

INK SLINGS.

—Is that Christmas shopping done or are you doing just what you last year vowed you would never do again: Putting it off until the eleventh hour.

—And we keep right on building Drednaughts to make ANDREW CARNEGIE look foolish each time he gives a wad to that Peace pet of his over at The Hague.

—It was the new Chief Justice WHITE who rendered the minority report of the highest court of the land when the income tax was declared unconstitutional.

—Belleville has been literally infested with tramps during the week. We still have that anti tramp ordinance, a burgess and a police force, so why the hobos?

—Above all things make your Christmas giving practical and don't spoil a recipient's pleasure and respect for you by sending something he or she knows you can't afford.

—Aviation caps have made their appearance on the streets of Belleville, but, thank the Lord, the women wearing them have shown no signs of starting the high flying game.

—Pittsburg is only one hundred and fifty-two years old. She hasn't begun to keep pace with many of her residents who must be near a thousand, judging from the rate at which they have lived.

—Two waiters have purchased a controlling interest in a four million dollar Chicago hotel property. Those who have dined much in first class hotels or cafes will not be puzzled to know how they did it.

—Col. ABE SLUPSKY, of St. Louis, recently won a \$250 wager by drinking twenty bottles of beer a day for thirty days. We know several fellows in Belleville who would give big odds to get such a cinch bet.

—Just why the government should maintain those eighteen pension agencies at such an enormous cost no one but the pension agents seem to be able to give answer. Would it not be better to abandon them and use that money in increasing the allowances to the old soldiers.

—The number of gentlemen who are already throwing themselves in its way makes it look as though the political lightning in Centre county is going to have to do some pretty fancy zigzagging next summer in order to hit the proper ones to give to the Democracy a well balanced ticket.

—Cables from Paris indicate that ANNA GOULD-CASTELLANE-DE-SAGAN is showing signs of wanting to "come back" in the matrimonial ring. Goodness, if this thing keeps up ANNA will soon have the reputation of being able to take all comers in that decadent French nobility in which she flirts.

—The State Grange in session at Butler this week has been having about as lively a time as the National Grange had at Atlantic City last month. Whenever any organization gets big enough to amount to anything there are always a lot of warring leaders who want to use it for self exploitation.

—The President has named Justice EDWARD DOUGLASS WHITE, of Louisiana, to be chief justice of the Supreme court of the United States. He is a Catholic and a Democrat and a far abler man than CHARLES F. HUGHES, of New York, who had been picked out for the place by most of the political dopesters.

—In the naming of three Democrats in five appointments he had to make to the Supreme court bench President TAFT has more than cleared his skirts of possible charges of partisanship or injecting politics into the highest judicial tribunal of the Nation. Then, too, he might have been guided a little by the preference for Democrats so unmistakably expressed by the masses at the polls in November.

—The burning of Tammany hall was a conflagration that most of the country will be interested in. While the great Democratic organization of New York city has a more or less doubtful reputation as a matter of fact its membership includes most of the ablest and most reputable men of the party in that city. It has been historic in the politics of the country and the destruction of the records of the club is a loss of more than passing importance.

—The ability to "come back" has been talked about so much recently with reference to the doing of one JIM JEFFRIES and one THEODORE ROOSEVELT that we reckon JACK FROST is just doing the funny stunts with the mercury that we have been experiencing for the past two weeks to show that he really can "come back." You know the rather impotent winters of the past five or six years had created a doubt as to whether he could get back on the job in the old fashioned way.

—The WATCHMAN has heard, unauthoritatively, that sheriff HURLEY intends permitting no more persons to the DELICE hanging than the necessary number of witnesses required by the law. If this be his intention the WATCHMAN wishes to congratulate the sheriff and assure him that such an action will meet with the heartiest approval of all the citizens of the county who are not consumed with morbid curiosity or a desire to make a jamboree out of a very solemn legal ceremony.

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Proposed Changes in the Election Laws.

Those highly (?) respectable Philadelphians, who consider it beneath their dignity to take part in the ordinary work of a political party, as common mortals do, but consider themselves eminently qualified to furnish unstinted and unending advice to all, are again to the front insisting that the time for making our nominations be changed from June to September, and that the Australian ballot be substituted for the cumbersome and fraud-protecting one we now have.

