

Democratic Watchman

BY P. GRAY MEEK.

Ink Blings.

—Uncle JOE CANNON is in session in Washington again.

—It will take more than a pair of leather lungs to bring Christmas cheer into the home.

—Alabama is standing pat on the chivalry of the South and—incidentally—the opportunity to have a drink of good liquor when she wants it.

—The memory of American womanhood is soon to undergo a most crucial test. The census enumerators are coming around to ascertain the age of the ladies.

—The brute who slapped his wife's face with a turkey foot on Sunday ought to have been headed east with a frozen boot as the propelling agent on his western side.

—Uncle SAM's retinue of servants is increasing at the rate of ten per cent a year. As the year rolls by we can see where our posterity become the slaves of the servants.

—There is every indication that Judge GAYNOR, mayor-elect of New York, intends to fulfill his pre-election promise to be the major without the meddling of the bosses.

—GEBRUDE ATHERTON says she would rather go to hell than to Chicago. But probably GEBRUDE is deluded by the idea that the latter place is as seductive as the road to it.

—Where ignorance results in the saving of from fifteen to twenty cents a pound why should the users of oleomargarine wish to get wise as to which side of their bread the butter is on.

—As long as Mr. Secretary MEYER keeps things stirred up in his efforts to put the navy on a business basis possibly the jingoes who want more Dreadnaughts will be lost sight of. More power to his stirring arm.

—Estimates of the state game commission that over five hundred deer were killed in Pennsylvania during the season just closed will be read with interest by the many hunting parties from this section that came back without any.

—King MANUEL, of Portugal, and President FALLERES, of France, were out hunting on Tuesday and killed six hundred and fifty head of game. Surely here is something for the mighty hunter of South Africa to start a few more ANAKIAS stories about.

—Government control of utilities has been getting a black eye since the government control of the New York custom house has been aired. It appears that the capacity of a man to "knock down" is in no wise diminished by the fact that Uncle SAM is his employer.

—If its consolation to the laboring man who now has to pay from two to three cents a pound more for every bit of meat he eats than he did a month ago, we might call his attention to the fact that down in Houston, Texas, strawberries are selling for one dollar per quart. Suppose you had to depend upon strawberries for sustenance.

—It will be interesting to observe what Centre county Republicans line up with the Hon. BARCLAY and with Mr. C. E. PATTON, of Carversville, in the promised contest for the congressional nomination in this district. For, sure as you're born, the hopes of present and would-be post-masters will be revealed when the show down is made.

—The Connellsville Courier remarks that "Connellsville nimmers are disgusted with bear hunting in Centre county." Wasn't the hunting fine? Surely the weather was all that could have been desired and the hills aren't any higher or the valleys any deeper here than other places. If they expected to get bear, why of course that is a different matter, but report has it that bear meat is very tough and unwholesome this fall.

—Football supremacy among eastern colleges this year, and YORRIS, the captain and quarterback, is already picked as an All American quarter. If State has any reason for being fifth she has just as good reason for being third in standing. Neither Lafayette nor Dartmouth are any better on paper and we have felt all season that the former would not have been as good had she met State in the field.

—The opportunity for rich men to make money is exemplified in the fortune of one hundred and forty-nine million dollars that the late EDWARD H. HERRIMAN has left. Stock juggling and paper values brought a return for his labors out of all proportion to their actual value. The result in his case is paralleled by that of most of the multimillionaires of the country and should economic conditions remain as they are it would appear as if it were only a matter of time until the very few acquire absolute control of all the wealth of the country.

—England is having troubles of her own just now over the tax budget. The House of Lords, refusing to stand for a system that will place the burden of necessary increases in taxation on the rich, has put the question before the people for decision by ballot. There should be no question about the outcome of such an election, but in England the masses have been trained always to look upon the upper classes with such reverence that they will probably be simple enough to vote that they pay the taxes themselves rather than have any of the leaven taken out of the upper crust.

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Concerning Non-partisan Judges.

