Democratic Watchman.

BY P. GRAY MEEK.

INK SLINGS.

—If you can't find a stocking large enough hang up a union suit.

—Anyway no one could accuse fall of lingering in the lap of winter.

—Chicago University will no longer hang letters to Santy ROCKERFELLER on the chimney of that little oil stove.

—Come again, Teachers. You are getting better looking and getting better results out of your Institute every year.

—A cheery greeting or a pleasant smile often makes a friend far happier on Christmas day than more material offerings.

—Our forests may be entirely denuded in the future, but political timber will still be plenty so long as there are offices to fill.

—That Mexican poet who has killed four men probably effaced the only quartet who had the temerity to tell him the truth about his verses.

—That New York doctor who claims that over-ripe eggs are as nutritious as the fresh ones must be contemplating some kind of a lecture tour.

—Wednesday was the shortest day of the year, but judged by its temperature it was quite long enough to suit the fellow who had to work out of doors.

—The inaccuracy of the statements made by LAFAYETTE YOUNG, the new Senator from Iowa, in his opening speech in the Senate last week may be attributed to the fact that LAFE is an old stump speaker and not a Senator.

—A great many fellows would sooner have a license tag from State Highway Commissioner HUNTER than from Register EARL TUTEN. Because, as they think, the one would give them the right to run an auto while the other would give some one else the right to run them.

—A lot of Bellefonters have their ears to the ground trying to discover what is going to happen in the Bellefonte postoffice. You know the postmaster's commission will expire in February and the wise ones are pow-wowing every day about it and one of their big medicine men says he fears an attack of the painter's colic for Brother HARTER early in March.

—Six months ago the country was harping about "a safe and sane Fourth of July." Why not try a safe and sane Christmas too. Let's get back to the days when an orange, a few peanuts, a pop corn ball and two clear toys filled the juvenile heart with as much joy as ten pounds of the painted mixtures of today do. Not to mention the quality of the joy that filled his stomach.

—The *Living Church*, the organ of the National Protestant Episcopal church, asserts that race suicide appears to be checking the growth of the Episcopal church, and has published a table of statistics to substantiate the declaration. The Sunday schools being the most positive evidence for or against such a proposition, observation, locally, would lead to the belief that the *Living Church* has struck a hot trail in its efforts to find out what is the matter with the people.

—JOHN D. ROCKERFELLER'S latest gift of ten million dollars to the University of Chicago is his last, so he declared when he made it. He has withdrawn from the board of trustees and expects the big institution to shift for itself. That professor they have out there who has been startling the country periodically by his declarations as to how little a person can really subsist on will probably have to begin research work on how the University is going to subsist without JOHN D.

—Well, did you ever hear of or see a greater exhibition of asininity than the "Prophecy" the *Gazette* points to with pride in its issue of this week. If Editor HARTER thinks his readers ignorant enough to be taken over with such buncombe he must certainly have a low estimate of the brains they possess. The depression in the iron business began two years ago and reached its lowest ebb in July, almost four months prior to the last election. Since that time it has been showing some improvement.

—General LEONARD WOOD, chief of staff of the United States army, said at a banquet in Washington, Tuesday night: "We believe that the country's resources should be ready to defend her interests when necessary." The civilian believes that there isn't any "should" about it. The resources of the country always have been and always will be at the country's command in time of need. But we don't believe in developing those resources into an expensive engine of war for which the country may never have need.

—The State Department of Health has temporarily suspended the supply of eggs to tubercular patients of the various dispensaries of the State. The high cost of eggs and the desire to watch the results of oil as a substitute for them is given as the reason. We sincerely trust that any good work being done by these agencies will not be handicapped, for if there is one thing more appealing than another to every ounce of human sympathy it is the poor soul blighted by this awful malady, who is unable to buy for himself the only proved successful commodities that will bring relief and often cure.

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THE Democratic Watchman.

STATE RIGHTS AND FEDERAL UNION.

VOL. 55. BELLEFONTE, PA., DECEMBER 23, 1910. NO. 50.

Colossal Scheme of Plunder Squelched.

The latest attempt of the Steel trust agents in Congress to loot the treasury is probably the most absurd of all. Those responsible for it must have imagined that Congress is made up of men who have escaped from asylums for the feeble-minded. So far as can be discovered the Secretary of War, Dr. LEONARD WOOD, official head of the army and that Crazy HOBSON, of Alabama, are the official agents of the conspiracy. Of course the Steel trust, which would have been the principal beneficiary if it had succeeded, was the originator. But it was so preposterous that President TAFT, always a willing instrument of predatory wealth, "laughed it out of court."

