

INK SLINGS.

The backset Speaker CANNON received in the House on Friday won't help much more than to draw a heavier fire on the Insurgents next time.

Knowing something of the gentleman's work as a weather forecaster we don't know which Pittsburg will fear the most: "Pogonip" or PENNYWIT.

The ice men having their houses full await with impatience the approach of summer. So do some of the rest of us whose coal bins are running low.

The war on the local steam heating company, we have been informed, is to be modified into a campaign of benevolent assimilation. Won't that be interesting.

If the Hon. Secretary KNOX was right in butting into Nicaraguan affairs so promptly why is he not following up his early declarations. We fancy he was a little premature, for nothing else could account for the manner in which the State Department has let the matter drop.

A lunatic in the state asylum at Middletown, N. Y., won a two hundred dollar Jersey cow for the second best essay on "How can Clean and Wholesome Milk be Produced for the Least Cost." The prizes were offered by the State Health commission and were widely contested. For the cow will doubtless sigh and say to the bug house for me now.

The President is entirely right in punishing insubordination in his governmental family in the most drastic manner. His is the highest office within the gift of the nation and for him to temper with anything that might lessen its dignity is almost a crime, but might it not have been better to have instituted an investigation before Chief Forester PINCHOT was forced to take the step he did.

Since Lewistown has gone dry there has been so little for her policemen to do that the chief has resigned. Only two arrests were made in December and the expenses of the lock-up were only ten cents. It must be an atmosphere over there almost like the approach of the millennium. Yet we are of the opinion that if the dries really thought it was coming they would vote wet instantly.

The unexpected death of State Treasurer-elect STOEGER, at his home in Lancaster, on Monday morning, will complicate matters in that office somewhat. It will be a question whether the Governor can appoint a successor to Treasurer SHEATZ or whether the latter will hold office until his successor is elected. It will also be a question as to whether a successor will be elected in November.

Probably if the American farmer were given American made farm machinery as cheap as it is sold to the farmers of New Zealand and South Africa and if the tariff on clothing were reduced so that he could buy a good suit as cheap as it can be bought abroad the government might not need to continue further its investigation into the high cost of living. If the farmer could buy cheaper he could sell cheaper and that's all there is to it.

The Erie railroad has been fined one thousand dollars for maintaining a nuisance in Jersey City by permitting locomotives to whistle. We would respectfully refer this fact to the Pennsylvania railroad company. There is an ordinance prohibiting whistling in Bellefonte and the borough needs money and the Lewisburg freight and the local shifter both violate the ordinance daily and they have become a nuisance and our patience is almost worn out and it is only a short step from cause to effect.

The city of Boston had an unusual election on Tuesday. Four nominees were in the field for mayor and the two leaders were Democrats. Eighty-four per cent of the city's vote was polled and FITZGERALD won over STORROW by only twelve hundred votes. Mayor HIBBERD, who was a candidate for re-election and who defeated FITZGERALD two years ago, received thirty-eight thousand votes, received only seventeen hundred this time. It was a strange mix-up, but then Boston always was queer.

While in town the other day the Hon. PHILIP WOMELSDORF, of Philipsburg, declared his intention of becoming a candidate for the Republican nomination for Senate from this district. This will probably leave the fight for that honor between he and Mr. ALEXANDER, of Clearfield, as we understand, Mr. HENRY C. QUIGLEY, of Bellefonte, will not be an aspirant again, as he prefers to run for school director from the North ward in order to stand by his fellow members on the board until they have successfully concluded the building of the new seventy-five thousand dollar school house.

Political gossip has it that there is to be a spirited contest for Justice in the South and West wards of Bellefonte. Justice J. M. KRICHLINE, who has held the office for many years, is an aspirant for renomination and the friends of Jas. H. CORL are said to have persuaded him to be an aspirant. The street rumors go so far as to say that in the event of Mr. CORL's failure to secure the Democratic nomination the Republicans will endorse him in which event there would probably be as warm a fight for the office as has been seen in this borough for many years. Then it would be a non-partisan contest and the fight would be on purely personal lines.

