

INK SLINGS.

—Has the new leaf you turned over last Saturday been nipped by the frost yet? —The righteous had their share of trouble standing in the slippery places yesterday.

—Strange as it may appear Mayor GAYNOR is showing signs of being Mayor of New York.

—A great many things are likely done behind the President's back, by those oily Congressmen and Senators, because it is so big.

—The Philadelphia heiress who eloped with the waiter has at least saved the fees she probably had to save him with in order to get enough to eat.

—So the steam roller is to be run in Washington. CANNON and ALDRICH have the President on their side and the Progressives will progress inversely.

—The death of the French aeronaut DELAGRANGE at Bordeaux, on Tuesday, will revive, for a time at least, the old story of DARIUS GREEN and his flyin' machine.

—Inasmuch as the Bell Telephone Co., made one hundred and fifty million dollars last year we won't argue with you either that talk is cheap or that silence is golden.

—The Republican begins the new year with a new head; not quite so ornate as the old one was but plain and strong enough to convey the impression that there is something in it.

—The price of pork has dropped five cents per one hundred pounds, but as this is liveweight and to the butchers only it is not much consolation to the working man when he comes to buy his bacon.

—The time appears to be here again when Wall street uses the news from Washington to shoot stocks up or down as may best suit the purposes of the men who depend on the tickers for a living.

—Not to say that the old one exposed anything that we were really ashamed of or that it had any of the characteristics of the sheath gown we do think the new dress of the WATCHMAN is rather attractive.

—Chairman GARY has announced that the United States steel corporation can manufacture iron and steel in Alabama as cheap as it can be manufactured any place in the world; hence the need of a tariff—nit.

—The value of farm crops in Pennsylvania averaged four dollars more per acre during 1909 than the average of the country at large. Pennsylvania agriculture intends not to be outstripped by her coal and iron records.

—As financier, politician, lawyer and bon vivant Col. JACKSON L. SPANGLER needs no introduction, but we await his debut as an art lecturer with a feeling as if we must, some time or other, have had a residence in Missouri.

—The petition of the patrons of the local steam heating plant for more heat is calculated to cause an atmosphere in the management of that concern that, if properly directed, might serve the purpose very satisfactorily.

—Centre county farmers are buying oleomargarine at twenty-five cents a pound and selling their butter for forty. Not all of them are doing this, but at least enough to prove that the farmer has his eye on the main chance.

—The Great Hunter has discovered a new animal in the African jungles. It is the octocyon vergatius, a species of the fox family. This announcement will probably stand until some faunal Dr. COOK appears to claim that he saw it first.

—The newly installed mayor of Indianapolis has been so hard pressed for jobs by his constituency that he has found it necessary to appoint a personal body guard, and the officer's name is COFFIN. Quite suggestive isn't it, for such a position.

—Altoona councils are fighting over the question of whether baby coaches should be placed in the class of vehicles dangerous to pedestrians. Is this the beginning of a movement that will some day compel the expectant father to take out a license tag and pay tax according to his rated motive power?

—In the New Year make up your mind to be cheerful. See the best in everything. Say a kind word whether you feel just like it or not; get the habit of being courteous at all times; keep yourself clean mentally, morally and physically and you will be surprised at what a glorious thing life that is worth while is.

—With the spring elections only a little over a month off there has been little or no talk concerning the local situation. This is probably due to the fact that council has been so harmonious of late and the public seems disposed to let the present school board work its own way out of the building that it is on hand.

—THOMAS A. EDISON has made good in so many things that we are compelled to give respect to his prediction that in fifty years our heat and fuel will be radium, we will be dressing in artificial silks and be in constant communication with the people in other worlds. It sounds rather dreamy, but a great many EDISON dreams have come true.

Democratic Watchman

STATE RIGHTS AND FEDERAL UNION.

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The Election Law Commission.

Governor STUART selected the members of the Commission to revise the election laws with the highest measure of wisdom and fairness. The Chairman of the Commission is a lawyer of distinguished ability and though a Republican is not a machine worker. The other majority members, Senator TUSTIN, of Philadelphia, Representative FREEMAN, of Lebanon, and DAVID N. LANE are gentlemen of wide experience in politics and public affairs. It may safely be conjectured that Mr. LANE, though neither a lawyer nor legislator, will take to his work a practical experience that will make him an important member of the body. He is the practical politician of the group and quite as capable as he is practical.

