

INK SLINGS.

-To the primaries-for the good citizen tomorrow.

-The young man who undertook to be his own lawyer in 'Squire MUSSEY's court Tuesday evening is in jail trying to figure out whether he had a fool for a client.

-The fellow who offered eight thousand dollars for that prize winning black minorca hen must certainly be expecting a continuance of the bull campaign in the egg market.

-If the price of shoes is to be put up because the public is not eating enough meat to keep the price of hides down we can see nothing else to it than empty bellies and bare feet for the laborer.

-LOUIS PAULHAN, the French aviator, has been flying so long and high at the Los Angeles aviation show that there is some ground for the fear that he may go up some day and never come down.

-Sure, this is an old fashioned winter in every respect except that we didn't have to pay so much for butter, eggs, meat, shoes and clothing in the days when old fashioned winters made their reputations.

-If that New York shirt waist strike continues much longer manufacturers will be so far back with their orders that they will have to make them more peek-a-boo than ever for next summer in order to catch up.

-We hope the JEFFRIES-JOHNSON mill is pulled off before the Hon. TEDDY comes home from Africa. Really it would be too much to undertake to read what they will all have to say should their chance come about the same time.

-Senator GORDON, of Mississippi, paid a dollar for a shave in Washington on Tuesday. There is a shop in the capitol in which the senatorial whiskers are removed without charge, but the new Senator didn't know where it was and it cost one "buck" to find it out.

-That Chicago man who has been married sixty years and has just found out that the only way to get along happily with his wife is to humor her has probably really discovered that a broomstick wasn't the proper instrument to express his feelings toward her with.

-That Cleveland agreement not to eat meat until prices are reduced may just now be effecting the six thousand persons who signed it, but it has been over two years since the laboring man was forced to deny himself meat because the price had advanced out of all proportion to his wages.

-Don't forget to attend your party caucus tomorrow and help to nominate good men for your local offices. Good men are easier to elect than bad ones, they are more of a credit to you as a citizen and will help to put down the growing suspicion that American public office and graft are synonymous.

-Governor HUGHES has decided not to make another campaign for the position he holds now in the Empire State. This will relieve Democratic and Republican politicians as well, for the Governor has been so much of a free lance since going to Albany that their calculations on matters political would not work out.

-The performance of the stock market recently may be for the purpose of intimidating Washington, but, if it is, the gamblers who had so much faith in the way TAFT was expected "to go along" with all of Wall street's plans, must be lying awake nights wondering who "took them over" during the campaign for his election.

-The suicide of J. HERBERT STEVENSON, of Merchantville, N. J., adds another to the list of deaths that have followed the State capitol scandal. The finger of fate has been pointing from the great palace of graft and one by one those who were tainted in its construction are seeking the solace of the grave in the vain endeavor to flee from their consciences.

-Governor HARMAN, of Ohio, is of the opinion that the White House is quite an attractive place to live in. In fact he said so during his visit there during the fore part of the week. Of course the Governor facetiously remarked that he would have to get his wife's ideas about it, but we fancy he might be a little more concerned about the opinion of the voters on the matter along in 1912.

-New York is planning to hold a world's fair in 1913. Good work. New York never had a world's fair and if some of those sign readers up in Massachusetts know what they are talking about she never will, for there will be no world in 1913. And this just reminds us: Are you ready? Big meetings are going on everywhere now and there is no time like the present to be done over.

-There is likely to be some fun at the North Republican primaries tomorrow night as a result of Mr. CHAS. F. COOK's determination to contest the renomination of Mr. HENRY C. QUIGLEY for school director. Both are active and wily politicians and there is likely to be a good old time fight. In fact the school directorship has invariably been the source of much fighting in the North and this development promises to revive some of the old animosities that have grown out of former contests for the office.

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The Coming Campaign.

The coming campaign in this State will be the most important of any in recent years. There will be a Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of Internal Affairs and probably a State Treasurer to elect, this depending upon the construction of the present law by the courts. The number of delegates in the Democratic State convention this year will be 298, as against 375 last year, the decrease being attributable to the lethargy of Democrats during the last campaign. Pending that contest we stated that a poll of ninety per cent. of the BRYAN vote of the year before would give the Democratic ticket a majority. The result proved the accuracy of this estimate. Fidelity to duty would have given the party control of the most important boards in the state administration.