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The Treasury Succession.

There is a good deal of speculation among the politicians as to filling the vacancy in the office of State Treasurer at the expiration of the term of Mr. SHEATZ, in view of the death of his successor-elect Mr. J. A. STOEGER. If the present incumbent had died, or if the death of Mr. STOEGER had been deferred until after he had been installed in the office next May, there would have been no uncertainty on the subject. Section 8 of article 4 of the constitution provides that the Governor "shall have power to fill any vacancy that may happen, during the recess of the Senate, in the office of Auditor General, State Treasurer, Secretary of Internal Affairs or Superintendent of Public Instructions." There is no ambiguity in that declaration.

But Mr. STOEGER has never qualified as State Treasurer and consequently, it is reasoned, his death creates no vacancy. The expiration of the term of office of Mr. SHEATZ would create a vacancy if his duly elected successor were ready to qualify. But the commission of Mr. SHEATZ authorizes him to retain the office until his successor is qualified and as the death of Mr. STOEGER makes it impossible for his successor to qualify, the doubts arise. Of course the Republican machine managers will try to construe the law so as to give the Governor power to appoint. Former Representative JOHN H. FOW, of Philadelphia, who keeps opinions on all subjects "on tap" all the time, volunteers the information that the authority to appoint lies in an act of 1873. But lawyers of greater reputation take the opposite view and hold that Mr. SHEATZ will continue in office until his successor is elected next fall or that of 1911.

If the Governor could be depended upon to appoint a man of the highest fitness, the question involved would be of little consequence. Left to his own impulses it is certain that he would do this, moreover the interests of the public would be conserved by his exercise of the power. But the control of the State Treasury is so essential to the future success of the party, that every influence will be invoked to secure a machine man. It was for this reason that a man of the SHEATZ type was not nominated last Spring. It is no aspersion upon Mr. STOEGER's personal character to say that the machine managers were sure of him and they will not consent to the appointment of a successor who is not equally amenable to their wishes and obedient to their orders.

Obviously a Standard Oil Trick.

Manifestly the President's appeal for a national incorporation law is in the interest of the Standard Oil company and similar predatory trusts. Certain States have been making it "too hot" for the Standard. Texas, for example, has legislated it out of existence in that State, until it conforms to conditions which the Legislature appeared to think just. Other States have been discussing similar legislation, and there has been talk of extending it to other corporations, such as the Steel trust. Unless this power of domestic regulation is taken away from the States, some of the arrogant corporations may be compelled to pay some regard to the rights of the people.

A federal incorporation law would remove all such dangers from the pathway of the plutocrats. With such a law on the federal statute books the Standard Oil company could force itself upon Texas at the point of federal bayonets. Mr. ROCKEFELLER could then snap his fingers at the Legislature of Missouri and the Governor of Arkansas. The judgment of the court dissolving the Standard Oil company of New Jersey as "a corporation in restraint of trade," would be a small cause of disturbance in the big building at 26 Broadway. A federal charter, easily acquired under the circumstances, would give the emissaries of Mr. ROCKEFELLER right of way through all the States for purposes of pillage and plunder.

President TAFT is exceedingly adroit in his scheme to serve these corporations at the expense of the people but he will hardly fool all the people this time or a sufficient number of them at any time to compass the result. There is a well defined plan in process of formation to rob the States and the people of all rights reserved under the constitution, and this federal incorporation scheme is the vehicle upon which it mainly depends. But it will hardly succeed at this time. There appears to be a revival of the policies of JEFFERSON throughout the country and that will guarantee a sufficient respect for the fundamental principles of the constitution to avert the danger.

John M. Keichline has an announcement in this issue of the WATCHMAN for a re-nomination for the office of justice of the peace in the South and West wards. Mr. Keichline is so well known by the people of Bellefonte that it is not necessary to call attention to his abilities or fitness for the office.