Of the minority members of the Commission former Attorney General W. U. HENSYL fulfills the legal requirements of the law and he easily ranks among the foremost lawyers of the State. Besides that he has had sufficient experience in political management and ample time in the public service to qualify him for work of the highest merit in the line of labor which his appointment devolves. The other minority members are equally well equipped. Senator DIMLING has proved himself to be a conscientious and painstaking legislator and Representative JOHN M. FLINN, of Elk county, is a legislator of long experience who has given much intelligent thought to the subject of ballot legislation.

Such a commission ought to accomplish much good in the way of correcting the numerous and grievous faults of our ballot system and we most cordially congratulate Governor STUART on his happy and wise solution of an involved problem. We congratulate the people of this district, moreover, on the compliment bestowed upon them by the selection of Senator DIMLING to a seat in the body. It is a deserved tribute to his ability as a Senator, to his fidelity as a Democrat and to his merit as a citizen. He has not been a garrulous Senator but he has been an efficient one and his appointment to this honorary office is substantial evidence that his good work has been observed and appreciated.

Protesting at the Wrong Place.

Some five or six railroad presidents called at the White House, the other day, to remonstrate against certain legislation said to be contemplated by Congress. These captains of industry profess to be very much afraid that any alterations of the existing laws in relation to interstate commerce or carrying corporations might work an inimical influence on business and they undertook to prevent it by appeal to the President. They have probably never read the constitution of the United States which not only provides that all legislation shall be by Congress, but forbids the encroachment of the executive upon the functions of the legislative department of the government.

These captains of industry are perplexing. Several years ago it was pretty clearly demonstrated in the northern securities case that existing laws are fully adequate to put all needed restraints upon predatory corporations. This fact was further established recently in the case of the Standard Oil company. Obviously, therefore, the purpose of the President or Congress in renewing the agitation with which President ROOSEVELT kept the country in a state of consternation for three or four years, is sinister, and the wisest course for railroad presidents to pursue is to let the worst come to the worst and fix the responsibility where it belongs. That would probably end the foolishness.

But if these captains of industry really feel that they ought to protest against legislation they should at least have intelligence enough to understand that the place to lodge their complaint is in Congress. The President has nothing to do with legislation and Congress has repeatedly, within the past half dozen years, not only ignored the recommendations of the President but actually flouted them. Now that the captains of industry have received little courtesy and no encouragement from the President, moreover, the chances are that they will go to Congress, where they ought to have gone in the beginning, and ALDRICH and CANNON will show their fat friend in the White House what is trumps.

The Johnstown Democrat informs the public that in his whiskey decision President TAFT reverses his own father, the late Judge ALONZO TAFT, and other distinguished experts on the subject. Our esteemed contemporary should remember, however, that at the time that the late Judge TAFT passed upon the question there was no whiskey trust to divert the current of reason or change the color of facts.

The Vast Philanthropy of 1909.

Upward of \$150,000,000 was paid in benefactions, within the United States, during 1909, according to newspaper reports. This represents the vast voluntary offering of the very rich to the comfort and convenience of the not very poor, as a rule. The money was bestowed upon colleges, universities, libraries and associations engaged in scientific research, in the main. Some portion of it went to hospitals, of course, and may serve to alleviate the sufferings of worthy victims of misfortune. But the bulk of it will be used for the advantage of those who might have got along without it and probably would have been better off if left to depend upon their own resources. The money thus generously appropriated to what seemed to the donor's worthy objects of philanthropy was acquired mainly by dodging taxes, shifting the burdens of expense from their own shoulders to the already heavily laden backs of others and by the use of special privilege. It was probably as good use as money thus obtained could be put to. It is certainly better to employ it in that way than to use it in paying the expenses of costly vices and profligate habits of the sons of multi-millionaires or cheating justice by preventing the punishment of such for crimes wantonly perpetrated. For this reason we have no intention of criticising the form of the benefactions.