Since the election of last year the trend of public opinion has been increasingly in the direction of Democracy and public incidents have uniformly accelerated the motion. The country has come to realize the fraud perpetrated upon the people in the enactment of a tariff law which has increased the cost of living immensely without adding to the wages of labor in the least. The irrepressible conflict between the factions of the Republican party in Congress and the scandals exposed by Forester PINCHOT in relation to the spoliation of the public domain have added vastly to the already overwhelming disgust of the public with the party in power. All these facts will give strength to the Democrats in the coming campaign if they are wise in selecting candidates and vigilant in supporting them.

But Republican blunders and Democratic wisdom will be equally futile of proper results if the Democratic voters are as indifferent in the future as they have been in the recent past. Our ticket last year was an ideal one and the Republican candidates represented the precise antithesis in every respect. The vast decrease in the Republican vote shows that in so far as the body of that party was concerned a Democratic victory would have been welcomed. But Democratic voters in nearly equal ratio neglected their civic duty to vote and the consequence was Republican victory. It was a triumph by default and we hope such a thing will not occur again. To avert it, however, Democrats ought to get busy now. Secure the best possible candidates and support them faithfully.

The State Treasury Succession.

The consensus of present opinion in political circles is that Governor STUART will appoint a State Treasurer at the expiration of the term of Mr. JOHN O. SHEATZ. No great legal luminary alleges his right to appoint, under the circumstances, for there will be no vacancy to fill, Mr. SHEATZ holding a commission to serve until his successor is duly qualified. But the machine wants control of the office and has sufficient confidence in the servility of the Supreme court to believe that the trick can be "pulled off." The highest court has not been morally strengthened since it decided that the convicted capitol grafters must have another chance of escape.

It is also confidently given out from political headquarters in the BETZ building, Philadelphia, that the appointee will be a Lancaster county man to be selected by Mr. W. W. GRIEST, Representative in Congress. Some years ago Mr. GRIEST threatened to make trouble for the machine and was placated by his appointment to the office of Secretary of the Commonwealth. The defeat of JOHN P. ELKIN for the gubernatorial nomination in 1902 again incensed him but his wounded pride was salved by the promise that he would be permitted to name the nominee for State Treasurer in the near future. In 1907 he relinquished his right because he was afraid that a candidate who would serve his purpose would be defeated at the polls.

Mr. GRIEST is largely concerned in electric railway enterprises and the control of large amounts of money is of great advantage to him. Last year he procured the nomination and election of a candidate for State Treasurer who would have given him free hand with the balances. But unhappily Mr. STOBBER died, before qualifying for the office and left things "up in the air." Now GRIEST probably demands that another man, equally amenable to his wishes, be appointed to occupy the place and probably supports his demand with a reminder that he carries one Senator and four Representatives in the Legislature, in his ample vest pocket. This puts the Governor in an awkward position. But bosses must be obeyed.

—Mr. BALLINGER protests that he will not be kicked out "under fire." But the indications are that he will have to go even if against the desire of his friend Mr. TAFT.

Mr. Taft's Harmony Deal.

The President has succeeded in partially bridging the chasm between the Republican factions in Congress, according to gossip at the national capitol. He didn't say, he now declares, what Mr. ROSEWATER, of Omaha, says he said, with respect to patronage and the insurgents. On the contrary, he now asserts, he is quite as willing to buy cabbages from a peddler as from a merchant. A speaker suits him just as well as a licensed saloon if it contains the goods and is willing to sell. Our President is not punctilious in such things. He wants what he wants and he doesn't care much how he gets it. Like his predecessor in office and the late Mr. HARRIMAN, he is a practical man.

