

INK SLINGS.

From this distance it looks very much as if Secretary BALLINGER is more in need of a whitewash brush than a lawyer.

If prices continue to increase a fried egg or a bowl of ox-tail soup ought to be a pretty liberal prize during the next fair season.

The goose that laid the golden egg wasn't in it with the hen that's onto her job and sticks to it these days of egg-generated prices.

Senator ELKINS may be off the reservation now. His friends can rest assured, however, that he'll be back when the dinner bell rings.

Conditions of both the purse and stomach of us ordinary citizens make both pertinent and timely the query: When shall we all meet again?

Massachusetts schools, it is said, are to be provided hereafter with instructors in story telling. What an opening that will make for Republican politicians!

There may be worse men in the world than Speaker CANNON, as one of our contemporaries observes. That fact, however, indicates the wisdom of building jails.

It is extremely doubtful if the Williamsport preacher who boasts that he has never been tired in his life could say the same for the congregations he has served.

Chicago is to vote on the license question in April. Its a safe guess that the people of that town will not need to satiate their thirst in the Chicago river after that date.

Old-fashioned winters may have had their advantages, but after the experience of the last couple of months you'll have to excuse us for asking, like the Misourian, "to be shown."

New York papers report the birth of two children in that State last week, both with well developed teeth. What exemplars of the teachings of our friend, Mr. FLETCHER, these youngsters could be made!

Singularly enough the President omitted parcels post from his legislative program. But, come to think of it, the express companies are on the list of campaign contributors. This will explain the why of it.

It has been discovered that there are thirty-six million eggs in one cold storage house in New York. May the good Lord deliver us from the odor of that neighborhood, should President TAFT succeed in bustin' that trust.

Another of the officers of the Steel trust is trying to divorce his wife. From the number of these cases that have already nauseated the public, it must be a deal of a job for a man to be true to that predatory corporation and faithful to his domestic obligations at the same time.

The reported insurgency of Senator ELKINS, like the reported death of MARK TWAIN, some years ago, is probably "greatly exaggerated." STEPHEN is not of the metal of which insurgents are made. While there are spoils inside the political lines, that's where his party will find him.

Of the ninety-two Senators in Washington, but a single one voted to endorse the "bloody shirt" blather of Senator HEYBURN the other day, and that was HEYBURN himself. In his effort to make asses of the other Senators he succeeded only in showing what a consummate one he was himself.

Natural gas about Pittsburg has become so scarce that great anxiety is manifested over the discovery of a new field within using distance. If they'll try their augers on our congressional friend, JAMES FRANCIS BURKE, there will be no doubt about securing a bountiful supply, and right at home, too.

WALTER WELLMAN now tells us that he purposes using the balloon he is supposed to have built, to discover the north pole, to prove that it is an entirely safe way to cross the Atlantic. Possibly it may so turn out, but the supply of wind will be dangerously short when he gets through talking about how its to be done.

Yes, its true that JOSEPH formed the first Trust when he cornered the corn crop down in Egypt, but then the other fellows who had to have it didn't help him run up the price by putting a tariff on it as soon as it crossed the line into their own country. Old Mr. JACOB and his Caananite followers weren't that brand of idiots.

The committee of seventy have reported one hundred and eight Philadelphia policemen for "pernicious activity and interference at the polls." If punishment is hoped for the committee has made a great blunder. The charge should have been for refusing to do the dirty work of the gang. Punishment would have come sure, then.

The Philadelphia Democrats who countenance the deal to defeat the reelection of Magistrates LADNER and EISENBROWN, because of their refusal to assist the contractor's gang last fall, can take time by the forelock by having the gable end of their pantaloons half-soled before attempting to participate in another Democratic gathering. There will be a sliding board there and it "won't be greased either."

Democratic Watchman

STATE RIGHTS AND FEDERAL UNION.

VOL. 55. BELLEFONTE, PA., FEBRUARY 11, 1910. NO. 6.

Millionaire Moral Perverts.