Some well-meaning Philadelphia Democrats are circulating a petition praying that Governor STUART will appoint from among the several capable Democratic lawyers of that city a man to fill the vacancy which will be created early in January by the promotion of ROBERT VON MOSCHIZKER to the Supreme court bench. They have already held two or three meetings in furtherance of the project and suggested several names for the Governor to select from. Among these thus brought into public notice are JAMES A. FLAHERTY, JOHN E. FAUCON, HENRY BUDD and THEODORE F. JENKINS. Either of these gentlemen would admirably fill the bill. They are all competent and splendidly equipped for judicial service.

But at this distance it would seem that the gentlemen who have undertaken this work will have their labor for their pains. Mr. JENKINS was appointed to a seat on the bench on another occasion and though he proved an ideal jurist he was not re-elected for the reason, mainly, that the Philadelphia Republican machine preferred to catapult a servile tool into the seat. Hon. JOHN E. FAUCON served in the Legislature several years with great distinction and has the judicial temperament highly developed, but he would be guided by conscience in interpreting the law and that sort of a man is not wanted. Mr. FLAHERTY is a lawyer of learning and a gentleman of character and HENRY BUDD equally so, come within a few votes of an election even in that machine ridden community, but neither of them will do. They are Democrats.

The Republican machine doesn't want a non-partisan judiciary, and that is the end of the matter. The framers of the constitution fondly hoped that the selection of judges of all the courts would be taken out of politics and imagined that they were promoting that result when they made provision for minority representation on the bench under certain conditions. But they were simple-minded folk who never even dreamed of the advantage to a political machine which might come from filling the bench with political judges who would be governed in their judicial actions by party exigencies. Those in control of the political machine now know, however, and non-partisan judges are an "iridescent dream."

The Panama Canal.

The man who has charge of the work of building the Panama canal kindly favors us with another estimate of the amount of money which will be required to complete the job. He assures us that a trifle of \$375,000,000 is all that stands, at this blessed moment, between us and the great achievement. He doesn't tell us when the work will be finished. He is far too wise a guy to monkey with figures for the purpose of measuring time. All he undertakes to say is that if Congress will prefer him by appropriating the sum expressed in the nine figures above quoted the canal is assured and that probably at some time in the remote future ships will be shooting through the locks from the Atlantic to the Pacific.

The original estimate for this work fixed the figures at anywhere between \$90,000,000 and \$140,000,000. For some reason it has been the policy of the government to confuse the accounts ever since the operations were begun but it is a fair guess that upwards of \$300,000,000 have been invested in the construction and other expenses thus far. The fact should be remembered, however, that the original estimate contemplated the location of the ditch in Nicaragua instead of Panama and that that plan would probably have been carried out if ROOSEVELT's brother-in-law had not acquired an interest in the French Panama canal. The change of the route added greatly to the cost of construction but ROOSEVELT's brother-in-law needed money.

Of course nobody wants to see the vast sum of money already invested in this enterprise wasted and consequently everybody will have to favor the necessary appropriation to finish the waterway. But there is no necessity for carelessness in appropriating the funds. Thus far the management of the enterprise has been most profligate. Those directing the disbursement of the money have apparently been utterly indifferent to the interests of the government. Possibly they have reasoned that when favorites were paid freely in the beginning it was only fair that others should get a grab at what was left. In the future a different system ought to obtain. The interests of the people are worth considering.

A souvenir copy of the Chambersburg Repository telling us all about the pretty town in which it is published, and much about the opportunities it offers and the citizens who have aided in making it the model little city it is, has been received at this office. It is so greatly different from and so vastly better than most souvenir editions that are sent out, that one is com-

elled to conclude that in this, as well as in many other things, Chambersburg has the bulge on many of the other towns striving to attract public attention. The fact that that town has a printing office capable of getting up a publication like this edition of Mr. POMEROY's paper is should be cause for pride on the part of everyone of the citizens, even if they had fewer other things to blow about than they have.

Suspicious Signs in Washington.