This absurdity consists of a war scare. War scares are always sprung about this time of year for the reason that the appropriations of Congress are always being framed up about this time. For the last half dozen years the menace of an invasion of the country by Japan has been used with more or less success. The potency of that bugaboo is exhausted, however, and something new had to be found. But the fertile minds of the Steel trust managers were equal to the occasion. They invented the story that our sea coasts are absolutely without defence against foreign invasion and induced Secretary DICKINSON, Dr. WOOD and Baby HOBSON to spring it upon the country in a confidential communication to Congress.

To fortify our sea coasts as WOOD and HOBSON would like to have it done would probably cost ten billions of dollars and give half the amount to the grafters. It was the most colossal scheme of plunder ever conceived. It would have made paupers of seventy per cent. of our population before it was half finished and peons of ninty-five per cent of the people for all time. But the paid agents of the Steel trust in the official life of the country would have gladly imposed that burden upon the public if there had been a chance. The enterprise was too big, however. TAFT couldn't give it his approval and ordered the absurd confidential communication to be consigned to the waste basket.

The New Chief Justice.

Obviously President TAFT is "playing politics" in filling the judicial vacancies. His promotion of Justice WHITE, of Louisiana, to the great office of Chief Justice can hardly be ascribed to his belief that Justice WHITE is the fittest man for the place. Justice WHITE is a fine lawyer, unquestionably, and a capable jurist. But there are so many men on and off the bench who have higher standing in the public mind and in legal circles, who might have been chosen for this great distinction that most thoughtful men will search for another reason. As a matter of fact, moreover, they don't have to go far for an answer to the inquiry.

President TAFT wants to break up the "Solid South." He is politician enough to read, in the returns of the recent elections, the lesson that the next Republican candidate for President must carry some southern States or go down in ignominious defeat. He knows that Ohio, New York, Indiana, New Jersey and Connecticut are hopelessly lost to his party and that he must get some of the Southern States to recompense for this loss. President TAFT first revealed an understanding of this fact when he appointed a Southern man to the office of Secretary of War. He has since found out that that wasn't enough.

There is another reason, even more suitable, for the appointment of Justice WHITE. In his correspondence with "Dear MARIA," THEODORE ROOSEVELT expressed the desirability of having a Catholic in his cabinet. He had a Hebrew he said, and representatives of various other denominations, but no Catholic, and he wanted to work all the churches. Justice WHITE is a Catholic and no doubt President TAFT hopes that that his promotion to the greatest office, next to the Presidency, will have an important political influence upon the followers of the faith he adorns. The bench is to be used, if it can be, like any other agency, to help TAFT.

Create No Tariff Commission.

The tariff-mongers of the country are unanimously in favor of a permanent tariff commission. It is the best possible method of delaying tariff reduction. A permanent tariff commission could fool away half a dozen years of time in junketing over the world under the pretense of searching for information and then make a report which would require another prolonged period to interpret. Meantime the tariff-mongers would be looting the public to their heart's content and building up immense fortunes to spend in costly vices and flout in the faces of those who suffer from their injustice.

The Democratic party, now that it is coming in to the control of the government should set its face against all sorts of commissions. The constitution of the United States provides ample methods of government. The legislative power is vested in Congress and the executive in the President and the officials about him authorized by law. If Congressmen are incapable of legislating let them be turned out and men put in their places who have the necessary mental endowments. If the President is too weak mentally or too lazy to perform his duties the same remedy is accessible to the people.

Commissions have been multiplying both in the National and State governments until they have become a menace. They cost immensely and work, not for the people but for the trusts and corporations in everything. For that reason they should be dispensed with at the earliest period practicable. Meantime no more commissions should be created and this is especially true with respect to a tariff commission. There are plenty of men on the Democratic side of the House capable of drafting a just tariff law. In the next Congress the number of such Representative will be increased. Therefore create no tariff commission.

A Significant Caucus.

The Allegheny county delegation in the next General Assembly has already caucussed on the Senatorial question and declared itself unanimously for OLIVER. The vote was not unanimous, as a matter of fact, for one Representative placed the name of Secretary of State KNOX before his colleagues and subsequently protested that he will not be bound by the action of the body. But that was a trivial incident, hardly worth mentioning The announcement of a unanimous sentiment was officially made and that ends it. The dissenter will be forced into line or out of the reckoning, when the Legislature meets. Pittsburg politicians don't monkey with recalcitrants.

