

INK SLINGS.

The first day of ground hog weather was not of the kind to excite much admiration for the woolly little weather prophet.

It was characteristic of Col. JOHN A. DALEY to bob up serenely and spoil all the nice long obituary we had written in his memory.

If the testimony in the BALLINGER inquiry continues along the lines thus far followed that TAFT smile will disappear to never return.

The President declares he is lonely in the White House. How sad to think that that smile might wear off in the awfulness of his solitude.

It has been judicially decided that neither ROOSEVELT's brother-in-law nor TAFT's brother is the government of the United States and that is a stride in the direction of safety and sanity.

Their present antics seem to indicate that both JIM JEFFRIES and JACK JOHNSON would about as soon have the law settle their differences as to have to do it themselves in the squared ring.

If the public could only do to the price of eggs and meat what the speculators did to the price of Hocking Coal and Iron they would soon be so low that all could have them without a bit of a strain on the pocket book.

A trust is being formed to control breakfast foods of the country. It will take in everything of the sort except hay, alfalfa and excelsior. Thank the Lord something is to be left to us without the prohibitive prices of trust greed.

The Senate committee sat down on Secretary of the Interior BALLINGER with a force, on Wednesday, that was calculated to make that gentleman feel quite as flat as his summary dismissal of PINCHOT was supposed to have made the latter feel.

If they arrest Dr. COOK for being a faker, surely he has just as good ground for entering a counter suit against the public for being faked. After all ought we not to accord him a modicum of admiration for having pulled the job off so splendidly.

If the State students continue their studies under old Prof. BARLEYCOB in Bellefonte much further council will have to arrange so that the institution out behind the water works will be able to confer degrees upon those who are most persistent in their libations.

That old dinner pail that we heard so much about in a campaign not long ago might be full, as our Republican friends promised us all it would be, but if it is full of mush alone, for even taters are too high in price for the most of the men who carry their dinner pails to work with them.

Pittsburg barbers have issued an edict against women who take their children to the shops to have their hair cut on Saturdays. It is a nuisance to the men on a Saturday rush for a shave but then the view point depends very largely on what man's child it is that is delaying the barbers.

The western packing houses have curtailed their shipments east on account of the boycott but their slaughtering operations have not diminished. The packers are simply "stocking up" for the time when the resumption of meat eating will increase the demand and enhance the price of the product.

President TAFT has ordered the House Committee on Ways and Means to make a bogus investigation and report that the high prices are not in any way related to the tariff. The people know, however, that the high prices are altogether ascribable to the tariff and nothing the congressional committee can do or say will deceive them.

Cincinnati has solved the problem of her striking girl cigar makers much more handsily than have either Philadelphia or New York their troubles with the striking shirt-waist makers. The men of the former city are marrying them so fast that the strike is expected to die shortly for want of strikers. Obviously this should be a very happy solution and it will be if the men are not merely looking for some one to earn a living for them.

This thing of electing a Republican House to support a Republican President has not panned out according to promises at all. Their fighting at Washington has been a national scandal during the two last administrations and it is a question as to whether a Democratic House wouldn't have been able to accomplish more legislation of benefit to the country. In any event it would have done something more than wash dirty party linen for the world's gaze.

The New Jersey farmer who sold his two hogs to a butcher at wholesale price later decided to buy the hams and shoulders back. He bought them at retail, of course, and found that he had to pay the butcher \$2.85 more than he had received for the entire hogs. The facts and figures in this case are true and while they throw an interesting side light on the high cost of living they are rather a sad commentary on the shrewdness of the New Jersey farmer. We venture that Centre county hasn't such a gilly as this New Jersey specimen.

Democratic Watchman

STATE RIGHTS AND FEDERAL UNION.

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Roosevelt Again Judicially Rebuked.

The quashing of the indictment against the New York World for libeling the government by criticising Mr. ROOSEVELT's brother-in-law and President TAFT's brother, is not only a vindication of the majesty of the law but an affirmation of the liberty of the press. The prosecution was conceived in the malice of ROOSEVELT and brought forth in the stupidity of BONAPARTE. Its purpose was to invest the administration at Washington with absolute power to censor the press of the country. Its effect, if it had been sustained by the court, would have been to revive the seditious laws by executive order. That would have been as complete a subversion of the constitution as the success of the war of the Rebellion could have achieved.

