

INK SLINGS.

—Let us all cheer up! Mr. ROCKER-FELLER and Mr. CARNEGIE will only have it a few years anyway.

—With our agricultural friends, the real color question now seems to be mostly a matter of oleomargarine.

—March came in like a lamb, all right enough, but that was all; for almost immediately it became a blustering, roaring lion.

—What is worrying the Washington newspaper correspondents just now is to know just who they can refer to as regular Republicans.

—In this matter of the North Pole everybody seems to be a Missourian. Even the congressional committee "wants to be shown."

—After all the tramp has the bulge on Mr. ROCKER-FELLER. He don't have to lay awake nights worrying about how he can get rid of his money.

—Meantime Secretary KNOX would better start an investigation with a view of locating that Nicaraguan government he started a few months ago.

—Anyway we can at least point to one decision of the Supreme court that don't bear the ear marks of having been written for the protection of crooks.

—A Washington dispatch says, "President TAFT is greatly exercised about the continuous fighting there is in the navy." What under the sun does he think a navy is for?

—It is to be hoped, although many may doubt the possibility, that former Senator PLATT, of New York, will continue to occupy a conspicuous place in the "Amen corner."

—And still there are people who kick because the Postoffice Department is not made more efficient and less expensive. Just as if that could be done without impairing its influence as a political machine.

—Former Senator THOMAS C. PLATT, of New York, is dead. There was a day when he was one of the conspicuous men of our country, but his fame was founded on character that could not stand the lime light and his end is lustreless as the spent rocket.

—Packer CUDAHAY, of Kansas City, cut up a guest in his house very much as if he had mistaken him for a hog or a beef on the block. He might have been even worse than the former, but that will probably remain inside history of this mysterious case.

—That New York senatorial investigation has proved nothing thus far except that either Senator CONGER or Senator ALDIS is a monumental liar. As to which is "it" the public has a right to name its choice in the guessing match without further delay.

—Had there been no special privileges neither Mr. CARNEGIE nor Mr. ROCKER-FELLER would now be compelled to work blisters on their hands disposing of their surplus wealth. By the same token had there been no special privileges there would be less need for the distribution of surplus wealth among the people.

—The same crowd that bosses the trolleys in Philadelphia bosses the elections there. Therefore it appears strange that they can make workers of that city vote just as they please, yet they can't make them work when they please. Probably if those workers had enough sense to vote for themselves a few times they wouldn't have to strike so often.

—The Hon. PHILANDER C. KNOX, our distinguished Secretary of State, has a new daughter-in-law on his hands who evidently isn't very welcome. At least the Hon. PHILANDER has gone after the son who brought her into the family about the same way he went after those Nicaraguans some time ago and it is altogether likely that he will "back up" in this case just like he did in that one.

—Well, Col. JACKSON L. SPANGLER, whose qualifications as an art lecturer were—to say the least—questioned by this paper some time ago when it was announced that he would appear before the American University Extension club here, has made his debut and added another to the acknowledged successes of his career. Honestly, we thought it would be a case of grabbing for the stars without keeping a foot on the ground, but it wasn't and we hasten to acclaim the new side of the versatile Colonel and congratulate him on the possession of qualities that seek pleasure, in his many leisure moments, in such elevating research as art.

—The fate of Dr. SNYDER, former Auditor General of this State, is a sad one. No one supposes that he either connived to get or did get a cent of the capitol graft, but he is in the eastern penitentiary today a broken and disconsolate man because he failed in his full duty as a public official. The fact that he was honest himself did not satisfy the ends of justice. They demanded of him accountability for the honesty of others whom he had not watched. He kept company with political crooks and only now is he realizing to the fullest of poignant regret the meaning of the old adage: "A man is known by the company he keeps." His fate is only another reminder of the folly of leaving honest private endeavor for tainted public preferment.

—Harper's Weekly declares that "the Republican party is busted." The "wish may be father to the thought" in this case but the "Journal of Civilization" can support its notion with many substantial facts.

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The Capitol Graft.