There was a considerable volume of opposition to the re-election of OLIVER among the Allegheny county Senators and Representatives in the Legislature a few days ago and there is an overwhelming popular opposition to him among the people there yet. But Mayor MAGEE, of Pittsburg, wants some special legislation from the coming session and Senator PENROSE has promised to give it to him in consideration of the solid vote of the local delegation for OLIVER. The legislation is probably vicious. Mayor MAGEE rarely wants any other kind and he would hardly go into corrupt commerce with PENROSE if he wanted just measures enacted. But it will be passed just the same. PENROSE keeps his word.

The significance of this Allegheny county incident, however, is in the fact that it marks the end of Republican opposition to the re-election of OLIVER. That gentleman represents all that is odious in public life. In the Senate he votes all the time for the interests of the trusts and is the agent on the floor of the Steel trust. ALDRICH, LODGE, HALE and others have shown some contrition for their part in fastening the PAYNE tariff bill with its burdens of high prices on the public. But OLIVER has made no apology. He is "joined to his idols," the machine is so complete in its dominance of the party that he doesn't have to even explain.

Moore's Answer Disappointing.

We own to some surprise and a good deal of disappointment at the tone of Representative J. HAMPTON MOORE'S reply to the notice of the contest of his seat in the Sixty-second Congress. Mr. MOORE shows spitefulness and ill-temper which are unbecoming. He asperses the character of his antagonist by innuendo and questions his sincerity by inference. He declares that the matter ought to have been presented to the district attorney of Philadelphia rather than to the Congress of the country, and tries to be flippant at the expense of justice and reason. The matter is entirely too grave to be disposed of in that way and Mr. MOORE is unjust to himself in trying to laugh it away.

Probably Mr. RAMSDELL, the contestant, doesn't expect to unseat Mr. MOORE, and put himself in the place by the process he has inaugurated. Mr. MOORE, running on three tickets, had a plurality over Mr. RAMSDELL of 16,964 and a majority over all other candidates of 13,319. That is a pretty safe margin and the chances are that the most thorough investigation would fail to shake it all down. But Mr. RAMSDELL and his friends believe that a large number of the votes cast for Mr. MOORE were false and fraudulent and that if the truth were fully developed the effect would be wholesome upon the political life of the city and might make a vast difference in the complexion of the Legislature and future elections throughout the State.

Congress allows $2,000 to any defeated candidate for a seat in the House of Representatives, who believes that fraudulent votes have been cast for his successful opponent, to investigate the subject. An investigation usually costs more than that, however, and the insinuation that Mr. RAMSDELL has gone into the contest with the view of making money is both absurd and unjust. On the contrary he has undertaken to show that the political life of Philadelphia is putrid in corruption and incidentally to make a correction of the evil, in part at least, possible. That is not a trifling affair and Mr. MOORE ought not get gay in the discussion of it.

——Young Mr. Gill, from Pleasant Gap, had a rather unpleasant experience in town on Wednesday. He had driven in with his speedy little sorrel and had a fine sleigh. He hitched in front of the Centre County bank, but too close to another team, for the team standing below his started right in to make a meal off the back of his sleigh and before any one noticed it they had the upper part of the back and the upholstering torn out badly. Fortunately it had been stuffed with excelsior. We fear the entire sleigh would have been gone had there been hay in the upholstering.

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Use of Money in Elections.

From the Altoona Times.

An abuse that has gradually crept into our election methods which ought speedily to be abated is the use of money. It is not akin to the old-fashioned sins of bribery and corruption which were secretly practiced, but the effect is, nevertheless, pernicious. The spending of huge sums of money to secure the election of a public officer naturally crowds out of the race all self-respecting poor men.

Members of the British parliament are not paid salaries, and for the honor of the position candidates are often willing to spend large sums of money. Attempts have been made to make this expenditure a crime to be punished. One result of the non-payment of salaries has been that, since members of the laboring class have been elected to parliament, their associates have been compelled to subscribe money for their support in order that they might represent them in the councils of the nation. For this reason a proposition has been made that salaries shall be paid all members.

In this country, where public officers are paid, whether as legislators or members of the executive departments, often sums of money are expended by candidates far in excess of any returns which may come through the payment of salaries, and such practices should, in the interest of good citizenship, be abolished.

Several States have enacted drastic laws intended to discourage the disbursement of large sums in gaining nominations and elections, but they have achieved only moderate success, for in no instance have they been instrumental in keeping the use of money within conservative bounds. Oregon has a schedule that permits candidates to expend a certain percentage of the yearly salary of the office sought, and it is declared to be the most effective law yet conceived.

