

—And it is beginning to look as if even Copenhagen has lost faith in Dr. COOK.

—Texas had zero weather last week. It was something awful for Texas, but the cold killed the boll weevil and there was some good come out of it, after all.

—Bellefonte wasn't naturally cold toward the public school teachers of the county. It was the inferior steam heating apparatus in the opera house that gave them the frost.

—No matter what the Speaker's forbears called themselves in Ireland or elsewhere, Mr. CANNON justifies his claim to the name he has assumed by shooting off his mouth frequently and recklessly.

—Poor Dr. COOK. If he hung his stocking on that Danish chimney with the hope of finding the North Pole in it on Christmas morning, his disappointment will be as great as that of all the other had little boys.

—It looks as if TAFT is aligning himself with Mr. WATSON in the matter of that prospective dinner. Probably he imagines that it would please ROOSEVELT to make the New York World pay the check.

—The Easton man who discovered thirty thousand dollars in gold in an old, unused safe in his barn has reason to have a very merry Christmas. It is supposed that his grandfather placed the money there many years ago.

—During the interval between Christmas and New Years the woman whose husband earns a dollar and a-half a day may find leisure to figure out how the bounding prosperity, of which the newspapers speak, affects her.

—New York State institutions are to substitute goose for turkey as the principal dish on the dinner table tomorrow. The price of turkey has gone so high that it is out of the question for the larger charity and penal institutions.

—Under an order to go into effect on the first of the year the National Guard of Pennsylvania is to be reorganized. Part of the plan is the abolishment of the Governor's staff. What a galaxy of peach Colonels are thus to be chased out from under their covering of gilt lace and brass buttons.

—Congress has been importuned to make inquiry into the high cost of living, but how is that going to help. If Congress were to reduce the tariff on a great many articles that do not need protection at all there would be a complete readjustment of economic conditions that would make inquiry as to the high cost of living unnecessary.

—Why all this fuss about Dr. JONNESCO and his wonderful operations with the use of stovaine and strychnine? The city papers are full of a Chicago man whose ten toes were taken off painlessly while he sat and laughed at the surgeon who was operating. That's nothing! We have heard of fellows who have sat at a poker table and lost a far more important part of their anatomy than toes and laughed all the while.

—Certainly the Republican party of Pennsylvania had no more orthodox nor spectacular member than the venerable THOMAS V. COOPER whose tragic death at his home at Media, early Sunday morning, was the sensation of that day's news. He was probably the oldest of the active Republican politicians of the State and his genial nature, hopeful disposition and love for companionship made him most popular among his fellows.

—Reports are to the effect that the Hon. LEW. EMERY, of Bradford, is to enter the fight for the congressional nomination in this district. Now all that is needed is an aspirant from Centre to make a candidate from such county in the district. It seems like this would be a chance for our "leading Republican and champion peach farmer" to throw a harpoon at the Hon. EMERY for treating him as he did at the national convention.

—The borough of West Chester has hit on the novel plan of encouraging village improvement with cash prizes. The block in that borough that shows the most improvement during the coming year is to receive a cash prize of one hundred dollars. There are second, third and fourth prizes, as well. The idea is a splendid one and could be adapted to Bellefonte's needs very nicely. Such a prize might prove quite a stimulus to beautifying streets, front and back yards and keeping pavements in good repair and Bellefonte could profit by improvements in any of these lines. Here is a good thought for the New Year and we put it up to the burgess and council.

—On Friday Judge ORMEROD, of Potter county, made a statement from the bench that will be of interest to the Grangers and supervisors of Centre county. In charging the jury in an automobile case he said: "The auto is as much a vehicle of the traveling public and has as much right to have the highway in a safe condition for its operation as a farmer with horse and wagon and damages which might be collected from a township by reason of these thank-you-mams would far exceed the cost of hidden culverts." The automobile is here to stay and the sooner we all adjust ourselves to the new conditions and requirements its coming imposes the happier we will be and the less liable to expensive damage suits.

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President Taft Ignorant or Worse.

