had its fling at the expensive and ineffective road laws that the taxpayers of Pennsylvania are compelled to endure, the WATCHMAN would suggest that its members look around a little and enlighten themselves as to who is responsible for these laws. Possibly if they will get down to the "real thing" they will discover that many of themselves are to blame for the very conditions they complain of. They are conditions that come in consequence of

the laws we have. The laws we have are the results of Republican victories—they are the work of Republican legislators. If we are rightly informed, fully one-half the members of Pomona Grange, in this county, are Republicans. They vote each year to endorse the work of that party. They sanction its actions and approve of what it does. Its work has been to enact the very laws under which these kicking members of Pomona Grange are robbed by our rotten road making system. Why then should they complain?

Talking against a system and then voting for it, or for the party that made and enforces it, will never change it. And unless these Grangers have the courage, the independence and the honesty to vote as they talk their resolutions and censure will be but a waste of that much work and that much wind.

The Standard Oil Decision.

The United States Circuit court, in a decision handed down at St. Paul, the other day, has declared the Standard Oil company to be a "conspiracy in restraint of trade," under the SHERMAN anti-trust law. There were four judges on the bench and the opinion was concurred in by all. The only appeal is to the Supreme court of the United States and it is doubtful if an appeal will be taken, the opinion so clearly expresses the law in the case. It completely destroys the Oil trust and leaves the conspirators without even a hope of evading its effects. It is a great victory for the people for the reason that it is practically certain to break up a number of other trusts.

For more than three years the ROOSEVELT administration was "monkeying" with this case. It is safe to say that if ROOSEVELT had continued in office a hundred years, the "monkeying" would have gone on until the end of that time. The reason for this plain. ROOSEVELT didn't want the result that has been achieved. He wanted the failure of conviction as a reason for other legislation which would give him greater power. He insisted that the SHERMAN law is inadequate. It was inadequate under his application of it but as Judge PARKER declared during the campaign of 1904, amply sufficient when properly supported in the courts. ROOSEVELT'S friends will claim it as his victory but it is anything but that.

The principle of law expressed in this decision which puts the Standard Oil company out of business is the same as that asserted in the decision which dissolved the Northern Securities company some years ago. But thus far there has been no apology made for this decision as there was for that. "It is not the attention of the administration to ran amuck against corporations," was the consoling message handed out from the White House on that occasion and soon afterward the Attorney General who had conducted the litigation was forced out of the cabinet. Nothing of that kind has occurred yet, but there is no telling. The recently organized telephonic trust might be liberal campaign contributors.

The Constitutional Amendments.

Nine of the ten constitutional amendments voted upon at the recent election in Philadelphia and Pittsburg. In other parts of the State the people appeared to be indifferent on the subject, though a considerable majority was cast against the nine that were adopted and an overwhelming opposition was expressed against the seventh, properly. But it would have been better if all had been defeated. The effect of their adoption will be to augment the power of the political machine and that is regrettable. The fewer elections there are the better for professional politicians for the opportunity for the concentration of effort is correspondingly greater.

In other words now that the number of elections are diminished the campaign fund for them can be increased without any greater draft upon the resources of the party managers. For example under the present system the machine was obliged to raise a considerable fund twice a year, for municipal elections in the cities are quite as expensive and nearly as important as general elections. The machine had to depend largely upon the probable vote to maintain its ascendancy in many of the cities and the changed order of things will put this tax upon the managers only once in two years instead of twice a year and of course that will make it easier for them. That was the object of the amendments.

Fortunately the worst in the lot was defeated and the evil consequences of the success of the others may be averted if the people are alert and vigilant. It was said that Mr. BERRY would not have been elected in 1905 if there had been two or three other candidates on the tickets that year and it is believed that Mr. MURSON would have been successful this year if Justice of the Supreme court had been the only office to fill. But civic virtue has the same opportunity to gain by the change as civic iniquity, if the supporters of civic virtue are equally earnest and active. It is up to the people, therefore, to make the best of what appears to be an unfortunate circumstance.

President Taft's Weaknesses.

