

INK SLINGS.

—How happy the country could be if Congress would only adjourn and go home.

—The local baseball fan is beginning to get restless because a league with Bellefonte in it has not yet been formed.

—There must certainly be something doing in Temperance propaganda when the Emperor of the Germans should inveigh against beer swilling.

—The offices of State Treasurer and Auditor General are back in the hands of the gang. Now for the beginning of another carnival of loot at Harrisburg.

—The grand opera trust has opened the country. Thank the Lord, we still have Uncle Tom's Cabin and LINCOLN CARTER's blood curdling dramas free from its encircling tentacles.

—The New York minister who said "Pittsburg is the city where they make iron and—steel for a living" has given to the public about the whitest gem we have read in a long time.

—Anyway the Democrats have plenty of splendid gubernatorial timber. Any one of the men mentioned for that office would prove an honor to the party and a boon to the Commonwealth.

—As a base ball rooster President TAFT seems to be very much of a success. We publish this as a matter of news for those who might imagine that our President has no accomplishments whatever.

—While we are not at all pessimistic in the matter there are those who fear that a continuation of the iron market in its present condition may result in a temporary suspension at the local furnaces.

—The consumption of beer in England has decreased from thirty-two to twenty-six gallons per head during the past five years. Is this due to the spirit of temperance, the pocket book or the quality of the beer?

—Wonder what TEDDY will think about the Danes objecting to common people sleeping in royal beds. "Common people, forsooth!" Why he is the most uncommon thing the world has produced in a century.

—The thorough auditors have completed their work and they are reputed as having had more trouble in agreeing up on what their own compensation should be than in checking up the accounts of the various officials.

—Residents of Lemon Ave., Leandro, Cal., have appealed to the city trustees to have the name of their thoroughfare changed. We have often heard that there is nothing in a name but the residents of Lemon Ave. are convinced that there is.

—Mayor GAYNOR, of New York, told editor HEARST, of the American, a few things at a banquet of the press clubs of that city, one night last week. A fight was almost precipitated, but not before some very unpleasant truths were made public.

—The observance of Mothers' day, next Sunday, is a beautiful manifestation of the tenderest and most sacred sentiment one can cherish. Wear a flower on Sunday to show to the world that you revere the surpassing love and constant devotion of your mother.

—The Pittsburg clergyman who endorsed prize fighting from his pulpit said: "It is in the nature of men to fight. They might as well learn how to do it well." This is true in a sense, but to our mind too many people know too much about fighting now for the happiness of the communities in which they reside.

—That Cincinnati gentleman who persists in refusing a salary of twenty-five thousand dollars a year from the gas company, of which he is president, until it can pay dividends on its common stock is certainly a unique character in modern financing. What an idiot Gas ADICKS would have thought this conscientious gentleman to be.

—President TAFT's allusion to a possible Democratic House as an "affliction that the good Lord might send us" would have been unkind if everyone did not know that even a Democratic House could not be as hopeless as the present one. In any event it would stand for something and even the President would be able to know where it would be at.

—The President visited his old home in Cincinnati, heartsore and discouraged. He said the "White House is not the ideal place of residence" and that he had found out that many of his friends in his face were foes in the legislative halls. Poor TAFT, if he had only stood where he promised the people he would stand his conscience would not be worrying him so much today.

—The conviction of "the boy dreamer" probably marks the closing of the last chapter in the great Pennsylvania capitol scandal. The ends of justice have been satisfied and the long trail of misfortune left by those implicated will be a living reminder for future servants of the public that they must do their duty or suffer the consequences. Public office contemplates no passive responsibility. The man who accepts it must be active in the pursuit of its obligations. His accountability is not measured by his integrity before accepting office, but by the manner in which he has performed the duties he has sworn to perform.

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Some Hopeful Election Figures.

We are reminded by a circular issued by some of the friends of WM. H. BERRY, which makes a comparison of the vote of the ex-State Treasurer in 1905 and that of C. LARUE MUNSON last fall, that Mr. BERRY also carried fifteen of the twenty-two Congressional districts of this State, outside of Pittsburg and Philadelphia. That is an additional reason for hope of the result of the coming election.