The President of the United States gravely informs the public, in his annual message to Congress, "that proportionate increase in the output of gold, which today is the chief medium of exchange and in some respects a measure of value, furnishes a substantial explanation of at least part of the increase of prices, of which he admits the people justly complain. But he only attains the sublimity of a real Dogberry when he adds: "The increase in population and the more expensive mode of living of the people, which have not been accompanied by a proportionate increase in acreage production, may furnish a further reason." If the President doesn't know more about the subject than that statement implies he could hardly acquire a certificate to teach school in a country district in Centre county, at least.

But the President knows better. His statement is a palpable and deliberate subterfuge uttered for the purpose of deceiving the public. He knows that the high prices are the logical and inevitable consequence of the vicious economic system which his party maintains in order to recompense the "Captains of Industry" for contributions to a fund used to defraud the ballot. He knows that the trusts and corporate monopolies regulate the prices of all things in this country and that they fix them at a high rate so as to the more surely and swiftly impoverish the people in order that they shall be less able to resist the usurpations of power and wealth. Ignorance may be excused for no man is responsible for his own mental equipment. But there is no excuse for so low an estimate of the intelligence of the people as the President's statement conveys.

In 1900 the population of the United States, including every element, was 76,283,387 and the aggregate value of the products of the soil, including all farm products, for that prosperous year was about \$5,000,000,000, a per capita production of nearly \$66. This year the estimated population of the country is about 85,000,000 and the farm products, according to the statistics of the Department of Agriculture, aggregate about \$8,700,000,000, a per capita average of nearly \$103. This shows that the President, knowingly or ignorantly, misrepresented the facts, and he could have had no other purpose in so doing than to deceive the people. The people are not fools and while they know that bread made from American grain is cheaper in Europe than at home they will reason out the truth notwithstanding President TAFT's ignorance or worse.

An impending Battle Royal.

The President has consented, according to Washington dispatches, to a congressional investigation of the charges against Mr. BALLINGER, Secretary of the Interior. These charges are of a very grave character. It is alleged that Mr. BALLINGER was, at the time of his appointment to his present position, counsel for certain corporations engaged in the nefarious practice of despoiling the government of the public lands. The accusations were framed and promulgated by a high officer in the government, Mr. PINCHOT, Forester, and supported by a former agent of the land office who is alleged to have been dismissed because he interfered with the criminal operations.

The real question in issue is ROOSEVELT, not his policies but his personality. When the quarrel began President TAFT tried the difficult task of "running with the hounds." That is to say, he undertook to play a neutral role and by professing confidence in BALLINGER, continue on friendly relations with PINCHOT. Mr. PINCHOT, whose title to distinction is that he is one of ROOSEVELT's "yellow-haired boys," appears to have been satisfied with that, but the dismissed agent of the land department wouldn't keep quiet. The result is that BALLINGER has finally presented the alternative of an investigation or retirement, and TAFT is obliged to consent. The outcome must of necessity be a break between ROOSEVELT's friends and the President and after that the deluge.

The truth of the matter is that a grave scandal is likely to be exposed as the result of this investigation. According to the evidence thus far presented, BALLINGER has been for years, first as head of the land office and subsequently as counsel for the land-grabbing corporations, robbing the government on a wholesale scale. Because of this rather than for any fitness for the office he was appointed Secretary of the Interior, President TAFT being fully informed of his practices in advance. If these charges are proved, and of that there seems to be no doubt, TAFT will be as deep in the mud as BALLINGER is in the mire. Meantime how does it come that the President must consent to a congressional investigation?

—It is a safe bet that Judge LUTON'S friendliness for corporations did more toward recommending him to the favor of TAFT than his predilection toward Democracy.

Trouble Ahead for Pennrose.

Senator PENNROSE has had comparatively smooth sailing since his accession to the seat of QUAY in the councils of the Republican machine of Pennsylvania. Soon after the death of the old man the insurrection of 1905, followed by the exposures of graft in the construction and furnishing of the state capitol, constrained all the leaders and followers of the party to assume a pretence of virtue. Colonel WATRES had been promised the nomination for Governor in 1906 but promptly discerned the absurdity of pressing his claims. Another machine servitor had been slated for the nomination for State Treasurer in 1907, but he adopted the same wise policy of self-abnegation and the surface of the political sea ran smoothly.

