Democratic Watchman.

BY P. GRAY MEEK.

INK SLINGS.

—Naturally enough, the most interesting thing about that new comet is its tail.

—This administration seems committed to the establishment of postals savings banks.

—The trial of architect HUSTON—or should we have said mis-trial—has actually been begun.

—The usual January thaw has been more or less in evidence lately. The other one is still in Matteawan.

—Why the proposition to have Mr. ROOSEVELT run for Congress with the idea of becoming Speaker of the House? Isn't JOE CANNON bad as there is any use having them.

—The higher cost of living has made life more of a burden than ever to many of us, yet, withal, we much prefer staggering along under it to taking a short route out of it all.

—The husky boys of State put the Penn wrestlers to the mat on Saturday night in a way that speaks volumes for the salubriousness of the climate at the point of old Nittany.

—We fear that poor little Togo will have a tough time of it in dog Heaven. He will hardly know how to make up with the hordes of common curs that are doubtless cavorting about that unknown realm.

—Paris has had something of a flood recently. Disease and famine are traveling in its wake and considering this phase of the trouble we reckon that we ought to be thankful that our flood of last week was no worse.

—It is beginning to look as though the Riverside National, formerly known as the western penitentiary, will have to increase its board of directors soon. A few more Pittsburg bankers seem to have qualified for membership.

—The Connellsville *Courier* wants it understood that "the Republicans are running this Congress." Waiving a desire to enter into an argument with our contemporary as to whether it is "the Republicans" or a Republican, we merely wish to assure it that we await, with interest, the display of medals they will be wearing for having done it.

—The Fore River ship building company of Quincy, Massachusetts, has just been given a contract to build two warships for the Argentine government. The competition for the work was open to all the ship builders of the world and the fact that our own secured it doesn't look much as if ship subsidies were really needed to make ship building profitable in this country.

—The mutual endorsement of P. H. GHERRITY, Democrat, for overseer of the poor, and EDWARD GEHRET, Republican, for treasurer of the borough of Bellefonte, by both parties, not only saves them the annoyance of having to make a campaign for re-election but puts the stamp of public approval on their conduct in the offices they have held. We congratulate them on their good fortune, as well as their good work.

—Notwithstanding the popularity of the automobile and its growing adaptability to commercial needs the number of horses increased in the United States during the past year by nearly a million. The average price of the horses has increased from $95.64 to $108.19. The latter is probably accounted for in part by the fact that horse raisers everywhere have been gradually improving their strains, though economic laws teach us that when feed stuffs are high the price of horses and cattle should be low.

—Pennsylvania is threatened with a BALLINGER-PINCHOT scandal all of her very own. One of Prof. SURFACE'S underlings in the economic zoologist department, has been talking too much for the Professor and accuses him of being a little too economic for the good of the State. In fact he says the Professor is so very economic that he is using State appliances and State paid men on his own farm at Mechanicsburg. However unwarranted the charges may be they will prove a glorious respite for the San Jose scale, for now the voluble Professor will have to turn his spraying machines on himself for awhile to prove to the public that he isn't infested with a parasite or fungus deleterious to the economics of Pennsylvania.

—You laboring men! You fellows who have been voting for a tariff that protects everything but yourselves, find out where Detroit is then take the map and discover that Windsor, in Canada, is just a half a mile away from the American city. Butter that sells for 36cts. in Detroit sells for 28cts. in Windsor. Pork that sells for 20 in Detroit sells for 13 in Windsor. Potatoes that cost 70 in Detroit are 65 in Windsor and plug tobacco that costs $2.00 the pound in Detroit can be had for $1.00 in Windsor, and everything else in proportion, though wages are practically the same in both places. Does it look like there is anything wrong? Well—but what's the use bothering you about it. When election time comes around again they will close up most of the industries just far enough in advance of it to scare you into voting the Grand Old Party and protection for everything but yourself back into power again.

THE Democratic Watchman.

STATE RIGHTS AND FEDERAL UNION.

VOL. 55. BELLEFONTE, PA., JANUARY 28, 1910. NO. 4.

State Library JAN 10

Taft as a Party Boss.