The affirmation by the Supreme court of the judgment of the Dauphin county Common Pleas in the capitol graft cases is as much a surprise as it is a vindication of justice. But it can not be tortured into a proof of political rectitude or an improvement in political morals. When the Supreme court issued its allocatur in the case the intention was, no doubt, to reverse the lower court. But the near approach of an important election admonished the machine managers that such a miscarriage of justice would wreck the party, and it was determined to make a "goat" of the accused. The present Governor was elected on the promise to punish the grafters and the failure to make good would have worked ruin to the party.

Of the guilt or innocence of those who are condemned to service in the penitentiary, it is hardly worth while now to talk. That the State was robbed of vast amounts is palpable. But there were others besides Dr. SNYDER and Mr. SHUMAKER concerned in the operations. The then Governor of the State, who was ex officio president of the board of Public Grounds and Buildings; the then State Treasurer, a member of that board; the contractors, the architect and others were equally culpable. But the trial of the causes and the proceedings to vindicate justice were pursued with such a leaden heel, or botched so glaringly, that only the two are likely to be punished and one of those two, Dr. SNYDER, is less culpable than others who have escaped or will escape.

We are not inclined to palliate the offenses which have been committed against the State by these prisoners. It may easily be believed that Dr. SNYDER derived no pecuniary advantage from the conspiracy. But he was a part of the machine which had spent vast sums to debauch the electorate of the State and probably consented to the frauds as a means of reimbursing those who had supplied the money. As a public official he was under moral and legal obligations to protect the State from such piratical incursions. But the same obligation was on PENNYPACKER, HUSTON, HARRIS, HARDENBERG, CASSELL and SANDERSON. The full vindication of justice requires equal punishment for those equally guilty and if SNYDER and SHUMAKER are to be "goats" the ends of justice will not be fulfilled.

Profligacy the Order.

The President has consented to a \$15,000,000 appropriation for public buildings during the present session of Congress. He is still urging economy in some directions and protests vehemently that the volume of expenditures must be reduced materially. But the managers of the congressional machine called on him the other day and expressed the opinion that a public building bill of some sort is absolutely essential in order to save some of the Congressmen from defeat. It is said that Representative BARTHOLD, of St. Louis, was especially urgent in the matter. There are dozens of Congressmen, he said, who will be defeated at the coming election unless provision is made for graft in their districts.

With characteristic indifference to public interests and personal pretenses of retrenchment, President TAFT yielded to this plea of party expediency and agreed to an appropriation of \$15,000,000 or more for public buildings in most cases where they will be of no other use than supplying opportunities for graft. This coupled with his ambitious and expensive plans for enlarging the navy will more than absorb any funds that are saved by cheese-paring in other directions and probably impairing the public service in order to "save at the spigot while wasting at the bung." In fact it may safely be predicted that the appropriations this year will be as great if not greater than last.

As Senator ALDRICH says the expenses of the government might easily be cut down to \$700,000,000 a year, but that result can't be achieved by increasing the work and decreasing the wages of employees. It is only possible through the application of strictly business methods in administration, and building useless battlements and maintaining an imperial army is not business. That is waste pure and simple and a sort of waste which amounts to criminal misuse of the public funds. But President TAFT is not only willing that such things shall go on but in the event that they contribute to party success is anxious to promote them. In view of these facts he is stopped from pretending to favor retrenchment.

—Harper's Weekly declares that "the Republican party is busted." The "wish may be father to the thought" in this case but the "Journal of Civilization" can support its notion with many substantial facts.

The Postal Savings Bank Conspiracy.

The Postal Savings bank bill has passed the Senate with a proviso that the funds on deposit may be invested in bonds of the United States bearing interest at not less than two and a-half per cent. This restriction was insinuated into the bill by the "insurgents." The impression had obtained currency that the intention was to invest them in two per cent. bonds after the establishment of Senator ALDRICH's Central bank had made such bonds unprofitable to the National banks. In fact President TAFT had indicated that purpose in his recent New York speech. The adoption of the provision was, therefore, regarded as a victory over ALDRICH. This shows how impracticable, not to say "easy," the insurgents are.

Of course the provision objectionable to ALDRICH will be cut out of the bill in the House and the conference committee will agree to the amendment so that the triumph over ALDRICH on that score will be transient. But even if this were not true the enactment of such a law would be inimical to public interests. The logical and inevitable effect of such legislation will be to draw the currency of the country under the control of the authorities at Washington by whom it will be promptly transferred, in every emergency, to Wall Street. The effect of this will be to paralyze local industry and enterprise, in every case of financial disturbance or stringency, because the currency necessary to operate has been filtered through the postal savings banks into Wall Street.