The harmony deal which the President has negotiated between the regulars and the insurgents of the House of Representatives covers only one point, the dispatches indicate. That is to say the insurgents, for some consideration not revealed, have agreed to attend the caucus of the party for the purpose of selecting members of the special committee to investigate Secretary of the Interior BALLINGER. The insurgents know, of course, that the committee will be packed against them for the regulars will have a majority in the caucus of about three to one. But insurgents are human and want patronage and the President is so anxious to have that committee packed that he has probably made liberal promises.

But the President makes a wretched spectacle of himself by participating in such deals. A just committee and an honest investigation would probably show that Mr. BALLINGER was not only counsel for the land pirates at the time of his appointment but that he was appointed for that reason. It might prove, also, that he is now counsel for some or most of them and that if Mr. PINCHOT had remained silent, they would have robbed the country of most of its public domain before the end of the administration. But even such an exhibition would hardly present the President in a worse light than that in which he stands. He looks now like a huckster caught disposing of stolen goods.

Keep the Important Matter in Mind.

There is plenty of scandal in Washington to absorb public attention. Between the usurpations of Speaker CANNON, the quarrels of the President and the exposures of Secretary BALLINGER's grafting operations, there is abundance to think about. But the people of the country should not permit their minds to be diverted entirely from more important subjects by these trifles. No doubt what PINCHOT says about TAFT is substantially true. It is equally probable that the worst that has been said of Speaker CANNON is within the limits of accuracy and nobody who has watched the career of BALLINGER will doubt even the story of petty grafting which Representative HITCHCOCK has just revealed.

But these things do not explain the increasing cost of the necessities of life or justify the conspiracy between the trusts and the Republican leaders in Washington which produces the increase in prices. The newspapers informed us the other day that wholesalers have ordered an advance in the price of shoes and on the same day, through the same medium, we learned that the price of underwear will be vastly increased by the same process. Clothing has already advanced in price or depreciated in quality because of the greater tax on wool and blankets and other products of the woolen factories are "going out of sight." These facts are of much more importance than the public scandals, evil as they are.

These outrages are the logical and inevitable result of the tariff legislation of the special session of Congress. They are the natural fruit of the conspiracy to give the trusts control of the industrial life of the country, in consideration of money contributed to the Republican corruption fund during the last campaign. The Beef trust controls the product and prices of hides, the Woolen trust the supply and value of clothing and woollens and other trusts the other necessities of life. No doubt these scandals in official life will aid in diverting attention from the greater questions; but the people ought not permit themselves to be deceived.

—Farmers throughout Centre county are feeling some alarm over the fact that the heavy covering of ice and snow might smother the young grain in the fields. The fact that there was no covering of snow on the ground to protect it from the sleet and rain fell which rapidly froze into a coating of ice is the cause of their fear. Nature, however, is generally a well protector of both forest and field and the probabilities are that the grain will be more protected than ruined.

The British Parliamentary Election.

The parliamentary election in Great Britain has resulted in substantial victory for the people as against the privileged class. The Liberal party lost a few seats but retains a substantial majority though the opposition is said to have spent \$15,000,000 to corrupt the electorate. But the people would not be bribed. They seem to put a higher estimate upon the value of the franchise there than here or else have a keener intelligence in weighing the consequences of a triumph of the classes. The contest was waged with intense energy on both sides and no voter was permitted to remain in ignorance of the issues.

But the people sustained the government in taxing wealth rather than poverty. The issue was clearly defined. In the budget for the coming year Premier ASQUITH had practically declared in favor of taxing the earned increment on land values. The purpose was to compel the Lords to bear a share in the burdens of government proportionate to the advantages derived from the government. Enjoying the ownership of nearly all the land, the peers of the realm have heretofore managed to shift the taxes upon the shoulders of those dependent entirely upon their earnings, just as the opulent in this country are able to put the burdens of government, through the operations of the tariff tax, upon the industrial life of the country.

In this country, however, the people bow to the injustice.

Ever since Great Britain threw off the tariff yoke they have been improving in social and industrial conditions notwithstanding the injustice of a tax system which exempted the rich and burdened the poor. Now that another vital step has been taken in the interest of the people it will be surprising if an era of commercial and industrial prosperity, unexampled in the history of the world, does not follow. With the greater advantages of a vastly more extensive area, a newer and more fertile soil and more liberal educational advantages, this country could lead the world if the people had the courage or integrity to vote for their own interests as the Britons appear to do.