We would like to cherish the greatest respect for and hold in the highest esteem the President of the United States. But in recent years so many things have occurred and are still occurring, that make it difficult, if not impossible, to do so. During the tenure of the last President, for example, more than a dozen different persons proved the occupant of the office, not only a deliberate, but a malicious liar. No man of proper impulses esteems a traducer of fellowmen. THEODORE ROOSEVELT was both as has been amply proved by Judge PARKER, of New York, Mr. WHITNEY, of Massachusetts, Mrs. BELLAMY STORKE, of Ohio, and dozens of others.

We fondly hoped that upon the expiration of the term of Mr. ROOSEVELT the reasons which made it difficult, if not impossible, to respect and esteem the President of the United States would disappear. But it can hardly be said that this expectation has been fulfilled. It is almost, if not altogether, as hard to admire a grafter as it is to esteem a liar. In fact grafting in public office involves perjury and necessarily includes lying. That is to say the President of the United States solemnly swears that he will "preserve, protect and defend the constitution." The constitution provides that Congress shall fix a salary for the services of the President and declares that "he shall not receive, within that period, any other emolument."

Any man of sufficient intelligence and learning to be President of the United States must know that acts of Congress which violate the constitution are invalid. Any man of that intellectual standard must understand that when Congress votes him emoluments outside of the compensation for his services it violates the constitution and that in accepting such invalid largesse the President violates the constitution and his oath of office. The present salary of the President of the United States is \$75,000 a year. The acceptance of any other emolument, gifts, donations or things of value from the government, whether authorized by act of Congress or not, is, therefore, a violation of the constitution, a betrayal of official obligation and grafting.

When near the close of the extra session of Congress the President threatened to veto the atrocious tariff bill which was being enacted and the congressional machine changed his mind by promising to vote him out of the public treasury a traveling fund. That was a violation of the constitution and a source of graft besides a species of bribery. The use of government ships for personal convenience is graft of a petty sort but equally reprehensible. But charging the government with the boarding of the TAFT servants during the vacation season is the culmination of petty larceny and we can't see how any one can hold respect for a President who descends to this level of iniquity.

Jingoism the Rule.

There is a good deal of inclination shown in Washington to "butt-in" to the affairs of the Latin-American Republics. The execution of a couple of Americans by order of the President of Nicaragua, the other day, for example, was made the excuse for a lot of jingoism that might lead to serious consequences. It is said that our government has practically recognized a band of rebels as "belligerents," because of this incident, and if that be true, it is perilously premature, to say the least. At the time the government didn't actually know whether the men had been executed or not and even now doesn't understand the case thoroughly. Such precipitancy is indorsement.

According to the best information attainable the Americans executed by order of President ZELAYA of Nicaragua, were soldiers of fortune in the service of a revolutionary force. That was no just reason for killing them after their capture as prisoners of war. But it is alleged that when captured they were engaged in laying mines to destroy a warship of the Nicaraguan government on board of which there were 800 men. Laying dynamite mines to blow up ships is not a soldierly part and if those men were guilty of that atrocity, they deserve punishment commensurate with their crime. All that our government had a right to do in the premises was to see that they had been properly tried.

There is an obvious purpose in Washington to acquire, in one way or another, control of the Latin-American Republics in South and Central America. Such a purpose is in direct conflict with the history and traditions of this country and should be discouraged. The policy was conceived in ROOSEVELT'S last for power and it was hoped that his successor in office, having greater respect for law, would abandon it. The action in the case in point, however, indicates the contrary. ROOSEVELT couldn't have been more precipitate than TAFT, if the current reports in the newspapers are based on actual facts. Jingoism is to be the rule of the future according to present indications.

Great National Problem.

One need not share J. J. Hill's gloomy view that "high cost of living is the beginning of every national decline" to agree with him that it is now and here in America a great and grave national issue.

There is no question as to the facts. Bradstreet's "index figure" of commodity prices shows an average rise of 56 per cent. in thirteen years in the price of the necessities of life. Rent has in many cases risen in even greater ratio. Wages have generally risen not nearly so much. We must wait for the 1910 census to show how the workman now shares in the division of his product, but already in 1909 the wage fund in manufactures was shown to be growing only half as fast as capital and only one-third as fast as miscellaneous expenses. In 1896 the workman, clerk or professional toiler could buy more food, shelter, clothing and other necessities and comforts with his wages, salary or fees than at any time since the civil war. Today the man of moderate means can buy less with his income than in 1896. For him the wheels of progress have turned backward, and he is deeply disheartened. He is ready to wreak political vengeance upon whatever or whoever is responsible.

