

BY P. GRAY MEEK.

INK SLINGS.

—President TAFT has announced that "it is time to do things." Can it be that a night mare of the "big stick" woke him up.

—A Pittsburg contemporary boasts of the progress of that city in art and literature. Imagine what Missourians would say to that.

—Good morning! Did you get up early enough to see HALLEY's comet? It is visible in the eastern horizon a half hour before sunrise these mornings.

—Once a Moose always a Moose, if true, should make Centre county very prolific of Moose within a year or so. We base this on the number of them seen on Bellefonte streets Tuesday night.

—They say the tail of HALLEY's comet is one hundred and twenty million miles long, but that is as a bear's tail to the one PINCHOT must have told TEDDY about how BALLINGER is going to conserve our forests.

—A party just returned from the top of Mt. McKinley reports that no sign of Dr. COOK's having been there before was found. The skeptic will still have ground for asking for proof that this latter party was actually at the top.

—Attorney General WICKERSHAM seems to have put his foot in it by that Chicago speech. The Insurgents at Washington have insured so successfully that they won't stand for his aspirations, even though he be a cabinet officer.

—Seventy-six years ago HALLEY's comet visited us and it is on its way back at the rate of a million miles a day for another call. Few of us were here to receive its last visit and few will be around when it comes back seventy-six years hence.

—The decision of the Supreme court to grant another hearing of the American Tobacco Co., and the Standard Oil cases gives another breathing spell to the stock gamblers as well as an opportunity for the bulls to run the bears to cover temporarily.

—The decision of Congress to build two more dreadnaughts would probably have been more pleasing to the American public had the bill had a rider calling upon the members of the present Congress to man them. All they seem to be good for is fighting.

—Mrs. MICHAEL KINSEL, of Exeter, Pa., burned up her husband's wooden leg to keep him from going to the tavern to get drunk. Good work, Mrs. MICHAEL, but how unfortunate more drunken husbands do not have to depend on wooden legs to locomote them to the taverns.

—An Oregon man claims to have discovered the long lost Egyptian art of preserving food indefinitely. After dining on present day cold storage food products the average mortal will hope that both the Oregon man and his re-discovered Egyptian art be lost again forever.

—Rev. Dr. CHARLES F. AKED, pastor of the Fifth Ave Baptist church, New York, asked his congregation last Sunday not to allow JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER to give "the lion's share" towards the building of their proposed new edifice. Why not, pray? JOHN D. has the lion's share.

—State commissioner of Fisheries MEEHAN has predicted good sport for the anglers in Pennsylvania streams today. He says "fishing will be good." Of course it will Mr. MEEHAN. It always is where there is enough water to fish in, but are you sure the fish are in the streams to be caught.

—Congress having voted franking privileges to former President ROOSEVELT for the rest of his life will not necessarily decrease the revenues of the postal department to any great extent, while it will obviate the danger of having the voluble ROOSEVELTIAN tongue stuck up with macluge.

—Uncle SAM opens his census taking business on a day not naturally adapted to accuracy in statements. The trout fishing season opens also today and you know the failing of the average fisherman so if the answers to the census questions are not just as truthful as they should be it will be from habit, probably more than from wilful perversion.

—From one extreme to another the administration seems determined to go. President TAFT has ordered a stop put to the probe of the Sugar Trust. If this is not back tracking it looks so much like it that the people will be more convinced than ever that our President has no determined policy to carry out and is daily developing more signs of becoming an executive jelly fish.

—The appointment of C. FRED WRIGHT, of Susquehanna county, to fill the vacancy in the State Treasurer's office caused by the death of Treasurer elect STROBER, is going to precipitate a legal fight with Treasurer JOHN O. SHEATZ for possession of the office. Mr. SHEATZ takes the ground that he can hold over until the next regular election while Governor STUART assumes that he has power to appoint. Whatever the outcome the result will be purely personal and political, as the State will have to have a Treasurer and there will be little general concern as to whether SHEATZ or WRIGHT gets the salary.

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The Treasury Appointment.