—Since the Elks have started fixing up their new home, the old Curtin hotel on High street, they have decided to make a thorough job of it and therefore will give it a thorough overhauling. Every room in the house will be repainted and papered and fully equipped with electric light. Inasmuch as their new home will be considerably larger than the building they now occupy, it will require more furniture to furnish the same when they occupy it.

—We congratulate the editor of the esteemed Philadelphia North American on his acquittal of the charge of libel in the Schuylkill county court. Little is expected in that jury-packed and ballot polluted county and it is a pleasure to know that some of that little has come in a form that makes for freedom of speech and the liberty of the press.

—An esteemed contemporary announces in headlines that the "Nation's Ice Rises," and adds that the "high cost of living is the most acute issue to-day." Probably, but the people voted for the high cost of living when they elected TAFT and a Republican Congress mutually committed to the interests of the trusts.

—President TAFT has organized a Republican opposition to the Democrats chosen to represent the minority on the BALLINGER investigating committee. President TAFT's obvious anxiety to pack that committee invites all sorts of suspicions as to his personal relations with the frauds charged.

—On the petition of a number of the voters of Burnside township Judge Orvis on Wednesday issued a decree changing the voting place of said township from a vacant store room at Pine Glenn to the residence of William Hipple, about one-half mile east along the main road.

—A tariff war with Germany would be bad for the ultimate consumer but the ultimate consumer cuts a small figure in the eyes of the President whose dilated pupils can discern no interests other than those of the trusts.

—The poor (?) farmers. They are always getting left. Their rain spouts were so full of ice that they caught very little of the precipitation on Tuesday.

—The professional aviators are reaching high altitudes but the cost of living has the champion of the bunch skinned a mile.

—It looks as if another ANANIAS club is inevitable and editor ROSEWATER, of Omaha, is likely to be the first member.

A Militant Democracy.

From the Pittsburg Post. The speech of Representative Champ Clark and the letter of National Chairman Norman F. Mack to the Democrats of Missouri on the occasion of the Jackson day celebration are respectfully recommended to every Democrat. They ought to be carefully read and then every Democrat worthy the name ought to begin preparations for following the advice of Chairman Mack to strengthen the organization against the coming congressional elections. It is perfectly true that "in organization there is strength" and that preparations for this coming struggle cannot be made too far in advance.

Nor is there any denial of the fact that the elections to take place next autumn are the most important in years. The political situation never held out greater promise of electing a Democratic majority in the House. The people of the United States have been made the victims of the greatest political swindle of the Aldrich-Hayne tariff act. This issue alone ought to be sufficient to assure Democratic victory. Unqualified, unequivocal and positive were the promises of revision downward made by William Howard Taft in his speeches inviting the suffrage to support him. Instead of that the Dingley rates were not only equalled but surpassed and a maximum provision inserted which promises to still further and enormously increase the rates, and Mr. Taft complacently approves the whole proceeding.

But, pointed as the facts are, the day cannot be won through a half-hearted campaign. The Democracy must be militant and harmonious if it hopes to defeat the enemy. Petty and personal jealousies must be subordinated to principle. In short, there must be a vigorous, earnest, solid organization everywhere. And it is not too soon to begin cementing such an organization now.

The War on the Insurgents.

From the Kansas City Times. It is hardly credible that President Taft would lend himself to an organized plan to discredit and hamper the progressive members of congress in their ambitions to be renominated and re-elected. Yet persistent rumors have it that the President will discriminate against these members in the distribution of patronage.

It seems to be authoritatively established, however, that the reactionary leaders are in this game, and that they will see to it that plenty of money is available to help such opponents as may have the courage to stand for nominations against the progressive Republicans. It is plausible, too, that in some instances these reactionaries, as one of our number has frankly said—would prefer the election of Democrats rather than the re-election of progressive Republicans.

