

INK SLINGS.

The January thaw came a little earlier than usual, but it didn't stay late enough to do any damage.

It is back to the mittens and the ear muffs for the fellow who was certain spring was here when he poked his nose out Sunday morning.

Let us hope that Governor TENER'S administration will have no darker days for Pennsylvania than the gloriously bright one on which he was inducted into office.

There seems to have been just merely an election day necessary to lift those Maryland Democrats from "hog and hominy" to terrapin and champagne banquets.

Any way that diamond ring that FRED HERMAN won in the Altoona Times contest will look a sight better on his fingers than the grease of that big automobile that was offered as the first prize.

The size of the type in which Governor TENER'S name was printed on those inaugural invitations was quite in proportion to the size of the Governor physically. Accent should be strong on physically.

If they keep on coming like they have done for the past two weeks the Democrats will certainly not have any complaint to make about the field of candidates they have to choose from in Centre county.

At this stage of legislative progress it looks as though the people will rule in New Jersey, the people and the bosses will mix it up for supremacy in New York and PENROSE will continue to run Pennsylvania to suit himself.

St. Louis has agreed to name a grand opera house after anyone who will contribute one million dollars to build it. Here's a chance for the gentlemen of means about Bellefonte who have no desire to build memorials to themselves at home.

The movement to put a tax on resident hunters of Pennsylvania should be nipped in the bud. There are now millions of dollars of surplus funds in the State Treasury, so why the need of piling up more by such an unfair proposition as a license for resident hunters.

Among the proposed bills to be introduced during the present session of the Legislature is one to substitute the electric chair for the gallows in Pennsylvania and to have all executions in one or the other of the two state penitentiaries. The passage of such an act is earnestly to be desired, especially as to the plan for removing executions from the county seat towns.

The protectionist Keystoneers didn't relish free trader BERRY'S speech at their convention in Harrisburg on Monday. It was the first finger board pointing the way to the disruption of the Keystoneers. Their individual policies are irreconcilable, their primary incentive the redemption of Pennsylvania and their ark will go to pieces on the rocks of national politics if they don't hold their course of local issues.

Mrs. NETTIE WEEKLY, of Minneapolis, has just been granted a divorce and six hundred and eighty-five dollars alimony from her husband HENRY WEEKLY. She proved that he persisted in darning his own socks in the front yard, much to her chagrin and discredit as a careful wife and housekeeper. Judged from HENRY'S accomplishments he must have been almost "a perfect lady," hence his failure to satisfy the real woman of the house.

Governor TENER'S inaugural address really contained many suggestions that might prove beneficial in legislation. But even if the Governor was sincere when he made them—which we doubt—he knew there was no more chance of their getting through the Pennsylvania Legislature without PENROSE'S consent than there is of a fish climbing a tree. It isn't what's said on the decorated stand in front of the capitol that counts. It's what's done inside the east and west wings.

When we read in the telegraphic news about the attorney for former State Treasurer FRANK G. HARRIS stepping up to the bar of justice at Harrisburg last week and making partial restitution for the loot stolen in the State capitol construction we just naturally harked back to the trial of the editor of this paper for libelling the extinguished Clearfield statesman. Possibly if all had been known then that is now a public secret that verdict of "not guilty" would not have had that rider compelling us to pay the costs.

The State Board of Charities has recommended an appropriation of \$6000 for maintenance, and \$5100 for building for the Bellefonte hospital providing the people of Bellefonte raise \$6000 for building purposes. It is quite evident that the gentlemen of the State Board have very little appreciation of the fact that the people of Bellefonte have already done more proportionately than those of any other community we know of in building and maintaining a public hospital and Bellefonte will not stand for this attempt to work the CARNEGIE library plan on them in supporting an institution that is entitled to the same consideration, at least, from the State as other hospitals of its kind.

Democratic Watchman

STATE RIGHTS AND FEDERAL UNION.

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Little Prospect for Civic Improvement.

Notwithstanding the lesson that was given our Republican friends in Pennsylvania last fall, and the multiplicity of reforms promised in his otherwise very excellent inaugural Governor TENER'S administration starts out giving very little hope of civic improvement in lines where they are so much needed. His appointment of JOHN C. BELL—a representative and servile tool of Philadelphia's worst and most vicious political element, as Attorney General, gives good ground for the belief already prevalent, that there are to be no reforms in the executive department of this State during his term of office. As between Mr. BELL, FRANCIS SHUNK BROWN and Sheriff GILFILLAN there was little choice. Neither is fit for the great office to which, according to gossip, they all aspired. But there are so many really great lawyers in Pennsylvania affiliated with the Republican party, and even attached to the party organization, that the selection of a man of different type was properly hoped for. The Democratic Senators who refused to vote for the confirmation of the Governor's cabinet were justified on these grounds.

There is a little hope for civic improvement in the work of the Legislature. That body, even this early in its session gives every evidence of being the same profligate, boss-controlled crowd of lawmakers that has shamed the Commonwealth and robbed the people for years past. It's first work was to dive into the treasury with both hands wide open and without examination or excuse appropriate hundreds of thousands of dollars for extra clerk hire, extra salaries for extra officials, and enormous sums to make up for alleged deficiencies in the different departments. This was done without even reading the bill investigating its necessity or asking an explanation of why these extra clerks were needed or the cause for the great deficiencies they were pretending to provide for. Men, professing great interest in reform, and posing as representatives of the tax-be-dived people, sat with their mouths shut, and voted for these steals—a number of them covering items that had been vetoed by the Governor two years ago. No voice was raised to ask for deliberation in the passage of this extra and doubtful appropriation measure. No inquiry as to the urgency of its enactment. No question raised as to amounts named; no evidence asked; no information demanded. It was simply railroaded through, and is expected to be a law by the time this copy of the WATCHMAN will reach its readers.

