

INK SLINGS.

New Jersey's student Governor is not likely to be caught with a "pony" when the public examination of him begins in earnest.

What was the use of the war anyway? Poor Alabama negroes are mortgaging themselves "heart, body and soul" to the richer of their own race.

The appointment of young DAVIS ELKINS to succeed his father as Senator from West Virginia does not look much as if the Governor of that State had a very serious notion of what a Senator of the United States should be.

A lot of candidates have publicly thrown down the gauntlet this week and from now to the 3rd of June lightning rod and book agents will have to step lively if they want to keep pace with the fellow who covets an office in that re-modeled court house of ours.

Esperanto has been added to the curriculum at the University of Pittsburgh. If coach THOMPSON'S quondam students at that institution should happen to elect that course what a time State will have trying to get onto Pitt's signals in their big Thanksgiving game next fall.

Anent the nudity of the BARNARD groups for the entrance of the capitol, many a prude will be mortified to death to see a spade made a spade in art who won't think of having a blush of shame for the terrible plundering and crimes that besmirch the building itself.

Capt. PEARY'S statement that he didn't take any white man with him on his final dash for the pole for the reason that he wanted all the glory of its discovery for himself might also be read to mean that he didn't want any one around who could bear tales if he actually didn't find it.

For goodness sake, don't advise a friend to be a candidate for office unthinkingly. Too many men are induced to try the game by the thoughtless suggestions of friends. They go into it without a chance to win and lose half as much as the office would be worth should they secure it.

The state capitol grafters have compromised the civil suits against them by paying back to the State \$1,500,000. In the first place we don't believe there ever would have been a compromise had TENER not been elected Governor. In the second, we'll never believe that they have paid a cent of real money back unless we see it.

In an address before the Medical school of the New York University ANDREW CARNEGIE, on Tuesday, declared his belief that "man can conquer all things in time." He also expressed regret that he cannot live long enough to see his prediction come true. Is this notice to the world that he has abandoned his hope of "dying poor" for want of time to carry his plans for conquering his wealth into execution.

The Hon. SAMUEL PENNYPACKER, once Governor of Pennsylvania, has just delivered himself of the opinion that most of the writings of BENJAMIN FRANKLIN were trash. On Tuesday the capitol grafters paid back to the State of Pennsylvania one million, five hundred thousand dollars in cash as part of the loot they were convicted of stealing. It will be recalled that this same Hon. SAMUEL PENNYPACKER declared that all the talk of frauds in the construction of the capitol were folderol.

Captain PEARY must realize now that Eskimos, as well as chickens, come home to roost. He used the Eskimo testimony almost exclusively to prove that Dr. COOK never reached the pole and now the Eskimo boy whom PEARY brought to this country on one of his former voyages, writes from the frozen north that PEARY, himself, never reached the coveted goal. Verily, the next man who undertakes to discover the pole will have to bring it back with him before anyone will give him even respectful hearing.

The Democrats of the House of Representatives in Washington may have been a trifle inconsistent, the other day, in reversing themselves on an attitude assumed during a legislative crisis last March and "consistency is a jewel" just as much as it ever was. But as one of the gentlemen stated during the discussion of the subject on Monday, the minority resorted to revolutionary expedients to avert a positive peril in the spring and in the absence of such necessity they properly refrained from repeating the action the other day. Besides it is worth while to consider that they won out in each case and in politics there is nothing as successful as success.

The nomination of Hon. A. MITCHELL PALMER, for member of the committee on ways and means of the House of Representatives in Washington, by the Democratic Congressmen-elect, was a wise use of a new power and a safe solution of a difficult problem. Mr. PALMER is a comparatively new man in Congress but he is a gentleman of ability and character and has already revealed an aptitude for legislative work that has challenged the attention of his associates in the House and won the admiration of his friends everywhere. The compliment involves a heavy burden of exacting labor, but it is safe to predict that Mr. PALMER will make good.

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Mr. Niles as Ananias.