The Plutocrats Comforted.

Governor HUGHES, of New York, has tolerated a mutineer in his crew. It wouldn't be safe. No reasonably intelligent band of burglars will permit an officer of the law to sit in its councils. It would jeopardize the personal liberties of the "operators." There is no valid reason, however, why men engaged in an honest occupation, especially in the public business should object to the presence of any honest man during their conferences or undertake to muzzle the mouth of any decent citizen who happened to be present. No President previous to ROOSEVELT ever forbade high officials from giving the public information in their possession, of popular interest. No other President was so bossy.

The administration of the government at Washington has the absolute right to have its friends in official places. Under a government of parties it is necessary to preserve party organization and that is the only certain way to achieve that result. But an administration which forbids men in high office from communicating information to Congress or individuals interested, must have some ulterior purpose to subvert. Men fit to occupy seats in the cabinet of a President or administer the affairs of an important bureau of the government ought to know how to behave without being put under restraint. A manly, self-respecting, cabinet officer or bureau chief would resent an order to muzzle him.

These observations are apropos of the recent dismissal of Forester PINCHOT from the service of the government, because he wrote a letter to a distinguished Senator in Congress which was subsequently read on the floor of the chamber. If the President was free from sinister purposes in connection with the BALLINGER affair, no harm could have resulted from the PINCHOT letter. In fact nobody would have been hurt by that communication except PINCHOT or the coal and water right thieves he was denouncing. But TAFT has magnified it into a most important incident and turned suspicion upon himself, not that he is crazy but that he is crooked. He has made himself a very absurd spectacle.

Speaker Cannon Rebuked.

The defeat of Speaker CANNON on an important question of order in the House of Representatives, the other day, was quite as much a rebuke to the congressional boss. Observing people had come to regard the talk of the "insurgents" as "hot air," and little attention was paid to it. The Speaker himself had come to imagine that the opposition to him had spent its strength. Therefore the announcement of the vote was "like a clap of thunder from a clear sky" and though its significance is a matter of conjecture, the result is of the highest importance. When the House once gets into the habit of running its own affairs, it is likely to continue it.

The majority against the Speaker was meager but sufficient. The vote was 149 to 146 and there were 88 absentees. But a careful analysis of the situation shows that on a full vote the majority would have been greater, while every expedient was invoked in behalf of the organization. The machine in the Senate has since intervened to save the CANNON face. But it is doubtful if its plan will succeed. On the contrary the members are likely to resent the attempt of the co-ordinate branch to control the methods of the House. Such an indignity has never before been put upon any parliamentary body and self-respecting members of the House are not, at present, in a humor to tolerate such an innovation.

The obvious purpose of the congressional machine was to pack the committee to investigate the charges against Secretary of the Interior BALLINGER which are supported by former Forester PINCHOT. ALDRICH and CANNON have captured TAFT, "body and breeches," and they want to discredit ROOSEVELT and his policies. A packed committee of investigation would have been greatly helpful in this enterprise. But the congressional insurgents and the united Democracy have defeated the purpose. Whether they will be able to pluck the fruit of their victory remains to be seen. The consternation of the machine over the result of the first skirmish shows the gravity of the affair, however.

The news from Washington may not be entirely agreeable to some of our esteemed Pennsylvania Republican contemporaries but it is sufficiently interesting to divert their minds from the more pleasant employment of picking candidates for the Democrats.

If BALLINGER has to go, as newspaper gossip implies, the President might induce ROOSEVELT's friend, "BAT" MASTERSON to accept the office.

An Absurd Spectacle.

No mentally balanced pirate chief will tolerate a mutineer in his crew. It wouldn't be safe. No reasonably intelligent band of burglars will permit an officer of the law to sit in its councils. It would jeopardize the personal liberties of the "operators." There is no valid reason, however, why men engaged in an honest occupation, especially in the public business should object to the presence of any honest man during their conferences or undertake to muzzle the mouth of any decent citizen who happened to be present. No President previous to ROOSEVELT ever forbade high officials from giving the public information in their possession, of popular interest. No other President was so bossy.

