

—Another year is almost gone beyond recall.

—Have you done it yet? Your Christmas shopping!

—Good morning, readers. How do you like our Christmas overcoat?

—One consolation the fellow with money always has, is, if he can't express himself he can at least pay the freight.

—The ARBUCKLES have disgorge to the government without even a struggle. They evidently thought it cheaper to pay up and save costs in the sugar scandal.

—Send the WATCHMAN to some friend for a year. It would be as nice a Christmas gift as you could make because it will be welcomed by the recipient every week.

—Prohibitionists are walking now with higher heads and more extended chests than ever. Nine United States Senators failed to draw cork screws from the Senate supply room this year.

—The Washington minister who thinks there is nothing lacking to afford the people complete joy on Christmas, possibly don't work for \$1.10 a day and pay 18 cents a pound for his bacon.

—Having bought the banks, and insurance companies J. PIERPONT MORGAN is starting in now to buy the telephones. After while we won't be able to talk without settling with him. Ain't it awful, MABEL?

—So we contemplate a protectorate for Nicaragua. How nice, especially since Nicaragua would be able to take care of herself were it not for foreign soldiers of fortune keeping her in a constant turmoil.

—The Public Defense association wants funds. If you know of any association of a public character that don't the WATCHMAN will be glad to make due acknowledgment in addition to furnishing it a four color chromo as a memento of the fact.

—The authorities of New York are hunting for one Edistadio Papavasiliopoto under arrest for the underestimation of a cargo of figs. A fellow who could get away with that kind of a name hanging to him ought to be able to hide with a thunder storm in his pocket.

—Love of country is a great thing. Keep count of the Senators and Members who go down to Panama to see that no one runs away with the canal and you'll know how many patriots we have. But don't forget that they all make the government foot their bills.

—It is altogether probable that the wrinkled-bellied patriots who are always "whoopin' it up" for tariff protection and the Republican party, will have reason to conclude that a public appropriation for them would fit their case fully as well as one for the ship subsidy seeker.

—Bellefonte and State College will both be mecca of interest next week. The annual teachers' institute will be held in this place and that will mean the assemblage in Bellefonte of almost three hundred teachers as well as instructors and visitors. At State College the meeting of the State Grange will attract almost one thousand visitors.

—It is to be a game of give and take in Washington. The President is sore because Senator LA FOLLETTE, of Wisconsin, has criticized him in magazine articles and because the President is sore he has refused to recognize any of LA FOLLETTE's friends in federal appointments. "BIG BILL" doesn't seem to be very big when it comes to overlooking personal pique, does he?

—Next Saturday will be Christmas and the present we want from many of you is one of those green Williams that will push your label up to the point where Uncle SAM won't be nosing around about it. Now just let us see how many Christmas letters of this sort will be sent to the WATCHMAN office. We would like to have a lot of them, so please don't disappoint us.

—Pennsylvania is reputed to have fallen into third place in the number of students sent to Princeton each year. Previous to this year she has invariably held second place. Gradually Pennsylvanians are beginning to realize that their own great institutions of learning are advancing with leaps and bounds while the older schools of the east are content with the reputations they made half a century ago.

—While we have no sympathy with strikes or strikers we do believe that some step will have to be taken by labor, ere long, to bring about a fair parity between its wage and the cost of living. It is out of the question for any honest man to remain honest, support his family and have anything more than the scantiest existence under present conditions. We do not pretend to place the blame but we do think that whether you be a Republican, a Democrat, a Prohibitionist or a Socialist and are a laboring man as well, it is time for you to look about and try to discover what is wrong. We would tell you, but right away you would say: Oh, that is only your Democratic idea of it! You know there is something wrong when you can no longer make ends meet even in the most prosperous times, so we would advise you to think hard on this matter and when the next Congressman is to be elected see that a man who will do something for you is chosen. Congress is the only place you can get relief.

Democratic Watchman

STATE RIGHTS AND FEDERAL UNION.

VOL. 54 BELLEFONTE, PA., DECEMBER 17, 1909. NO. 50.

McNichol in New York.

Senator McNICHOL, the contractor boss of Philadelphia, has just pulled down a three and a half million dollar contract in New York. Senator McNICHOL, it is significantly observed in the news statement of the event, is a close personal friend of TIM SULLIVAN, one of the TAMMANY sachems. Both gentlemen belong to that school of politics which teaches that it is a matter of friendship rather than principles. If McNICHOL lived in New York he would be a Democrat and if SULLIVAN lived in Philadelphia he would be a Republican. But they are alike "out for the staff," and they get it. Probably they have "pooled their issues" and will divide the profits of municipal work in both cities.