Since Mr. HENRY C. NILES, of York, has set himself up as a censor of public morals it may become necessary for the rest of us to find a new decalogue. It is certain that the feature of the supreme law of the Christian world which declares "thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor" will not be accepted by Mr. NILES. For example in a recent article published over his signature in an esteemed Philadelphia contemporary he says: "It is certain that more Democrats voted for BERRY than for GRIM; possibly as many Democrats voted for TENER as for GRIM; possibly two-thirds as many Republicans voted for BERRY as for TENER."

The average Democratic vote for Governor in the last four campaigns for that office was 357,475. It is reasonably certain that at least twenty-five per cent. of that total refrained from voting last fall, not because of dissatisfaction with the candidate but on account of the hopelessness of the contest, which would leave 268,000 to vote for somebody. Of these, according to the official returns Mr. GRIM received 129,395, leaving 141,000, approximately to be divided between BERRY and TENER. If it is true, therefore, that as many Democrats voted for TENER as for GRIM, there is left only a corporal's guard of 12,000 to vote for BERRY. Of course this is not a correct statement of the vote. Mr. BERRY may have received in the neighborhood of forty per cent. of the Democratic vote. But the figures quoted sounded well in the ears of Mr. NILES, and that is all he cared for.

In the same article Mr. NILES says "it is reported that the Democratic and Republican members of the Legislature who waited until the arrival of Senator PENROSE in Harrisburg to tell them how they should begin, what to do and when to adjourn, are hilarious in their expressions of contempt for their fellow members who were elected by Keystone party votes." So far as Democrats are concerned there was no such report. Mr. NILES simply invented what looks like a deliberate and malicious lie. The handful of conspirators who under pretense of being Democrats held a secret caucus with the view of devising a plan to stampede the regular Democratic caucus afterward, earned and probably secured the contempt of a good many gentlemen of all parties who believe in decency in politics as well as in other things.

"Gift Bearing Greeks."

Representative MANN, Republican of Illinois, has introduced bills reducing the tariff tax on fifteen articles in common use and among the necessities of life. President TAFT is averse to tariff tinkering at this time and most of the Republicans in both branches of Congress are of the same mind. They recognize that during the year which must elapse before the next Congress can get a fall out of the ALDRICH atrocity the trust magnates and tariff barons can round up vast fortunes. But Mr. MANN has a clearer idea of political expediency. He understands that unless some effort is made by the Republicans to give the people relief the next election will sweep the party off the face of the earth.

Of course it looks alike ungracious and impolite to "look a gift horse in the mouth," but the public will properly welcome any movement which promises the decrease in tariff rates and logically in market prices. But it is not improper to view with suspicion the approach of "gift-bearing Greeks." Representative MANN is now pursuing precisely the same course which Governor PENNYPACKER adopted after the political upheaval in this State in 1905. If the iniquitous legislation enacted by the General Assembly of that year had remained on the statute books until the election of 1906, there would have been such a weeding out of crooks that genuine reform legislation would have been inevitable. But Governor PENNYPACKER called the crooks into special session to modify their work and fool the people.

That is precisely what Representative MANN, of Illinois, aims to achieve by his fifteen tariff tax reduction bills. He imagines that a trifling reduction in rates now might prevent a substantial decrease next year and at the same time fool the people into a false notion that after all the Republicans are doing their best to promote the interests of the masses. By calling the Legislature into extra session in 1906 Governor PENNYPACKER saved his party from overwhelming defeat in the gubernatorial election of that year. If Representative MANN'S legislative program were adopted by his party now it might give TAFT a remote chance for reelection. But that is not likely to occur.

W. Francis Speer has accepted a position as local writer on the Bellefonte Republican.

Saving and Wasting.

The Postmaster General may deserve all the praise (?) that will be bestowed upon him by increasing the hours of labor of the railway mail men. It will save the government the salaries of a considerable number of clerks, said to be needed in the New York postoffice to handle the magazines and trade journals issued in that city. But the railway mail men are about the hardest worked and poorest paid servants of the government. Those who run between New York and Pittsburgh, for example, are kept at their tasks, and they are severe, almost day and night for the six days necessary for their round trips and during the six days of rest, which follow, they are obliged to spend most of the time studying.