But we do protest against the methods by which the vast fortunes of these philanthropists have been acquired. The multi-millionaire who impoverishes thousands by manipulating stocks in order to enrich himself cuts a poor figure in the role of Providence and the wrecker who grinds poverty to the last extremity through legalized injustice hardly "squares" himself with God by donating fortunes for educational purposes. Privilege is an expensive medium of charity and money tainted with dishonesty and dishonest is not sanctified by use in benevolence.

If every man, woman and child had equal opportunities there would be less need of ostentatious benevolence and we would have a better world.

A Pittsburg church treasurer who had absconded with a considerable sum of church funds indicated no concern when he was apprehended in Chicago, shortly afterward. The church authorities "will not ask for my extradition," he said, "for the reason that I know too much about them." A thief with inside information concerning his accusers is thrice concealed, it may be said.

Reducing Expenses in Wrong Way.

The President insists on curtailing the expenses of the postal service and Postmaster General HITCHCOCK is humping himself to achieve the result, according to Washington dispatches. The poorly paid railway mail clerks are being worked nearly double time and an order to stop the extension of the rural delivery has been issued, in pursuance of this purpose. Other trifling economies will be made, no doubt, and possibly the rate of postage on newspapers and magazines will be increased, as the charge for postal money orders has already been greatly advanced. These are the picaresque methods of false pretenders.

But nothing has been or is being done to check the real and expensive abuses of the postal service. There has been no suggestion of a decrease in the compensation paid to the railroads for carrying the mails though, as a matter of fact, that is the seat of the profligacy. The government not only pays an annual rental for the postal cars sufficiently large to buy new cars every year, but it pays the railroads more than double the amount which the express companies charge for similar service, though they are able to pay dividends of from 100 to 300 per cent. a year. That is what causes the vast deficit in the Postoffice Department.

The railroads largely provide the funds for the corrupt use of which the Republican party keeps itself in power and for that reason they are thus overpaid for their services. Only a few years ago ROOSEVELT entered the lobby to electioneer against a motion to investigate the Postoffice Department for the reason that an investigation would have revealed the fact that he had probably consented to overcharge for carrying mails because the railroads had just previously given him an expensive special train to visit Yellowstone Park. Probably TAFT is influenced by something like the same reasons in his present action.

—Dr. COOK is said to be suffering from aphasia, a malady that makes it impossible for him to think for even a minute on a certain subject. It is evident that he showed no symptoms of the disease when he came home from the polar regions. It must have taken considerable thought to frame up that story about the pole.

A Dangerous Proposition.

The Rapid Transit company, of Philadelphia, announces its intention to organize a pension system for its employees. The Steel trust has in contemplation an extension of its profit-sharing scheme and we are told that even the Standard Oil company is considering a proposition to divide some of its vast profits with those in its employ whose industry and assiduity have contributed so much to its prosperity, in the event that the government will let up a trifle in its legal proceedings against that monopoly. Other predatory corporations are likewise sounding the depths of forbearance by promises of similar import, under certain conditions.

"Beware of Greeks bearing gifts," is an old adage. These schemes are intended to enslave rather than enrich those who are to be presumably benefited by them. The pension is a medium of binding men through the bonds of selfishness to a consent to the wrongful treatment of their fellow men. It is intended to influence them to acquiescence in injustice to their comrades in work. It is the most atrocious method of bribery ever conceived by human intelligence because it works infinite harm to thousands while it yields advantage to comparatively few. If the employees of the Philadelphia Rapid Transit company are wise they will indignantly spurn this proposition.

The Philadelphia Rapid Transit company through an agreement with the Republican machine of that city has perfected an arrangement by which the industrial element of the community will be robbed annually of ten times as much as it proposes to disburse among its employees in the shape of pensions. It may be presumed, therefore, that its pension scheme is intended to influence its employees to consent to the perpetuation of this monstrous iniquity. This expectation ought to be disappointed. If the company will treat its employees justly while they are able to work the majority of them will need no pension afterward and they should not consent to the robbery of others.

Farmers and High Prices.