Governor STUART might have done worse than appoint former Congressman CHARLES FRED WRIGHT, of Susquehanna county, to the office of State Treasurer, though Mr. WRIGHT is a servile tool of the machine. But Congressman GRIEST, of Lancaster, or Senator McNICHOL, of Philadelphia, or Mayor MAGEE, of Pittsburg, might have been allowed to make the selection and presumably their choice would have been worse. Mr. WRIGHT is a man of decent impulses and reputable habits. But the State Treasury will be as completely under machine control, with Mr. WRIGHT in charge, as it would be if DAVE LANE or BILL FLINN had been appointed. The funds will be "farmed" as certainly under the administration of WRIGHT as they would if STROBER had lived.

But Governor STUART might have done much better in the exercise of his questionable appointing power in this case. He might have named the present State Treasurer, JOHN O. SHEATZ, to administer the office, at least until the courts had had opportunity to pass upon the question of the legality of an appointment. Mr. SHEATZ has made an admirable public official. He has scrupulously followed the lines laid down by WILLIAM H. BERRY and made the office a public trust. He has attended to the fiscal business of the State with energy and assiduity. There was no manipulation of the funds for the benefit of favored politicians during his term and his appointment would have been a safe policy legally and financially.

But the Republican machine, of which Governor STUART is a most obedient servant, doesn't want men like SHEATZ in the office of State Treasurer. The big balances are of little use to the managers under such circumstances and when they compelled STUART to veto just charitable appropriations and bills providing funds for proper public improvements in order that there might be a vast surplus to use for political purposes, they expected to have STROBER in charge and as Providence interfered with such plans, they want a man in the place who will be equally complacent. JOHN O. SHEATZ wouldn't serve the purpose. He didn't tell things like BERRY but he wouldn't do things as WRIGHT will and WRIGHT is preferred.

—The publication of the daily consular reports has been suspended on account of the absence of funds to pay the expenses. It would be rather an advantage if some of the other government publications should be discontinued for any old reason.

President Taft's Stump Speech.

In "taking the stump" for the approaching congressional campaign, the other night, President TAFT not only presented to the country a startling innovation, but he revealed the sorry plight in to which his party has been plunged by his own moral and mental weaknesses. No other President has ever "gone upon the hustings" in a campaign of less importance than that of the Presidency. Until within a comparatively short time ago such a thing as even a candidate for President making campaign speeches was unheard of and never dreamed about. ROOSEVELT was the first President to make campaign speeches even in a presidential campaign and he respected no law other than his own caprices.

President TAFT has gone further than ROOSEVELT, however, in the direction of debasing the high office for which he was recommended to the people on account of his dignity and judicial temperament. He opened the campaign for the Sixty-second Congress in Washington, last Saturday evening, in a stump speech which before it was fairly begun had degenerated into a tirade against the insurgents of his own party who have repudiated the perfidy involved in the violation of party pledges by the Congress now in commission. Such a spectacle should bring the blush of shame to every American citizen as it is certain to provoke the resentment of all right minded men of every party faith.

There is greater reason for surprise in the fatuity of the President's action, however, than in the hopelessness of the party in the coming election. If there were even the shadow of a chance for his party to win without resort to such means, the President would hardly have taken the stump. With a reasonable prospect of maintaining the lines his political advisers would have admonished him against the prostitution of his great office and depended upon ROOSEVELT, upon his return, to rejuvenate the party. The action of the President, therefore, can be construed in no other way than as a confession of weakness and an acknowledgment of defeat.

—An advertisement in the WATCHMAN always pays.

Speaker Cannon's Automobile.

The House of Representatives at Washington has refused to appropriate \$2,500 for the operation and maintenance of Speaker CANNON'S automobile. Last year the body was eager to thus certify to its servility to the Speaker, though the proposition was an innovation then. No other Speaker had ever had an automobile. Most of them walked from their residences to the scene of their labors or got seats in the street cars at the rate of five tickets for a quarter. But a year ago when ROOSEVELT was demanding all sorts of favors at the expense of the public treasury some of the sycophants who enjoy the favors of the Speaker concluded that he ought to have an automobile and an appropriation was made.

This year, however, that luxury is regarded as a sprig of the fungus growth called "CANNONISM," and has been uprooted. As a matter of fact it is no more an extravagance to allow the Speaker an automobile than it is to allow such a luxury to the President and an automobile for the Speaker is no more abhorrent, legally or morally, than an automobile for the President. Both are forbidden by law to accept such emoluments from Congress. An automobile for the President or one for the Speaker is equally "graft." But as Speaker CANNON declared in a speech in resentment of the action of the House, the automobile is not CANNONISM. It is profrugality and that is the natural fruit of Republicanism.