"President TAFT has announced that he is the leader of the Republican party," writes the Washington correspondent of an esteemed Philadelphia contemporary. "He has demonstrated during the past week," continues this keen observer of events, "that the Republican leader is centered in the White House, and that Senators and Representatives who desire to participate in the distribution of patronage must do as the President desires." The Washington correspondent of another esteemed Philadelphia contemporary tells of a conference which the President recently had with Senators PENROSE, of Pennsylvania, CRANE, of Massachusetts and CARTER, of Montana. According to this writer the President "took them into his study and kept them there until they promised him that they would see to it that a postal banks law is passed at this session."

This is executive encroachment run mad. The government of the United States is composed of three equal and coordinate branches each entirely independent of the others. The traditions of the country have established an unwritten law against the encroachment by one upon the prerogatives of the others. The founders of the Republic held this danger as the greatest menace to the perpetuity of the government and earnestly advised against it. The opportunities for such usurpations have always been present. Congress might easily cripple the executive by refusing to provide, by appropriation, the funds necessary for administration. The judicial department might easily encroach upon the others by the process of interpretation of laws. But until recently no such crimes against the government were attempted. Each department fulfilled its own mission.

Of late, however, a different order has been intruding itself into the affairs of the government. The executive department is no longer content with its constitutional prerogatives. It has "policies" which it aims to force through Congress and the immediate predecessor of the present President lectured the courts, like a schoolmaster, when their decisions were adverse to his caprices. President TAFT has not invaded the courts, thus far, but he has out-ROOSEVELT-ed ROOSEVELT in hectoring Congress. In the case in point, according to one of the correspondents quoted, he "didn't make an appeal" to the three Senators whom he held in his study until they promised him the legislation he wanted. On the contrary "he was so mandatory toward them that they never had a chance to defend themselves." What would WEBSTER or CLAY or SHERMAN have done under such circumstances?

The Capitol Grafters.

Nearly four years ago WILLIAM H. BERRY, then State Treasurer, surprised the State by asserting that frauds had been perpetrated in the construction and furnishing of the new capitol at Harrisburg. In a speech delivered at Erie, he declared that the expenditures had reached nearer ten than the four and a half million dollars appropriated by the Legislature and that the difference represented graft. During the campaign of 1906 this was the issue and the Republican candidate for Governor, expressing doubts as to the charges, pledged himself to the punishment of the criminals, if the accusations were proven. One of these cases is on trial in the Dauphin county courts at this time.

While the Republican candidate for Governor was pledging himself and his party to the prosecution and punishment of any grafters in connection with the construction and furnishiug of the capitol, the WATCHMAN predicted that in the event of the election of the Republican ticket there would be no punishment of grafters. The first trial resulted in the conviction of Auditor General SNYDER, State Treasurer MATHUES, Superintendent of Public Buildings and Grounds SHUMAKER and contractor SANDERSON. Since that event MATHUES and SANDERSON have died and the others have evaded the processes of the law. We take it, therefore, that the pending prosecution of architect HUSTON will prove a farce.

The State was robbed of something like $9,000,000 as the result of a conspiracy in which those convicted, HUSTON, CASSELL and the then Governor, were concerned. Every consideration of justice requires their punishment. But the exigencies of politics demand that they be absolved from punishment and these considerations are more important than those of the public. CASSELL was acquitted though the evidence of his guilt was stronger than that upon which SNYDER, MATHUES and SHUMAKER were convicted. Whether or not HUSTON will be convicted is a problem yet to be solved, but whether he will or not, it is a safe guess that he will never be punished. The machine managers don't dare fulfill the law.

Taft Punishes Rainey.

President TAFT has succeeded in packing the congressional committee charged with the investigation of Secretary BALLINGER to some extent, at least. That is to say he has clubbed the Republican caucus of the House of Representatives into rejecting the choice of the Democrats in the person of Representative RAINEY, of Illinois. It was a personal matter, he said, a case of *lese majestie*. Mr. RAINEY had charged TAFT'S brother with participation in a robbery of the treasury. The accusation wasn't carelessly made. It has never been disproved. One of the judges of the United States court has declared that there was ample ground for the charge. Yet TAFT assigns it as a reason for interfering with the work of Congress.