The New York World published the details of purchase of the franchise of the French Panama canal company and its subsequent sale to the government of the United States. The purchase price, according to the evidence, was about \$10,000,000. The sale price was \$40,000,000. Among those said to have been concerned in the transaction were DOUGLAS ROBINSON, brother-in-law of ROOSEVELT, and C. P. TAFT, brother of the President. At the time ROOSEVELT was President and TAFT Secretary of War. Before the event Congress had created a commission to determine the route of the waterway. The commission had reported in favor of the Nicaragua route, and the President had expressed his approval of the choice. Congress was also favorable to that route.

When the syndicate, including TAFT and ROBINSON, acquired the Panama property, however, the President changed his mind and practically compelled Congress to adopt the Panama route and purchase the franchise, at an exorbitant price, from the syndicate. The bargain with the syndicate included the right of way through the province of Panama, a concession from the government of Colombia, which the French Panama company had acquired. The government of Colombia refused to ratify this part of the contract, however, and ROOSEVELT organized, financed and policed a rebellion in Panama to consummate the transaction and subsequently paid the bogus government of Panama \$10,000,000 for the right of way. The New York World's statement was a plain recital of these facts.

In his frenzied resentment of this just exercise of its functions as a newspaper Mr. ROOSEVELT denounced Mr. PULTZER, editor of the New York World, in scurrilous language, in a message to Congress and ordered the Department of Justice of the government of the United States to discover a way in which he might be punished. The prosecution which ended so ignominiously the other day, was the result of that order. BONAPARTE, a servile and stupid sycophant of power, dug up some obsolete law which remained on the statute books through the neglect of Congress and in his blind malignity ROOSEVELT imagined it might be tortured into serving the purpose. That this expectation has been disappointed and the presumption rebuked is a subject of popular congratulation.

Reforming the Legislature.

The next Legislature of this State will have some very important work to perform both in the matter of repealing bad laws, improving laws that have merit as well as faults and enacting new legislation that is needed. Under existing political conditions in Philadelphia and Pittsburg there is not much hope of changing the party complexion of the Legislature. But there is substantial ground for the belief that if the voters of the State who desire civic improvement will proceed with proper intelligence and energy, the minority in both branches of the Legislature may be so materially strengthened that good results in all directions may be achieved.

The time to begin this work is now. The place is in the selection of candidates for Senators and Representatives in the Legislature. Our friends, the enemy, have plenty of troubles to distract, if not divide, their forces, in various places. The opposition to the re-election of GEORGE T. OLIVER, as Senator in Congress, is already large and constantly increasing. The resentment, on the part of the better element of the party, against the methods of the machine is not diminishing. These facts will help the opposition in efforts to elect better men to the Legislature. Thousands who may not be willing to vote against the candidates of the machine will refrain from voting altogether.

The magnificent effort of C. LARUE MUNSON to secure a seat on the Supreme bench last fall shows what the right sort of a candidate who proceeds along right lines toward the fulfillment of his ambitions may achieve. His experience proves that dozens of Democratic candidates for Senator and Representatives in the Legis-

lature may be successful if they are men of the character to command popular respect and have the energy to present their claims to the people. Therefore Democrats should begin at once to select candidates for nomination at the June primaries. We ought to gain fifty seats in the House and half a dozen in the Senate and can if we will begin now and act wisely.

Difficult Whitewashing Job.

The packed committee of Congress charged with the investigation of the accusations against Secretary BALLINGER will have a hard time in its purpose to whitewash him. Mr. GLAVIS, the first witness, has already presented ample evidence to connect him with the conspiracy to despoil the government of vast areas of coal lands in Alaska and is fully corroborated in his assertion that he, GLAVIS, was discharged from the public service because he had interfered with the operations of the conspirators. Moreover, he has shown conclusively that during the recent presidential campaign BALLINGER implored him to check his activities against the schemes of the conspirators until after certain persons had been induced to make a generous contribution to the TAFT campaign fund.