Speaker CANNON is no worse than his party. He wasn't as bad until the exigencies of his party required him to do things which are repugnant to the public conscience. JOE CANNON was a rather amiable, though coarse, old man until ROOSEVELT made him the instrument of the Congressional machine to force the policies of the administration through the National Legislature and prevent the passage of any legislation inimical to the party interests. He never dreamed of an automobile at public expense until ROOSEVELT set the example. He was content to pay his individual expenses until he saw others indulging in the habit of "sponging" on the treasury. Nevertheless we are glad his automobile has been cut off. Probably it will lead to other economies of greater significance.

—Postmaster General HITCHCOCK says that the story that he is to be elected United States Senator by the Legislature of Arizona, when that territory is created a State, amuses him. It also made some of the rest of us laugh.

Clarifying the Political Atmosphere.

The leading Democrats of Pennsylvania sounded a true and clear note at the conference held in Harrisburg last week in connection with a meeting of the State central committee. It declared for harmony as well as energy in intelligence in the conduct of the coming and all future campaigns and condemned the perfidy involved in betraying pledges made to the people. There could be no two opinions on these questions and when they were properly presented the action of the convention was unanimous. The party will be the better for the understanding and the action. The work of organization will be more vigorous and effective in the future and the fruit of the labor more abundant.

The resolution declaring that delegates to conventions are "under moral obligations" to obey the instructions of the voters who selected them, simply expressed a fundamental Democratic principle. In any community in which public sentiment is divided between aspirants for office there is no better way of ascertaining the sentiment of the majority than by instructing the delegates as provided by law and delegates so instructed are in duty bound to vote the preferences of those who elected them. On the other hand, however, where there is no contention with respect to candidates, there is no necessity for instructions. The statute simply permits instructions. It doesn't command them.

As a matter of fact, therefore, the resolution which threatened to create some aspersion in the conference before it was understood simply endorsed the Act of Assembly upon the question involved. There could be no serious differences among Democrats on such questions. The Democratic party is essentially the party of law and order and what the law provides is the rule that governs in Democratic councils. There was no real necessity for such a resolution in the conference as there was no substantial ground for opposing it after it had been introduced. Nevertheless the discussion clarified the political atmosphere and it is quite as well, therefore, that the subject was considered.

—A new front, with large display windows, is being put in the store room in Crowder's Exchange occupied by Montgomery & Co.

High Prices and their Causes.

Senator LODGE is now willing to admit that the tariff is partially responsible for the abnormally high prices but blames the trusts and other causes also. He introduced a bill, the other day, forbidding the holding of food stuffs in cold storage for more than a year as a remedy for that part of the fault which he ascribes to the trusts. Of course this is an expedient to divert the public mind from the real facts. Such a law would do some good, beyond question, for it is of record that meat and fowls are now kept in storage for three and four years. But it would afford small relief. Storage for a year is ample time to pull off a speculative corner in any article of food.

The real cure for fictitious values in food stuffs is in repealing the tariff laws which will destroy the trusts. With the markets of Canada and other accessible countries open to the consumers of food in this country, the competition would bring prices down to a natural and just level. Nobody complains of high prices which are the result of natural causes. For example a scarcity of any commodity which is in liberal demand justifies the increase of price to a level that will yield a fair profit to the dealer. But the moment two or more dealers combine to create an artificial scarcity in order that they may fix a fictitious value, a conspiracy is created. This is a crime against the public.

Tariff laws legalize these conspiracies in restraint of trade and for the purpose of regulating prices on an artificial basis, and the only remedy for the evil is the abolishment of the cause. Senator LODGE imagines that he can fool the people by the subterfuge embodied in his bill to limit the time of storage of meats. But he is only fooling himself. The American people have been studying economic subjects of late years. They know the difference between an aeroplane and an ice wagon. The public schools have been teaching the science of government and only such men as LODGE, who are absorbed in admiration of their own greatness, are oblivious of the progress of the world.