On the other hand there may be something of greater importance than appears on the surface in this invasion of New York by contractor McNICHOL. MURPHY and the SULLIVANS, big and little TIM, are not in politics for their health. As the last municipal election it was demonstrated with a tolerable measure of clearness that the Democratic party of New York has been rescued from the control of MURPHY and the SULLIVANS. The election of Judge GAYNOR to the office of Mayor was a more or less emphatic notice to the political corruptionists of that city that no crooks need apply in the future. In the face of such facts it wouldn't be in the least surprising to see MURPHY and the SULLIVANS face about and join hands with ROOSEVELT's friend, HERBERT PARSONS, in the interest of spoils.

If those enterprising gentlemen happen to have such purposes in mind, they could hardly do better than form an alliance with contractor McNICHOL, of Philadelphia. The smiling Senator has abundance of money of his own and vast resources in the way of accumulating that of others in political emergencies. It is said that he can reach the board of any Sunday school in Philadelphia by simply saying that the tariff is in danger and that votes must be bought to save it. Such an ally joined in selfish purposes with Mr. PARSONS and the MURPHYS and SULLIVANS would probably give the combine a secure grip on the municipal work of both cities. It is worth while to keep an eye on all of them.

The Usurpation of Power.

Secretary NAGEL, of the Department of Commerce, is certainly an adherent of the ROOSEVELT school of politics. "In financial and commercial conditions," he declares in his annual report, "the business of the country has become nationalized. Its legal regulation must also be national." In other words the strong arm of the federal government must be sufficiently stretched out so as to reach the remote sections of the country and fall with full force upon every individual who aspires to participate in the business activities of the country. Other members of the present cabinet have expressed the same ideas in different forms and leave no doubt as to the trend of sentiment in official Washington.

Soon after the beginning of President ROOSEVELT's elective term in the presidency such ideas were sent out tentatively. ELIHU ROOT, at the time Secretary of State, in a speech delivered in New York suggested that if the state governments failed to exercise certain powers "sooner or later constructions of the constitution will be found to vest the power where it will be exercised—in the national government." This declaration so shocked the public at the time that both Mr. ROOT and the President subsequently modified, or apologized for expressing it. There is no fear of it now, however. Both the Secretary of Commerce and the Attorney General have enunciated it within a month.

The pretense that the States have failed to exercise their legitimate functions and that therefore the federal government is justified in usurping power, is a subterfuge. The States have always been willing to exercise the authority vested in them and when some of them fulfilled their obligations in this respect self-seeking federal judges like PRITCHARD, of North Carolina, hastened to win the favor of ROOSEVELT by joining them from executing the laws passed by the Legislatures.

The constitution of the United States gives ample power to the national government and the usurpation of power not granted in that instrument is treasonable and should be punished with all the severity possible.

—The day is ended—its work is done; it befits thee, O my soul, before thou givest thyself to repose, to ask if that work has been well done. Consider if thy duties have been faithfully performed. Hast thou exercised a gentle, obliging disposition toward those with whom thou hast been associated? Hast thou been careful to keep in subjection all vain thoughts and evil passions? Has pride had no dominion over thee, and have not vanity and ambition caused thee to err? Hast thou spoken no ill of thy neighbor? Hast thou espoused the cause of the injured, and hast thou dwelt on thy lips? Hast thou loved thy Heavenly Parent influenced thee in all thy doings, and made itself visible in all thy actions?

New Form of Prosperity.

The country is indebted to one of the officials in Washington, who enjoys an adequate income, for a new phrase. He tells us that "prosperity is coming in bunches." That is a more or less ambiguous expression and might mean anything or nothing. But it was intended to convey the idea that prosperity is abundant and that the rewards of labor and industry are generous. The railroads are unusually busy, this self-satisfied optimist adds, and the mails and express offices are deluged with Christmas gifts and other traffic. This fact might indicate that the Post-office Department and the express companies are prosperous but is no evidence of the prosperity which brings contentment to the people.

The mails may be crowded at this time and they need to be to make up the deficiency of nearly \$20,000,000, the largest in the history of the country. The express companies are certainly prosperous for they have been declaring dividends of

Postal Savings Banks.