An investigation of rates of the express companies, recently inaugurated by the Interstate Commerce Commission, has developed a curious condition of affairs. It seems that a Minnesota farmer named SUNDBERG, who was in urgent need of a casting for one of his agricultural machines, ordered it to be sent by express. The charge for the service was \$36.00, which he regarded as extortionate. But the crops were ripening in his fields and he concluded to pay the price and appeal for redress later. In pursuance of this plan he not only discovered that all express companies have uniform rates and that neither of them will give up any money which in any way comes into their possession. Thereupon he appealed to the Interstate Commerce Commission.

The hearing in the case was begun at No. 67 Wall street, New York, the other day, and at this writing is still in progress. Of course the ordinary farmer couldn't carry on an investigation under such circumstances, but Mr. SUNDBERG is a banker, also, and somewhat of a politician, so that he could afford to go up against even that sort of a proposition. The surprising thing, however, was the absence of information from the officials of the express companies. Officers of the United States Express company, the Wells Fargo Express company and the American Express company were examined, but neither of them knew a thing about the subject. They were asked as to the uniformity of rates, the expenditures of the companies and the system of charges, but not a single fact could be obtained.

The truth of the matter is that these extremely wealthy corporation managers are simply moral perverts who perjure themselves to prevent the exposure of their iniquities. One of the witnesses was EDWARD T. PLATT, son of former United States Senator THOMAS C. PLATT, and himself treasurer of the United States Express company. He swore that he knew nothing about the rates, the expenses of the company for lobbying or the personnel of the board of directors. CHAUNCEY H. CROSBY, vice president and general manager of the United States Express company; JAMES F. FARGO, treasurer of the American Express company, and JOHN A. BRADLEY, vice president and traffic manager of the American Express company, swore that they were equally ignorant. Of course they were lying for without the knowledge they couldn't perform the duties of their offices. But what redress has a victim of their cupidity.

Tariff Taxes and Poverty.

Sixty thousand persons were obliged to appeal to the charity organizations of New York for the necessities of life, within the last year, according to published statistics. This is an increase of fifty per cent. over the previous record and a greater number than during any previous similar period of time. These applicants were not profligates or criminals, paying the penalty of vices or imprudence. That sort don't go to organized charities for relief, for the reason that they know that there is method in such beneficence. The applicants referred to were sober and industrious men and women, willing and able to work but unable to procure employment.

Of course the same conditions which exist in New York obtain in other centers of population, and about in the same ratio to population. In other words there are probably nearly a million men and women in this country of industrial progress suffering from the want of food and other necessities of life. All this is ascribed to the high cost of living. If meat and vegetables were only half as expensive the number of sufferers would be diminished, naturally. But there are reasons for the high cost of living and the reasons responsible for one are the direct causes of the other. They are twin iniquities and can't be separated. The Republican party is responsible for both.

Two years ago the president of the American Manufacturers' association stated to a congressional committee that the DINGLEY tariff robbed the industrial life of the country of a million dollars a day through excessive prices on products which it made possible. Since that time President TAFT has stated that the DINGLEY rates were excessive, burdensome and ought to be reduced. But instead of fulfilling the promises of TAFT Congress has greatly increased the tariff rates and added to the vast total of the robbery of the people. This sinister service for the trusts has caused the increase of the prices of food and clothing and multiplied the number of people dependent upon charity.

The farmer gets very little advantage out of the high prices of his product for the reason that the high prices of everything he has to buy more than balances the account on the wrong side.

An Interesting Fight.

One of the most interesting political fights of recent years is now impending in this State. Mr. GEORGE T. OLIVER, the present junior Senator in Congress, aspires to a re-election and former State Senator WILLIAM FLINN, of Pittsburg, is very much opposed to such a deal of the political cards. Mr. FLINN, who has grown very rich as a municipal contractor, has aspirations to wear the senatorial toga himself. He has had considerable experience in the Pennsylvania Legislature and imagines that his qualifications for service in the upper branch of the national Legislature are quite as adequate as those of OLIVER. But it is intimated that he cares more for the defeat of OLIVER than his own success.