It looks very much as if the current gossip concerning official atrocities in Nicaragua has been manufactured for the purpose of justifying some inexcusable meddling with the affairs of that sister Republic. The administration at Washington appears to be anxious to recognize the belligerency or a revolutionary force under command of a treacherous officer who has betrayed the confidence reposed in him by his chief. There is no public reason for this anxiety. It has not been the custom of this country to plunge carelessly into such complications. The recognition of the Panama revolution was an exception, of course, for in that case the revolutionists were recognized before the revolution was declared. In fact the revolution was organized in Washington.

Until the end of time that act will stand as a stain upon the character of this country. It was an international crime of such forbidding aspect that the entire civilized world might and for that matter ought to have entered protest against it. But it was ROOSEVELT's way. He knows no law except his own caprices and probably felt that he had a right to perpetrate any crime that was necessary to promote his own purposes. That "the end justifies the means" is an old philosophy, not a creditable one, to be sure, but sufficient for ROOSEVELT. He wanted to begin the Panama canal and that was the only way to achieve the result. It wasn't moral or honest or decent. But that made no difference to ROOSEVELT. It was effective. It brought the result.

We hope, however, that President TAFT has no similar conspiracy to foster and that his strange anxiety to interfere in Nicaragua is not fed by the unholy ambition to acquire territory by conquest. There has been a suspicion for some years that certain men high in public station entertain a desire to force the authority of the United States upon all the people in Central and South America. But Herbert Mr. TAFT's name has not been associated with such wild and weird schemes. Recent incidents tend in that direction, however. The frenzied performance following a recent rumor of the execution of a couple of American soldiers of fortune in Nicaragua goes a long way toward arousing fear in this respect but we hope that the future will clear up the affair.

Meeting One Danger With Another.

The "insurgents" in Congress, or as they prefer to call themselves, the "progressive Republicans," are making preparations to give Speaker CANNON all sorts of trouble during the coming session. With this amiable purpose in mind they announce that an effort will be made to enlist President TAFT on their side and get the benefit of his help in the process of "nagging" the Speaker. We are very much inclined to wish them success in their plans so far as they relate to the confusion of Speaker CANNON. In the exercise of usurped power and in his habit of encroaching upon the prerogatives of members of the body over which he presides, Mr. CANNON has become a very dangerous man.

But we can't see that anything is to be gained by checking the usurpations of the Speaker by giving encouragement to a vastly more destructive and dangerous form of usurpation in the White House and that must be the inevitable result of the plans which the insurgent Republicans are forming. They are inviting the President to interpose in the affairs of the legislative department of the government with the power and patronage of his great office, and the setting of such a precedent would be more disastrous to the country than anything that the Speaker of the House might do if he were ten times as arrogant and a thousand times as ambitious as CANNON appears to be.

The founders of the Republic aimed to establish a government of three co-ordinate branches and forbid the encroachment by one upon the functions of the others. It was their intention that the legislative branch of the government should be entirely independent of the executive department and that the judiciary should be equally free from interference from either or both. But the proposition of these insurgents would revoke all their plans and make the President an absolute dictator. Until within a few years no President ever attempted to "electioneer" Congress and the fact that this wholesome system has been changed is the greatest danger to the government at present in view.

Poor Dr. COOK has faded into thin air. The pole is still believed to be doing business at the old stand.

Postponement of the Huxton Trial.

The further postponement of the trial of architect HUXTON for complicity in the grafting operations at Harrisburg will cause little surprise among thoughtful observers of events. The Dauphin county court properly wants to know what the Supreme tribunal will do with those of Mr. HUXTON's associates in the crimes that have already been convicted. If Dr. SLYDER and Mr. SHUMAKER are to be vindicated by extra judicial proceedings there is little if any use in convicting others. Legal consultants cost money and tax payers look upon them as matters of grave concern. The Dauphin county judges probably think that there is no use in further waste along those lines.

The truth is that when the first graft cases were heard in the Dauphin county court the PENROCK machine was in a paroxysm of which it has since become very much ashamed. If the managers had had the courage of their iniquities there never would have been a verdict of guilty. The machine would have simply invaded the sanctuary of justice and compelled an acquittal of the prisoners. But things did look equally at the time. WILLIAM H. BERRY had previously been elected State Treasurer by an immense majority and popular indignation was at high tide over the exposures he had made. The boldest of the practical crew were frightened into a false pretense of improvement.