Information comes from Washington to the effect that Senator ALDRICH has finally inclined toward public sentiment sufficient to consent to necessary legislation for the establishment of postal savings banks. The platform adopted by the last Republican National convention committed the party to that form of financial folly and President TAIT asks for the legislation in his annual message. At first ALDRICH, who is boss of the Congressional machine, was vehemently against the project and there was some reason to hope that he would prevent it. But he has been induced to alter his mind on the subject and the chances are that postal savings banks will be provided for during the present session.

We can imagine no more mischievous form of centralization than this. With the President and Congress usurping authority to regulate industrial activities and further fastening their control of the financial operations of the country through

Cutting of Melons.

From the Philadelphia Record. In spite of the financial catastrophe of 1907, and the consequent slowing down of business in 1908, there has been a wonderful cutting of melons among the transportation companies in the year just drawing to a close.

Notwithstanding the tremendous outlay of the Pennsylvania Railroad company for permanent improvements—involving the payment of a lump sum of \$50,000,000 out of surplus earnings and profits toward cost of construction of its New York terminals—it is now offering what is equivalent to an extra 8 per cent dividend to shareholders subscribing for new stock.

The New York Central is offering the same kind of a melon for its stockholders. The Delaware, Lackawanna & Western, with earnings for 1908 of 40 per cent on its capital stock, 20 per cent dividends and total surplus 32 per cent greater than its capital stock, contributes a very juicy melon.

The Southern Pacific and Union Pacific have managed to turn lean years for the business of the country into exceedingly fat years for the owners of their preferred and common stock.



some hundreds per cent. But the express messengers and deliverymen are not prosperous for though the cost of their living has been increased at least fifty per cent, the amount of their wages has not been increased at all. Workingmen in other avenues of industry are not prosperous, either, and as a matter of fact most of them have the greatest difficulty in making ends meet. If we have "prosperity in bunches," the distribution of the bunches is not equal.

The giving of tokens of affection and testimonials of friendship at Christmas time is increasing in popular favor, justly and properly. Men, women and children in all walks of life strive as they never did before to exchange gifts with their friends during the Yuletide season. This fact materially enhances the volume of business of the Post-office Department and the express offices, but it is not a certain sign of prosperity. On the contrary it proves nothing in that direction. The measure of prosperity is the ability of the body of the people to provide themselves with all the necessaries and some of the luxuries of life and that condition is far from present as this time.

—Subscribe for the WATCHMAN.

The medium of postal banks we can see little hope for the long continuance of that equilibrium between the authority of the state and federal governments which the founders of the Republic unanimously agreed is essential to the preservation of our form of government. There is especial danger in this project for in the event of a currency famine the postal banks would afford a security absent from others and would naturally drain other banks, however substantial and deserving, of deposits.

What popular demand has influenced Senator ALDRICH to change his mind on this subject can hardly be conjectured. We have seen no evidence of it in this section or in this State. It was one of the absurd ROOSEVELT policies and none of them were based on reason. The Republican National convention approved the scheme because the leaders of that party imagined that it would be popular with the people. But as a matter of fact this expectation was disappointed and before the campaign was half over the subject was quietly dropped out of the reckoning altogether. Probably Mr. MORGAN imagines that with a friendly Postmaster General postal banks could be annexed to his bunch of assets.

The Jersey Central is paying an extra 2 per cent dividend in addition to its regular 8 per cent—a Christmas offering.

The Adams Express company has added \$4 per share to its regular 8 per cent dividend.

The Wells Fargo Express company has increased its capital stock from \$8,000,000 to \$24,000,000, giving its stockholders what is equivalent to an extra dividend of \$300 per share, paid out of surplus.

In the face of these proofs of corporate prosperity it is hard to understand the alleged necessity for a general advance in freight rates.

What Chester Felt.

From the Emporium Gazette. Former Senator Chester I. Long, says he has felt the political pulse of Kansas; which is no such thing, unless her pulse is in her big toe. What he felt—that hot, throbbing thing, that Senator Long felt, not the pulse of Kansas, but a swift kick. He should revise his statement.

New Postulate in Euclid.

From the New York Evening Post. The committee of professors that has set out to reform Euclid's geometry might begin by including the postulate that a straight line between two terms in the White House leads through East Africa.

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

Spawls from the Keystone.

—In the Clearfield schools there are enrolled 735 boys and 689 girls, a total of 1,424.

—Within the next week almost \$1,000,000 will be drawn from banks and trust companies having state money deposited in them to meet the appropriations which fall due near the beginning of the year.

—Erb & Meyer, who had been operating a saw mill on the Boring tract of timber near Mill Creek for some months, have moved their mill to M. F. Robley's land, near Mapleton. There are 200,000 feet of timber on the Robley tract.