Congressional districts that have been carried twice in four years by the Democrats are not hopelessly against the candidates of that party. Good candidates in each of those districts and such effort in support of them as will procure a full Democratic vote will give Pennsylvania fifteen Democrats in the next Congress.

What a splendid achievement that would be. The next Congress will be Democratic beyond question and with a delegation of that party faith of fifteen upon the floor no State could exercise greater influence in the legislation of the session. We had less than fifteen members on the floor when the late Speaker RANDALL was elected to the chair and though we are not likely to present a name for that office in the next House a delegation of fifteen would guarantee us some committee chairmanships and a large influence in the work of shaping the legislation of the body. We hope, therefore, that every Democrat in the State will exert every effort to elect a Congressman in his district and the way and time to begin is by the selection of good candidates at the primaries.

The inordinate and distressingly high prices of the necessities of life will continue until the tariff is revised so as to curb the power of the trusts and restrain the control of monopolies. This will be achieved as soon as the Democrats have a majority in Congress and it is important that the Democrats of Pennsylvania should have a full share in this beneficent result. If we elect fifteen Democrats next fall we will certainly enjoy that distinction and the vote for Mr. BERRY in 1905 and that for Mr. MUNSON last year is ample evidence that we can achieve the result. Get a full registration and bring every vote to the polls and we will not only get fifteen Democratic Congressmen in the State but will elect our full State ticket.

The Men We Honor.

The magnificent bronze doors of the capitol building at Harrisburg are decorated with the faces of a number of distinguished Pennsylvanians. Among the faces on that door are the late Senator QUAY, who escaped the penitentiary by pleading the statute of limitations; SAMUEL W. PENNYPACKER, who was shielded from prosecution for graft for some mysterious but unexplained reason; Auditor General W. P. SNYDER, who is now in the penitentiary; W. L. MATTHUES, who escaped the penalty by dying; architect JOSEPH H. HUSTON and others. In fact it is a question whether the door represents a "rogue's gallery," or a "galaxy of distinguished citizens."

However this question is settled one thing is certain. That is that the faces on the bronze doors of the capitol represent a political immorality that is disgraceful to the people of Pennsylvania. Of the figures in the group one escaped state's prison by pleading the statute of limitations, one is already doing time in the penitentiary, one is under conviction and will be sentenced as soon as the technical objections can be brushed aside and at least three, State Treasurer MATTHUES, contractor PAYNE and contractor SANDBERSON, escaped by dying. With a monument of QUAY, the arch-conspirator, in the corridor and other convicts on the door, it looks as if Pennsylvanians delight in honoring criminals.

Still these men are neither worse nor better than those who thus honor them. A stream can be no purer than its fountain and a party which selects criminals, though at the time not found out, as its conspicuous leaders, is precisely on a moral level with those it honors. Even now the Republican leader in Philadelphia most revered is "DAVE" LANE, who a short time ago in a public speech asked the office holders of the city to stuff the ballot boxes and warned them that if they failed to produce votes in the ratio of four to one they would be dismissed from the public service. LANE is not in the penitentiary and in being out he is the patron saint of Republicanism in Pennsylvania.

The Central Railroad of Pennsylvania has given the freight crews an increase of twenty per cent. in wages. Passenger crews do not benefit by the increase but as most of the engineers and firemen take turns in running the freight and passenger trains they will be equally benefitted. The increase is naturally much appreciated by the employees.

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Secretary Wilson's Absurd Ideas.

Secretary of Agriculture WILSON is making a picturesque ass of himself in his absurd efforts to shift the responsibility for the high prices of food stuffs from the tariff tax to something else. In a speech delivered in New York, the other day, he ascribed the evil to "reckless methods of farming which have resulted in the impoverishment of the soil." According to the statistics issued from the Department of Agriculture, by the authority of Secretary WILSON, the farm products of last year aggregated in value the enormous total of more than eight billion dollars, nearly a billion in excess of the best previous record. If these figures are correct the impoverishment of the soil is humbuggery.

The truth of the matter is that the high prices are ascribable almost entirely to the tariff taxation. In the first place the excessive taxes on every article and implement used in producing the crops add materially to the cost of production and then the manipulation of prices by the trusts which control the distribution of the crops does the rest. Cereals produced in this country are sold in all the centres of population in Europe at less prices than they can be procured for at home and whatever losses are incurred in supplying the foreign markets are made up by overcharging in the home markets. These things are responsible for the high prices and no one understands it better than Secretary WILSON.