The first proposition, to make the nominations in September in place of June, might suit the larger cities that have personal registration, and when the voters can register up to within thirty days of the election, but in country districts it would be closing the registry before the candidates, who are always expected to see that the registration is full and complete, are chosen. It would leave this most important work of having all our people properly qualified to vote, uncareful for and unattended to. We all know what this would mean—simply a greatly reduced vote and a better opportunity for politicians to run things just as they want them to run.

Centre county will have, next year, the largest number of names on its local ticket that has ever been voted for at one election, since the county was organized. Every office from sheriff down to county surveyor will have to be filled—making in all twelve candidates for each ticket to be selected at the June primaries. How many parties may name tickets is unknown at present, but the probabilities are there will not be less than four tickets in the field. In all the other counties it will be the same, only where there may be more offices to fill and more tickets placed in the field.

In addition to the county offices, township, borough and ward officials will have to be elected, thus adding from twelve to eighteen names to the county ticket in each of the districts—making in all, for each ticket named, not less than twenty-four and in some instances as high as forty names to be voted for, at the November election, and these to be picked out of the probable one hundred and fifty or two hundred names that have been chosen for the different tickets placed in the field.

Now suppose the other crazy suggestion, to adopt what is known as the Australian ballot, should be accepted and the names of all the candidates be printed on our ticket without any other designation than that they are placed under the office for which they are striving, how in the name of common sense can one cast his vote correctly or satisfactorily? There would not be one man in ten who could remember the names of the three or four score candidates to be voted for, or who would take the time to hunt out of the mass of names printed those who would best fill the minor or less important offices.

The consequence would be that either assistance in making up his ballot would have to be allowed or four-fifths of those attending the elections would mark only for two or three of the candidates, in whom they were most interested, and leave the rest go. This would leave the choice of the greater part of every ticket to the few—mostly politicians—who could pick out their friends from the many candidates on the list, and insure the election of the persons the big and little bosses in the different counties and districts desired.

As a scheme to give the few absolute control of our elections we could imagine nothing better.

This might suit the visionaries who are urging the adoption of the Australian ballot because its "English you know" but certainly it would not meet the views or accomplish the purpose of those working for simple and honest election laws.

'Twas Ever Thus.

Reports from Butler, where the State Grange is now in session, indicate that that order will put itself on record.

"I am in favor of parcels post; the election of United States Senators by direct vote of the people; the conservation policies inaugurated by THEODORE ROOSEVELT; a graduated income tax; relieving real estate of taxation by increasing the State appropriation for schools and roads; a law to pay to school districts the minimum salary of teachers for the minimum school term; uniform taxation; and as opposing vigorously the centralized bank; ship subsidy; and the sale of American-made goods cheaper abroad than at home.

Then, we presume its members will pass a resolution, that the "Grange is not a political organization and will take no part in politics," and its members will go home and as many of them vote and work for the party and the candidate in opposition to those proposed reforms as for those that favor them. This, at least, has been their way of doing things ever since that order was organized. Possibly some of these agricultural patriots may live long enough to discover that

until they muster up courage and independence enough to get into politics to work and fight for those who would help them get such legislation as they declare for they might as well put their opinion in cold storage and save the time they waste in resolving what is best for the general public.

Organizations, like individuals, lacking the courage to stand up for what they want, never get much from any source.

With the Money or More.

If the contest of the seat of Representative J. HAMPTON MOORE, of Philadelphia, will reveal the corrupt methods of politics in that city, it will be worth while. There is scarcely a chance of unseating Mr. MOORE, for the reason that there was returned for him a majority of many thousands more than the combined vote of both the opposing candidates. It may easily be proved, however, that a large part of this majority was made up of fraudulent votes and ultimately some of those responsible for the frauds may be punished. That "is a consummation devoutly to be wished." It might exercise a restraining influence in the future.