But in the near future the Senator is likely to encounter a vastly different political atmosphere. Since the election of Sisson and STOVER the most servile of the machine slaves feel that it is safe to run for any office in this State and they are beginning to assert their claims with considerable vehemence. Senator PENNROSE's private secretary, Colonel WESLEY ANDREWS, feels that he is entitled to his reward and Representative JOHN K. TENER, of Washington county, has aspirations for the gubernatorial nomination. When QUAY'S "financier," BILLY MONTGOMERY, was caught in the coils of crime, Mr. TENER bailed him for trial and thereby probably prevented him from exposing all his associates in the crooked transactions. He feels that there ought to be some reward for that.

Then WATRES is again in the field. When, in 1903, the ELKIN insurers had QUAY "linked out of his boots," WATRES averted that result by withdrawing from the fight at the psychological moment and throwing his strength to PENNYPACKER. That gave "Consin Sam" a majority of the convention and saved QUAY from a defeat that would have been as humiliating as it would have been enduring. Is there to be no recompense for this great service to the machine? Is the laborer no longer "worthy of his hire"? Within a few weeks Senator PENNROSE will be compelled to answer these questions one way or the other. The worst of the lot is not afraid now. Nobody has more discreditable records than STOVER and Sisson and out of the expectancy there is liable to be vast confusion.

Mr. Morgan and Organized Labor.

About ten years ago Mr. J. PIERPONT MORGAN announced his purpose to "break up" the labor organizations of this country. He predicted at the time that five years would elapse before the result could be achieved. The occasion of his declaration was a strike of the employees of the Steel trust. The first movement in his campaign of destruction was the closing up of the mills in which the strikers were employed. Men, women and children must have clothing, shelter and food, whether the pay envelope comes regularly or not. Mr. MORGAN made it impossible for a considerable number of them to procure those essentials of life, except upon compliance with conditions prescribed by himself.

But this was not the only or even the most effective weapon available to Mr. MORGAN's use in his crusade against organized labor. The combination of capital through the medium of trusts and corporate monopolies was his "right arm" in the struggle for mastery. Because of this fact he contributed liberally of his own and other people's money to the Republican campaign funds and exerted all his influence, moral and material, for the success of the Republican party. The "mother of trusts," the tariff, was as essential to the success of his enterprise as the necessities of the workingmen were potential. Through the Republican party he obtained both to the full measure.

Recently Mr. MORGAN has expressed the belief that his purpose has been achieved. There is no certainty of that at present. The struggle is still on but the near future will develop the result. Meantime workingmen are largely to blame if MORGAN succeeds. They have helped him very materially in his effort by supporting the party candidates and policies which were committed to his schemes. During the last presidential campaign they were advised by Mr. SAMUEL GOMPERS and others of their danger but many of them disregarded the warning. When the result of the movement inaugurated by organized labor in Pittsburgh last week becomes known the public will find out whether MORGAN is victor.

—Of course turkeys are high this year and probably some families which have been in the habit of feasting on Christmas turkey may be obliged to be content with chicken to-morrow, but there is compensation in the knowledge that the trust magnates have abundance of money to provide turkey for their tables at any price. Republican prosperity seems to be partial to that class of citizens.

—Subscribe for the WATCHMAN.

Practically a Mistrial.

The weighers in the New York custom house accused of cheating the government for the benefit of the Sugar trust have been convicted. Within a few days, and probably before the opening of the new year, they will be sentenced to serve in one of the penitentiaries available for criminals convicted in the federal courts. Among the culprits arraigned and tried with the others was an official of higher salary and greater importance than the others. He is supposed to have been the go-between in the affair. That is to say it is the impression that that was arranged with the officers of the Sugar trust to have the frauds perpetrated and probably got the largest share of the money. He was acquitted.