In this fact, probably, lies the reason why President TAFT was so anxious to pack the committee. It will probably be shown that Mr. TAFT had been informed of the plans of Mr. BALLINGER to induce certain gentlemen engaged in the nefarious purpose of looting the country of her public domain to contribute to the corruption fund. The entire transaction was conducted under the supervision of FRANK HITCHCOCK, chairman of the Republican National committee and now Postmaster General in the cabinet. HITCHCOCK did nothing without the assent of the candidate and because of his success in manipulating these underworld affairs he was rewarded by a seat in the cabinet. It is practically certain, also, that it was his influence, supplemented by that of the land pirates, that procured the appointment of BALLINGER.

Another interesting fact brought out in the investigation is that the CUNNINGHAMS and the GUGGENHEIMS were associated in the attempt to steal the Alaska coal lands and that BALLINGER was counsel for them, both while he occupied the office of Commissioner of the Land Office in the ROOSEVELT administration and afterward. Those gentlemen, still pursuing their purpose to seize the lands in question, were ardent advocates of the appointment of BALLINGER to the office of Secretary of the Interior and the moment he got himself settled in the seat he began discharging the subordinates in the department who had been interfering with the schemes of the conspirators.

In view of these facts it ought to be a difficult job to get a whitewashing report even from a packed committee.

Words and Actions in Conflict.

The "House of Governors," which has been in session in Washington, recently, expressed a good deal of solicitude over the present menace to the gospel of state rights. Governor HUGHES, of New York, shows especial concern on this subject and following his declared opposition to the proposed amendment to the constitution of the United States authorizing Congress to tax incomes, on the ground that it might prove a menace to state rights, he addressed the Governors assembled in convention on the importance of preserving inviolate the principles expressed in the Tenth amendment to the Federal constitution.

We most cordially agree with Governor HUGHES and those who coincided with him in the House of Governors, upon that point. The usurpation of power by the President is as much a subversion of the constitution as an overt act of rebellion, and the usurpation by the Speaker of the House of Representatives of the rights of the Representatives in Congress is a crime against civil liberty. A man who commits burglary is prosecuted, if apprehended, and punished by imprisonment but his offense is not half as dangerous and damaging to the people of the country as that of the usurpation of power by the President or Congress.

But what is the use of Governor HUGHES or any other Governor talking against this evil when he subsequently acquiesces in and encourages it. HUGHES loses no opportunity to eulogize former President ROOSEVELT and President TAFT and yet during all the period of his Presidency ROOSEVELT usurped every power that he could seize and TAFT is following in his footsteps as freely as he possibly can. You can't arouse public sentiment by speaking against an evil while acting in support of it and more than half the Governors who denounced the encroachment of state rights in Washington are encouraging it at home by praise of TAFT.

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Mr. Hill's Curious Notion.

We are not surprised to learn that Mr. JAMES J. HILL is of the opinion that the women of the country are responsible for the high prices of food stuffs and other necessities of life. Mr. HILL is one of the multi-millionaire railroad magnates who believe in high tariffs because they help his enterprises to milk the public. Like some of the congressional investigators of this subject he wants to confuse the public mind, or at least divert it from the real facts. As a railroad president he wouldn't think of reducing the tariff on steel rails for the reason that it would curtail the profits of the manufacturers of rails. As a consumer of products he wouldn't reduce the tariff on necessities for the reason that it might reduce the profits on the manufacturers of, or dealers in, such products.

The housewives of the country are extravagant, Mr. HILL says, in their purchases, and that makes high prices to others. They don't go to market, he adds, and higgie with the dealers, so as to save a penny or two and because they don't everybody else is mulcted to the full extent which their carelessness makes possible. Moreover the housewife buys too much and wastes a lot, he continues, and puts the blame for this on the telephone. They are too lazy to go to the market or the store, but order over the telephone and the dealer "soaks" them, he assures us, mercilessly, and his avarice thus whetted to a keen edge, he proceeds to "soak" all the rest of us, Mr. HILL asserts. And out of this improvidence of the housewife and cupidity of the dealer flows all the high prices and other troubles, Mr. HILL concludes.