Secretary of Agriculture WILSON is tolerably safe in his assertion that the farmers are not responsible for the high prices of food stuffs and that they are not getting the bulk of the benefits of the boom in prices of farm products. He is equal, right in his purpose to investigate the causes of the economic phenomena and ought to have little, if any difficulty in running it down. The trouble is that the Secretary may not be sincere in his declarations on the subject. That is to say he may not want to find what he promises to search for, and in that event his investigation will be a failure, of course.

The causes of the present high prices are easily ascertained. The first and main cause is the tariff and all the other causes are collateral. The tariff creates the trusts and the trusts do the rest in various ways. For example, it corners the commodity on one hand and makes millionaires on the other who can and do pay any price for the things they want. If they do not consume all that the supply affords they pay so much for what they do want that the trust holders can afford to waste the balance rather than put it on the market to reduce prices. If Secretary WILSON makes a real investigation, that is what he will find out.

But even if the farmers really did get a share of the advantage of the high prices of their products, they would not be benefited much for the reason that the same tariff which enables monopolies to corner the farm products gives other monopolies the opportunity to run up the prices on everything farmers consume. Clothing, farm implements, agricultural machinery and even the twine with which they bind their sheaves are taxed until the prices are doubled and high or low prices for farm products, when the farmer disposes of his crops and balances accounts, he has little or nothing left as recompense for his labor.

—The WATCHMAN goes to its readers today in a new dress throughout and we have not the least doubt its improved appearance will be so fully appreciated by every subscriber that we shall feel well repaid for the trouble and expense of making the change. We have long been convinced of the fact that nothing is too good for the subscribers of this paper and we always aim to give them the very best typographically as well as editorially and in the line of news. And as it has been in the past the WATCHMAN will continue to be in the future—the best county paper published anywhere.

The President has declared war on the Congressional Insurgents according to Washington dispatches and it may be expected that before the session closes ALDRICH will make a monkey of TAFT in various other ways.

The Democrats in Congress.

From the Philadelphia Record.

A few days ago Representative Champ Clark, of Missouri, the strenuous leader of the minority, declared that the program of the Democrats in this session of Congress would consist in keeping down the appropriations and fighting steamship subsidy. In the nature of parliamentary government the minority is of necessity a party of opposition. Having no control of the committees in which legislation is molded, the Democrats can originate no measures, and if they did their work would receive small consideration from the majority. In this situation the minority can do little more than lend their aid to restrain extravagance in expenditures and to oppose what it involves in the scheme of ship subsidy for increasing this class of Government beneficiaries at public expense. But it does not lie beyond probability that in the program defined by Representative Clark, especially in regard to ship subsidy, the Democrats will secure substantial Republican aid.

With the majority as well as the minority the present session will be employed chiefly in maneuvering for position in view of next year's elections for Congress. Yet the extra session of last summer affords the only reliable standard for fixing the real character of the body upon which the people will deliver their judgment. The Republicans may endow the country with postal savings banks and ship subsidy, and may adopt other measures more or less commendable for the public welfare, but the popular verdict will not turn on these things. In the Payne-Aldrich tariff act abides the issue that overshadows all other questions.

In preparing to meet this issue efforts are made to persuade the public mind that the Democrats are no more reliable in regard to it than the Republicans. It is true enough that the record of individual Democrats in the Senate is not free from reproach when judged by the standard of Democracy. In the House, emanating directly from the people, these departures from the Democratic form were still more rare. They only afford another proof that recent events here and there are to be found in all parties. It is true, too, that but for the obstructive course of a few Democrats of the Senate under the pernicious leadership of Senator Bailey, of Texas, the tariff would have been mitigated in several respects to the substantial relief of the people.

But how stands it with the Republicans on this issue? In the Senate the progressive Republicans could nearly all be counted on the fingers of one hand, and in the House less than a score voted against the Payne-Aldrich act. On the ground that it is not an honest reduction of tariff burdens. It is confessed that most of these fall far short of the Democratic position of a tariff for revenue. As a political organization, then, all impartial minds will agree that the national Democratic party is entirely trustworthy on the greatest of issues before the country, and that the Republican organization is utterly unreliable on this issue. When it comes to mustering the mighty opposing forces in the next elections for Congress individuals here and there may be counted on either side will count for little in determining the result of the contest.