Pennsylvania has a corrupt practices act which is a cheat. It was devised with such consummate skill that the very provisions which were apparently designed to curtail election boodling facilitate the use of money by unscrupulous candidates and campaign managers.

We hope to see the day when severe punishment will be meted to aspirants who attempt to buy political preferment. Public sentiment is strongly against existing methods, but is not yet strong enough to force our lawmakers to grant remedial legislation.

Two Unpopular Appointments.

From the Johnstown Democrat.

The appointment of Judge Robert W. Archibald, of Pennsylvania, and Interstate Commerce Commissioner Martin A. Knapp to the federal court of commerce is satisfactory—to Big Interests, particularly.

Archibald, although the president may not have known it, was once upon a time the subject of a scathing arraignment in a decision of the Pennsylvania Supreme court, when an enterprise floated by him was denounced as a "fraud upon the public" and a "disregard of the requirements of business honesty." The suit was one brought in 1885 by Hill, Keiser & Co., in the Lackawanna county court against Archibald and others, doing business as the Amity Coal Co., Limited. The suit was carried to the State Supreme court. The decision against Archibald was written by the late Justice Williams. It declares that the concern in which Archibald was one of four partners was an "empty shell" and its business, conducted on a fake capital of $25,000, a "fraud upon the public."

The nomination of Commissioner Knapp is objected to on the ground that Knapp has shown himself to be strongly in favor of railroad privileges and is therefore disqualified for service on a court which is to pass upon railroad questions.

Close observers at the capitol declare there is nothing surprising about the appointments. The two nominees are of the same temperament as the men who are most frequently received at the White House, to wit: Aldrich, Hale, Stephenson, Guggenheim, Penrose. From the first, the President's advisers have been men whose views were not the views of the great mass of the American people. Republicans like La Follette who have called at the White House to counsel with the President have been kept waiting in the ante-room so long that they have left the executive mansion in disgust.

Since the President has relied upon the suggestions and advice of men not in favor with the people and has rejected the advice and counsel of Republicans who are, the President should not be surprised that his administration is failing to please the people.

——Nobody can controvert the fact that winter is here in stern reality, and has been here for some time, notwithstanding the fact that according to the calendar it began only on Wednesday. For six weeks past the weather has been cold, with the thermometer down below zero a half dozen mornings. There is plenty of snow on the ground and in some places throughout the county the roads are badly drifted. The worst feature of all is the shortage of water. Many of the cisterns in the country are dry and farmers are compelled to drive their stock long distances for water. Some of the smaller streams are practically frozen solid and fishermen are somewhat concerned about the welfare of the trout in the streams.

——Superintendent of public instruction N. C. Shaeffer has appointed Jonas E. Wagner, of this place; Bruce L. Meyers, of Philipsburg, and Miss Lulu B. Smith, of State College, the examining committee on permanent certificates for teachers for Centre county.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

—It is estimated that over 2,000 rabbits were killed in Wayne township, Mifflin coutny, during the season just closed.

—Fire last Friday night destroyed the match block factory of Hollis H. Taylor, at Williamsport, entailing a loss of $15,000.

—The Milkmen's association of Reading intends to appeal from the decision of the Superior court in relation to the imposition of a $10 license tax on vendors of milk.

—Mrs. Elizabeth Shoemaker, believed to be the oldest woman in the State, died at her home in DuBois last Friday night. She was in the 105th year of her age, having been born August 2nd, 1806.

—The recent census has caused an increase in the salaries of some county officials. Over in Clearfield the district attorney will get $4,000 instead of $2,500. In Huntingdon county the commissioners will get a raise.

—The Johnstown Young Men's Christian association had last week what is known as "a right of way" week, which resulted in the addition of 500 members to the association. This brings the total membership close to 1,000.

—Petitions are being circulated among the business men of Lock Haven, the object thereof being to ask Uncle Sam to appropriate $75,000 of his hard earned money for the purpose of constructing a federal building in that town.

—William Reblewski, residing in Phoenixville has been arrested, charged with manufacturing spurious money. A complete counterfeiting outfit was found at his home, from which, it is averred, many counterfeit quarters have been turned out.

—The only clergyman who will sit in the House of Representatives at Harrisburg during the coming legislative session is the Rev. Thomas J. Ferguson, a Presbyterian minister, who was elected as a Republican over Rev. R. E. Campbell, Democrat.