Since that event the courage and confidence of the freebooters has been completely restored. The election of Sisson, ECKHART and VON MOSCHIZKER is a guarantee that the people will acquiesce in any atrocity that can be conceived and the postponement of the HUXTON trial is the first open declaration of the purpose to resume the old methods in administration of public affairs. There will be no more costly timidity in dealing with the courts and the law. Conviction of the grafters already under sentence will be revoked and no other trials will be undertaken. The machine has again come into its own and it will not hesitate to exercise all the power implied.

"The Party Man."

Congress assembled next Monday and the President's message is the present subject of conjecture not only in Washington but throughout the country. During his recent junket, at public expense and in violation of the constitution, Mr. TAFT intimated strongly that he would make some important recommendations along various lines. He said that he would suggest amendments to the SHERMAN law, the creation of postal savings banks, the establishment of parcels posts and several other things. But it is now intimated that he has changed his mind on all these questions. The "interests" are averse to monkeying with such things.

A prominent Pennsylvanian who recently visited Washington and during his sojourn there came in contact with some of the leading thinkers says that TAFT is spoken of there as "the party man." He hasn't sufficient backbone to maintain an opinion on any subject. Such men as ALDRICH and CANNON wind him around their fingers and laugh at the spectacle he presents during the process. He knows that the express companies are robbing the public of hundreds of millions of dollars annually but he hasn't the courage to even attempt to check them. A parole post law would end their brigandage but the President of the United States is afraid to recommend such legislation.

It is said that an attempt will be made to reopen the tariff question during the coming session but it is safe to predict that it will fail. Probably a majority of the members of both branches of the present Congress favor a reduction of the rates of tariff taxes on wool pulp and white paper. But they will not be allowed to express their views on the floor of either chamber. Even TAFT himself is disgusted with the maximum and minimum features of the ALDRICH bill. But ALDRICH and CANNON will prevent the consideration of any repealing measure. We are in the hands of the Philistines and must suffer the consequences.

The Hon. CHARLES F. BARCLAY, of Sinnamahoning, will not have unfringed sailing in his candidacy for a renomination for Congress on the Republican ticket, as C. E. PATTON, of Carversville, this week threw his hat into the ring by announcing himself as a candidate. Mr. PATTON comes of a family who have always been hard political fighters and the Hon. CHARLES will have to do more than stroke those magnificent whiskers and look wise if he gets away with the plum. In fact there is every likelihood that it will be a contest of bar'l tapping and the man who can show the biggest bung hole to the Republican party leaders is the man most likely to win.

The eclipse of the moon last Friday night was plainly visible to all those who had the stamina to stay up all night to see it.

Reduce Living Expenses.

From the Pittsburg Post.
No argument is needed to convince Americans in all walks of life that the cost of living has risen inordinately within a very few years. Nor is it necessary to call attention to the fact that the burden falls most heavily on the wage-earners. When the margin between the annual income and the annual living expenses close up, and when it becomes ever harder to strike a balance between the two, it is hardly necessary to remind the wage-worker of the fact. He is painfully aware of the discrepancy.

And just at this juncture he will derive but small consolation from the eternal promise of the thick-and-thin protectionists that high-tariff rates result in advanced wages. Those who have held out so successfully for exorbitant tariff rates have invariably proved the benefits to the working-man, of the higher standard of living produced through this medium, the increased wages of the American artisan, the full dinner-pail, and more off the same piece. As a matter of fact, the tariff wall does effect higher wages, but the rate of increase never keeps pace with the advanced cost of living resultant from a high tariff. Increased cost of living is inherent in a protective tariff, and it profits the working-man nothing if his wages rise but five per cent, while the cost of his daily bread, his clothing and his shelter is advanced ten or fifteen per cent, through this beneficent custom's law.