There are a good many fair-minded and thoughtful men in Pennsylvania who firmly believe that there were more fraudulent votes cast for JOHN K. TENER, in Philadelphia, at the recent election, than his majority. The Third Congress district is composed of the Second, Third, Fourth, Fifth, Sixth, Eleventh, Twelfth, Sixteenth, Seventeenth, Eighteenth and Nineteenth wards of Philadelphia. These are what are known as "down-town wards," and contain few residences other than such as are occupied by laborers, small merchants and the foreign element in the electorate. It is the fallow field for electoral frauds. But the discovery of eight or ten thousand fraudulent votes in the district would entirely justify the suspicion with respect to TENER'S majority.

The contest of Mr. MOORE'S seat will cost a couple of thousand dollars and will be a charge upon the public treasury. With the practical certainty that it will fail to place his contesting competitor in the seat, in view of this fact, it looks like a waste of public funds. But if it will serve the purpose of restraining the methods of the political crooks of that city and even in some considerable measure put a stop to the frauds, it will be a wise use of the money of the people.

The greatest of all crimes is the debauching of the ballot and no matter what the cost of preventing it, the result will be worth the money and more.

—If you send the WATCHMAN to a friend at the Christmas time, it will not only carry a message then but every week of the year. Try it and see how much it is appreciated.

Roosevelt a Fugitive from Justice.

"Coinel" ROOSEVELT has been suffering a good deal of mental anguish, lately, on account of one of his campaign indiscretions. He has been invited to deliver an address before the principal commercial organization of Hartford, Connecticut. The "Coinel" likes above all things, to deliver addresses before such bodies. It gives an opportunity to scold grown men without any risk of resentment, and that is his long suit. He is a professional fault-finder, a sort of perennial grouch, and he has been exceedingly anxious for some time to fill this engagement. But he has been afraid. He stands to go to jail if caught in the Nutmeg State and that would be hard on an ex-President.

During the recent campaign he attacked Judge BALDWIN, the Democratic nominee for Governor, with characteristic recklessness and malevolence. Judge BALDWIN at once entered suit in the Hartford courts against the "Coinel" for criminal libel. The penalty for that crime in that State is a jail sentence but the offender must be caught within the jurisdiction before he can be tried. In other words there is no extradition for such crimes. But vigilant public officials are practically certain to catch the culprit if he happens to get into the State and there are some very earnest public officials in Connecticut looking for "Coinel" ROOSEVELT. He is a very conspicuous fugitive from justice.

Judge BALDWIN has ample reason to cherish a resentment against his traducer. The libel was a particularly atrocious and malignant one and the conviction and punishment of the distinguished falsifier would be a particularly happy triumph of justice. But the Judge has no quarrel with those of his neighbors who want to hear ROOSEVELT. He was elected notwithstanding the gross vilification, and he has therefore given notice that no warrant of arrest will be served on ROOSEVELT during a visit to the State for the purpose of addressing the Hartford Chamber of Commerce. This gives the only ex-President who has been proved a liar a chance to escape just punishment.

Judge Baldwin's Idea.

Judge BALDWIN, Democratic Governor-elect of Connecticut, has a tolerably clear understanding of the tariff question. In an interview published the other day he said "here in Connecticut we want free raw materials for our manufacturers and free food for workingmen." If he had added free, or greatly reduced tariff schedules on clothing materials, he would have expressed about what the people of all sections of the country need and must have. Free raw materials would make it possible for our manufacturers to control the markets of the world, without decreasing the rates of wages at all, and free food and greatly reduced tariff rates on clothing materials would make us the most prosperous industrial country in the world.

In the same issue of the paper in which Judge BALDWIN'S interview was published an expensive exporter of Australia is quoted as saying that "if Congress will let down the bars a bit so that we can come in we can give beef, delivered in the carcass at the wharf, for six cents a pound, mutton for six, lamb for eight cents and butter for twenty-three to twenty-four cents. And better butter, by the way, than you can get here by paying the very highest price." He was in New York when he was talking, where the price of good butter was at the time fifty cents a pound and upward. Imagine the advantage to the community of the prices he quoted as compared with those current in the market. In that city alone it would make a difference of \$2,000,000 a day in the cost of living.