—The rolling mill of the Shenango Iron and Steel company, at Wheatland, Mercer county, representing an investment of $500,000, was sold at bankrupt's sale on Wednesday. The plant, which employed 600 men when running, has been idle for two years.

—With his left side frozen and his right side so seriously burned that the doctors say he cannot live, an unknown foreigner was found early Sunday morning at the plant of the Irwin planing mill company, in West Irwin, on a pile of ashes at the side of an exhaust steam pipe.

—Three attempts have been made to burn down the home of Joseph Cohen, in Pottsville, within the last three weeks. Saturday morning the members of the family barely escaped with their lives, railroad men on their way to work having discovered the fire and broken into the house.

—Grant Mullen was driving a double team along the road near Clearfield last Thursday when a dead maple tree which stood by the roadside was blown down, and in falling struck the team. Both horses were killed instantly. One horse had its back broken and the other its neck.

—Miss Bertha Kepner, of Port Royal, threw a bottle containing gun powder into the cook stove under the impression that the bottle contained a lot of old seeds. An explosion followed and the top and front of the stove were blown out and Miss Kepner was seriously burned about the face and arms.

—When the United States court meets in Williamsport in February one of the cases called for trial will be a suit for $30,000 damages brought by Charles C. Ruckle, of Berwick, against the American Car and Foundry company. The suit is the result of an accident at the company's plant in December, 1909.

—The State Supreme court in a recent decision instructed the Pennsylvania board of law examiners to accept the diploma of Lebanon Valley college in lieu of a preliminary law examination. By this ruling graduates to this institution will be permitted to register as law students without preliminary examination.

—A new fraternal organization, which the promoters hope will attain national prominence within the next few months, and known as the Mystic Order of the Sphynx, has been organized in Altoona. The grand lodge has been formed and the first court in the organization was instituted recently. The work in other parts of the State will be taken up as soon as a charter has been secured.

—The efforts of a dog to get out of a room in a Homestead residence attracted the attention of the wife of the occupant, Mrs. Max Adleberg, who discovered that the house was on fire. The woman managed to escape with her three small children. While the fire was raging thieves managed to carry away 200 chickens, 25 ducks and 25 turkeys caged in crates and belonging to the Adleberg family.

—The National Guard of Pennsylvania is to be equipped at once with olive drab overcoats, United States Army pattern, according to an order just issued from National Guard headquarters. The new overcoat will replace the present blue kersey overcoat. The commanding officers are enjoined not to permit the olive drab coats to be worn except on military duty and men must not be permitted to take them to their homes.

—A robbery, which was partially successful, was committed at Mill Hall, Clinton county, Sunday evening. As a result Nunzio Vondano is minus about $85 in money and Torrence Pagina is in the Lock Haven hospital with a badly cut face and head. It is alleged that Pagina and a companion made an attempt to rob Vondano of his money—about $100—and that a fight occurred. Vondano wielded an ax with the result that Pagina was wounded.

—Charles Jarnisky, of Blairsville, is an inmate of the Westmoreland county hospital at Greensburg. Although he is willing to leave that institution he is unable to do so from the fact that he has no clothes to wear beyond a pair of pajamas. He was admitted some time ago suffering from a broken leg. His clothing was badly cut up as the result of the accident and the remnants were burned. Since his admission to the hospital some one stole his clothing from his boarding house and Charles is now well but unable to return to his work and friends because of the lack of wearing apparel.

—The annual meeting of the State Teachers' League of Pennsylvania will be held at the Lochiel hotel, Harrisburg, on Thursday, December 29th, when matters pertaining to the advancement of the proposed school code and teachers' retirement fund legislation will be discussed. The league, which was organized in Harrisburg a year ago, is composed of representatives of various teachers' societies throughout the State. The date has been fixed because it is expected that most of the State's school teachers will be in Harrisburg for the annual meeting of the Pennsylvania State Educational association.

—The rabid dog which over four weeks ago went through the Seventeenth ward, the Eighth ward of Johnstown, Ferndale and surrounding districts, biting two children and attacking some others, evidently sank its poisonous teeth into the bodies of a number of animals, as late developments indicate. One of the most recent cases ascribed to the mad canine is that of Mrs. Joseph Jones, of 986 Fritz street, Eighth ward, Johnstown, The woman was bitten by a cat last Saturday. The feline was killed Sunday morning. Although a bruising of the head prevented an examination of the brain, the cat's actions convinced a physician that it was afflicted with rabies. Mrs. Jones, a young woman, accompanied by her husband, left Sunday night for Pittsburg, where she will take the Pasteur treatment.