Mr. RAINEY'S charge was that a syndicate of frenzied financiers, including the brother of President TAFT and the brother-in-law of former President ROOSEVELT, had purchased the franchises of the French Panama canal for a nominal sum and sold them to the government of the United States for $40,000,000, pocketing the profits. For publication of the statement President ROOSEVELT had the New York *World* and the Indianapolis *News* prosecuted for libel. Nearly two years have elapsed and neither of the defendants have been convicted. It is a safe conjecture that neither of them ever will be convicted. In other words the thoughtful people of the country believe that the charges are true.

But Mr. RAINEY'S presence on the committee to investigate BALLINGER was not objected to on that account. That is only the ostensible reason given to fool the public. Mr. RAINEY is *persona non grata* in this case because he has a habit of investigating thoroughly and is one of the keenest lawyers in the country. When he heard about the Panama scandal he went to Paris and Panama and probed the charge to the bottom before he uttered a word on the subject. Having ascertained the facts, however, he revealed them in a speech in Congress and the accused were compelled to take notice. TAFT knows that he would proceed in the BALLINGER investigation with the same thoroughness and the administration doesn't want that. Whitewash rather than facts is the order.

Bad for Ship Subsidies.

A Massachusetts shipbuilding company has secured the contract to build two battleships, of the dreadnaught type, for the Argentine Republic, at the aggregate cost of $23,000,000. The competition for this award was open to the whole world and though European builders had the advantage of cheaper labor, if that is an advantage, and untaxed raw materials, the American concern was able to secure the work. The superior skill and intelligence of our mechanics and the higher standard of our machinery, compensates for the differences in wages, according to the estimate of these successful bidders. Nobody has anything on this country if self-reliance and courage is asserted.

In view of these facts what excuse is there for legislation providing for ship subsidies? There is the bargain between the late Senator MARK HANNA and the ship trust made during the campaign of 1896, of course, which commercial honor requires to be fulfilled. The shipbuilding trust supplied Mr. HANNA, who was at the time chairman of the Republican National committee, with vast sums for use in debauching the ballot. Legally such a corrupt bargain is a nullity. But most of the bargains made by Mr. HANNA during that campaign, including that with the Mormon church, were legally outlawed. But the others were fulfilled and the polygamists of Utah are still enjoying representation in the Senate.

This bargain, however, involves a waste of vast amounts of public money and thus far Congressmen have been afraid to carry it out. Since the induction of TAFT into the Presidency, however, they have taken on new courage in iniquity. The President has given the scheme his endorsement and the others had fully determined to put it through. This development of the strength of local shipbuilders is somewhat embarrassing, therefore. It indicates that there is no need for ship subsidies, and proves that such legislation is simply a wanton waste of money. It shows, moreover, that with sane maritime legislation this country could beat the world in naval construction and all other forms of shipbuilding.

——The meat boycott may cause loss to local butchers here and there and force some worthy citizens into bankruptcy but it can hardly achieve any results in the direction of cheapening products. The meat trast will simply put another bolt on the cold storage house and let the meat alone until it is called for at prices which will recompense for the delay. The remedy is in the ballot box rather than the boycott.

Bogus Investigation.

An intelligent public will hardly be deceived by the false pretenses of investigating the causes of the high cost of living that have been announced so numerously. It is not the purpose of those who have plunged into this pool of inquiry, as a rule, to reveal the causes of high prices. With the exception of that instituted by Governor HARMON, of Ohio, it may be said that all the investigations of this kind are to conceal, rather than expose, the facts. The congressional investigation under the auspices of Representative MOORE, of Philadelphia, for example, was undertaken to head off a real investigation. The congressional machine simply used Mr. MOORE to forestall a movement which meant something.

Every man gifted with even an atom of intelligence knows the reasons for the present high prices of the necessaries of life. Primarily the tariff tax is responsible. That vicious "mother of trusts" creates a path of roses upon which monopoly rides to the result. The Republican party fosters these iniquitous combinations and burdens the public in order that they shall have abundant profits out of which to contribute corruption funds for future campaigns. The HAMPTON MOORE congressional committee and all the other committees directed by the Republican machine will strive to confuse the evidence in order to conceal these facts. But they will fool only the unthinking fools.

If ROOSEVELT had proceeded in a rational way, five years ago, there would not be a lawless trust in the country today. The way to stop trust lawlessness is to prosecute in the criminal courts and punish by imprisonment those responsible for the lawlessness. But ROOSEVELT didn't pursue that course. It would have deprived some of his intimate and confidential friends of personal liberty. Therefore he preferred to harangue the country on "malefactors of great wealth" and divide the proceeds of their operations among his friends. Cutting the tariff rate will cut the teeth of the trusts and bring prices down to the normal level created by natural laws of trade.