With free raw materials for manufacturers this country would become the supply station of the world for manufactured products of all kinds. There would be no overproduction because the markets of all countries and climes would be our sales centres and consumers everywhere our willing and anxious purchasers. There would be no reduction in the rates of wages for the reason that the cheapened raw materials would make ample profit for the producer and the demand for labor would be in excess of the supply all the time. Therefore the difference between the present prices for food and clothing and those which would prevail under the changed conditions would remain in the pockets of the earners for their own uses or investments or comforts.

—An inexpensive gift, yet a gift that has become extremely popular, is a periodical, and the WATCHMAN for one dollar to a friend or relative who lives in Centre county, has ever lived here or ever visited here would be most acceptable.

The President's Annual Message.

President TAFT'S annual message to Congress will add neither to his own popularity nor to the prosperity of his party. It is a business message, his friends say, and probably that is true, for it goes into ecstasies over a comparatively trifling business operation involving the purchase of several war ships by some foreign government from a builder in this country. But it makes no suggestion for the amelioration of the sufferings of the people of this country on account of industrial prostration and the high cost of living and proposes no remedy for any of the ills which are at present afflicting the people. The President would defer to a more convenient season application of a cure.

In a speech delivered at the home of Congressman TAWNEY, of Minnesota, some months ago, the President, while praising the PAYNE tariff law as the best ever enacted, admitted that the woolen schedule is indefensible. In his message to Congress he acknowledges that some of the criticisms of the measure are just. Presumably he knows that the high cost of living which is impoverishing the country is ascribable, in the main, to the tariff law. If he knows anything at all he knows that the tariff is responsible for the high prices of meat and that nobody except the Beef Trust is benefited by that tax on a necessary food product. Yet he not only doesn't recommend its repeal but asks that nothing be done with it until the tariff commission reports, some years in the future.

President TAFT'S message reveals the fact that he is entirely and absolutely under the control of the trusts and that the prosperity or the adversity of the people is a matter of indifference to him. If he had had even the ordinary "bowels of compassion," he would have suggested the repeal of the wool schedule and the abrogation of the tax on food stuffs. But he does nothing of the kind. Between this time and the spring of 1912, thousands, even millions of people may go to their graves because the tariff tax on woollens and proper food deprived them of the essentials to health. But he complacently waves the subject away and leaves the remedy for the next Congress.

Remember 1894.

The Democrats are being asked to accept Wall street leadership—not because of any Democratic principle advanced but because Wall street promises victory. Wall street has promised victory before; it is not a new promise. In 1892 the Democratic party won a victory on the tariff issue, but as soon as the election was over the Wall street financiers demanded the unconditional repeal of the Sherman law and secured it by a shameless use of patronage and by the coercion that they know so well how to practice. And what was the result? A Republican triumph more sweeping than any since, except—and more sweeping than any since, except 1904, when Wall street again promised victory. The defeats of 1896, 1900 and 1908 were not as disastrous as the defeats of 1894 and 1904. The party is more radical now than in either 1894 or 1904. What stupid folly to think of winning a victory by retreat and surrender to Wall street!

Talking Tariff.

The coming Congress having therefore passed out of Republican into Democratic hands, it may be supposed that the Republican heart in this Congress may move somewhere in unison with the Democratic wish to revise the tariff; seeing that the Republican leaders know that the next Congress will revise it; and may reasonably incline to have a hand in doing the work in this Congress, where they may with less disturbance to their unduly protected industries.

How to Make Living Cheaper.

From the Chicago Journal.

In these days of inflated prices and dwindling pay checks, the man who evolves a practical scheme to make living cheaper deserves to be hailed as a public benefactor.

Therefore, set aside one of the proudest pedestals in the hall of fame for Prof. A. D. Mead, who appears on the government pay roll as superintendent of the lobster hatchery at Wickford, R. I.

Prof. Mead has not been so engrossed in his crustacean occupation that he failed to hear the mighty protest of his fellow beings when the monthly bills come around.

Being a man of action, he wasted no time in futile reviling of the trusts. He wrote no letters to the newspapers, telling how the tariff should be revised.