What is doing the country this ill turn? Some say the trusts; it is a coincidence that the tendency began about the time the trusts did. Some say the tariff. Some say the middlemen. Some blame the increased production of gold since the invasion of the cyanide process and the end of the Boer war. Some say living costs more because we have reached the end of our free homestead land—though Mr. Hill and his railroad friends are right in urging that better farming would double our yearly yield.

The cause and cure, whatever they may be, it behooves statesmen and leaders of thought to discover. The conditions of which Mr. Hill speaks, and are known of all men, cannot continue without the most far-reaching social consequences and political upheavals in what Americans have been proud to call the best country on earth for the average man.

Jettis Roosevelt Just.

From the Johnstown Democrat. There are plenty of surface indications of the coming struggle between the Taft and the Roosevelt forces. The Ballinger-Pinchot war is only one of these. The Sugar Trust prosecutions and the threatened probe furnish another. And all along the line there are outcroppings which tell the story of what is below. It is hardly concealed that the Roosevelt folks are much disturbed by the war on the Sugar Trust. All the ammunition now being employed by the Taft administration was offered to the Roosevelt administration and the great trust-buster had ample opportunity to bring the malefactors of great wealth represented in this practical organization to book long ago. But Mr. Roosevelt was not interested. He made not the slightest effort to stop the recalcitancy which he was shown to be in full flower and he quit office with the Sugar Trust still on his list of "good" trusts.

It thus beholds that the Taft activity in setting after the saccharine octopus is disconcerting to the Roosevelt boomers and they are more than half convinced that Mr. Taft has got busy all at once and with a much more extensive fraud that had cost the Government many millions. This is the sleeper-trunk method by which importers, all over the country, by means of trunks with false bottoms, have smuggled goods through the custom house. It was not to be supposed after the revelation of fraud in sugar importations and the widespread collusion of customs employes that the operation presumably found so profitable in that case would not be extended to as many other importations as possible. The Mexico trial, involving cheese, proved one extension. The sleeper trunk offered another. Possibly when the whole system is unmasked it will be found that the sugar cases were but a fraction.

Still Another Leak.

From the Pittsburg Dispatch. While the sugar scandal has loomed large in the public mind, possibly because it involved a "trust" and was suspected of ramifications extending to sensational quarters, Secretary MacVagh, at the conclusion of his conference with Collector Loeb yesterday, remarked that this phase had overshadowed in popular interest a much more extensive fraud that had cost the Government many millions. This is the sleeper-trunk method by which importers, all over the country, by means of trunks with false bottoms, have smuggled goods through the custom house. It was not to be supposed after the revelation of fraud in sugar importations and the widespread collusion of customs employes that the operation presumably found so profitable in that case would not be extended to as many other importations as possible. The Mexico trial, involving cheese, proved one extension. The sleeper trunk offered another. Possibly when the whole system is unmasked it will be found that the sugar cases were but a fraction.

A Current Puzzle.

From the Albuquerque Citizen. The puzzle of the country today is to know how it is possible for a wise man, as President Taft is supposed to be, to believe that little Rhody Aldrich can be patriot, at the sacrifice of his own interests and those of the people. To harmonize Standard Oil and Wall street with the public interest is as easy as it is to mix water with Rockefeller oil.

Will He Go That Far?

From the Harrisburg Independent. President Taft is still for economy in the conduct of the government. Will he suggest that the item of \$25,000 for the traveling expenses of the president—an expenditure not even dreamed of a couple years ago—be rescinded?

Just a little bit of snow fell on Wednesday night but it was enough to give a white Thanksgiving in spots.

Subscribe for the WATCHMAN.

Spawls from the Keystone.

-All the Reno shops are working full time now, and there is a probability that they will have to work overtime.

-Several thousand men and women will be given employment in a mammoth silk mill that will cover forty five acres and will be built at Marcus Hook, near Chester.

-John Rich & Bros., the well known woollen manufacturers of Woolrich, Clinton county, have decided to double the capacity of their plant, which now gives work to about 100 hands.

-Between two and three tons of packages left Pittsburg on Thursday destined to reach the Philippine Islands. They were Christmas gifts from home to the soldiers and civil service employes at that distant place.