When the tariff laws are made in the interest of the people instead of the trusts the prices of food stuffs will come down to a just level. It is not likely that prices will be as low as they have been in the near future and it is not altogether desirable that they should be. But when farmers are able to buy agricultural machinery and other implements of farming without paying a vast bonus to manufacturers, the cost of production will be materially reduced and the price of the commodities will get down to the level created by the operation of the law of supply and demand.

If Secretary WILSON doesn't understand these facts he is not properly equipped for the job he is holding down.

Taft Again Puts His Foot in It.

President TAFT has thrown over the shoulders of his Secretary of State the mantle of his unqualified approval. It was believed that he had done with such things. His eulogy of Senator ALDRICH, some months ago, was so uniformly resented by public sentiment, that every one jumped to the conclusion that he would never repeat the blunder. But in his Pittsburg speech, the other night, he even went further than in the ALDRICH case. He not only endorsed Secretary KNOX's absurd diplomatic farce comedy in Nicaragua, but specifically approved of his "dollar" diplomacy in the far east. He was particularly generous in praise of that diplomacy which brought orders for battleships to our shores.

The feature of Secretary KNOX's diplomacy was expressed in his treatment of the Nicaraguan trouble. In that matter the Secretary of State not only practically recognized the belligerency of an adventurer but sent half a dozen warships and thousands of American marines to support him in his rebellion against his government. The result was an instant revision of public sentiment throughout the little Republic and in less than six months the almost clandestine withdrawal of the ships and marines which had been dispatched with such a flourish of trumpets. It was the most humiliating circumstance which has occurred to any country within a century.

The truth is that TAFT is making our government the laughing stock of the civilized world. Constantly on the road like a commercial drummer he chatters like a magpie at every opportunity. The music of his own throat is the only melody which reaches his ears and from fulsome flattery of those about him he goes to extravagant praise of imaginary work he has performed. Meantime his cherished measures are being buffeted about in Congress and the Congressional machine, upon which he depends, is in despair. If he would remain at his post of duty long enough to frame a policy there might be some chance of fulfilling his party pledges, but it is impossible for him to do that.

Next Monday evening will be the evening for the regular meeting of the Bellefonte Motor club and there should be a good turnout of members. This is the time of year when the club should be most active in co-operating in every way possible with the supervisors and road masters throughout the county for the improvement of the roads, and the only way to do so successfully is by a concerted effort on the part of all automobile owners, every one of whom should be a member of the Bellefonte Motor club.

The State Treasury Decision.

Nobody was in the least surprised at the decision of the Supreme court affirming the right of the Governor to appoint a State Treasurer, the gentleman elected to the office having died before qualifying. Capable lawyers differed in opinion on the subject and former Attorney General HENSEL cited numerous precedents to support his contention that the death of Mr. STOVER created no vacancy in the office such as could be filled by the Governor under the sanction of the constitution. But that made no material difference to the Judges of the Supreme court, most of whom have been catapulted into their seats. It was a "groundhog case," and had to be decided that way.

The Republican machine needs money and the right man in the office of State Treasurer can be very serviceable in supplying that want. On Tuesday when the transfer of the office was made there were \$9,000,000 of surplus in the general fund and considerably upward of \$2,000,000 in the sinking fund. Under the law it is necessary to collect two per cent. on such balances for the use of the State but it is an easy matter to place the entire amount in solvent depositories at four per cent. The two per cent. which is "velvet," therefore, would bring \$220,000 a year to the campaign fund, or a matter of \$110,000 between the dates of the transfer and the opening of the polls next November.

Mr. SHEATZ has been of very little use to the machine since he entered upon the duties of the office of State Treasurer. He saved it from defeat at the time of his election but Republican gratitude is not sufficiently comprehensive to cover past favors and when SHEATZ refused to serve the machine in office previous obligations were forgotten. His successor under appointment by the Governor, ratified by an off-hand decision of the Supreme court, will be more mindful of his partisan obligations. The golden stream will soon begin to flow into the corruption fund and the work of bribing voters will go forward with renewed energy if witlessness nose than formerly.