It is said that the Postmaster General expects to save the salary of four hundred clerks in the New York postoffice by the scheme which he proposes to put in operation next week. At the rate of \$100 a month the saving will be in the neighborhood of \$480,000 a year which is a snug sum and ought to be saved if that result can be achieved without impairment of the service. But by cutting out one battleship the government could save as much as will be saved in ten years by overworking the postal clerks and we have about as much need for two battleships a year as a dog has for two tails, while the additional labor which it is proposed to put on the postal clerks will certainly undermine their health and shorten their lives.

The trouble with the present administration is that it "saves at the spigot and wastes at the bung." In other words it cuts down the wages of men who are little better than laborers, so far as compensation is concerned and adds vastly more to the cost of government in other directions. This is neither wise policy nor good business. One of the President's useless junkets to Panama, for example, costs more than can be saved by this overtaxing of the railway mail clerks in six months, but the junkets go on, nevertheless, and the burden of the expense is put upon the poorly-paid mail men.

The President and the Postmaster General may imagine that such expedients fool the public but they are mistaken.

No Need for a Tariff Commission.

Some Democratic leaders in and out of public life appear to be falling in with the preposterous scheme of the stand-patters who favor a permanent tariff commission. Such a body, they imagine, would take the tariff question out of politics and work other miraculous results equally absurd. Possibly they are right in their idea that it would take the tariff out of politics. Certainly that is true if the present President of the United States were given authority to appoint the commission. He would select men for the service in entire sympathy with the "interests" and the people would have no recourse. This is precisely the reason why the stand-patters all favor the plan.

The late Judge JERRY S. BLACK once said "no man can be a Democrat and a protectionist." In other words no policy which bestows special privileges on one set of men can be Democratic. The fundamental principle of that party is equality among men. Equal rights and equal opportunities are the basis of the faith. Tariff tax for protection necessarily gives those who are protected special privileges and special opportunities for which others must pay. Probably experts might be able to achieve this result in a more plausible way than those who are not specialists. But if we desire to be just and Democratic we do not need such service from experts or others.

The only tariff tax which has the sanction of the constitution and the endorsement of real Democrats is that which has no other purpose than to raise revenue and no tariff commission or "economic sharps" are needed for making such a tariff. Any intelligent man familiar with the science of political economy and guided by conscience can do that. CHAMP CLARK, for example, could write a tariff bill in less than a week that would serve the purpose completely and he has no less than a hundred Democratic associates on the floor of the House equally well equipped. In view of this fact there is no necessity for a tariff commission permanent or temporary.

That Chicago woman who says she has a "phone through which you can talk to the dead" will probably never realize much should she decide to have it patented. It might be absolutely necessary, in the case of some of one's friends, to have a "phone with asbestos receivers and no one would wish to traduce the memory of a departed friend by having such a thing on hand as living evidence of where he had taken up his residence.

The Question of State Taxes.

An esteemed contemporary pretends that it is unable to see why the PENROSE machine is searching for new subjects of taxation when the State is out of debt and the revenues are already redundant. Our revenues are ample at present, it declares, and if nothing is to be considered except the legitimate expenses of the State government, that is true. In fact in that event the question of reducing taxes might well be considered.

But there are other things to consider. The greed of the bosses has not been satiated.

The campaign corruption fund must be maintained.

And the additional taxes proposed by the McNICHOL commission are to meet these requirements.

It is confidently believed by the Machine bosses that there are greater opportunities for graft in the proposed Philadelphia to Pittsburgh boulevard than there was in the building of the State capitol. Such an enterprise could be carried out with benefit to the people, and without any exorbitant outlay, but under the management of the Machine, it won't. That thieving combination will make it cost anywhere from twenty to fifty millions of dollars and under skillful management a dollar can be stolen for every dollar's worth of real work done. That is why new objects of taxation are being sought. The Governor vetoed the last boulevard bill because he had been deceived into the notion that there would not be sufficient money in the treasury to begin operations. If the present revenue program is carried out there will be no such cause for veto.

Taxation of the people for any other purpose than the payment of the legitimate expenses of the government, is robbery. Under the existing revenue laws not less than two million dollars are annually taken from the people more than is necessary. This amount, with a surplus of from eight to ten millions already in the banks, is used for debauching the voters of the State in one way or another. For this reason the Legislature ought to set its face against any additional taxation. The present surplus might be used for the improvement of roads throughout the State and to increase the facilities for education and after that the effort should be to reduce rather than increase taxes.