So far as this plan of punishment may have been made and so far as it shall be carried out, it is merely an attempt to discredit the people. But there is nothing in this bulldozing policy to give alarm to the progressives. Indeed, it is water on their wheels. It certainly gives to the people the right cue in the distribution of patronage. It seems to be authoritatively established, however, that the reactionary leaders are in this game, and that they will see to it that plenty of money is available to help such opponents as may have the courage to stand for nominations against the progressive Republicans. It is plausible, too, that in some instances these reactionaries, as one of our number has frankly said—would prefer the election of Democrats rather than the re-election of progressive Republicans.

An Astonishing Situation.

From the Springfield Republican. Yet it is astonishing that affairs have come to such a pass. Whatever his faults of insubordination, Mr. Pinchot is justly recognized as a person of the most unselfish character and the most public-spirited motives. His public service in reorganizing the forestry bureau and inspiring President Roosevelt with the ideas which animate the movement for the conservation of the nation's natural resources can never be overestimated nor too highly praised. That such a man should be summarily dismissed from an office which he had made celebrated for good works, within less than a year after the retirement of his eminent friend and patron, President Roosevelt, forms an episode of extraordinary singularity and immense public interest. Mr. Pinchot was so intimate a personal friend of President Roosevelt and was so closely identified with the Roosevelt policies that everywhere the question will be asked if the unfortunate break that has now occurred between Mr. Pinchot and President Taft signifies also that Mr. Taft and Mr. Roosevelt have reached the parting of the ways.

—Mrs. Harry Bates, Mrs. Thomas Wilkinson and John Church, of Portage, are trying to get a fortune of about \$500,000, with accruing interest for forty-nine years, it having been left by Mrs. Susan Church, in England. She left the money for the erection of a home for the infirm and as the home never built, the heirs contend that the money reverts to them. Burgess Green, of Portage, has received word from England that the identity of the Portage people has been established.

—After quarrelling with his wife because she would not lend him \$15 after he had met her for the first time in five years, having deserted her and taken \$50 of her money with him, William Lochel engaged a room at Philadelphia and hanged himself. His body was found after several days. When he visited his wife he professed sorrow for leaving her and gave her a check for \$50 cents, having just come from Brazil. When he asked her for \$15 she grew suspicious and went to cash the check. She found it was worth 24 cents.

—Gas started to flow from a well that Humes Brothers were sinking for the Ohio Oil company, at Benscreek, for the purpose of getting water. The well had been sunk to a depth of 767 feet. The flow is so weak that it is not expected to last and the water in the well contains so much salt that it would ruin the boilers. The well cannot be used for what was intended. Much excitement has been caused among the residents of Benscreek over the strike, but they are being kept away from the well for fear that somebody will ignite the gas.

—Williamsport's new industry, the Kenmore shoe factory, will begin operations next Monday morning when work will be started in the cutting department. When fully equipped with machinery the factory will give employment to nearly 200 persons, but for the present the force will not be so large. Eight traveling salesmen will be put on the road and every point to the new industry soon becoming one of the most important in the city. The output of the factory will be men's high grade shoes and boys' shoes. No women's shoes will be made.

—Guarded by two private detectives and an attorney from New York to prevent the serving of a summons in the divorce suit instituted by her husband at Franklin, and by the local police who wish to prevent her leaving town, Mrs. Emma A. Miller, wife of General Charles A. Miller, the wealthy Franklin, Pa., oil magnate, is practically a prisoner in the home of her sister at Sharon. The detectives and attorney so far have blocked all attempts to serve Mrs. Miller with a summons, both by the sheriff and the local police. Sheriff Williams declared Mrs. Miller has asked for \$100,000 and will not permit the summons to be served until this is guaranteed.

The Story of the Banks.

From Newspaperdom. The compilation of statistics of New York banks shows that the banks which advertise gained in assets 28 per cent, as against a loss of 5 per cent sustained by non-advertising banks. —Subscribe for the WATCAMAN

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

—Clarified has 200 widows.

—Next Sunday the new Church of Christ will be dedicated at Philipsburg.

—Four thousand miners received word in the Greensburg-Irwin field that the Keystone Coal and Coke company had raised their wages 10 per cent. The advance came as a surprise.