During the trial the capable and earnest prosecuting officer declared that the conviction of this go-between was of the highest importance. In the event of his conviction, Mr. SIMMONS alleged, it is probable the entire conspiracy will be revealed. Possibly that is precisely the reason he wasn't convicted. The officials of the Sugar trust might be implicated and the Washington authorities never intended that such a thing should happen. In fact it may be said that it was for that reason that no prosecutions were inaugurated during the ROOSEVELT administration. The Sugar trust was among the most liberal contributors to the ROOSEVELT campaign fund in 1904 and it wouldn't do to punish its members.

In view of the failure to convict the go-between, therefore, it may be said that the trial of the New York custom house fraud cases has been a failure. It brought misery instead of joy to a few poor families during the glad holiday period and will bring to punishment a few small-fry crooks. But it will not in the slightest measure work restitution for the lost revenues or retard the grafting operations of those higher up in the trusts and the government service. The present administration, like its immediate predecessor, is conducted for those who created it and no prosecutions will be permitted that involve in danger of criminal trials those who contributed liberally to the corruption fund.

—Belgium has banished her dead King's favorite and welcomes his daughter. Such a scandal as has been Belgium's for years has seldom been known in the royalty of any country.

Mist! Mr. Philander C. Knox.

Secretary of State KNOX has semi-officially notified Mexico that this little Nicaraguan tempest is a matter of no concern to that sister Republic and that the government of the United States wants neither advice nor assistance from that source. No doubt he is in the same frame of mind with respect to all South and Central American Republics. But it is not certain that less interested people of other countries will take that view of the subject. The most binding and frequently the most vicious laws are those created by precedent and existing precedents with great freedom and creation. They are coming so fast as to create confusion.

The authorities in Mexico probably reason that if the action of our government in this Nicaraguan affair is allowed to proceed without protest, a similar policy may be put in operation against Mexico at some future time. Then there are half a dozen other Republics on this hemisphere which have reason to apprehend the future if such things are to be tamely submitted to, and finally there is Canada, in which our round cousin, JOHNNY BULL, has some lingering interest to be considered. Of course it would be different with Canada, for even national bullies have great respect for big navies and Great Britain continues to be premier in that line. But morally speaking they are all alike.

As a matter of fact Mexico has a right to demand a bill of particulars in respect to this Nicaraguan foolishness and every civilized country in the world has an interest, inferential if not direct, in the matter. For that reason Secretary of State KNOX is doing himself no credit but is doing the people of the United States infinite harm in assuming the bestowing attitude expressed in his recent message to Mexico. It proves, if there were any doubts on the subject previously, that PHILANDER C. KNOX is a mist in the office, in which, hitherto, with rare exceptions very capable and conservative statesmanship prevailed. Mr. KNOX would better put a reef in his diplomatic sails.

—Some of the carioctetes of Santa Claus are sufficiently atrocious to drive him to the tall timber and the most credulous children to drink.

—The Grangers want a Granger for Governor and the chances are that PENNROSE will offer them a corporation "farm-er."

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

A Wabblous President.

From the Pittsburg Post. When Lewis Carroll wrote his Jabberwock jingles about "brillig" weather and "slithy toves" that "did gyre and gimble in the wabe," he neglected entirely to mention a strange creature that might be known as a "wabblous President." It is just possible, of course, that this animal is an outgrowth, that it could not even have been imagined in Jabberwock days. But that a "wabblous President" does exist today is evident. Nay, it is quite obvious.

His habitat is in Washington and he may be traced to his lair, if one cares to undertake the dangerous task, in a large white mansion. Nor yet should the task be regarded as perilous. There is nothing really fearsome about a "wabblous President." Quite the contrary, in fact. It would be quite safe for the smallest child to approach him, back in the sunshine of his broad smiles, and even go near enough to pat him gently.

The habits of the "wabblous President" are strange enough. He will launch out in one direction, but before he has advanced more than a few feet on his way, almost without being aware of the fact, apparently, his course has been changed, and he hardly knows where he is going. All about him are bright-hued birds known as Politicians. They sing ever so sweetly. That is what bothers the "wabblous President." He lists to the song of one of them and is lured by it. The song of another sounds the more sweetly in his ears and off he goes to listen to it. Sometimes he tries not to hear the songs of any of the Politicians and sets out for Willett town. But always the songs are too trickling and he turns back to harken again to the Politicians. And therein lies the danger of the "wabblous President" singing a little song of his own. And this is its refrain: "Where am I at? Oh, where am I at?"