The eyes of the country are centered upon three or four available men for the Democratic nomination for President in 1912. Governor HARMON, of Ohio, Governor WILSON, of New Jersey, and Governor DIX, of New York, are favorites among their respective friends and the friends of each are legion. One may easily find abundant reasons for praising either of these distinguished Democrats and it will hardly be considered invidious to specially refer to the manner in which Governor DIX, of New York, in precept and example, respected the obligations on the executive branch of the State government to refrain from infringing upon the prerogatives of the coordinate branches. Among the imminent perils of our time is the tendency of Presidents and Governors to encroach upon the legislative and judicial departments and in view of this danger the actions of Governor DIX deserve special attention and commendation.

The weather man on Sunday predicted for this section the "tail-end" of a storm on its way east from Alaska. It reached here all right Sunday night when the wind blew at a fearful velocity. It continued all day on Monday with a very low temperature, and if that was only the "tail-end" of an Alaskan storm we hope that the head and body will never be able to wander this far from home. During the high wind on Monday afternoon the exhibition show case standing in front of Willard's store on High street was blown over and the glass smashed into fragments.

The Altoona Times is conducting a popular subscription and voting contest in which a \$2,300 Buick automobile will be given to the winner and twelve other valuable prizes given, and well up among the fortunate thirteen is J. F. Herman, of Willowbank street, this place. Mr. Herman has been close to the top for several days and his friends need not be very much surprised if some day he is seen driving that automobile around town; or at least capturing one of the smaller prizes. The contest will close tomorrow.

If Senator LORIMER has the sweet scented, pure passport he claims to have why doesn't he offer to put the matter of his having a seat in the upper house of Congress up to the people of Illinois to decide for themselves. If he is their choice that should end all the bribery charges.

Did the People Pay the Trip.

Col. Theodore Roosevelt should do something to arrest the inquisitive activities of Representative Rainey of Illinois, who is insisting upon prying into recent events that, by a sort of mutual consent, have been regarded as sacred from inquiry. Not long ago Mr. Rainey asked that an investigation be made of the charges that Roosevelt enjoyed lavish use of special trains in his spectacular junkets and that he now owes the railroads many thousands of dollars for the use of this equipment and the stocks of food, liquors and cigars with which he entertained when President.

But now comes Mr. Rainey again and wants to know all about that African hunting trip also, and how much it cost the American people. He has introduced a resolution requiring an accounting from the Smithsonian institution, which has never made a report of this remarkable exploit. It will be remembered that a few months before the expiration of his term of office, President Roosevelt made the announcement that the Smithsonian institution had decided to send a hunting party to Africa to select specimens of game and that he, Roosevelt, was to lead the party as a "Faunal naturalist." At that particular time Roosevelt was riding high in the saddle. He had things his own way. The Smithsonian institution consented to be the "goat," and this butchering expedition went out at enormous expense to somebody, and Roosevelt and Kermit had a fine outing, surrounded by all the luxuries and immunities of a semi-official party.

What did the American people pay for that costly outing furnished to an ex-President? Doubtless the Democrats, when they gain full control of the lower house of Congress, will find out and disclose. The Smithsonian institution will have to render an accounting. In all other affairs reports are made of profit and loss. Of course it will be possible for the curators of the Smithsonian to emphasize the results of this African trip so as to let the Colonel down as easy as possible. But the facts will speak for themselves. Mr. Roosevelt's wine bills and bills for personal transportation on American railroads may not be subject to formal investigation. But there can be no impropriety in finding out what the people paid for Roosevelt's and his son's big hunting trip in Africa.

Awakened Senatorial Honor.

From the Lancaster Intelligencer.