——We were misled by a usually accurate Philadelphia contemporary into the statement, last week, that JOHN E. STOTT, who was secretary of the Board of Public Grounds and Buildings during the period in which the treasury was being looted by the capitol building conspirators, had since died. Mr. STOTT is not dead. When the public conscience drove him into seclusion he was given a snug place in the office of the Auditor General and has occupied it ever since without missing a pay day.

One Source of Corruption.

We cordially concur in the recommendations of State Treasurer SHEATZ that what is known as "continuing appropriations" be discontinued. It has been the custom, Treasurer SHEATZ declares, since the administration of Governor HASTINGS, to carry from one year to another, the unexpended balances of appropriations for specific purposes. This custom, Mr. SHEATZ adds, is a source of profligacy and corruption. Whether that be true or not, it is certainly a public danger and a popular menace. When those in charge of works find themselves with a balance on hand, they are more than likely to expend it in one way or another.

During the period of unrestrained ring control, previous to the political eruption of 1905, it was the custom to make exceedingly free with the public funds. Appropriations were made with a prodigal liberality and measures for the disbursement of funds were drawn in such a way that there was always a balance to be disposed of in any way that might help the party. Such balances were invariably used for corrupt purposes. Mr. SHEATZ declares that they have become a menace to the solvency of the treasury. Aside from any moral considerations, therefore, these abuses demand attention.

The proper way to make appropriations is to enumerate specific sums for particular purposes with a provision that any unexpended balance be covered into the treasury and thus be accounted for. As we understand it, this is what Mr. Treasurer SHEATZ recommends and his suggestions ought to be adopted by the next and all future Legislatures. Nobody is entirely safe in handling other people's money but such a check as that would limit to the minimum the dangers of waste. Therefore we sincerely hope that Mr. SHEATZ'S suggestion will be adopted. Every possible safeguard of public money ought to be adopted.

—A local wag has remarked that inasmuch as we now have a well established order of Elks and are about to have an order of Moose, both for the men, the women might get busy and institute an order of Doe in the community.

It is to Laugh.

From the Johnstown Democrat.

It is with considerable amusement one reads the articles in the Saturday Evening Post protesting against the contemplated action of President Taft and the reactionary congressmen in raising the mailing rates for second class mail matter. It is to laugh when we remember how that same paper advised its subscribers to vote for Mr. Taft because he would make such a safe man in the presidential chair.

It took no great amount of foresight, no keen discernment, to see for a certainty that he would be just the kind of "safe" man that the privileged interests wanted. Did they not know that he was not in sympathy with these muck-raking magazines and would go along with any sort of scheme to make trouble for them? Did they not appreciate the fact so well demonstrated by his whole past life, that he was a conservative and had no sympathy with such publications? And they, having so ardently supported this man, are at least not consistent when they now heap abuse on him for doing the very thing that every one knew he would do as soon as an opportunity presented itself. They protest that the railway contracts should be examined and compared with the contracts with private corporations, thus mildly insinuating that there is graft somewhere.

As long as these papers support the Republican party just so long will they make themselves ridiculous in setting up a howl when their medicine is administered to them. They are like the insurgents who stand for high tariff and yet, when their constituents object to the high prices which follow, are not willing to come out for free trade, but try to take the middle ground by being against the administration. If the Post and other magazines were consistent they would advise their readers to vote for Democratic congressmen this fall and thus show that they are opposed to all forms of graft, from tariff graft down to railroad contract graft, and not opposed only to special forms which happen to touch them in a tender spot.

How Warlike?

From the Lancaster Intelligencer.

The vague and generally confident terms in which the prospect of a "tariff war" with Germany is discussed by some journals shows a failure to appreciate the fact that like real war it is bound to be costly, even though successful. This menace of tariff war comes from the prospective application of "the big stick" to the adjustment of trade troubles with nations that have even more of an inclination to resort to such methods than we have. The "big stick" may work well enough with little nations, but when we seek to apply it, even in pacific commercial form, to great and warlike powers, there is going to be trouble. It is most likely that the trouble will come first with countries that follow a policy something like our own in the taxing of their own trade, and so there is little fear of unpleasantness with Great Britain, which levies only a small revenue tariff, and is practically a free trade nation, and much fear of trouble with Germany, which maintains a vigorous protective tariff policy and also certain monopolies and supervision of trade.