ANDREW CARNEGIE has diagnosed President TAFT's trouble as being an effort to please everybody. And as is always the case under such conditions he has succeeded in pleasing nobody.

Ballinger a Bold Witness.

MR. BALLINGER, the accused Secretary of the Interior, was a witness before the Congressional committee charged with the investigation of accusations against him during the closing days of last week and was quite free in his charges of perjury against those who testified on the other side of the question. In that way he disposed of CLAVIS, GARFIELD, PINCHOT, HOYT, and everybody else who testified against him. They are liars, he said, unequivocally. This one lied and that one lied and in fact they all lied. He is the only truthful man who has testified in the case though his statements are unsupported, while the evidence of the others clearly corroborate each other.

MR. BALLINGER must imagine the people are fools to make such an exhibition of himself. He knows, of course, that the committee has been packed in his interest and that its report will be a whitewash. President TAFT has already practically compelled this result by serving notice that official patronage goes with a verdict of acquittal and official punishment with a vote against the accused Secretary. But the people of the country have not been bribed, cajoled or coerced. They have read the evidence and will make the real verdict regardless of what the Congressional committee does. The citizens are the court of last resort in this case.

The fact is that MR. BALLINGER was forced into the cabinet by the GUGGENHEIMS, MORGAN and other land pirates who contributed to the Republican campaign fund in the expectation of reimbursing themselves by stealing valuable portions of the public domain. They selected BALLINGER as the instrument through whom to operate and they do not propose to be balked in their plans. If TAFT turns BALLINGER down they will expose TAFT and he knows it. Therefore they know that he will be faithful to them however treacherous he may be to the people. They have the power of punishment and the people are only able to complain. It is a safe guess that BALLINGER is immune.

Next Sunday, March 8th, will be observed as "Mothers' Day" all over the country. The idea was originated by Miss Annie James, of Philadelphia, and it at once proved such a popular sentiment that it has been very generally observed since in many churches in the United States and by the wearing of a white carnation by the general public.

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A New Light for Insurgents.

From the Lancaster Intelligencer. The Insurgent Republicans in the federal Senate seem to have had a disagreeable time under the suggestions of Senator Rayner to them that it was high time for them to choose their political bedfellows and to say whether they would embrace a Democratic alliance or go back to the embrace of their Republican associates, whose policies and performance they have been exciting themselves in denouncing. Senator Rayner declared that he had become tired of the lowing looks, which failed to result in corresponding action, and he was decidedly of the opinion that if they thought as well of the Democratic policies as they seemed to in their advocacy of them, they should come into the Democratic party and help in establishing them.

Senator Dolliver protested in behalf of himself and his fellow Insurgent Republicans that they proposed to declare their political belief, without walking away from their party, that did not share their beliefs. He seemed to think that political belief and political action were wholly different things; and that he could properly satisfy his conscience and do his duty as Senator by proclaiming his political opinions regardless of their rejection by the party with which he intended to act. Senator Rayner, aided by Senator Bailey, sought to persuade him of the vanity of such an essay; and any way, to convince him that the Democratic party had no mind to be a party to such performance; seeing that they had knowledge from experience of the slipperiness of the Insurgents' footsteps in their essay to keep time to Democratic music, marching under other colors and in other companies. He referred to the warmth of the Roosevelt insurgent embrace of Democratic aid on occasion when he needed it, and his coldness after his manifestation of Democratic association had restored to him the Republican combination that he was angling for.

Apparently the Republican senatorial insurgents were able to see a new light under these teachings and were disturbed to see that their Democratic harmony meant Democratic assimilation if it was to secure Democratic aid. They seemed to have the idea that they could walk under the Republican flag to Democratic music, and to have a welcome way in both armies.

Busy Little Bees.