-The Buffalo, Rochester and Pittsburg railroad has finished a big reservoir on Jackson run, near Punxsutawney. It has a capacity of 6,000,000 barrels and is said to be the largest artificial body of water in central Pennsylvania.

-About fifty acres of land for a new reservoir have been secured in the northern part of Somerset county by the Manufacturers' Water company, which supplies the people of Johnstown and surrounding boroughs. The price paid was \$53,000.

-Labor is so scarce at Mount Union that a representative of the Harbison-Walker company has gone to New York to get help from the newly arrived immigrants. The new shirt factory is working steadily and adding how help as it can be secured.

-Phillipsburg, Clearfield and DuBois have not received enough notice at the hands of the United States geological survey commission to be placed on the same survey blue print on which Houtzdale, Huntingdon, Hollidaysburg and Punxsutawney appear.

-It was said by the district manager of the Berwick division of the American Car and Foundry company that by January, 5,000 men will be in the employ of the plants. There are now 3,700 men working on practically full time and this number is being increased daily.

-The mineral right under the farm of Hiram Lehman, in Richland township, near Gettysburg, Cambria county, was sold to the Berwind White Coal Mining company. The lot contains about 230 acres. The coal company owns the rights to practically all the land adjoining.

-Pennsylvania State college will hold its first summer session for teachers from July 20 to 25, 1910. Any person holding a teacher's certificate will be admitted. The subjects that will be taught will be largely along agricultural and scientific lines, but will include the liberal arts.

-Forestry Commissioner Conklin, of Harrisburg, stated recently that he had given permits to three thousand persons to hunt on State reservations for the present deer season which will end next Tuesday. This is the greatest number ever known since the State reserves were established.

-Mrs. Robert Pitcairn, wife of the late Pittsburg millionaire coal operator and a real road man, has expressed her intention of presenting to the congregation of the First Presbyterian church at Lewisport a \$5,000 pipe organ to grace their new edifice now under erection, as a memorial to her deceased sisters.

-William Escap was awarded \$5,000 damages in the Common Pleas court at Philadelphia for injuries received by being struck by a bolt of lightning that flashed over the wires of the Bell Telephone company when he was in a pay booth. It was said that the company should have had a warning sign up to tell people not to use the phone while an electrical storm was in progress.

-Alfred Phillips, who drove a traction engine which broke through a bridge in Sugarloaf township, near Bloomburg, is suing the township for \$10,000 for injuries which he received. J. H. Horvett, the owner of the engine wants \$200, asserting that damage to that amount was done to his machine. It is claimed that the bridge ought to have been in good enough repair that it could be traveled without danger.

-Robert H. Taylor, of East Waterford, has brought a suit in Juniata county for the recovery of \$5,000 damages from Henry Book, of Spruce Hill township, because the latter owned a cow that was struck by the engine of which plaintiff's son was the engineer and the latter was killed in the overturning of the locomotive that followed. The plaintiff alleges that Book is guilty of negligence in permitting the bovine to stray on the tracks.

-Daring safe crackers, after blowing open the safe in the postoffice at Everett, at an early hour on Thursday morning, managed to escape from the town without being seen, and are now at large with about \$1,000 worth of stamps and specie. The robbery occurred about 3 a. m. when the town was wrapped in slumber and so quietly did the men work, that until the report of the explosion, the presence of the robbers was not known.

-The Lincoln Coal company, which owns operations below Nant-y-Gle, Cambria county, has installed a new electric hauling system in its works, supplanting the mule system. The company recently secured the surface rights on a tract of land near its workings and will build a branch road over this territory to its mines from Ivory Hill. It is reported that the company has purchased the Martin Makin coal rights on 100 acres near its territory. The price paid was \$125 an acre. Several days ago the coal rights of a twenty-five acre piece of land in the same district sold for \$157 an acre.

-It has been announced that prospecting has developed that a field of fine coal lies under Garaway, a point some miles north of Patton and lying in Clearfield county. The Pennsylvania Coal and Coke company conducted the investigations and has options on considerable of the land in that section. It is thought that these will be closed at once and the property developed. From Garaway northward five miles toward the Susquehanna river lies a great table land under which it has always been supposed the deposits of Cambria county extended. Several large operations had been started on the land but all failed as the coal was found to be of poor quality. Should the Pennsylvania company's workings prove that this is only a local fault a fine new field will be opened.