The working-man may gather to himself some slight consolation, however, by reflecting that the remedy rests with himself. He holds the balance of power at the polls. It is his vote which elects representatives in Congress and the Legislatures which name United States Senators, who write the tariff laws. Let him elect men pledged to reduce an iniquitous robber tariff and his salvation is assured. This might be deemed a long and tedious process, but a little reflection will demonstrate that if he begins putting it in operation at once, relief is not so far distant. The complexion of the lower House of Congress can be changed next year. If the working-man will but remember his opportunities in that respect, there will be no indecision in the manner of his voting.

Uncle Joe by His Own Mouth.

From the Pittsburg Sun.
No man could have compassed a more effective arraignment of the speaker of the House of Representatives than that naively submitted by Uncle Joe himself in his speech delivered before the Knife and Fork club at Kansas City last night. In that speech he addressed the speaker last himself open to the scorn of all men who think and act for themselves.

He branded himself once again as a man who puts party loyalty above patriotism; as a man incapable of comprehending the motives of men who do not care whether they are technically classed as Republicans, Democrats or Magwumps, just so long as they are acting according to the dictates of conscience—branded himself, so that he who runs may read, as the arch-reactionist, the party man pre-eminent, the incarnation of the spirit that has made the Republican party a machine for the forwarding of the ends of Wall street.

There is a fine flavor of unconscious humor in Mr. Cannon's impassioned cry: "Ever since history began the man in the minority has been seeking some device by which he could overcome the will of the majority." Never fell words more true than those of the prophet or philosopher. All history is the chronicle of the brave efforts of the minority in the right, the minority with the vision of a better world to be, to overcome the reactionary policy of the smug and satisfied majority.

Soft and Low.

From the Lancaster Intelligencer.
The Standard Oil magnates are stinging very low to the public ear and expressing the utmost readiness to obey the law, when they find out what it is; which, however, they propose to take all the time they can get, to do; declaring that Congress must bear their doleful tale of the need of amending the law which is interpreted to keep them from conducting their business according to their righteous intentions and their attorney's instructions.

Not that they particularly care about the law's interpretation, but they fear the effect upon the business of the country of an interpretation which forbids the amalgamation of capital in its conduct. Evidently we are not to have an early decision by final authority as to the extent to which capital may be bound together in pursuit of business interests; and by the time we get it, arrangement of it will be adjusted to secure the desired results by indication to which the direct road is blocked. It is going to require a great deal of wisdom, persistence, patience and time to get the law into shape to hold these great business eels and to give people generally the fair opportunity to carry on their business individually that is theoretically open to them by our constitution.

Must be a Nigger in the Woodpile.

From the Pittsburg Post.
Constructively and theoretically, Walter Wellman might possibly be accounted an authority on polar exploration. Practically, his work in that line counts for little. At least, he is hardly qualified to sit in judgment on one who has shipped himself somewhere north of 82 degrees. Hence Dr. Cook's strictures on Dr. Cook will not be taken too seriously. Moreover, he cites no good ground for his doubts regarding the veracity of the Brooklyn man. His conclusions are drawn a little too hypothetically fine. In fact, Mr. Wellman appears to have gone out of his way to discredit Dr. Cook. The majority of people would prefer to leave final judgment to geographical experts.

Spawls from the Keystone.

—Among the members of the Second United Presbyterian church at Indiana are three ministers whose combined ages total 350 years. They are Revs. H. Q. Graham, J. M. Adair and James Adair. Altogether they have given 150 years to the work of the church.

—Word from Clearfield says that developments are favorable to the starting up of mills of the Clearfield Steel company. Clearfield people who are furnishing the principal part of the capital will have full charge of running the mill. A charter has been applied for.

—Wallopsburg and Sagamore, two Indiana county towns, are in the grip of measles. There is at least one case in every house at Wallopsburg and there are many cases in Sagamore. Chambersville, also, has a number of cases. The children have what is known as German measles.

—Whether a sunstroke can be called an accident is to be settled in a suit which Mrs. Mary A. Wheelan, of Ardmore, is bringing against the Columbia National Life Insurance company, which refused to pay her \$5,000 on a policy for accident insurance held by her husband. He was killed by a sunstroke.