Of course the President understands this and favors the bill, not so much because the Republican convention, without understanding the subject, promised such legislation, but for the reason that Mr. J. PIERPONT MORGAN favors any system that will drain the currency of the country into his hands in the event of panic. MORGAN evidently owns TAFT, body and breeches. The Steel trust had ROOSEVELT and MORGAN could put his partners into any position he desired them to occupy during the last administration. But it was left to TAFT to completely surrender the government to MORGAN and this result will be consummated by the adoption of the postal savings bank. It is the quintessence of paternalism.

Taft's First Year in Office.

President TAFT completed the first year of his term a week ago and in celebration of the event gave a dinner to Speaker CANNON during which he and the veteran Congressman amused their associates at the table by engaging in a competitive dance. The speaker is about seventy years old but well preserved. He is spare of flesh and small in body and having in his young days been an adept in the backwoods style of dancing was able to cut quite a figure. President TAFT, on the other hand, is of giant proportions and though only fifty years of age, was easily outclassed by the speaker. It was an interesting incident, no doubt, but hardly dignified.

At the dinner in question the President spoke of the achievements of his administration during the year and protested that he had not been fairly treated by the press and public. He was unjustly criticized, he added, and not given credit for his good intentions. Nevertheless, he declared that he is glad he is President, not on account of the power and dignity of the office, but because of the opportunities it afforded of serving his country and doing good for the people. The tersichorean episode of the dinner left him no alternative in that respect, and he made the best of a bad situation. But he neglected to cite any instances in which he had accomplished any particular good.

The truth of the matter is that President TAFT's first year of service has been sadly disappointing to the public. He entered the office easily the most popular man in the country. Thoughtful men were tired of the absurdities of his predecessor and anxious to testify to their good will toward him. But the hopes of improvement in the methods of government were disappointed from the beginning. He revealed all the vices and none of the virtues of the crafty politician and perverted every opportunity to do good. That he is now criticized with considerable severity is his own fault.

He has earned public contempt rather than popular approval by his spineless indifference to justice.

—The signs of unrest in Wall Street are ominous. Thus far the money trust has been able to prevent a dangerous eruption but the bulls and bears got perilously close to the brink the other day and there may be a ruinous explosion any old time.

—The Sophomore class of State College held their annual banquet at the Bush house last Friday evening.

The Smile is Off.

The investigations, the policies and other things which have been in evidence in Washington lately appear to have got on to the nerves of the President. He had come to be considered the prince of amiability. His smile was not only expansive but perpetual. It never came off, and we had reached the conclusion that whatever else might happen, there would always be good nature in the White House. MARK TAPLEY was skinned a mile, according to the general notion, in the matter of jollity, and no well informed man ever imagined that anything could disturb the serenity of the atmosphere of the presidential office.

But something occurred the other day in Washington which has completely upset these happy conditions. It will be remembered that some weeks ago Mr. A. C. SHAW, law officer of the Forestry Service, was dismissed because of his friendliness with Forester PINCHOT. Subsequently he made application for the privilege of practicing law in the Interior department, which was refused by Secretary BALLINGER. As a matter of fact any reputable lawyer of any State in the Union has the legal right to practice in any Department of the government and the refusal by BALLINGER to register SHAW, was a usurpation of authority. The other day Senators OVERMAN and SIMMONS, of North Carolina, of which State Mr. SHAW is a citizen and resident, appealed to the President for justice to their constituent. Thereupon ensued what the Washington correspondents described as a presidential "brainstorm."

In other words on ascertaining the business of the Senators from North Carolina the President flew into a paroxysm of passion. As the correspondent of an esteemed Philadelphia contemporary states it, the President "proceeded to have a brainstorm that amazed and dumfounded his callers." He denounced SHAW in scathing terms as "a traitor and as the ringleader of the men who had stirred up the BALLINGER scandal." The surprised Senators remonstrated against the conditions and reminded the President that Mr. SHAW "had a legal right to practice before any department of the government." But the President "refused to change his attitude or be mollified." He had completely lost his head.