Possibly Mr. HILL may have married into a profligate family and that what he says on this subject may be true with respect to his own domestic affairs. But every intelligent man in this broad land knows that it is not true of the wives in this country, as a rule. On the contrary for scientific economizing the average wife in this country has the average husband skinned a mile. It is through her patient and intelligent efforts that the meager wages paid to the average working man, skilled or otherwise, are able to make ends meet and provide even the most frugal food and scanty apparel for the family. The cause of the high prices is the tariff which fosters trusts and enables the beneficiaries of an iniquitous system to raise or lower prices of everything just as the Wall street speculators manipulate the prices of stocks.

The Civil Pension Craze.

We can imagine nothing stranger in the affairs of life than the growing sentiment among the employees of the government that for one reason or another they should be put upon the pension list after the attainment of a certain age. For more than a score of years each Legislature of this State and some of the other States have had under consideration bills to pension judges at a certain age. An act of Congress provides for the pensioning of judges of the federal courts and those serving on the state benches think similar legislation should be enacted in the States. Recently a movement has been inaugurated in Washington looking to the pensioning of all employees when they have grown too old to render efficient service.

The reason given for this movement is that after a man has served a long time in the public service he is unfitted for any other employment. But that is equally true to laborers, mechanics and professional men in private life. When they reach the age of inefficiency they must give way to younger and more vigorous men. But it never occurs to them that the government ought to provide them with pensions. They accept the inevitable and rely upon their relatives to maintain them if they have not been provident enough to save out of their earnings during the period of their closing years. What greater claim have the employees of the government to the beneficence of the people than the industrious mechanics?

There are no men in private employment as liberally recompensed for their labor as the employees of the government at Washington or at the capital of the State. It is true that some exceptionally capable men in private employment get generous salaries. But it is for the reason that they are able to render exceptionally valuable service and if men of equal ability in the public service are not equally fortunate, they are at liberty to quit the public service and take advantage of the opportunities which private life affords. No man is married to his job in Washington or Harrisburg and no judge or other public official is held in office against his inclination. Therefore if he is not satisfied with his opportunities in public life let him resign.

If the ground hog didn't see his shadow Wednesday it was certainly because of defective eyesight.

Outlook Bad for Taft.

Washington Cor. Philadelphia Record. With two months of the session gone the leaders of Congress seem suddenly to have awakened to the realization that the Republican party is close to a downfall and that the whole program of Taft policies is about to go to smash.

Both the regular and insurgent factions of the Republican party in the House have in the last day or two carried solemn warning to the President that the next House will very likely be Democratic because of the Cannon issue and the failure of Congress to carry out the promises made in the presidential campaign. Both sides admit that the situation could be remedied and might be saved if the Republican majority could be brought together and put through the Taft program, but both sides admit also that the majority can never be brought together at this session. The regulars blame Cannon and the insurgents blame Cannon and the President has tremulously tried to temporize between them until neither side fully trusts him.

The prospect is that the first Congress of the Taft administration is going to be a dismal failure to the great discredit of the President himself. The situation is admittedly alarming to the whole Republican side of the House. Thoughtful members of Congress are asking each other what kind of reception they will meet if they go to the White House April 15 or May 1, with plans to quit work for the summer, if the administration program is unfulfilled. Everybody wants an early adjournment and there seems no way to prevent it, for the members know they will have hard fights in all close districts.

The question is one which congressional leaders admit is giving them deep concern. The absence of unanimity of thought on almost all of the President's measures is such as to make exceedingly difficult the work mapped out for those who have the bills in charge. Bills to create a court of commerce and amend the railroad rate laws, to establish postal savings banks, to validate withdrawals of public lands wanted for conservation purposes, and to legalize national characters for corporations doing interstate business which have been placed at the head of the "White House schedule," have all met with determined opposition.

Farmers Strike Back.

From the Altoona Times. State agriculturalists at Harrisburg last week denied the charge that they are getting exorbitant prices for their produce, and demanded, as a remedy for conditions in which they are co-sufferers with their fellow-men in other spheres of activity, that legislation be enacted which will prevent gambling in food products or the combination of men and money to control prices, rather than abstaining from eating food products which are necessary to maintain life.