Instead he scrutinized his mental horizon in search of a remedy. He found it. If a plutocrat was willing to pay \$1.25 for half a lobster, quality not being guaranteed, why should not the succulent morsel be made a staff of life for the poor?

Easy, it was merely a question of getting enough lobsters. The professor says he has solved the problem. He has invented a method of growing lobsters artificially, just as chickens are turned out of an incubator. He asserts that they can be produced for 7 cents a pair, and that at this price they will be cheaper to the consumer than rump steak or bologna.

Fine from Prof. Mead! Already imagining pictures the underfed populace growing fat and opulent on the food once dedicated to chorus girls and Pittsburg millionaires.

And if lobsters, why not shrimps, and crabs, and diamond backed terrapin? Go to it, professor! The unfed millions are with you.

Attack the "System."

From the Omaha World Herald.

Of what avail is condemnation of the individuals who head the great predatory and piratical financial interests of the times? There was Vanderbilt and Jay Gould and after them Harriman. Now it is Morgan. All but the latter have crossed the great divide, and he will soon follow. Then we will have some one else.

Easier than man is more formidable than the one who preceded him, just as the "system" under which they all work becomes more nearly perfect. In the perfecting of that "system" the brightest minds in the legal profession have been engaged for the last 40 years. It was not until the late 1870's that the minds that created the "system" but the legal talent that they employed.

Financial magnates come and go, but the "system" remains, and as long as it remains, we shall have the exploiting of the common people. Let the attacks be on the "system" and not alone on the men who are at the head of it. When the latter can be convicted of willful violation of the law they should be sent to jail where they belong, the same as other criminals. But meanwhile the attack should be pressed against the "system" as an institution and against the laws and lawmakers that are largely responsible for it.

Mills that Grind Slowly.

From the Chicago Journal.

Suit by the government to compel dissolution of the Sugar Trust recalls the fact that this was one of the "good trusts" against which President Taft's predecessor refused to move.

Information and proof of gross violation of the law by this monopoly was laid before President Roosevelt early in September, 1910, by George H. Earle, acting receiver of the Pennsylvania Sugar Refining company.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

—A wandering umbrella mender whom Chief Brum, of Bloomsburg, sheltered, stole the chief's best umbrella.

—An outbreak of hydrophobia threatened to establish a quarantine against dogs between Danville and Northumberland.

—An alderman in Wilkes-Barre has established a new and novel precedent by fining a wife-beater \$10 and costs and turning the money over to the abused woman.

—Perry county has fifty-one persons in the insane asylum at Harrisburg. The cost to the county for maintenance for the quarter ending December 1st, was \$1,000.

—Because of work being slack, over 300 foreigners have left Reading within the past few months for their old homes in Europe, and many have also departed for Pottstown and other Schuylkill valley towns.

—Members of the Johnstown chamber of commerce are elated over the prospect which they have of securing a big branch cigar factory as one of that city's industries. It is an offshoot from the firm of Bondy & Lederer, New York.

—The Armstrong county court has decided that Nick and Peter Lambros, confectioners of Leechburg, shall pay Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Claffer and their little daughter the sum of \$144 damages because the ice cream sold by the defendants was tainted, producing ptomaine poisoning in the plaintiffs.

—The Gould brothers, of Brishin, have prospecting a fine ridge of fire clay, containing fifty acres on the old Henderson farm two miles from that place. The clay has been pronounced ideal and steps have been taken looking towards the erection of a plant for the manufacture of building brick.

—The village of Janesville, Clearfield county was visited by a big fire Saturday morning. The fire started from a defective fuse in the D. Spencer estate building, which was soon destroyed and the flames spread to the property of H. E. Fulker son, which was destroyed. The total loss is placed at \$4,000.

—New York Central officials at Avis report that the traffic of the line is being retarded owing to the scarcity of trainmen to operate the trains. Holiday trade has increased the volume of business, and railroaders at Avis and Jersey Shore are now making better time than at any other period during the year.

—A philanthropic employee of the American Locomotive works, of Pittsburg, has been arrested on the charge of acting as a physician and surgeon to his fellow employees, utilizing knowledge gained while orderly in the Allegheny General hospital. Thus, as will be perceived, it is sometimes perilous to do good.