—C. G. Trimmer, of York, was held up and robbed of about \$145 in broad daylight. He had been accustomed to take the money every Saturday from a bank to his factory and when he was in the alley where the factory is located three men pounced on him and took the money.

—Mayor Aikens, of Lewistown, will ask for damages for an alleged assault made on him recently by Reed Hayes, as the result of a quarrel as to whom should go fees to the amount of \$150. Hayes not long ago inherited a fortune from his uncle, Andrew Reed but still looks after small matters in law.

—All the cars that are needed are now being supplied to the Glenwood company at Glen Campbell, Indiana county, by the Pennsylvania Railroad company. The company had plenty of orders and men but was kept from doing as much shipping of coal as it could on account of the shortage of cars. It is now operating in full in all its departments.

—Frank Erdman, aged seventeen years, of Sunbury, was run down by a Reading passenger train on the bridge over Shamokin creek Saturday and killed. Erdman saw the train approaching and started running to clear the structure. He had only a few more steps to reach solid ground when he was struck by the locomotive and his body hurled into the creek.

—Electricity is now used to haul at the mine of the Valley Stone & Coal company in Stony Creek township, near Johnstown. The new system has done away with some of the drivers, etc., but more men are now employed on tonnage work, so that the labor saving improvement increased the pay roll rather than diminished it. There are about 300 men employed in the mine.

—Edward C. Culliffe, who four years ago stole \$101,000 from the Adams Express company at Pittsburg has finished his term in the western penitentiary and started life anew. Two years had been taken from his term for good behavior. He is thought to have some of the money he took in hiding, but when asked about it said that he and the express company had adjusted their affairs.

—Patton's board of health at a recent meeting was forced to close the schools until January 1st and to forbid any child under 16 years of age to attend church or Sunday school, or any place of amusement. This step was rendered necessary by the many cases of contagious disease in the town and was arrived at after mature deliberation and under the advice of almost every doctor in the town.

—The State Department of Health has now 114 tuberculosis dispensaries in Pennsylvania, two new ones having been opened at Nanticoke in Luzerne county, and at Brownsville, in Fayette county. At the present time over 11,000 tuberculosis patients are being treated at these dispensaries and trained nurses are visiting the homes of these patients teaching them how to care for themselves and instructing the other members of the household how to guard against infection.

—In the Apollo-Vandergriff-Westmoreland county, district, the hellio girls are out on strike. One young lady had been having a young man call to see her while she was at the office and the management became aware of the fact and suspended her for violation of the rules. Then the other girls went on a sympathetic strike. The manager filled their places and will not give up his side of the fight and the girls, having other alleged grievances, will take their side of the question to court.

—John Miller, superintendent of the Mel'lon National bank building in Pittsburg committed suicide on the main line express at a point near Downingtown shortly after 1 o'clock Sunday afternoon. Miller had been in Atlantic City in the hope of regaining lost health and was on his way home. It is believed that he became despondent on the train because of the fact that he had little improved, and, taking a razor from his suit case, slashed himself across the throat. He died before any assistance could be given. He was about 50 years of age.

—Several years ago, while Miss Nell Bowers, of Blandburg, was a student at Birmingham seminary, she made the acquaintance of John Seeds, a lumber merchant. She graduated and the pair drifted apart. On Friday they met accidentally on a street in Altoona and they determined to be married immediately. A marriage license was procured and Miss Bowers became Mrs. Seeds, the Rev. William S. Miller performing the ceremony. Seeds was on his way west to look over some timber lands, and his wife accompanied him.

—Returning to his home near Bloomsburg late Saturday night with his wagon laden with Christmas presents he had purchased for his family, Charles Freeze, when he reached home, attempted to pick up the packages while he had his loaded shotgun in his arm. Several of the packages were accidentally discharged and the top of his head blown off. The team took fright at the gun's discharge and ran away. The horses were found by the victim's father a considerable distance from the scene. Freeze was lying dead in the wagon.

—The officers of the Young Men's Democratic club, of Williamsport, are arranging for the annual Jackson day banquet which will be held in that city on the evening of January 10th: The anniversary is January 8th, but as that day falls on Saturday, the club decided to hold the meeting on the Monday evening following. These dinners are always well attended, prominent Democrats coming from within a radius of 100 miles of Williamsport. The list of speakers for the occasion is not complete, but among them will be C. LaRue Munson Esq., and Hon. William B. Wilson.