It was pointed out that one of the objects of former President Roosevelt's country life commission was to ascertain how farm life might be made more attractive and more profitable, thus inducing the boys and girls to take a greater interest in agriculture and remain on the farm rather than go to the city. If farming is synonymous with plutocracy, the tide would be from the city to the farm, for mankind involuntarily and irresistibly gravitates to centers where can be acquired the greatest returns for the minimum expenditure of energy.

Not only do the farmers disclaim responsibility for the high prices, but they offer a very practical and sensible method of correcting the evil, which is presented in resolutions which were adopted, of which the following is the salient feature: "The beef trust and kindred combines get control of our food products, double the price to the consumer and the farmer gets unjustly censured as a result. The only way for farmers to remedy this evil lies in the intelligent use of the ballot. Quit sending men to our halls of legislation who are owned or controlled by the trusts, and then this illegal price-raising and gambling in food products will be stopped, and the producer and consumer brought into a closer and more friendly relationship with unnecessary middlemen eliminated."

"The intelligent use of the ballot," by others as well as farmers, is the solution of all political and economic ills. If those engaged in agriculture are determined to make use of the one effective weapon at hand, they may accomplish much. More power to their determination, and may their example be generally emulated.

Chicago's Shame.

From the Pittsburg Post. The shame that has come upon Chicago through the indictment of some of her officials and contractors brings home to her purists the fatuity of pointing the finger of scorn at others. Indeed, this applies to carping critics everywhere who have been assailing Pittsburg's fair name. It is now revealed that Chicago has her own Augean stables to clean and some of the mud-slinging that has originated from that source might now be retracted with perfect propriety.

Conspirators may be found in every city of any size whatsoever, and as well in some that have only begun to grow. Conspirators who will not hesitate to sap the lifeblood out of the city corporation if opportunity offers, who are ever ready to wax fat and sleek through their double dealing at the expense of the taxpayer. Everybody knows that graft of this character, the exploitation of contracts, of franchises and other commodities which they regard as merchantable, is not indigenous to any one city.

It does not behoove any city to sit by smugly criticising a sister city where graft or vice has been exposed. The canker may be the worst in that city which smirks at her own fair likeness in the glass. An investigation, sudden as a thunder clap, at any moment may reveal that she whose skin is fairest is smitten with the worst disease.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

The annual meeting of the Huntingdon and Broad Top railroad will be held in Philadelphia today.

Thirty-five are suffering from attacks of measles in DuBois at the present time and the disease shows no decrease in its ravages.

There are said to be almost 1,200 workers in the mills and shops of Johnstown who have pledged a protest to eat meat for a period of thirty days, starting from a date that has not been announced yet.

Robert A. Shaw has been nominated for justice of the peace of Avis, Clinton county, by both the Republicans and Democrats. He will have served forty years in office if he is elected and lives out his next term.

Thirty cases of measles have been reported at Sewickley, a suburb of Pittsburg. Children under 10 years of age are not allowed to attend Sunday school and the two lowest rooms of the public school have been closed.

The property of the Juniata Water and Power company, operating near Huntingdon, was sold under foreclosure proceedings at auction at Philadelphia last week to J. W. Bell, of New York, attorney for the firm, Bell & Judge. The consideration was \$400,000.

Charleroi is a dirty looking town at present for the simple reason that the union barbers are on the strike. The journeymen ask that the price of a shave be raised from 10 to 15 cents and that better arrangements be made for holidays and evenings off. The owners of the shops remain firm.

Mrs. Mary McQuown Ray, wife of Dr. D. P. Ray, of Johnstown, and daughter of ex-Senator M. L. McQuown, editor of the Clearfield "Rafeman Journal," died at the Memorial hospital, Johnstown, Friday after a serious operation. Mrs. Ray was 28 years of age and was married last May.

The Cambria county commissioners this year ignored the work of the Ebensburg board of assessors, who had reduced the rate of valuation, and placed the amount the same as the total assessment of last year. The citizens, it is said, are angry, as the work of the assessors was acceptable to them.

Four hundred farmers of Westmoreland and Fayette counties met at Scottdale and adopted a resolution that the probe into high prices should be pushed with vigor. They declared that if the prices of eggs, butter and beef are going beyond the reach of city purses, the farmers are not getting the benefit.