—Statistics compiled by the state railroad commission from October reports that in that month seventy-two persons were killed on the steam railroads of the State and seventeen on the electric lines. Of those killed on the railroads thirty-one were trespassers. In the injured list 23 brakemen are enumerated.

—The large dam which was built by the Rochester and Pittsburg Coal and Iron company at North Homer, Indiana county, has been filled with water. The dam is one of the largest in the country. The breast is twenty-one feet high and the water is dammed for about one-half mile up the creek. The dam is built of concrete.

—Charles Patton, of Ford City, an employee of the Pittsburg Plate Glass company, of Kittanning, was probably fatally injured when a falling stone from a dynamite blast struck him on the head, fracturing his skull. In the work of reconstructing this plant, which was burned down last summer, sixteen men have been hurt, of whom thirteen died.

—A big flow of gas was struck last Friday night at the well in South Hymer, where drilling has been in progress for some weeks. It is a regular gusher and the prospectors are jubilant and declare that the well gives every indication of being a great success. The lands on which the gas has been found is controlled by a company of Renovo capitalists.

—Although they have been married for ten years, Mr. and Mrs. John Wilkins, of McKees Rocks, have not yet settled a controversy concerning the actual cost of getting married. The argument was so animated on Monday afternoon that Wilkins drove the madame to the roof of the house at the muzzle of a revolver and is now locked up.

—A bad accident occurred recently at Mill Hill, Clinton county. A valuable horse, owned and driven by Irvin Lichty, of Mackeyville, when near a crossing the animal frightened at a freight train which was passing and ran into the moving train. Mr. Lichty was thrown out of the buggy and escaped with little or no injury, but the horse was so badly injured that it had to be shot.

—In July, 1909, H. G. Stover, of Penn township, offered to sell to one of Frank Kreamer's daughters a little pig for one cent, and the girl promptly agreed to take it and carried the pig home in a coal bucket. The pig was, of course, considered to be a "runt", but the girl took good care of it and this fall fattened it. Last week the pig was killed and dressed, and tipped the scales at 359 pounds.

—Helen Boyle, who is serving a twenty-year term in the western penitentiary in Kittanning, for her connection with the kidnapping of Willie Whitely, will ask the Pennsylvania pardon board to release her from further confinement, through her attorneys. Mrs. Boyle was convicted for a crime committed in Ohio, she having taken care of the stolen boy at her apartment in Cleveland while the search was on. The claim for pardon is based on this fact.

—The state game commission is perfectly satisfied with the laws that are now on the statute books," said Secretary Kalbfus, of the state game commission, recently, "and will ask for no legislation when the Legislature meets. At least that is the situation at present. There may be some thing turn up between now and the meeting of the Legislature, and if it does it will be considered at a special meeting to be held before the regular meeting in January.

—Frightened by a dog, a big turkey gobble circled the drug store of Ezra Snyder at Greenfield, east of Sharon, Pa., with the speed of an express train and when it was finally captured \$200 worth of damage had been done. Adam Garrett had lain the turkey on the floor. Its feet were tied, but he did not figure it had other means of locomotion. In the dizzy flight of the turkey bottles were knocked from the shelves and counters and two show cases were broken. Snyder has sued Garrett for the damage done.

—Patrick Durkin, a walking boss employed by the Eyrer-Shoemaker Construction company on its operations at Husband, three miles from Somerset, was fatally injured Wednesday afternoon of last week by a huge piece of frozen clay dislodging from the side of an embankment and striking him. He was given medical attention at once but cannot recover, having sustained broken ribs a broken arm and internal injuries as well as his head being badly crushed about the body.

—Mrs. Laura Welch, a resident of Burnt Cabins, Fulton county, was severely burned one day recently while engaged in the rear of her home, rendering lard. Her clothing took fire and her body from the waist to the ankles was severely burned as were also her hands. When her clothing caught fire she ran into the house and made an ineffectual effort to extinguish the flames by the use of rugs and also endeavor to wrap a blanket about her. Her efforts were unavailing and her cries brought to her assistance several men who were passing.