When we try to force Germany to terms, when we try to make that proud nation readjust her own tariff by raising our tariff rates on her products above what we charge on similar products from other lands, we challenge and antagonize the Germans. For what we still continue to buy from them ourselves would pay the tariff, a part of the cost of "war." They would feel our big stick not in tariff payments, but in the decrease of exports to this country, and it would be only human nature, and particularly German nature, if they should promptly and effectively strike back.

"War is hell," said General Sherman. Now how about tariff war?

Fighting Extortion.

From the Harrisburg Star-Independent.

The meat boycott is producing results. It is causing a decrease in the price of meat wherever it has been employed as a weapon to fight against extortion. Choice steak has been offered at ten cents a pound in Milwaukee, and the wholesale price of beef has decreased fifteen cents a hundred pounds in Cleveland. There have been smaller decreases in other cities. The boycott was bound to have that effect. Indeed the price would never have become exorbitant if there had been any resistance by consumers. The price must fall wherever the boycott is declared, for where there is decreased demand there is bound to be a reduction of price.

The boycott should include other articles of food. Prices of eggs are as exorbitant as the prices of meat. Dealers have taken advantage of the silly yarns that it costs five cents to produce an egg and that eggs are selling elsewhere at prices above those which rule in this neighborhood. Wholesalers pushed prices another notch, giving the recent snowfall as an excuse therefor. The fact is that cold storage houses have been filled and the supply is plentiful. Ruthless dealers and producers who sell direct to consumers have simply taken advantage of unresisting purchasers and are squeezing the last possible penny out of them. Moreover, some of them are selling packed eggs as fresh, and at fresh egg prices.

It is a primitive remedy, it is true, and it doesn't strike at the root of the evil. It would be better to destroy special privileges and send the price boosting conspirators to prison. But this will never be done while "the interests" control the government.

——The primaries in Philadelphia last Saturday indicate that the people of that city are still "corrupt and contented." The contractors' combine had everything its own way in nearly all parts of the city.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

—Having been scratched by a pet cat, the arm of Mrs. Annie McKinney, of Avis, Clinton county, had to be amputated. She stood the ordeal well.

—One thousand and forty-five miners were killed in Pennsylvania in 1909. There were 2,198 accidents, a decrease of 16 per cent. from the previous year.

—Abbott & Howells have been awarded the contract to draw up plans and specifications for the proposed sewer system and sewage disposal plant of Hastings, Cambria county, by the borough council.

—Charles M. Schwab's Bethlehem steel works will get $13,000,000 work on the Argentine naval contracts. The plants will furnish the armor, forging and armament of the four new Dreadnaughts to be constructed at Camden, N. J., and Quincy, Mass., for the Argentine Republic.

—Russell Bowman, a trapper, was killed by being caught under a falling tree near Boswell, Somerset county. A searching party came across the body. He evidently had chopped down a tree and it had caught on another. He was picking up his effects when it dislodged and fell on him.

—After swallowing a two-ounce vial of carbolic acid at Matthew's livery stable at Johnstown, Homer Dorney, of South Fork, died on the way to a hospital. He is believed to have been despondent over domestic troubles. He was a well known division foreman of the Pennsylvania railroad.

—Mrs. William Madera, of Yeagertown, Mifflin county, shot at her husband four times after she had followed him to the home of Mrs. Maude Stringfellow and missed killing or injuring him merely on account of her poor markmanship. Four bullets are said to have whizzed close to the man's head.

—Kenyon & Hart, the Clearfield contractors, have received the contract for the construction of the Methodist church at Brookville, at a cost of $60,000. They recently finished a $30,000 grocery house contract at Punxsutawney for the Lauderbach-Barber company and now are constructing a large packing house at Butler.

—Agents of the Guggenheim-Morgan combine of bituminous coal concerns are working in Somerset county. There are four of them and one has announced that they are trying to secure options on the Penwood Coal company, near Rockwood and the Enterprise, South Side and Hocking mines, all near Garrett. These plants represent an acreage of 7,000 acres but the agents declare that they are only beginning their task.