Shipping Without Subsidy

From the Lancaster Intelligencer. A ship subsidy scheme, hard hit by the note of rigid economy in the President's message and department reports, notwithstanding the guarded recommendation for mail subsidies for lines to South America and the Philippines, shows signs of revival in the adoption of a resolution by the New York Chamber of Commerce favoring the enactment of a subsidy measure similar to the one which was defeated in the House of Representatives in 1908. A significant tail was added to the resolution, however, recommending also such further legislation as may promote the interest of American shipping, including the admission of foreign-built ships to American registry to be owned and operated under our flag on a basis to compete with the shipping of foreign countries.

The urgency of economy staring them in the face our lawmakers are hardly likely, in the immediate future, to approve any extravagant measure for the subsidizing of ocean steamship lines; but, on the other hand, the insistent and well warranted demand for some measure of encouragement for an American merchant marine in foreign trade may incline them to give heed to the call of that Chamber of Commerce resolution. A further recommendation which the chamber failed to endorse, but which may also command approval, was that of Lewis Nixon in favor of the restoration of the old discriminating duties in favor of merchandise carried in ships of American registry owned by American crews. That would seem to be one of the most simple and sensible plans of the revival of the foreign merchant trade which made our flag known all over the world through many administrations.

Effect of the Higher Hostry Duties.

From the Chicago Tribune. The American consul at Chemnitz describes the method of getting around the higher duties on cotton hosiery imposed by the Aldrich tariff. The great bulk of the goods has been in stockings retailing here at 25 cents a pair. The problem was to maintain that price in spite of the advance in duty. The importers have slightly lessened their margin for profits. The manufacturers have done the same, and are also turning out styles of hose which are slightly inferior in durability and workmanship to those hitherto supplied to the American 25 cent trade. The American importer, says the consul, will continue to buy freely in the Chemnitz market until the home manufacturers shall be able to offer better goods at the current prices.

It must be a cruel disappointment to those manufacturers. They had taken it for granted that they would have the American consumer at their mercy through the tariff legislation which Congress gave them in the face of universal protest. It appears that they are not yet rid of German competition. But while their hopes have not been realized, the American consumer is faring a little worse than under old conditions. He can still get a pair of stockings for 25 cents, but he will notice presently that they do not last as long as they used to. In reality he will have to pay a little more for his footwear, and nobody is benefited thereby.

This is the way in which one of the provisions of what its framers call the best tariff that ever was enacted works out.

—The cold snap of the past ten days or two weeks has not only tested the capacity of the steam heating plant in this place but the patience of the heat users as well.

The various leaks around town results in the waste of so much steam that by the time it reaches a big majority of users the pressure is so reduced that it is almost an impossibility to keep a building warm enough to stay in; and in some instances it is impossible to do so, as was the case with the opera house when, after freezing all day on Monday and a short while on Tuesday morning, the teachers institute was taken from there to Petirken hall for its day sessions.

snarls from the Keystone.

—General John A. Wiley, of Franklin, is in a serious condition. He has been in failing health for the past three months.

—Employees of the Colonial Iron company at Riddlesburg, Bedford county, have received an advance of 10 cents a day in their wages.

—The Manufacturers' association of Schuylkill Haven has formed a water company and intends to spend \$100,000 to give the town an adequate supply.

—In Pennsylvania during the month of September there were 8,632 deaths and 16,567 births. Six hundred and twenty-two met their death by tuberculosis, 572 cases being of the lungs. Four hundred and eighteen were killed by cancer.

—In a recent meeting of the borough council at Blairsville an ordinance was passed granting the Columbia Plate Glass company 200,000 gallons of water daily at the rate of \$18 a year. For excess of 200,000 gallons used in one day, five cents is to be paid for each 100,000 gallons.