The Revolt in Ohio.

From the Springfield Republican.

The Republican "insurgency" is even spreading into Ohio. That former thick-and-thin party organ, the Cleveland Leader, is printing editorials in vigorous assault of "Cannonism," "Aldrichism," etc. This is also true of the Toledo Blade and other papers that might not long ago have been gazed in the bourbon class. The Ohio State Journal of Columbus undertakes to speak for the party throughout the State when it says:

The people of this State are disgusted with the subservience of its representatives and Senators to Cannonism and Aldrichism, and they propose to end it at whatever cost. The Republicans will not go on voting to maintain a system of political control dictated by the interests and obedient to a selfish bossism. The Republican party was organized for liberty and equal rights, and it does not propose that these high ends shall be lost sight of in a struggle of privilege or the domination of a political oligarchy.

At this rate a big shake-up in Ohio's congressional representation should be due about next fall. The President's subservience to Senator Aldrich in the tariff revision does not seem to have taken well in the home State.

New York's Independent Mayor.

From the Philadelphia Public Ledger.

The new Mayor of New York, though elected as the regular candidate of Tammany Hall, appears to be manifesting an unexpected degree of independence and carefulness in his selection of the heads of departments under him. According to his own statement, he had made this independence a condition of his candidacy, and the Tammany "boss" has not attempted to influence his choice. Judge Gaynor, in other words, is going to try the experiment of making an honest and efficient administrator in harmony with the political power that elected him, but without submission to it. His predecessor undertook this, but without great success, though more was expected of McClellan personally than has been expected of Gaynor—except that the latter is a man of somewhat erratic temperament, whose course could not be certainly predicted. His perseverance in the course in which he has started will evidently depend entirely upon his personal force and judgment. In the present state of party politics he has almost a free field and great opportunities if he can greatly meet them.

—The adjourned license court will be held tomorrow morning when the testimony for and against a license at Centre Hall will be presented to the court.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

—It is asserted by high officials that the rural free delivery of mail in York and Adams counties is worth not less than \$5,000,000 a year to those sections.

—Philadelphia will have a new \$2,500,000 hotel. Ground will be broken on February 1st for a twenty-story structure to be known as the Hotel Fairmount, on the present site of Boothby's hotel.

—Judge M. W. Keim has renewed his options on 5,000 acres of coal land in Cambria township, Cambria county, which he has held since 1902. In addition an agent is securing options on 3,500 acres more.

—Two hundred seventy-five couples were given licenses to wed at the register and recorder's office in Huntingdon county in the year 1909. In 1908 there were 256 issued and in 1907, 318. In 1906 there were 315.

—Rumor says that brick works to give employment to 300 men are to be built by the Harbison-Walker company at Templeton, near Kittanning. The new plant will be almost a duplicate of the one now in operation at Templeton.

—Several hundred men are working dry and night trying to get five of the ten new mills being built by the McKeesport Tinplate company ready for operation by April 15th. The new works will employ 600 men and will cost \$500,000.

—Counterfeit nickles of the year 1908 are said to be in circulation around Clearfield. They are rough on the edges. They cannot have come from Altoona because the nickles said to have been manufactured there recently are of the year 1901.

—The property of the Juniata Water and Water Power company, located at Warrior's Ridge, will be sold under foreclosure in the Bourse, in Philadelphia, on Jan. 24, by order of the common pleas court of Philadelphia county. The upset price is \$250,000.

—It has been learned in Johnstown on good but unofficial authority that plans for improvements of the Baltimore and Ohio railroad in Johnstown have been approved and the work will cost approximately \$225,000. It is believed that work will be started in a few weeks.

—In the state Supreme court at Philadelphia the decision of the Cambria county court granting James P. Thomas, of Johnstown, a judgment against the Harbison-Walker Refractories company in excess of \$11,900 as a royalty on clay deposits in Dean township, was upheld.

—On opening up a trial kiln of shale brick at the Stevenson Brick works in Wayne township, Huntingdon county, last week, it was found that it was one of the best kilns of bricks ever made at the works and it is rumored that the company will put in the necessary machinery to run the works to their fullest capacity.