Of course both OLIVER and FLINN are absurdities in that connection. Neither has any intelligent understanding of the science of government and both depend upon their financial resources to justify their preposterous ambitions. In the fight between the two OLIVER has the advantage of the sympathy of the PENROSE machine but FLINN has the advantage of the local Republican machine and PENROSE is afraid to openly attack it. If Senator PENROSE had the courage of his convictions there would be no doubt of the result. That is to say OLIVER might win a temporary victory over FLINN. But PENROSE realizes that if he casts the force of his influence against FLINN and in favor of OLIVER, in this instance, FLINN may overthrow the PENROSE machine in a subsequent and more important contest.

In this curious conflict for spoils and power we are very much inclined to encourage the "under dog," if there were any way of determining which of the two represents that unfortunate entity. "Every fellow for himself and the devil take the hindmost," would be an appropriate motto for the spectators to adopt. But unhappily the State is certain to lose whichever wins for neither of them is fit for the office to which they both aspire. However in the fact that there is such an irreconcilable conflict in progress there is hope for the interests of the people. It encourages those who care more for civic virtue than political prejudices to elect a Legislature which will elect a Democrat.

The National Incorporation Scheme.

President TAFT's bills providing for the incorporation of corporations by the national government were introduced, simultaneously, in both Houses of Congress, the other day, and the nefarious work of bribing Senators and Representatives to support them, by the use of patronage, is well under way. The palpable purpose of these bills is to make the TAFT-ROOSEVELT political dynasty in Washington perpetual. Its effect, if carried to the logical conclusion, will be the complete subversion of Republican government in this country, unless the bogus Republicanism of France and Mexico is accepted as the standard. We can imagine no more subtle scheme to promote imperialism.

The first suggestion of the national incorporation of corporations came from the president of an insurance company at the time that those institutions were threatened with investigation under state laws. Senator DRYDEN, of New Jersey, knew THEODORE ROOSEVELT as the managers of the steel trust knew him and felt that juggling trust funds would be safer with him as the arbitrator than with most of the state executives. But the other corporate managers didn't understand. They imagined that the froth and fustian which emanated from the White House was in earnest. It was not until after the manipulation of the Tennessee Coal and Iron company stock was perpetrated that they came to agree with Mr. DRYDEN.

Primarily the national incorporation law is intended to concentrate power in the hands of the administration in Washington but the effect will be to destroy every vestige of police power in the state governments. The SHERMAN anti-trust law has never impaired the property or curtailed the rights of a corporation conducted according to law. But recent decisions of the courts have admonished the predatory corporations that the laws must be obeyed and President TAFT offers the corporation law as an avenue of escape from this danger.

The Standard Oil company needs the sinister protection of a corrupt national government and TAFT takes this medium of offering it to that conspiracy.

It is well enough to keep in mind that the tariff tax runs the price of foodstuffs to an unattainable altitude but that wouldn't be so bad if it didn't have the same effect on all other necessities of life. With cheaper woollens and shoes we would have more money to spare for foodstuffs.

Importance of Local Elections.

We desire to again call the attention to the great importance of the local elections. Next Tuesday in every election district of the State the voters will have the privilege of expressing their individual preferences among their neighbors for Judges and Inspectors of elections, in many townships for Supervisors and Constables and in some for Justices of the Peace, School Directors and other officials who are close to the people. Upon the wisdom of the selections for these offices much depends. Not only the contentment but the prosperity of the people frequently hinges upon these apparently trifling affairs. In view of these facts every citizen should take an interest in these elections.

Of course we are all concerned in the administration of the state government, and that of the United States and when there is a Governor or President to elect we all "sit up and take notice." But how many of us come in contact with the Governor of the State or the President of the United States? It is no exaggeration to say that less than one in a thousand of the people of the country has ever seen a President, notwithstanding the fact that in recent years Presidents have "hippodromed" the country like a menagerie. But every citizen comes in contact with the local officers and the fitness and integrity of these local officials frequently determine the success or failure of local enterprises.

In a previous article on this subject we stated that the Judge of Election in a voting district is more important to the people than the Justice of the Supreme Court. Experience has not changed our estimate on this subject. A Judge of Election if disposed to be partisan or unfair has it in his power to disfranchise many voters and consequently the voters should see to it that such power be not lodged in the hands of men who might abuse it. The time to perform this duty is at the local election and we therefore hope that every citizen, and especially every Democratic citizen, of Centre county will go to the polls next Tuesday and select fit men for these important offices.