—Register and Recorder W. T. DeHass, of Clearfield county, received the modest little request from a Lock Haven woman for all the information he could find on his books concerning the Williams family. "I am interested in the Williams family," she wrote. This was too much for the register and recorder and he wrote to the woman to come to Clearfield, with plenty of cash, and he would give her access to the books.

—"Guilty of murder in the second degree," was the verdict rendered at Brookville, Jefferson county, in the trial of William Jones, accused of murdering his wife on August 6, 1908. Mrs. Minnie Kunselman, aged seventeen, the man's daughter, was the witness who convicted him. She kept the secret of the alleged murder for a year because she said her father threatened her with death if she confessed what she knew. The case consumed nearly all last week.

—David Benson, who had been in the Juniata county jail charged with robbing the home of A. Bradford Evans, at Thompsontown, on April 24 last, has been discharged from custody, having been cleared of the blame. In the trial the jury failed to agree and was discharged. In the trial Benson set up the alibi that he was in Franklin county at the time of the crime and the district attorney was ordered to investigate. This he did and found that there was no doubt about Benson's having been where he said he was at the time in question.

—The farmers and dairymen of the country districts that supply Altoona and the other towns of Blair county with milk will be busy for the next few weeks cleaning up their stables and milk houses and making the alterations necessary to comply with the health regulations. This activity on the part of the dairymen is in preparation for the milk inspection that will be made in the near future by Health Officer T. G. Herbert. In order to check the annual outbreaks of typhoid fever the health authorities last fall planned an extensive inspection of all farms and dairy places in Blair, Bedford and Huntingdon counties that supply milk to the city. Such a cleaning up might not be out of place in Centre county.

—Another child, the twenty-ninth, has come to bless the home of Charles Porta, an Altoona heater, who was congratulated by Roosevelt, and requested to send one of his photos for the private cabinet of the anti-race suicide celebrities maintained by the president when he was a dweller in the White House. The latest arrival is a boy, and is the pride of his fond father. Mr. Porta, who is 65, is a native of Germany, but has lived in Altoona many years. His first wife bore him thirteen children, eleven of whom are living. His second wife has given birth to sixteen, nine of whom are living. Of the family of twenty, fifteen are boys and five girls. Six of the children are married and between them have twenty-four children.

—Attorney General Todd has given the State Game Commission an opinion confirming its right to sell the guns taken from foreigners in any way it pleases—wholesale, retail, privately, at auction, or in any old way. Governor Stuart suggested to the Commission that it had better get such an opinion and then it would be done correctly. Secretary Kalbfus, of the State Game Commission, has in his possession, taken from foreigners, about 100 double-barrelled guns and 250 single-barrelled guns of all sizes, shapes and conditions. Some of them are good and most of them are not worth anything at all. A number of bids have been received for them as a whole, but the Commission will wait until there are more bids in before making sale.

—Wells W. Detweiler, a member of a prominent Harrisburg family, was last week found guilty of murder in the first degree in shooting Thomas Dwyer last fall. The jury deliberated a little more than three hours and rendered a verdict after but two ballots. Detweiler showed but little concern when the jury announced its verdict. The case was on trial before President Judge George Kunkel for a week and attracted much attention because of the testimony showing that Detweiler after an all night drinking bout in a club had quarreled with Dwyer. Leaving the club house he bought the revolver and returned and shot Dwyer while he was in a defenseless position. Detweiler claims that he had been taking opium and drinking so heavily that he did not remember anything that had happened.

—Fire of an unknown origin practically wiped out the plant of the Mann Edge Tool company, Brown and Water streets, at Lewistown, on Sunday. The fire was first discovered in the carpenter shop and quickly spread to the paint shop, where it was fed by the turpentines and oils. It then made its way to the polishing, grinding and other finishing departments. There was a heavy stock on hand of finished axes and other tools, all of which is a total loss. On the building, stock and machinery the loss is estimated at $100,000, covered by insurance. It is a question whether the plant will be rebuilt, as the company four years ago purchased the plant of the American Axe and Tool company at Mill Hall. Since then the Mill Hall plant has been idle most of the time and it is thought that the work may be taken to that place until an increase in orders justifies the running of two plants.