—The Shannon heirs have given the Seneca Coal company a short option on their farm near Chambersville at \$175 an acre. There are 100 acres on the property which lies alongside that of the Seneca company. It is thought thence company will make an opening on the Shannon farm.

—On a total of 10,000 shares, for each of which \$90 cash and \$40 in stock will be paid, there will be given altogether \$600,000 to the Johnstown holders of stock in the different companies in connection with the merger of the light, heat and power interests of that city now being made. Much of the money has been paid.

—Mrs. Walter Kash, when her foot caught in a frog while she was crossing the railroad at St. Clair and a freight train was approaching, calmly reached in her pocket, pulled out a knife and cut the shoe laces, releasing her foot just in time to escape the danger. She went through the performance without a trace of excitement.

—Melvin Bailey, who lives in the outskirts of DuBois, saw a pig chewing something that looked like banknotes and taking it from the animal's mouth found that it was a roll of bills. By searching around in the straw he found \$500 when all was added together. How they got in the straw is a mystery he cannot explain.

—Jersey Shore has secured an industry, the American Engine and Motor company, capitalized at \$1,000,000. The company will manufacture rotary engines and motors patented by A. E. Sulzer, and will start operations in a few days in temporary quarters. The industry was secured through the enterprise of a few of the hosting business men.

—Governor Stuart is expected to name a successor to Insurance Commissioner David Martin within the present week. Mr. Martin has been elected register of wills in Philadelphia and will take the office on the first Monday in January. His term as insurance commissioner expired on the third of May but he is holding the position until his successor is named.

—Robbers who entered the store of J. B. Curry, the general merchant of Falls Creek, Clearfield county, secured goods, and amount of \$500. Fifteen overcoats and twenty suits were taken. There is no clue to the riflers but the fact that there have been many tramps loafing in that vicinity, makes people believe that persons of that class are the guilty parties.

—One hundred and forty-four thousand dollars have been paid into the treasury at Harrisburg within the last few days as collateral inheritance tax on the estate of the late C. L. Moxce, of Pittsburg, and as the sum thus paid is deducted from funds that otherwise would go for establishing a memorial hospital, an attempt will be made to have the money paid back by an act of legislature.

—Indiana Normal school has a siege of tonsillitis. Last Thursday there were fifty-seven cases, most of them slight, cared for by one doctor. The number was on the decrease, however, at the time of the latest reports. Some of the students are going home. The infirmary has a dozen patients in it. Of the sick forty are boys and they are kept to their rooms. Seven teachers are ill and the school has been closed.

—There are well defined rumors that the Pennsylvania Railroad company has acquired by purchase the Hollidaysburg iron plants of both the Hollidaysburg Iron and Nail company and the Eleanor iron works. The confirmation of the correctness of these rumors is expected about the first of the year, when these iron works will be raised to the ground, to make way for the fast freight line of the company through the town.

—Eli Wallace, a retired blacksmith living in the eastern end of Lebanon county, is the kind of a Santa Claus that amounts to something. He makes a tour of the vicinity where he lives every six weeks, providing for the sick and helpless, giving shoes to children who otherwise would be kept out of school for lack of them and sometimes burying the dead. One old woman who died recently at the age of 86, gathered her existence for nearly twenty years from this man.

—Solid geometry will be required of all students who desire to enter Penn State next September. At present this is not necessary to obtain admission to the schools of agriculture or natural science. Four new courses of instruction will be offered in the next catalogue issued. In the agricultural school there will be offered a course in landscape gardening, in the school of engineering a course of architecture, and in the school of liberal arts a pre-legal course and in the school of natural science a pre-medical course.

—An announcement was made on Monday by the trustees of the University of Pennsylvania that Henry Phipps, of New York, founder of the Phipps institute, in Philadelphia, had presented to the university \$500,000 to be used in the campaign against the Phipps beruclosis. The management of the Phipps institute will fall upon the university trustees, and the study, treatment and prevention of the dreaded disease will be continued in a new hospital to be erected at Seventh and Lombard streets, Philadelphia. The plans for the hospital are now being drawn by a New York architect.