The Cause of High Prices.

Of course the WATCHMAN shares, with its esteemed contemporaries and the public in general, in concern about the high prices of food stuffs and watches with equal anxiety the progress of the several inquiries as to the cause. But we regret to say that thus far we can discover no signs of a purpose to ascertain the actual facts. In other words it seems that the aim is to conceal the truth and confuse the public mind on the subject. All administration energy, at least, is to be directed toward exculpating the tariff from blame in order that the public demand for tariff reduction may be ignored.

Protective tariffs are primarily intended to benefit domestic producers of commodities by raising prices. They can have no other effect upon industrial life. If they fail of achieving this purpose they are of no use at all. In raising prices for the benefit of producers they necessarily add to the burdens of the consumers for it is an impossibility to raise prices without adding to the cost to the consumer. Even in the absence of trusts this result would be felt for the competition would still be more or less restricted. But the evil is vastly magnified when the competition is further curtailed by the operation of trusts.

One of the greatest of the trust managers, Mr. HAVEMAYER, of the sugar trust, testified that "the tariff is the mother of trusts." If there were no tariff restraints on competition consumers could appeal to the markets of Canada, Mexico and even Europe to keep prices down to a rational level. But there being a practically prohibitive tariff tax on all the necessities of life the trusts are able to "corner" the domestic supply and laugh at the protests and suffering of the consumers. Therefore the tariff is the principal cause of the abnormally high prices and though the congressional investigators may find otherwise the people should not be deceived.

A farmers' institutes, will be held in Boal hall, Boalsburg, on Friday and Saturday, February 18th and 19th, 1910. Successful farmers and scientific teachers will be in attendance and address the meetings on topics relating to Dairying, Fruit Growing, Sheep Husbandry, Fertilizers, Market Gardening, Poultry, etc. One evening will be known as the ladies' session and the other as the educational session. The public generally will be welcomed.

The Canadian postal rates on second class matter are much less than those in this country but the Canadian postoffice department shows a considerable profit rather than a loss. The Canadian postoffice department is not the reservoir of political activity however.

Taft's Postal Saving Scheme.

From the New York Journal of Commerce. The senate committee on postoffice and post roads has patched up Mr. Carter's postal savings depository bill in a manner in which it is expected to get it through the House. If the spirit of defense for American institutions can be sufficiently awakened in the popular branch of the legislative body, this flagrant attempt at the exercise of extreme paternalism by the national government will be defeated. The self-respect of the people and care for the rights of States ought to demand its defeat as a crushing blow for all such schemes.

The most serious objection to it is not the particular manner in which it proposes that it postoffice the country over, under the direction of a "board" at Washington, shall receive and dispose of the savings of the people, or even the expensive and wholly unnecessary addition to the patronage and pelf of the postal service, but the violation of the most fundamental principle of our whole system of government, reliance upon the capacity of the people to take care of their own individual affairs and their right to provide in their separate States such means as they find necessary to regulate what concerns their private and personal interests. This principle recognizes the value of individual responsibility, and aims to develop and cultivate independence of character and the capacity of self-government.

The chief argument adduced in support of this postal savings scheme is that it will afford the means of fostering habits of frugality and saving. That is none of the business of the national government under our system. The people are capable of taking care of their own habits and have every means at their command in their States and their several communities for providing such regulation for mutual help and protection as they do not require, nor, we trust, do they desire, the solicitude of a "great father" at Washington or an all-wise council of national guardians to look after their habits of industry and frugality.

That may do for countries which have a ruling class of superior beings, who look down upon the "toiling masses" as an inferior class incapable of taking care of themselves and needing the beneficent care of the paternal government; but we have not been wont in this country to ape their ways or accept their traditions in that regard. Establishing savings depositories is not a proper function of our central government; and nothing could have been further from the intent of the States in vesting in that government power "to establish postoffices and post roads" than to have it concern itself with the habits of the people in saving or investing their money.

Government by Trusts.