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It is expected that the appointment of a postmaster at State College will be made within a very short time, probably within a week or two. There are just two candidates for the place, John W. Stuart, the present incumbent, who wants to succeed himself, and Philip D. Foster. While Mr. Stuart has the support of the bulk of the patrons of the office behind him, Mr. Foster is being backed by the Republican party organization and as Congressman Barclay is a candidate for a second term there is considerable speculation as to where the plum will fall though the Foster people announced during the fore part of the week that they have it cinched.

Ice men and private individuals in Bellefonte have housed practically all the ice they will need for the coming year and it is the finest crop harvested in this section in years. A large amount was brought here from Hecla this week and it was clear as a crystal and from twelve to fourteen inches in thickness. The only question now in the minds of users is will the commodity be any cheaper next year.

James Corl has entered the race for the nomination of Justice of the Peace in the South and West wards on the Democratic ticket, and Henry Kline is being groomed for the same nomination on the Republican ticket. Although the primaries are only a week off the list of candidates for the various offices is unusually small.

The officials of the Steel Trust were served a banquet at one hundred dollars a plate in Pittsburg, Saturday night. The dear little infant industry! We presume milk from a bottle was drunk freely.

The railroads and steamships got \$83,000,000 for transporting the mails last year and the Postmaster General pretends to think that he doesn't know exactly what causes the deficiency.

Now that Speaker CANNON is said to have capitulated the Insurgent guns ought to be turned on the White House. TAFT is already looking under the furniture for places to hide.

It wouldn't be wise to announce conclusions with respect to the PINCHOT affair until the vote in South Africa is counted and returned.

They appear to have "spiked" the CANNON at last, the White House support having been withdrawn at the critical moment.

The "Back from Elba" club is getting ready to indulge in a torchlight procession in Washington.

Congress and the Cost of Living.

The increased cost of living has long been a matter of general concern. At last there are signs of a stirring of the dry bones which are supposed to represent the political life of the country in our houses of Congress, and voices from Washington indicate that senators and representatives are actually beginning to interest themselves in the matter. It has even dawned upon Senator ELLIOTT that he must make a show of lively interest, and with characteristic statesmanship he turns eagerly to the collection of statistics about the relative advance of income and of the cost of necessities of life. He has had a resolution read in the Senate calling for a committee of five to make an exhaustive investigation, regardless of the inquiry already proceeding under the direction of the department of agriculture.

Such an inquiry would take about a year and cost a whole lot of money. Then there would be colossal reports to print which nobody would have time to read, and reasonable time would be required for the digesting of all that more or less doubtful information. Verily there are many ways of doing nothing while maintaining an appearance of activity. Meanwhile, everybody knows that the cost of living has increased very much more than the increase of earning power. There may be wide differences of opinion as to the causes and as to what should be done to remedy this condition, but there is no disputing the stubborn fact that the necessities of life are too expensive.

There is also some debate as to what are to be considered necessities. It is pointed out that most people nowadays regard as necessities things that their grandfathers looked upon as luxuries, but even so, the problem becomes no easier of solution. It will hardly do to order a grand national backward movement in the scale and standard of living. The nation cannot be told to return forthwith to the simple life of its grandfathers, who did not furnish, or heat, or warm, or light their homes as we do; who were much more limited in variety of food, in schooling and reading and travel, or local rapid transit; and who never dreamed of a thousand things that we enjoy and have to pay for.

If it is true that modern life is, in a large measure, responsible for the increased cost of living that truth hardly applies to the rapid advance of the last few years and does not in any case, affect the point that earning power should have kept pace, or, at any rate, should have kept pace with the advance of enlightenment and luxury. The people are more vitally concerned about this cost of living than about any other matter, and a truly representative Congress would not bother about statistics, but would take up at once the consideration of the self-evident facts and the proper remedy.

What Taft Costs Us.