—Investors do not seem to think much of Johnstown's \$100,000 paying bond as an investment when the time for receiving bids expired recently there was not one received. The bonds bear interest at 4 per cent. Councils may have authorized the selling of the bonds on commission as was done with the overhead bridge bonds.

—With memoranda indicating that he had deposits of over \$100,000 in local banks, William H. Thomas, aged 66 years, a negro, was found dead in the barracks of a local mission house in Pittsburg on Monday. Thomas is known only as "Hen" to the management of the mission, was one armed and was employed intermittently as a watchman.

—Lynn Morris, strike breaker employed at the South Sharon tin mill of the American Sheet and Tinplate company, was shot and instantly killed by one of two assailants who escaped. He was held up and is thought to have been struck by one of the men for he pulled a revolver. Then he was shot. His father says the lad had been threatened.

—While sinking a test well on the William Robinson farm on Cheese run, near the Curry Run, Clearfield county, church, gas was struck recently. The flow shot six feet into the air and is steady. The drill was testing for coal when the gas was struck, the work being done by the Jefferson and Clearfield Coal and Iron company. It is thought that the region is rich in gas and other wells will be sunk.

—James H. Allport, a northern Cambria coal operator, has disposed of his holdings around Barnesboro to the Pennsylvania Coal and Coke company for \$50,000. The operations give work to from 300 to 500 men. The new owners contemplate no changes in the works. Allport is interested in northern Cambria business concerns and will remain in Barnesboro. He may operate a mine around Hastings.

—The Harbison-Walker company intends to make big improvements at its works at Mt. Union. Twenty new houses for the employees will be started at once and four new kilns will be built upon the latest steam process and will connect with the new 150 foot stack, thus saving the heat which went to waste from the boilers which heat the plant. Fifty men will have to be employed. The work will take six months.

—Williamport began the new year with a \$180,000 fire in her business section. Flames that had gained great headway were discovered in the rear of the shoe store of Harry Levine in the southwest angle of Market Square at 1 o'clock Sunday morning, and before they were extinguished had almost destroyed the shoe store of Michael Cox, clothing store of Julius and Hiram Ulman, grocery store of B. F. Dietrick and the wholesale liquor store of Aaron Strausburger.

—It is stated that the Buffalo, Rochester and Pittsburgh railroad is contemplating the construction of a reservoir on Kyle creek above Falls Creek, for the purpose of supplying the DuBois shops. It will have a capacity of 500,000 gallons which will make the reservoir about five times the size of any along the system. Four miles of pipe line will be required to convey the water to DuBois. Six or eight hundred dollars a month is paid to the borough at the present time for water by the railroad company, at the rate of three cents for 1,000 gallons.

—Judge Woods, in Huntingdon county, will hear the case of the citizens of Mt. Union against their water company next Thursday. The citizens want the court to compel the company to furnish an adequate supply of pure water for domestic and sanitary purposes and for proper fire protection. The water company says that it is doing its best and that the dry weather and not it is to blame for its failures. It is claimed that there is enough water going to waste to supply everybody but the water company lacks the enterprise to gather it into its pipes.

—The property of the Cresson and Clearfield Coal and Coke company, the late P. H. Watts' property, has been taken over under foreclosure sale by the Eastern Bituminous Coal Mining company, a new Pennsylvania corporation, with a capital of \$200,000, of which \$50,000 is paid up in cash. A new mortgage bond issue for \$25,000 has been created, and the original first mortgage bondholders will take the new bonds in lieu of their old ones. The overdue interest is to be paid in cash. The Land Title and Trust company of Philadelphia is trustee under both the old and the new mortgages.

—Following the commands of council, a committee, to be borough treasurer and the borough solicitor of Lock Haven visited the Lock Haven Trust and Safe Deposit company to get such funds as were not in litigation of the estate of Annie H. Ross, in order that the Ross library might be opened. The trust company is Mrs. Ross' executor. After the trust company consulted with its attorney, the committee was unable to get any of the money left by Mrs. Ross except an amount sufficient to cover up the executor's commission, the attorney's fees and costs of litigation.