From the Pittsburg Post. When President Taft dismissed Gifford Pinchot from the forestry service indignation of the deepest character was aroused. It was felt that an honest man had been sacrificed in order that land-grabbers and other monopolists might be shielded. The dismissal of L. R. Glavis was another instance in point where the administration had revealed its venomous antagonism toward a conscientious public servant. The attorney general went out of his way to label Mr. Glavis a "megalomaniac." From testimony offered by this same "megalomaniac," however, it would appear that at least certain parts of the administration have been unduly solicitous of the wishes of the trusts in its conduct in the matter of public lands. Something more than a suspicion is thus aroused that the Guggenheims, of the smelter trust, not only used their influence to the end that James R. Garfield should not be retained as secretary of the interior because of his hostility to the land-grabbers, but likewise that these same Guggenheims virtually dictated the appointment of Mr. Ballinger, attorney for the land-grabbing trust.

It has long been an established fact that the Republican party and Republican Presidents have stood manfully by the trusts in maintaining a high protective tariff. But the partnership has been dissolved in the shadow of the law. Now, however, a Republican President has apparently come out into the open and publicly espoused the cause of the trusts. The smelter trust has wagged a slimy finger and a fatuous President of the United States has evidently been roped, thrown and branded by the Guggenheims for their own.

Ugly as are such disclosures and revolting to those who still love the Republic and the honorable institutions for which it stands, they cannot but be welcome as revealing the dangers entailed to these institutions when the octopus coils its tentacles around public servants. Let the warning be heeded.

Control of Water-Power Sites.

From the Chicago Public. To what end is the war of words over the question of state versus federal control of water-power sites? Unless the monopoly value, or the land value, is taxed it makes little difference whether monopolists take those sites from the federal government or from the states. It is said by some thinking men, with much reason, that the sooner these water-power sites are grabbed and monopolized, the better for the people and for real progress, for when they are monopolized the people will awaken the sooner to the necessity for the land-value tax. As to the question now at issue, the people could easily and quickly settle it if the question were submitted to them directly at the ballot box. But President Taft and his friends in Congress don't trust the people to settle their own questions for themselves.

O. D. Eberts, of Martha, last Friday purchased a team of mated gray horses from William Galbraith, of Tyrone, for six hundred dollars.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

Notice has been filed at Harrisburg by the Union Drawn Steel company, of Beaver Falls, that it will increase its capital stock from \$200,000 to \$1,500,000.

Mifflinburg is without electric light owing to the fact that Penna creek is frozen to such an extent a few miles distant from town that the flow is too small to generate power.

Sixty cases of measles are under quarantine in Indiana. There are still a few cases developing but the doctors and health officials think that the spreading of the disease is about over.

The Curwensville Mountaineer in a recent issue makes an appeal for a new court house in Clearfield county. The county has a population of nearly 100,000 and has \$70,000 in the treasury.

Flames are raging in the Philadelphia and Reading Coal and Iron company's Beaver Valley colliery, near Reading. So bad is the fire that flames are shooting from the air holes in the mountains.

H. H. Hartman, prothonotary of Juniata county, fell dead while walking from his home to his office Friday afternoon. He is survived by a widow, a son, J. L. Hartman, and daughter, Miss Ada M. Hartman.

Plans have been formulated for the organization and chartering of an insurance company at a recent meeting of citizens of DuBois and other places. It will be known as the Anchor Mutual Fire Insurance company of DuBois.

The graduating class of the Phillipsburg high school is wrought up over the decree of the school board that the graduates shall wear caps and gowns on the occasion when they get their diplomas, paying for the garments themselves.

With the key to his house and his marriage license held by his prospective brother-in-law as security for a debt of \$22, Mike Krobcek, of Irwin, will have to postpone his wedding unless he can raise the amount of his liabilities before his next pay day, two weeks hence.

Mrs. J. D. Weaver, of DuBois, recently met her mother, Mrs. Marie Brady, of Clearfield, on the occasion when she had been separated for twenty-seven years and of whose whereabouts she was in ignorance. The mother and daughter became separated in Phillipsburg and lost all track of each other.

St. Paul's Episcopal congregation at Philipsburg recently unanimously declared itself favorable to the project to build a new church. The structure will be equipped in modern style and will cost in the neighborhood of \$3,000. Committees will be appointed, plans agreed upon, etc., and in a short time the structure will begin to take tangible form.