—The Englishman who has sued Colonel JAMES M. GUFFEY for a couple of million dollars on the ground that the Colonel failed to pay him that amount of money for work he never performed, is an optimist. He probably imagines that yellow black bills grow on trees.

Fraud in Public Buildings.

The revelations made by the esteemed Philadelphia Press, the other day, with respect to the Homeopathic state hospital for the insane at Rittersville, surprises no critical observers of the public life of Pennsylvania. In 1901 the construction of that institution was authorized by the Legislature and begun as an urgent measure to relieve the congestion then existing in other state institutions of the kind. It was to cost \$300,000 and be completed within two years. It has been under process of construction for ten years, has already cost \$1,703,000 and is not nearly finished yet. In fact another requisition has been made on the Legislature for from half a million to a million dollars.

This was essentially a machine controlled enterprise. The commission charged with the construction was composed of WILLIAM T. MARSHALL, of Pittsburg, then Speaker of the House; WILLIAM P. SNYDER, then president pro tem. of the Senate, and three others, whose tenure of office is terminable only by the completion of the work. PHILIP H. JOHNSTON, brother-in-law of the late ISRAEL W. DURHAM, is the architect, and FRANCIS SHUNK BROWN, counsel for the Philadelphia Republican machine, is the solicitor. The commissions of these gentlemen are irrevocable, and JOHNSTON has drawn \$69,382.94 in fees and BROWN \$3,007.00. Dr. SNYDER is now a prisoner in the eastern penitentiary, but still holds his job.

The truth of the matter is that all public buildings erected by the State during the last dozen years have been sources of graft and the collection of graft was the principal motive in their construction. When the commission for one of the state hospitals was looking for a site some years ago a suitable tract of land was offered by the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western railroad for nothing. The offer was refused because the railroad company declined to declare that the commission had paid \$10,000 for the land and subsequently the State paid that sum for a location. This Rittersville affair is only one of a common kind and the practice will continue until the machine is voted out of power.

—Meantime it is worth while to recall that Secretary of State KNOX declared a couple of months ago that the revolution in Nicaragua had practically succeeded. KNOX never was much of a guesser, however.

Country Again Cheated.

Recalling that the corporation tax amendment was tacked on the Payne-Adrich bill for the admitted purpose of defeating inheritance or income tax legislation, Representative Gilbert M. Hitchcock of Nebraska, in a speech on the floor of the House which evoked great applause on the Democratic side, charged that now that the corporation tax had "achieved its purpose, the plan is to emasculate and destroy the efficiency of the law itself."

Within a half hour after Mr. Hitchcock had concluded his speech his statement was to all practical ends verified when the Republicans passed an amendment to the corporation tax law restricting the operation of its publicity feature. As passed, the corporation tax bill provided that the returns of corporations should be public; as amended by the House, the measure provides that the returns shall be open to inspection upon the order of the President. As President Taft himself declared that the publicity feature of the corporation tax was its best asset, the usefulness of the measure has been greatly impaired, to say the least. And in the meantime the country has been cheated out of income tax legislation.

The Proposed Income Tax Amendment.

Regarding the income tax, there is this to be said. It is a kind of tax which, if honestly enforced, falls alike upon the man who does not—upon workers and parasites, upon producers of wealth and beneficiaries of special privilege. It is a kind of tax that cannot be honestly enforced and the burden of unfair enforcement falls most heavily upon scrupulous men. It is a tax which, therefore, cannot upon its own merits, be ethically defended. But it is a direct tax, and, as has been sensibly said, the worst direct tax is better than the best indirect tax. Moreover, the clearing of the way constitutionally for the income tax was accomplished by the passage of a law along that line, in consequence of which indirect federal taxation may come to be wholly abolished, and the best kind of direct taxation be permitted to take its place.

Seeing the Pope.

From the Springfield Republican. If Mr. Fairbanks had not led the way with such mastery acumen in dealing with the Vatican and the Methodists of Rome, Mr. Roosevelt would have furnished a tremendous sensation to the world; but under the circumstances, he appears merely to be trailing after the distinguished Hoosier statesman who preceded him in the Eternal City. Mr. Fairbanks certainly deserves the credit of having set the precedent which Mr. Roosevelt has followed. Any attempt to ignore the former president as the hero of a strictly original and blazing coup should be sternly frowned upon. If it was "Roosevelt and Fairbanks" in 1904, when we elected them to their high offices of state, it is "Fairbanks and Roosevelt" in 1910, when the two men majestically come marching home by way of imperial Rome. As to the exact injustice of this observation, it seems that all should agree.