—Barnes & Tucker, coal operators at Barnesboro, have filed three suits against the Pennsylvania railroad company charging car discrimination. The aggregate of the claim is \$409,000.

—Several dozen counterfeit \$2 bills have been found in circulation in the Ernest and Creekside regions and a dozen have been received at Indiana stores and banks. They bear number B 5357933.

—Going for three days without food, Henry H. Hipple, a veteran of the Civil war, walked from Lancaster to Philadelphia through the snow. After asking the police for his dinner he started out to find work.

—The Pennsylvania railroad will hereafter pay dividends quarterly instead of semi-annually. The next dividend will be declared February 1st and will be payable February 23rd to stockholders of record February 5th.

—E. J. Jones and Co., of Huntingdon, soon will be operating their mines on their recently purchased Heverly coal lands in Beccaria township, Clearfield county. They have begun to drive their headings.

—Mrs. George Weymouth, of Lock Haven, fell from the second-story of her home when she was shaking a rug and suddenly became dizzy. She was found unconscious and was severely bruised, suffering from shock as well.

—A stock train was wrecked at the upper yards of the Pennsylvania railroad yards at Harrisburg, Friday, and 400 pigs escaped, running in all directions among the hundreds of cars standing on the tracks. Only about half of the animals were recovered.

—Twenty state policemen are to be appointed his week to fill vacancies, over half of the empty places being in the western troops, stationed at Puntstunway and Greensburg. Over fifty persons have acknowledged that they are anxious to get the jobs.

—Meyerdele is in the throes of mumps, measles, whooping cough and other maladies and as a result all the amusement places and schools have been closed for a period of twenty-one days. Children are not the only sufferers as some grown-ups have contracted the diseases.

—Thirty representative Lock Haven citizens recently to talk over the need of a modern fireproof hotel, the securing of finances to construct such a building and the possible pecuniary returns. The town needs a good place at which traveling men can stop and the plans that are being laid call for a \$150,000 building.

—En route to the hospital at Bloomsburg from Millville on Monday to be operated on for appendicitis, accompanied by Dr. Everett, Matthew Lamton leaped from the sleigh when the horse became unmanageable and stopped the horse. The sleigh overturned and Dr. Everett was pinned beneath it. Lamton's condition was seriously aggravated by his experience.

—Thirty-seven prisoners were received at the Huntingdon reformatory during the month of December. The total number of paroled prisoners reporting regularly 148. Thirty were released on parole in December, thirty-seven were granted final discharge after serving on parole, the latter were returned to the reformatory for violating the parole and one paroled prisoner returned voluntarily.

—At Harrisburg recently a new charter was granted to the Spangler Light, Heat and Power company. An amendment was granted to the charter of the Spangler Ice Manufacturing company, also. In the future, the Spangler Brewing company, the Spangler Light, Heat and Power company and the Spangler Ice Manufacturing company will be run as separate and distinct corporations.

—Martin Mannion, one of the best known farmers in Clearfield township, Cambria county, has made an assignment to cashier A. W. Buck, of the First National bank of Ebensburg, for the benefit of his creditors. His assets are three farms, which are underlaid with valuable coal seams worth about \$25,000. His liabilities, which are for the endorsement of paper for his son who recently failed in business, are \$10,000.

—Six thousand dollars was refunded for Lady Washington, a Black Orpington hen, which won prizes at the New York and other poultry shows, by its masters, F. O. Meagaree and W. Weddigan, of Scranton. The price was offered by H. D. Riley, of Philadelphia, but the owners declared that the bird's price is \$12,000 and it will not be sold at that until after the Scranton poultry show next week. Lady Washington weighs ten pounds.

—Mrs. Harry Bates, Mrs. Thomas Wilkinson and John Church, of Portage, are trying to get a fortune of about \$500,000, with accruing interest for forty-nine years, it having been left by Mrs. Susan Church, in England. She left the money for the erection of a home for the infirm and as the home never built, the heirs contend that the money reverts to them. Burgess Green, of Portage, has received word from England that the identity of the Portage people has been established.

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