A cheering sign of the times is observed in Washington advices, which describe the growing uneasiness of Senators over the effect of the effort to whitewash the Lorimer scandal. Although the report of the committee on privileges and elections made light of the charges of corruption attending the election of Senator Lorimer, they could not obscure the admitted facts and confessions, and there is said to be a growing sentiment among the Senators that that body should, in this matter, take the ground that the election of a Senator should be above reproach. It is not enough, they say, to discover comparatively few votes of those given in the Legislature of Illinois for the election of Senator Lorimer are shown to have been bought, and that there is no proof of either his complicity or guilty knowledge of any corrupt transaction. It is not enough to denounce the sensational exaggeration of the yellow press in dealing with the matter. The admitted conditions are scandalous enough to appeal to the self-respect of the Senate.

The reason for this development of the right sort of senatorial dignity is shrewdly discovered in the adoption by many States of the plan of the senatorial primary. Many Senators have to look forward to such an expression of popular opinion preceding the effort for their own re-election, and there is so much to be said about the Lorimer scandal that they fear the effect of a ready acquiescence in the whitewashing of the matter. A few years ago no one could have hoped for such sensitiveness in the Senate.

Thus do we march along, slowly, but surely, towards higher ground of political morality. The people everywhere are beginning to realize what very low ground they have been traveling through and how perilous and costly and slow that sort of progress must be.

More Petty Graft.

From the Johnstown Democrat.

A feature of the report of the secretary of the Senate which has hitherto been overlooked reveals that more than 500 officeholders of the Senate, from clerk Bennett down received a bonus of one month's extra pay, amounting in all to \$64,964.28. The day on which this distribution occurred was August 6th, 1909. Then on June 27th, 1910, according to the report, another month's pay was voted by the Senate for its officers and employees, amounting this time to \$72,090.95.

Both of these prize packages were passed out within the fiscal year 1910, which covers the period between June 30th, 1909, and July 1st, 1910, although it is probable the latter bonus was intended for the year 1911.

The Senate employees do less work than most any other government employees, many of them being away from the capitol during the summer months when Congress is not in session. But as these places are political stations, the Senate is willing to be liberal. Government employees who really work, but who are not a part of the Republican machine, do not participate in the easy money.

The policy of the stand-patters who are in charge of the people's money is to spend it principally among individuals and in districts where it will do the G. O. P. the most good. This policy is not especially conducive to economy.

County surveyor J. Henry Wetzel is now occupying his new office in the court house.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

Ranging in ages from 60 to 73 years, six daughters of the late Jacob Bordner, of Baums-town, Berks county, several of whom were twice married, are now all widows.

Indiana county has but eight prisoners in its jail, but two of them are women, both charged with murder. Never before has a woman been tried for murder in that county.

A corps of railroad engineers are reported as again running lines across the northern end of Clearfield county from up above Cherrytree to the Big Fill, between Sandy Ridge and Tyrone.

Jacob P. Ringwalt, of Atglen, Montgomery county, paid \$500 for a prize white Orpington rooster that was on show in New York last week. Mr. Ringwalt seems to be an enthusiast over chickens.

Blair county during the year 1910 paid out to the farmers of nine townships in the county, the sum of \$797.25 as indemnity for sheep killed by dogs. The money is taken from the fund created by the assessment of dog tax.

The Ebensburg Coal corporation has been buying large quantities of valuable coal land in the Blacklick region. The company is also said to be reconstructing the old Yellowstone and Blacklick railroad.

The grand jury of Luzerne county has found true bills against Frank Carlucci, the contractor, and McCormick and French, the architects of the new \$2,000,000 court house at Wilkes-Barre, on the charge of conspiracy to defraud the county by the substitution of inferior material in the ornamental plastering of the building.

Alleging that after an injury sustained in the plant of the American Car & Foundry company of Berwick, he was detained against his will, kept in a private hospital maintained by the company, and subjected to wrongful, improper and negligent treatment, David Allegar, of Berwick, by his attorney, Paul J. Sherwood, has begun suit to recover \$10,000.

For the 23rd time, the stork on Tuesday visit ed the home of Morris Connor, owner of the Altoona theatrical baggage transfer and ticket taker of the Mishler theatre, and left a fine little boy. Connor is as proud of the lad as if it was his first. He has been twice married. Eighteen children were born to the first union, four of whom are living.