The Flowing Tide.

From Harper's Weekly. If the Democrats carry the House in 1910 they will carry the Presidency in 1912. Let there be no mistake about that. A current which will give the Democrats the House this year would have enough force left to give them the Presidency two years hence. If the Democrats win the House in the approaching campaign there will be a scramble for the Democratic presidential candidacy in 1912 such as has not been seen in many a day and Mr. Taft need not be surprised when the notification comes to him on the night of November 5th of that year to pack his "grip" and vacate the White House.

Trouble for Standpatter Dalselt.

From the Philadelphia Record. The latest news from Washington is that John is going home to look after his fences. There is trouble in Allegheny. The grafters have been grafting so boldly and incautiously that they have been caught in the act. There is turmoil in the labor camp. There is the devil to pay in the larder. The voters are threatening to vote, at the dictation of their stomachs, in the direction of cheaper bread and meat. Instead of storming and strutting in the House, Mr. Dalselt will be compelled to do some stumping at McKeesport and Turtle Creek. To what base uses may we come at last Horatio? It is sad!

Reduced Volume Coin \$766,200,000.

From the year 1896 to 1908 the world's volume of silver coin was reduced as above, and with this continuation of melting labor coin into fine arts, there will be no silver money in circulation in fifty years. Our National government fails to adopt honest commercial fiscal rule on tariff customs, or resume coinage of sound labor currency dollar, silver of embossed motto "In God We Trust," though the world's production of precious bullion is only two-thirds of the amount of silver to one ounce of gold.

JAMES WOLFENDEN, Lamar, Pa.

The Socialist Mayor.

From the New York World. Milwaukee's newly elected Socialist mayor is a disappointment. "Socialism," he says, "has been given a chance to show its merits. We can do this by insisting and consistent conservatism." What a shock to the good people who expected him to hoist the red flag and introduce some new reforms with dynamite!

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

—1,322 men have enlisted at the Harrisburg recruiting station in the past four years, out of 5,064 applicants.

—The new hospital at Renovo has been formally opened to the public. Miss Alice C. Russell is the head nurse and superintendent.

—There are over 150 cases of measles in Clearfield. One hundred and fifteen children are out of the Third ward schools from this cause.

—Dimeling & Bloom are preparing to cut the timber on the Goodyear tract on Cold stream. The output, including the bark, will be hauled overland to Clearfield.

—The entire main line of the Pennsylvania Railroad company between Altoona and Harrisburg, a distance of 132 miles, is now being operated by the telephone.

—John Bumgardner, of Harrisburg, mistook his wife for a burglar in their bedroom early Friday morning and fatally shot her. Mrs. Bumgardner had gotten out of bed for medicine and she died a few hours later.

—A number of Northumberland county merchants were swindled by paying money to fraudulent mercantile tax collectors. As soon as the county treasurer's office heard of the activities of the swindlers, warnings were issued.

—Buttermilk, which used to be fed to the pigs in Cambria county, is becoming so popular as a beverage that the price is raising. There is a bigger demand in the county for buttermilk and sour milk now than for the pigs that used to fatten on it.

—Burglars who entered the home of Anthony Gonnoman near Cambria, succeeded in obtaining fifty cents for their trouble. A small drawer containing \$3,000, which was the object of their search and represented the savings of fifteen years, escaped their notice.

—One farmer will receive \$95,000 for his coal in the buying up of lands in the Blacklick district, west of Ebensburg, by eastern capitalists. Another will receive \$45,000 and still another \$30,000. A total of \$1,000,000 will change hands as the result of the negotiations.

—Hundreds of bushels of potatoes will be lost by Somerset county farmers who refused to sell their crops last fall when the prices were from 60 to 75 cents a bushel. Thirty to 40 cents a bushel is being offered by retailers now and the demand is said to be extremely light.

—State Forestry Commissioner Conklin last Friday ordered the arrest of six men in as many parts of the State on the charge of starting forest fires in the last six weeks. The evidence against the men was worked up by detectives and it is claimed that malicious conduct will be shown.