From Collier's Weekly. A notion has gone forth that, after R. A. B. left the government service, the only claims against the government which he supported were the Cunningham claims. Nay, nay, Pauline. He was not so idle. He had not only coal claims, but land claims, timber and stone claims, and water-power claims, and about them all he wrote or telegraphed busily to his friend and former subordinate, urging haste in favor of his clients. Where two persons claimed the same piece of land, Ballinger urged Dennett to decide for his client. He acted, to a greater or less extent, for at least four of the most powerful groups of Alaska claimants: the Cunningham group, of thirty-three claims, whose property was recently estimated as worth between fifty and one hundred millions; the Green or White group of sixty-six claims; the Watson group of sixty-four and the Hartline group of ten. He incorporated the McKenzie Anthracite coal company and the Carbon Mountain Anthracite Coal company. He represented eastern capitalists who were interested in the purchase of the Katalla Coal Fields Railway company. He was counsel for the Hanford Irrigation and Power company and for certain Congressmen from Nebraska and California who were coal claimants. His letters to Dennett are a steady fire of requests in favor of his friends and clients, and "Fred" answers with enthusiasm, although, as he says, the interference of the forestry sometimes makes it hard for him. Poor Dennett would like to be much more busy politically than his onerous duties permit.

It has been a strange experience to me not to be in a Presidential campaign, as this is the first I have been out for nearly twenty years, but I hope my absence from active participation in the field work connected with the campaign will be properly understood. Oh, yes, Fred, it was fully understood. You were needed in Washington, for, as you so innocently express it, "there are several things that have come up just about to election that could easily have gone wrong." You were required, as Senator Guggenheim realized, just where you were, in the capital, and Achilles was able to raise the funds for Mr. Taft's election. A sweet story. The only persons to whom these tiny wire-pullers are useful are the wealthy, who can reward their services. In the words of the old wince: "Here's to the rich, God bless 'em, and as for the poor, damn 'em, they're used to it."

Would Split the Party.

From the Philadelphia Record. We have no idea whatever that Mr. Roosevelt would accept the nomination. Even with his fondness for exercising power, he must have had about enough of it, and he is level-headed enough to know that he would probably be beaten and that would be a most disagreeable anti-climax to his remarkable political career. But if there should be a serious effort two years hence to nominate him it would split the Republican party in two, and the party would probably not survive the breach. Under the most favorable circumstances it is facing defeat and an effort to nominate Mr. Roosevelt would be so undisguised an attack upon Mr. Taft that relentless hostility between factions would be inevitable.

Worth Saving.

From the New Bedford Standard. If nothing can save the party but Theodore Roosevelt, just how much is the party worth saving?

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

—Potatoes command 20 cents a bushel in Indiana county and 25 in Clearfield.

—One hundred and eighteen cases of measles are reported as existing in Butler.

—The West Decatur, Clearfield county post office, has no postmaster. It pays \$335 a year.

—A large pearl was found in an oyster in a Bethlehem restaurant a few days ago. It is a large as a hazelnut and pear-shaped. A jeweler estimated its value at \$400.

—Half the business section of Rositer, a mining town of 3,000 inhabitants, was destroyed by fire last Friday morning. The loss is estimated at \$75,000. The fire started in the mercantile establishment of Nathan Abrams and consumed 12 business houses and two dwellings.

—Nearly all of the employees of the Lehigh Valley Coal and Navigation company, 5,000 in number, have signified their willingness to donate a day's wages, an average of \$8,000, toward the Panther Creek Valley hospital fund. It is expected the company will contribute a like amount.

—Dr. W. Albert Nason, of Roaring Spring, one of the best known surgeons and physicians in this section of the State, has been invited to assume the position of chief of the medical staff in the new Mercy hospital, shortly to be opened at Eighth avenue and Twenty-sixth street, Altoona.

—The Women's Aid society of the Lewistown hospital, realizing that chickens would do away with a lot of the waste food around the institution as well as being useful as food and for their eggs, have erected a hennery near the place and have advertised for free contributions of chickens.

—The crooning plant of the Pennsylvania railroad has planted nearly a thousand Norway spruce trees in its park at Mount Union. Few of the yellow pine or spruce planted last year grew. The new trees are planted about four feet apart for nearly 4,000 feet, and make a handsome appearance. The old trees have been removed.

—The auditors of Northampton county have recharged the county commissioners with \$82,927.75, nearly all of which was money paid the Stewart Jail Works company for the construction and equipment of the new prison annex. The auditors allege the construction company failed to live up to the specifications for the work and material used.