The State Live Stock Sanitary Board is now for the first time vaccinating hogs to prevent their infection with hog cholera. The work has already been done in two herds in Montgomery county and at Lock Haven. Two applications for vaccination in Montgomery county have been filed. Vaccination has not been attempted before by the State Board.

Awakening after midnight and finding his house on fire, James Watt, residing in York county, near the Maryland line, barely had time to rescue his wife and five small children. After watching the destruction of their home the Watt family were compelled to walk in their night garments across the snow covered fields to the nearest farm almost a half-mile away, where they were given shelter.

Meysdale people, to the number of over 200, are discovering that they have been victimized. Some time ago a large number of accident insurance policies were written at \$1 each. They appeared to cover every accident but, on close reading, are found to cover scarcely any. Policy holders who have suffered accidents are not getting returns and the Commercial hands out some very sensible advice on the subject.

Mill Hall is to have a new factory. It will manufacture tops and bottoms for peach, grape and other baskets and will employ fifteen men at first. Work on the building will begin soon and will be pushed as fast as weather conditions will allow. The Continental Milk company's new condensary is already up and ready for operation and a residence building is expected to provide homes for employes of these concerns.

Burglars entered the store of Reuben Berney, at St. Benedict, a few nights ago, and stole two dozen suits of clothes, several suits of underwear, shoes, and other articles of dress, also a watch and some small pieces of jewelry. Entrance was made through the back door. There is no clue, although tracks in the snow lead to the belief that there were three or four men in the party. Chief of Police Gill, of Patton, is investigating the case.

Cambria county police and detectives are hot on the trail of the thieves that on Wednesday night robbed the store of B. J. Berney, a local man, at St. Benedict, Cambria county, carrying away several hundred dollars' worth of merchandise. Mr. Berney, who conducts a furnishing store on Twelfth street between Eighth and Ninth avenues, also has made trips to the scene of the robbery and has started the search for the criminals. The crime was full of sensations.

Mrs. Henry Hilly, of Edri, Indiana county, had her husband arrested for breach of the peace. At the hearing it was shown that during a family brawl, the wife had thrown a butcher knife (which stuck in the wall) at her husband. He had threatened to use it when the woman hit him across the palm of the hand with a heavy iron poker and the man had been wielded with some force as it left quite a bruise. The man was discharged, but refused to return to his home.

The balance in the Clearfield county treasury was swelled \$900 last week by the seven pieces of guilty entered in court by three Italian residents of Clover Run, Bell township; three Italians, of near Tyler, and one American, of the latter place, all of whom were hauled in for selling liquor without license. Judge Smith allowed all the guilty to enter pleas of guilty and suspended sentence on payment of \$100 each and costs, excepting one of the Tyler bunch, who was soaked \$300 and costs. A late act of assembly provides for such disposition of liquor cases, first offense.

Adjutant General Thos. J. Stewart, of the Pennsylvania State National Guard, has attracted his signature to a formal order directing the transfer of company C, Tenth regiment, from Uniontown to Somerset, and it is likely that the equipment will be received in a few days. Many Somerset people are taking a lively interest in the proposed company and have expressed a willingness to aid the organization in every way possible. They hope the day is not far distant when the State will authorize the erection of a permanent armory there, an edifice that will be an ornament to the town.

By a decision of the supreme court news of which was received yesterday with elation by a number of coal companies will be compelled to pay into the Northumberland county treasury many thousands of dollars in back taxes. In 1907 the county commissioners, sitting as a board of revision, raised the value of coal lands, pending affirmation of the county court Counsel for the Philadelphia and Reading Coal and Iron company and the Mineral Railroad and Mining company appealed, and the court appointed a coal tax commission to take testimony and arrive at a true valuation.

Advertising swindlers are using the Pennsylvania Station in New York as a means for swindling in many parts of the country. A number of these have been brought to the attention of the Pennsylvania Railroad and all signs of them are to be taken to put an end to them. One swindle which has been perpetrated most generally is that of a large advertising poster, which it is claimed will be hung in the Pennsylvania Station in New York and in addition in various places and waiting rooms at other stations along the lines of the Company. This poster contains a large picture of Pennsylvania Station, surrounded by advertisements.