Taft Sadly Disappointed.

It begins to look as if President TAFT's schemes to validate the HARRIMAN transactions and to save the Standard Oil company from dissolution will fail. The bill authorizing the federal government to charter corporations was his vehicle for saving the Standard and that has already been practically abandoned. His bill to amend the anti-discrimination law and create a court for the adjudication of cases under that law was the means by which he hoped to take care of the HARRIMAN interests. This measure has been amended until it is certain to fail of its sinister purpose.

When ROOSEVELT agreed to abrogate the laws of the country in order that the Steel trust might absorb the Tennessee Coal and Iron company, it was believed that the full measure of servility to corporate greed had been reached. But TAFT has gone further. He proposes to legalize a transaction, by retroactive legislation of the constitution, which was condemned by the press and public universally. Not only that but he has openly tried to cajole, bribe or coerce the votes of Senators and Representatives in Congress to consummate his unrighteous purpose.

Happily Congress has not yielded to his schemes and one of his bills has already been laid aside and the other has been shorn of many of its evil features. But he has not given up hope as yet. He is still conspiring with the congressional machine, through Speaker CANNON and Senator ALDRICH, and hopes to accomplish by tricky what he has been unable to achieve by direct methods. If the Insurgents are just to themselves, however, he will not succeed. The Democrats in the Senate and House will do their part in the work and if their allies are equally true the result will be satisfactory.

—The New York World is urging the administration at Washington to appeal the *lese majeste* case which leads us to apprehend that editor PULTZER is a trifle hard-hearted. That blow from the lower court has battered ROOSEVELT sufficiently to satisfy any ordinary enemy.

—JOSEPH CHOATE ventures the opinion that no President will ever again rebuke a judge for deciding points of law in accordance with his convictions. Obviously Mr. CHOATE takes no stock in the expectations of the "Back from Elba" club.

—An advertisement in the WATCHMAN always pays.

Senator Aldrich's Offer.

From the New York Times. Senator Aldrich said in the Senate the other day that "if he were allowed to rule the government on a business basis he could save \$300,000,000 a year." This means that we are spending that huge sum unnecessarily, that we are wasting three hundred millions annually, not of the government's money, but of the taxpayers' money. How grateful to the people would be the remission of taxes amounting to three hundred millions a year!

Senator Aldrich's economies would enable us to do away with customs taxes altogether, to make the United States of America a free trade nation. The customs revenues for the last fiscal year were just \$97,438 above three hundred millions. The cost of living would come down at once. The burden of taxes on raw materials would be lifted from our manufacturers. Clothing of all kinds would be cheaper. More than all, by affixing his signature to a bill abolishing tariff taxes, President Taft would in half a minute "bust" more trusts than he can destroy with all the machinery of the department of justice at his command during his incumbency of the office of President, no matter how far it may be prolonged.

Or, if Senator Aldrich were the manager of the national business, we could do away with internal revenue taxes altogether. They amounted last year to \$246,000,000. Such a measure would, perhaps, not be in the interest of good morals and sobriety, for our internal revenue taxes come in very great part from spirituous and fermented liquors, from playing cards, and from such things as filled cheese and oleomargarine. On the whole, we think it would be better to let the customs taxes go and keep to the internal revenue. But how superfluous the yield of the miserable little corporation tax law would be if this great saying were accomplished.

Nobody will seriously advocate the remission of all the customs taxes or all the internal revenue taxes. But Senator Aldrich's declaration is a most serious indictment of the legislative and executive departments of the government. The Senate committee on public expenditures has given some attention, it appears, to the President's recommendation of retrenchment. Its labors, we judge, have been perfunctory, at least they have been fruitless. The committee acknowledges failure. Nevertheless there are three hundred millions to be saved according to the Rhode Island Senator, who is not an idle boaster. The government fails in its duty to give any attention to the suggestions of retrenchment which Mr. Taft said in his message was, perhaps, the most important that Congress could consider? In that classic platform of principles drawn up by Mr. Tilden it was declared that the public revenues should be strictly limited to the necessities of the government economically administered. That principle is sound, unassailable, and of continuing force. It is, or was, a Democratic principle. It is openly flouted and trampled on by the Republicans now in power.