—Founder's Day will be celebrated by Juniata college, Huntingdon, today. Governor Stuart, Lieutenant Governor Murphy, Senators Penrose and Oliver, Congressmen Focht and Reynolds, State Superintendent of Public Instruction N. C. Schaeffer and other prominent men are expected to be present.

—All the trees available in the Greenwood nurseries, numbering between 150,000 and 200,000, will be planted by the State in Mifflin county. The trees will be placed in Lancaster, Treaster and Havise valleys and the labor will be secured in that vicinity. Three forestry experts will be in charge.

—After terrible suffering, George M. Hoover, of the Hollidaysburg freight brakeman, who, a week last Tuesday, was frightfully burned by falling into a car of hot ashes, while at work in the Hollidaysburg railroad yards, died Saturday morning in the Altoona hospital. Besides his wife, six small children survive. He was 35 years of age.

—Grading has been started by the Philadelphia & Susquehanna Valley railroad on the new one-mile-branch on Beaver run, leading from the Decatur Coal company's mine to the Ramey Coal company's new operations near Philadelphia. The Ramey Coal company has had its triple constructed and when the branch is completed within about six weeks, coal will be shipped.

—Miss Mabel Nisley, clerk in the senate library at Harrisburg, was painfully injured Saturday when she was run down by an auto, the wheels of which passed over her neck and shoulders. The young woman had just alighted from a street car and many spectators said that the auto was racing with another at the rate of between thirty-five and forty miles an hour. The car was stopped and three of the inmates gave their names.

—After George A. Lashell, of Coreopolis, has been dead three years and just when preparations were being completed for distributing his estate of \$30,000, under the intestate law, his wife found a will in an old satchel in which he had carried his papers to and from his office, but which he had stopped using some time before his death. His widow is to receive all but one-third of his property, which goes to his mother for life, and will descend to a nephew and niece after her death.

—The General Electric company, of Schenectady, N. Y., has made plans for a monster subsidiary plant at Erie, Pa., to give employment to 20,000 men. Eventually the plant will be made one of the largest industrial centers in the world. The work of enlarging the local plant is under way and soon the number of employees there will be 20,000. Eight hundred acres of ground have been secured at Erie and the initial floor space will be 150 acres. Twenty large buildings and thirty-eight smaller ones will be erected.

—The post office at Cell Hill, near Oil City, was entered by thieves early Monday evening and about \$350 in money taken. The thieves entered while James Straup, the postmaster and his wife were at supper. Hearing the noise they intercepted the robbers and succeeded in recovering part of the money but in the battle Mrs. Straup was badly beaten and is in a serious condition. Post office inspectors have been sent to that section with blood-hounds. The thieves secured \$47 of the postal funds and \$300 belonging to Straup.

—Another producing oil-well has been found in the Gaines field, Potter county. The well is on the land of the Pennsylvania Land and Oil Development company and the oil was struck at a depth of 1,100 feet. The drillers found the hole full of oil when they went to work one morning and will drill it at least 100 feet deeper. If the well is productive another well will be drilled nearby. The work of leasing other territory around has already begun and it is thought that the purse strings will be loosened again in efforts to find oil on this field of many disappointments.

—The Pauline Coal Co., composed of Dr. J. W. Dunwiddie and M. H. Davidson, of Philipsburg, whose operations are on the Tyrone division, between Philipsburg and Boynton, suffered the loss by fire Monday morning of their tippie and stable, together with the contents of the latter, including three mules. A P. R. R. steel car, loaded with coal, was also practically ruined. The fire was discovered by the crew of the Philipsburg coal train, but too late to save the property. Every indication points to the fire as having been the work of an incendiary, and an effort will be made to run down the guilty party.

—Four solid blocks were swept by fire at Middletown, the oldest place in Dauphin county, Saturday. Half a million dollars' loss was caused and for a time the town was in danger. Dynamite had to be used in checking the flames. The telephone exchanges were destroyed but fortunately not before aid could be summoned from Harrisburg, Steelton, Columbia and Lancaster. The dynamiting was done by the concentrated fire forces under the direction of Fire Chief Gerberich, of Harrisburg. The flames originated from an overheated stove in the market house. The work of rebuilding will begin at once.