Mr. Adair of Indiana performed a needed service when in the house at Washington he spoke strongly in condemnation of the reckless extravagance in connection with the executive department. The following tabular statement shows how much the Taft regime is costing the gentle and long suffering tax-payer:

Table listing expenses for Executive Department for one year, including President's salary, Secretaries, Contingent fund, Traveling expenses, etc.

Mr. Taft's salary was increased to \$75,000 under false pretense. It was pledged by the Republicans that the addition of \$25,000 was to be in lieu of the illegal appropriation of an equal sum for traveling expenses, but when the game was actually pulled off the item of traveling expenses was still there. The Taft allowances are little less than a scandal and it is to be hoped that Mr. Adair and other members of Congress will keep the matter before the public eye.

Time to Stamp Eggs.

Farmers, if you want to make a reputation for your hens and make money for yourself, just watch the flock, and everytime a hen cackles get out your rubber stamp, run to the barn, secure the egg and stamp the date of the appearance in the nest of the egg. Over in Canada, where things are supposed to be cheaper, eggs with the date stamped on them are selling for 60 cents per dozen. The unstamped eggs which are sold merely as "fresh" bring 15 cents less per dozen, and then following the other grades, "good eggs" and just plain "eggs." The last grade, of course, will be purchased only by the man who never thinks when he sits at a table and orders his dinner. He can call for hash in a restaurant where the order is not backed with confidence in the management of the kitchen, and eat in comparative comfort, but the majority of people know what they want stamped and certified eggs and hash with a notary's seal attached. The man who is in the hen business and knows what he is doing ought to get fairly well off these days.

The Touch of Pathos.

There is a real touch of pathos in Mayor Gaynor's advice to good people to "go up and see" Mr. Murphy of Tammany and "say a kind word to him." From a great and powerful boss, the leader of Tammany is reduced to a poor little bossy with cold feet and in need of human sympathy.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

Huntingdon will have a board of trade, the balance in the treasury after the Old Home Week celebration to be devoted to furthering such an enterprise.

Bears have become so numerous in Juniata township, Huntingdon county, that the school children are so frightened that the schools are almost being broken up.

Three hundred and seventy-nine applications were received for liquor licenses in Cambria county at the time the period for filing them closed. This is an increase of nine over last year.

Preparations are being made by the Union Furniture Manufacturing company, which bought the abandoned shoe factory building in Patterson near Millintown, recently, to turn the place into a furniture factory.

John Fetterhoff and wife Martha R., of Jersey Shore, have begun a suit for \$15,000 damages from the borough for injuries sustained by Mrs. Fetterhoff in a fall on an icy sidewalk. She claims to have been injured internally.

George Cunningham was placed in the Juniata county jail recently on the charge of biting one of the fingers off the hand of one of his children and threatening the life of his wife. Later he was taken to the asylum at Harrisburg.

Rabbi Leonard Levy, of Pittsburg, has received a call to a congregation at London. He already has the best paid position of any Jewish clergyman in the world, but the British congregation is willing to pay him more.

Philip Hoch and Andrew Mead, of Pleasantville, have shipped 2,000 muskrat skins and 1,500 skunk pelts to London, England. They have gathered over 100,000 pelts since they started to buy them from Berks county trappers.

Dairy and Food Commissioner James Foust has been able to make payments aggregating \$42,000 to the state treasury since the first of the year, owing to the rush for oleo licenses and the activity of agents in prosecuting pure food cases.

Turner & Bland, coal operators of Windber, have closed a deal for the purchase of 623 acres of valuable coal land lying in the vicinity of Clymer, Indiana county. A drill will be put to work and tests made for the purpose of locating a shaft on the tract.

William H. Berry, ex-treasurer of the State, was launched as a candidate for governor on the democratic ticket at a banquet of 200 Delaware democrats who were celebrating Jackson day. A committee of fifteen was appointed to boom his candidacy. He will take the honor if it comes to him.