Sentiment in Politics.

From the Newark Evening News. My son, it is all right to be sentimental about your mother, or your best girl, or your school, or your home, but never be sentimental about your political party.

Brown, Jones and Smith were sentimentalists in politics. For sentimental reasons they voted the regular ticket of a glorious old party that has kept the United States on her feet for fifty years, when she has not been on her knees.

Aided by the votes of Jones, Brown and Smith, the party machine put men in municipal office who were extravagant and neglectful.

Taxes were therefore high. Accordingly high were the rents that Jones, Brown and Smith had to pay.

The party machine sent men to the State capital and Washington to do the bidding of the Trusts, the railroads and Wall Street, who were the owners and proprietors of the party machine.

Living was therefore almost costly enough to be regarded as a luxury, and Jones, Brown and Smith felt large callous spots growing on their necks from the pressure of the yoke.

That was years ago, and the callous spots are thicker to-day than ever before.

To-day Jones has it in for the Trusts something fierce.

Brown would rather denounce the railroads than eat.

Smith declares that Wall Street is a vampire.

Next fall Jones, Brown and Smith will go to the polls and vote the regular ticket as usual.

Loyalty is a noble quality, my son; but loyalty to a party that is disloyal to you is sentimental tommyrot.

Pinchot and the President.

From the Springfield Republican. If Mr. Pinchot should prove his charges, as outlined in his preliminary statement, he would not only ruin Mr. Ballinger's public career, but would also demonstrate Mr. Taft's unfitness to select men for high administrative office or to supervise and control the activities of cabinet officers. Hitherto, the attack has been upon Mr. Ballinger alone. But the blows are now beginning to fall upon the President's own shoulders. The discrediting of Mr. Ballinger now means the discrediting of the administration.

—The President admits that the postal savings bank bill which is likely to be passed is unconstitutional and worthless anyway, but he will approve it notwithstanding his oath to "preserve, protect and defend the constitution." But the President, like his predecessor in office, takes obligations in a Pickwickian sense.

SPAULS FROM THE KEYSSTONE.

—Eighty-seven Clearfield counties are in the insane hospital at Warren, besides a number at Danville, Dixmont and Polk Institute.

—Irvona, Clearfield county, is to have a new Pennsylvania railroad station, plans and specifications having been drawn for a \$10,000 structure.

—The jury appointed to appraise the value of the real estate of the late John Hindle, of Barnesboro, formerly of Philadelphia, performed its duty last week and appraised the same at \$18,500.

—Options on 6,000 acres of coal land in Indiana county between Cookport and Cherrytree, west of Cosh creek, have been taken by a Philadelphia man. They were at \$50 an acre and expire on April first.

—A company is being formed in Johnstown by Fritz Russ, the young German inventor hailing from Pittsburg, who wants to raise money to build a trial aeroplane after his own models, which call for a machine that would cost about \$4,000.

—Judge O'Connor, of Cambria county, at a recent session of court, reiterated his statement that it is the duty of the constables to see that the supervisors keep within the requirements of the law in the maintenance of the roads under their supervision.

—February receipts at the State dairy and food division reached \$9,626.99, of which \$7,793.43 was received from oleomargarine licenses and \$1,833 from fines in oleomargarine cases. The high price of butter caused activity in the oleomargarine business and a rush for licenses.

—Indiana counties do not favor giving part of that county to form a new county with the capital at Johnstown, it is said. Windber, in Somerset county, would hail the new division with delight. The farmers of Conemaugh township, Somerset county, and all residents of the Flood City, are declared to look with favor upon the revived proposition.

—The New Jersey Zinc company, in the lower end of Carbon county, is going to build another monster plant that will cost several millions of dollars. The company now employs 1,500 men. It has spent several million dollars already putting up oxide and other furnaces, together with other buildings necessary in its work of manufacturing oxide, zinc and iron.

—Nearly a million tons of ice have been stored by Monroe county harvesters in the Pocono mountains. The men experienced some difficulty during the last couple of months on account of the great thickness of the winter product. It was thirty-four inches on some large ponds. Thirteen and one-half inches is the regulation thickness demanded by the dealers.