—James L. Miller, of Lewisburg, has patented a new invention for bonding the rails of trolley traction roads. It is claimed by Mr. Miller that the cost of construction and installation of the bonded fish plates according to this system would be but a few cents per joint as compared with the cost of other bonds and installation which ranges from \$1.50 to \$5.80 per joint.

—Huntingdon will try to land a paper mill for a big publishing house that has been endeavoring to get information relative to establishing the plant at that place. The company publishes three widely read magazines and wants a factory site for a paper mill to supply one of these periodicals. A building 40x500 feet and four stories high is needed. The board of trade has started to work for the new industry.

—On petition of the McClain and McMullen heirs, the sheriff of Clearfield county recently sold a 110-acre plot of coal ground, known as the McMullen property, east of Osceola, to Dr. F. K. White, of Philipsburg, and several other well known men. The purchasers, whose bid was \$8,000 will form a company and develop the place once. Good deposits of coal are in the ground. A considerable part of the surface will be sold off in building lots.

—Nominating petitions are being received at the state capitol at the rate of nearly 100 a day and it is expected that by midnight Saturday, May 7, when the time for filing such papers expires that about 1,500 will be on file. All candidates for congressional, senatorial and representative nominations are required to file papers at the capitol. Petitions to be candidate for state delegate are to be filed in home counties, the time limit being May 14.

—A Patton physician may be responsible for much of the scarlet fever that has prevailed for the past several months in that town. It is alleged, on authority of Howard C. Yerger, secretary of the board of health, that a certain doctor diagnosed a case of a child as scarlet fever April 4 but did not mail the notification card until April 18, during which time other children of the family were allowed to attend school and to mingle with their friends.

—A book containing the names of all automobilists in the State together with the number of licensees, has been issued by the State Highway Department. The book is being distributed to officials in all the cities of the State. Heretofore it has been a hard task to identify a car by the license number, owing to the time required to secure the information from Harrisburg. The book places this information within reach of all and may aid identification of reckless drivers.

—Residents of Hammersley Fork, Clinton county, were excited a few days ago when oil was found oozing out of an old well that had been drilled thirty-five or forty years ago. The well is on the farm of W. H. Summerson and O. F. Botsford made the discovery. Whether the finding will mean anything remains to be seen. The timber in that region is about all cut out and the soil is not good for farming, making the place especially hopeful that enough oil may be found to develop the place. The optimistic residents never had given up the idea that oil did exist in the neighborhood.

—Miss Nellie Lovett, aged 45, of Renovo, stepped on a match recently and her clothing taking fire, she was burned so badly that she died after several hours of intense suffering. After stepping on the match she noticed it was flaming but went on with her household duties, giving the matter little thought. Soon her clothes flamed up and she ran out into the yard, where she rushed about screaming, a human torch. Neighbors went to her aid and put out the flames, but her body was practically cooked. A water John, was caught under his engine in the Renovo yards in an accident about three years ago, and he also was roasted to death.

—The Albert tract of fire-clay lands up Morgan run, Centre county, is to be developed. I. N. Foust, of Mill Creek, and William M. Philips, of Alexandria, some years ago bought the property, which contains about 1,000 acres, and have organized a company to work it. The new corporation is known as the Morgan Run Fire Clay & Coal company and it is capitalized at \$50,000. Mr. Philips is president and Mr. Foust, secretary-manager. The Pennsylvania railroad has consented to build a branch to the tract at a cost of about \$50,000. Other valuable coal and clay lands in the neighborhood will be opened up by the new road, which is expected to be ready for operation by July 1. The Morgan company will build a plant a little later on.

—Rafting on the West branch of the Susquehanna river still continues on a small scale, despite the fact that a number of years ago it was declared that the last saw-log had been cut and the last raft had been run down the river from the headwaters to Lock Haven. Four rafts recently were put in at Clearfield and four more at Millstone, ten miles below the former place. The fleet arrived in Lock Haven the next day. Both round and square timber made up the rafts, including pine, oak and hemlock. Austin Haney and A. C. Lansberry, of Clearfield, put in the logs. As the rafts proceeded down the river, the stream became higher and the logs traveled much faster than at the beginning of the journey. Strong cables were required, as well as quickwork on the part of the men to snub the rafts when they reached Lock Haven.