Misses Gertrude and Margaret Davis, of Sharon, have made application for recognition by the Carnegie hero fund commission because they saved the life of Charles Bodamer, a wealthy real estate owner. He slipped on the ice in front of a fast approaching train and they pulled him off the tracks.

Since an outbreak of measles, six weeks ago, 1,100 cases have been reported in Punxsutawney and vicinity. In the mining district of Adrian, Anita and Florence, Dr. T. P. Williams, the mine physician, reports 125 cases with two deaths. At the public schools there, twenty pupils out of thirty-two in one room, are ill.

Renovo and Gleasonport are to be connected by a trolley line five miles long, known as the Renovo and Gleasonport Railway company, a charter having been issued for the concern in Harrisburg recently. The capital is \$30,000, and the officers are to be located at Renovo. E. W. Hess, of Clearfield, is the president.

A letter found on the body of Arthur Howard, who committed suicide last Saturday night at New Castle, after killing Mrs. Harry Robinson, shows that he had deliberately planned the suicide. He wrote to an aunt and said that he had been betrayed by the woman he loved, who told him she was not married to the man with whom she was living.

Work on the installing of three carloads of new machinery for the American brick plant of the Harbison-Walker Refractories company located near Flemington, Clinton county, will be started this week. The plant has been idle several years following a strike and several hundred men will be given employment when the plant resumes in the near future.

Toney Ferris, the man who, it is said, proudly boasted to having stolen 1,000 chickens and who was arrested recently near Falls Creek, Clearfield county, has been turned loose from the Elk county jail where he was confined. He is a bit out in jail for the winter. People of Clearfield county are beginning to get a little scarce on the chicken question.

John H. Messmer, of Pittsburg, in answer to the libel in divorce filed by his wife, said she took pills to reduce her weight and ruined her nervous system. He denied that he ever threw a cat at her and said that he never pushed her against a stove, as she is said to have averred. He says his spouse left him without cause and that he had left her kissed him goodbye. She wants alimony and counsel fees, saying he has an income of \$400 a month.

The Woman's club, of Media, has entered into politics and is telling the council that the ordinance requiring garbage to be separated from ashes was not being enforced and one of the women announced that she had framed an ordinance concerning the throwing of papers and advertisements on front steps and porches. She wants the distributing of the latter done away with and wants papers to bear the names of the persons at those places they are to be left.

At a meeting of the directors and stockholders of the Northern Cambria Street Railway company held recently, the officers and board of directors who served last year were re-elected. The names are as follows: W. H. Denlinger, president; J. A. Allport, secretary; H. S. Bigler, treasurer; the officers and F. H. Barker, C. C. Tennis, Remondt Peale and P. J. Little, board of directors. The reports show the company to be in excellent condition and the volume of business done during the past year to have been eminently satisfactory.

Mrs. Susan Gates, who died last week at Yellow Creek, Bedford county, had reached the age of 90 years, 6 months and 15 days. She was remarkably well preserved for one of her advanced years and it was a pleasure to hear her tell of the past. She had been a member of the Methodist Episcopal church for forty years. Five children, thirty-three grandchildren, sixty-nine great-grandchildren and ten great-great-grandchildren survive. Hiram Blackburn, another Bedford county, who died recently at his home at Fishertown, had reached the age of 84 years, 10 months and 14 days.

Having come into possession of the Mohawk mine close to Blue Ball, near Philipsburg, the Lehigh Valley Coal company will begin extensive operations at that place and will give employment to a large number of men. The opening lies in a tract of 252 acres known as the John Hunter property, the place being underlain with a fine body of coal. The B vein, running from three feet eight inches to four feet in thickness and the most valuable, will be worked at once. The property was opened several years ago by the Mohawk Coal company but they had to abandon it on account of the difficulty in taking care of the water, caused by the way the coal dipped. The new company will surmount this difficulty by tunneling the hill and drawing the water from the dip side. Arrangements are being made with the Pennsylvania railroad to build sidings to the opening. Work already has started.