—Henry Spitzer, of Windber, was found guilty of perjury by a jury at Somerset. The crime is alleged to have been committed in the trial of his damage suit against the Pennsylvania railroad, in which he was awarded \$4,000 for injuries received in a wreck. The verdict afterwards was stricken off by the Supreme court, to which the railroad company carried the case.

—About four hundred and fifty cases of measles have been reported during the prevalence of that disease in Indiana. Help is needed by the health officer who has more fumigating than he can handle. It is probable that a number of cases were not reported, which would bring the figures even higher. Carelessness on the part of parents and children, who have been quarantined, is charged.

—B. B. Luper, of the Bloomsburg optician, has a number of White Wyandottes that have proved great winter egg-layers. Their record is as follows: Forty-one hens laid twelve dozen from October 15th to October 31; thirty-seven dozen in November; fifty-three dozen in December; thirty-seven hens laid fifty-one dozen in January; fifty-one dozen in February. This makes a total of 204 dozen.

—The Huntington Blank Book company, doing business in the Smith building in the town after which it is named, has been incorporated. D. Y. Swayne formerly was the proprietor of the manufacturing concern, the capitalization of which is \$25,000. The corporation is one of two Huntington concerns that make a specialty of manufacturing bank pass books, with a trade covering the entire country.

—Three hundred and eleven liquor licenses were granted in the Cambria county court. Twenty-five were refused and forty-nine were held over, including twenty-nine old ones. The holding-over of so many old licenses was a cause of much discussion but, it is said, this reflects the court's stand in reference to the conduct of wholesalers, which has been intimated several times. Only three new applicants were granted licenses. Two dealers dropped out during the year.

—New York capitalists have bought one of the finest tracts of coal land in Somerset county, lying north of Somerset. They paid \$100,000 or thereabouts for it. This tract was assembled by purchase by D. B. Zimmerman, of Somerset, a few years ago and contains about 1,600 acres. Work will be started on a tippie in a few weeks and 200 or 300 men will be given work when it is finished. The tract is near the Somerset & Cambria branch of the Baltimore & Ohio railroad.

—Reports received by State factory inspector John C. Delaney, at Harrisburg, from Miss Helen M. Williston, at Philadelphia, and Miss Margaret A. Wisnawski, at Fritsburg, say that the factory conditions in those cities are not nearly so bad as they have been painted. Both young women have been at work since last spring unknown to the factory inspector. The foreign bake-shops in Pittsburg were found to be in bad condition. Miss Williston, who is a Quaker City newspaper woman, said in her report that greater care in safeguarding the machinery was increasing.

—While attempting to board an extra Northern Central freight train passing through Ralston Sunday evening about 5:30 o'clock, Willard W. Wise, of Trout Run, slipped and was dragged for a long distance. In his effort to save his life, he unwittingly extended his left foot forward but he finally lost hold of an iron bar of a freight car, and a wheel passed over the limb, crushing it between the knee and the ankle. He was taken to the Williamsport hospital, where the leg was amputated. Wise was attached to a crew running over the Bald Eagle Valley railroad between Ralston and Tyrone.

—Miss Rhoda Taylor, of Lewistown, believed by all her friends to be a spinster died several months ago. The administrator advertised to sell the farm, an old homestead, with stock and implements. On the day of the sale the auctioneer mounted the block and announced that the sale had been indefinitely postponed. It has leaked out that on the morning of the sale in rummaging among her papers, Miss Taylor's will was found. In it she bequeathed all her property to her husband. Attached to the document was a marriage certificate showing that she had been married to Samuel Gilliland a well known farmer of the valley, more than five years prior to her death.

—Five judges, McClure, of Union county; Shull, of Perry and Juniata counties, and Brum, Shay and Bechtel, presided in the Schuylkill county court at the beginning of the trial of the twenty alleged ballot fraud cases. The first case called was that of Fred Zimmerman, judge of elections in the Fourth ward at Shermansdale. Zimmerman fled last June when the ballot boxes were ordered opened, and was out of the county for several months. The prosecution is said to have proved that there were nearly 400 fraudulent ballots placed in the different boxes, and in the ward of which Zimmerman was the judge it is said that the fellow who put the ballots into the box did not even take the trouble to erase them.