—Johnstown is to have a new industry in the form of a wrench factory. W. S. Ducharme has been granted patents on several wrenches which, as declared by experts to be second to none. The inventor is forming a stock company with a capitalization of \$25,000 and much stock has been sold.

—After four years Alexander Logan, aged 73, a former banker of Paradise, has regained possession of his \$500,000 estate by a ruling of the Westmoreland county court. In 1905 his mind became deranged as the result of a severe illness and his property was placed in the hands of a committee. He now has been declared sane.

—It is said that there will be a shortage of anthracite coal if rain does not come before the ground becomes frozen. Production already has fallen off 25 per cent, since the dry spell set in. Few of the colliers are working full time, most of them being unable to get any more water than will run them three or four hours a day.

—E. R. Miller, of Colorado, is \$500 better off because he ate his Thanksgiving day dinner in Williamsport. Mr. Miller is a former resident of that city, but of late years he has lived in Colorado. He is now visiting friends in Williamsport and on Thursday he was a guest at the Updgraf. During the progress of the meal he partook of some oysters in one of which he found a large pearl. An examination of the stone by a local jeweler developed the fact that the pearl is worth at least \$500. It weighs seven and one-half grains.

—John and George McCoy, of Bocarria township, Clearfield county, are in prison on a charge of forging check for \$800 bearing the name of their uncle, W. H. McCoy, a prosperous farmer of Bocarria. The crime is alleged to have been committed last spring and John was suspected. He was arrested recently in Kansas City and implicated his brother in the crime. George was arrested in Bocarria. The friends of George McCoy declare that they doubt the truth of his having anything to do with the matter.

—Lucerne, the new Indiana county coal town, is to be placed among the first rank of towns of that county, which owe their existence to mineral deposits. Contracts are to be let in the near future for the construction of a new power house, additional mine equipment and new company houses. The town is already well known for its well equipped plant, which employs 300 men. John Reed, general superintendent of the Rochester and Pittsburg Coal company operations at Ernest, Whiskey Run and Iselin, will have charge of the new work, which will increase the capacity of the plant three fold.

—Falls Creek, Clearfield county, is indignant over the mystery that surrounds the intention of the Buffalo, Rochester and Pittsburg to build a 500,000-gallon reservoir near that place. The new body of water will cut off the water supply of the town or impair it to such an extent that the efficiency of the system will be injured. The citizens are wrathful and held an indignation meeting because the councilmen seem to be doing nothing to prevent the company from carrying out its designs. Resolutions were passed to have the council make known its plans and the citizens intend to keep track of all future developments.

—Citizens of Spangler are wondering what the Spangler Ice Manufacturing company means by an amendment it is going to have added to its charter. The paper states that the consumers will get materials for refrigerating purposes from the central station through pipes or conduits. What the materials will be is troubling the citizens. It was thought by some that the company is trying to get around the recent ruling of the state authorities by which breweries are not allowed to distribute ice to their customers. One man said however that the company really is going to distribute refrigerating substances through pipes.

—Around Shelco, Indiana county, the Buffalo, Rochester and Pittsburg Railroad company, the Pennsylvania Railroad company and others are buying big tracts of coal land, paying big prices for them. Interests connected with the Buffalo, Rochester and Pittsburg have four diamond drill at work, prospecting above Parkwood, Indiana county, on lands controlled by the options of John W. Miller and R. W. Wherla, of Indiana. If the tests are successful the land owners will receive \$40 an acre for their coal. S. T. Warner, of Indiana, also holds options on an extensive field in the same territory. About 10,000 acres are included in the entire field.

—Johnstown's heat, light and power interests are now merged. The stockholders, with the exception of Joseph Canfield, who has fought the combine from the start, voted to purchase the capital stock of the Johnstown Fuel Supply company, which action was necessary to complete the merger. It is claimed now that the light, heat and power interests are under the control of Emmet Queen, of Pittsburg, who is said to be identified with the Standard Oil, so that the Johnstown interests are under the control of the big trust. It was decided also to issue preferred stock of the Citizens' company, all the stock issued being of the common variety.