The rough-edged nickels that have been reported from all over the state as being in circulation and which were thought everywhere to be counterfeit, have been declared as genuine by the government officials. A defect in the molding is the cause of the rough and thin edges. They bear the date 1908.

Adam Bresh, of New Washington, Clearfield county, next May will complete his tenth commission as justice of the peace. First he was appointed to the office by Governor Packer on March 15, 1899. His term was to last five years "if he should so long behave himself well," the commission reads.

Heavy losses were incurred in the retail milk business done by the Johnstown Sanitary Dairy company last year. Nevertheless the firm was able to declare a dividend of six per cent. at a meeting of the directors held recently. Gains were made in the ice cream business and in the sale of butter and eggs.

Seven county detectives visited the Colonial club at Homestead and gathered in faro layouts, poker chips, beer and fifty prisoners. Then the men of the law locked the door and sent the key into the Monongahela river. In the raid three private detectives and two policemen were captured. The club has had its charter for over a year.

John R. Caldwell, of Indiana, prominently connected with a number of the Berwind-White interests at Windber, from a private office in the Windber hospital directs all the affairs of the company in which he is interested. He was forced some time ago to submit to the amputation of his one remaining leg because of blood poisoning.

From beneath the nail on the toe of her right foot, Mrs. Charles E. Carr, of York, recovered part of a needle that she swallowed fifteen years ago. Eight years ago she got the other part of a needle from a toe on her left foot. When she swallowed the needle it was whole. In spite of the long time it was in her body, it retained its original brightness.

Sixty cents a dozen was offered for strictly fresh eggs in Erie last Wednesday. A West Side grocer in that city makes the prediction that eggs will go to \$1 a dozen before spring. He gives as one reason for the scarcity the fact that the state board of health has a standing order for several hundred dozens of fresh eggs monthly as food for patrons at tubercular institutions.

Judge R. E. Lovett, successor of the great Harriman and president of the Union Pacific railroad, refused to discuss the high food prices situation when asked about it at Pottstown. He said that he represented too many interests to give his personal opinion on the matter. Just before he had been asked, his cook threw some empty strawberry boxes out into the snow.

Practically lost to his relatives for thirty years, Thomas Murphy, who was kidnapped from his mother in Johnstown in the early 80's, has written to his brother, who lives in the Flood City. He is in poor health. The lad was taken from home by an aunt and although the family discovered his whereabouts eighteen years ago it is said that he refused to answer letters sent to him. He may be taken to Johnstown. His mother remarried and is Mrs. Mary E. Shaffer, of Loreto.

Auditor General Young on Monday approved the \$15,000 reward for the capture and conviction of the kidnapers of Willie Whitta, and the money will be paid at once, as follows: Cleveland police pension fund, \$7,900; Patrick O'Reilly, saloon-keeper who notified the authorities, \$5,000; William Hunley, bell boy at the hotel where Willie Whitta took refuge, \$1,000; Attorneys Gordon and Cochran of Mercer, who refused to take fees from the boy's father for prosecuting the kidnapers, \$500 each; Chief of Police Crain, of Sharon, \$100. The payment has been held up for several months because of a question as to the legality of the appropriation as to money by the legislature which is part of the general appropriation for expenses of the executive department instead of in a separate appropriation act. The auditor general today decided that it constituted a contract which the state was bound to live up to, and he ordered the money paid.

A levy has been made on the personal property of Samuel S. Brown, proprietor of the Duncan house, at Millers, Millin county, under the investigation of the commonwealth, to obtain the balance due on the bonds of Samuel D. Coldren, who as register and recorder of wills in Millin county, is alleged to have defaulted to the extent of almost \$10,000. The money was due on inheritance and collateral taxes. It was only some time after Coldren's successor had assumed office that the alleged shortage was discovered and the State began to sue the bondsmen. Some of them have died and their estates have been divided, but the money will have to be paid out of them. The claim of Mr. Brown is the largest and amounts to \$3,200. It will be used as a test case to decide the merits. It is said that the State settled some of the smaller claims on the basis of 50 cents on the dollar. Coldren is still living in a middle western State, having left Millin county before the alleged shortage was discovered.