Frank E. McMillen, the slaver of his wife, Annie E. McMillen, was acquitted of the crime of murder on Saturday evening, at 6:50 o'clock in Blair county court on the plea of temporary insanity. The court room was filled with spectators at the time of the rendition of the verdict and there was vigorous handclapping which outburst Judge Baldrige sternly repressed.

One hundred eighty-one rooms will be in the new J. C. Blair Memorial hospital at Huntingdon when the structure is completed. Gray brick will be the material used. The last Sunday of April has been set aside as Church Day and the first Thursday of October as Donation Day by the trustees of the hospital. On these occasions collections will be made for the institution.

Walter H. Pulsifer, a Philadelphia bond salesman, has been named by Warren W. Meginnis, a prominent Williamsport newspaper man as co-defendant in an action for divorce from his wife. Papers were filed following the husband's discovery of alleged misconduct. Pulsifer has been prominent socially in that city, and Mrs. Meginnis is identified with one of the local churches.

Eighty thousand dollars is said to be the amount of the shortage in the centenary and college funds of Allegheny college at Meadville. This statement is said to have come from a good authority. A trustees' meeting is expected to be held within the next few days to receive the report of the expert accountants who have been at work on the books of the institution for the past two months.

Because the constitutional amendments recently adopted provide that municipal elections can be held only in odd numbered years, it has been found that it will be necessary at the next session of the Legislature to lengthen the terms of a large number of officers of various kinds all over the State. A schedule of these officers is now being prepared in the office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth.

The Reformatory Notes in the Daily New Era of Huntingdon, recently contained an account of a young man, formerly an inmate of the Huntingdon reformatory, who had been nominated on both the Republican and Democratic ticket for the office of school director in one of the large cities of Pennsylvania and commented on the fact that there are opportunities in the world after a man has been in a reform school.

The Trout Run Coal Mining company in the process of organization at Portage. It will run a slope of 700 feet in length to tap the Upper Freeport vein. It is in the vicinity of the operations of the Portage Coal Mining company. The capacity of the mine will be 1,200 tons a day. This will necessitate the building of quite a number of houses for employees. The Portage Coal company will erect fifty new houses next summer.

With the opening of the second week of the thirty days' meat boycott in Pittsburg meats continued to rise in price. When the market opened Tuesday morning beef advanced from 25 to 59 cents a hundredweight, while hogs jumped a dollar a hundredweight. Home dressed pork led in cost by one cent a pound, wholesale, and from two to three cents a pound retail. Beef advanced from ten to fifteen cents a hundred pounds.

A skunk farm is the industry that four young Waynesboro men have in contemplation. The hide of a skunk sells for from \$3.50 to \$4.50 and when this is taken into consideration it is seen how well the farm will pay if it is successful. The men are endeavoring to secure a lease on an acre and a half of rocky ground near Roadside. They believe that they could stock this and soon have a colony of 500 skunks there. They would grow in such profusion that 500 could be killed every year and the income from their skins would amount to \$2,000.

Mrs. Henry Hamilton, of St. Marys, who was almost instantly killed a few days ago, while returning with a party of friends from a sleigh ride near Kersey, was formerly Maggie Sullivan and was born 52 years ago in Bald Eagle valley. She leaves her husband and three sons. All in the sleighing party were in the best of spirits when the sleigh struck a snow drift and was upset, burying most of the members in the snow. Mrs. Hamilton was thrown some distance and her head struck a telephone pole. By the time the rest of the party had scrambled out of the snow and reached Mrs. Hamilton, life was almost extinct.

The reasons filed for a new trial for Wells W. Detweiler, convicted of murder in the first degree in shooting Thomas Dwyer in Harrisburg last fall, contain the unusual assertion that the witness who assisted the prosecution and who claimed to have been the wife of the murdered man, was not his widow at all. An affidavit made by Charles E. Igenfritz, of York, was submitted with the reasons and in it he stated that he had married the woman in 1881 and that she had deserted him in 1897 neither having secured a divorce. The woman was the state's star witness at the trial, being the only person in the house when Detweiler shot Dwyer.