But the greatest menace thus far revealed is in the appointment of Mr. BELL. His only public record was made as District Attorney of Philadelphia when he served the machine with a fidelity which surprised even the machine managers. When the question of prosecuting the ballot box stuffers was brought up to him he said in a public speech "if the time should come when I cannot go along with the organization, then I shall resign the office of District Attorney." In other words if it should happen that the prosecution of those party pirates could not be averted in any other way he would sacrifice himself to achieve the result. Little can be expected from an administration with such a law officer.

Actions Needing Explanation.

The spectacle of nine members of the House and three Senators, professing to be Democrats, and who had been chosen as such, voting for JULIAN KENNEDY, a life long Republican, for United States Senator, only shows how awfully some people's ideas of political principles can become demoralized.

Mr. KENNEDY has never been known to entertain a Democratic thought or to endorse a Democratic idea. He has always been a high protectionist, a supporter of corporate encroachments, an enemy of State rights, and a builder up of rings and bosses. Until they got to putting some of the worst rascals and bank wreckers in Pittsburg into the penitentiary Mr. KENNEDY was cheek by jowl with them in all their schemes to wrong the city for the benefit of those who posed as leaders. In fact he helped build up its worst rings and endorsed all its robberies, until the people became aroused. When danger threatened he hurried to cut loose from his life time associates and announced himself as a reformer.

And twelve so called Democrats of the House and Senate chose him, above all the reputable and able Democrats of the State, as their ideal of a fit man to represent Pennsylvania in the United States Senate.

Verily, some people do queer things!

A swimming pool is one of the accessories much desired at the Y. M. C. A. and the Ladies Auxiliary will appreciate any and all contributions given for this purpose.

Mr. Corey and the Steel Trust.

It is said that the resignation of Mr. COREY, president of the Steel trust, was forced by the directorate because he favored cutting prices. Business was dull and sales infrequent, the story goes, and Mr. COREY had an idea that a reduction in prices would stimulate business. Big plants were being closed up and vast numbers of employees thrown out of work. Profits were greater than necessary, he imagined, and the Trust could afford to take less for its product better than the employee could afford to starve. The result was friction in the management. COREY'S notion was heretical and he had to go. His associates in the business believed, on the contrary, that people who bought steel are willing to pay the high prices. Anyway they felt that the high prices can be maintained if the Trust stands firm.

Commenting upon the resignation of Mr. COREY the president of another Steel corporation is quoted as saying that the railroads, for example, would rather pay high than low prices for steel rails. Possibly that is true, as a rule. But it is not the expression of a business principle. The railroad managers who prefer high to low prices for rails are those who have greater pecuniary interest in rail making plants than in railroads. For instance, a railroad president who has half a million dollars invested in a rail making plant and only \$10,000 in the railroad of which he is an officer, prefers high priced rails. He is plundering his associates in the railroad property, of course, but he is "feathering his own nest." Besides he knows that those who pay the freight reimburse the railroad, and as one of them once said "the public be damned."

We have no great admiration for Mr. COREY as a man or a citizen. But if the reasons for his resignation of the office of president of the Steel trust are accurately stated in the current gossip, he is admirable in comparison with those who forced him to resign. It is said, moreover, that the gentleman whom Mr. J. PIERPONT MORGAN has chosen to succeed him as the executive head of the Steel trust will not "get himself disliked" for the same reason. He is not in favor of reducing prices even though every steel mill in the country should be forced to shut down on account of a lack of orders. The salary of \$50,000 a year which goes with the office will "keep the wolf from his door" and it doesn't matter about the suffering of others.

The time may come when the Steel trust will take a different view of things.

An Outrage on the Farmers.

The State Game Commission is again importuning the Legislature to put a license tax on resident hunters. Four years ago a measure of that kind was defeated in obedience to a numerously signed remonstrance, and it was believed that the scheme had been finally abandoned. But this expectation has been disappointed. At a recent meeting of the Commission the measure was revived and will be made an "administration enterprise." That is to say it will be supported by the political machine and urged upon the Legislature as a party question. It is estimated that it will yield a revenue of \$150,000, though the money will not go into the State Treasury. It will be disbursed by the Game Commission.

We have repeatedly protested against multiplying the subjects of taxation. There is no necessity for the increase of State revenues under existing conditions. Economically managed the government can be administered with much less expenditure than at present and increasing revenues is simply an incitement to profligacy. But this proposed taxation is objectionable for another and a graver reason. It is subversive of the constitution in the fact that it proposes to divert revenues into channels other than those provided by the fundamental law. In other words it proposes to tax the people for the support of the government but for the maintenance of a bureau outside of the constitution.

The object of the Game Commissioners is to make it dangerous, if not impossible, for plain citizens to hunt game even on their own premises. Farmers and their sons enjoy the recreation and pleasure of hunting quite as keenly as the plutocratic members of the city gun clubs but if they are compelled to take out a license in order to gratify their wishes in this respect, their hunting days will be ended. They feed and foster the birds during the winter season and the city hunters will bag them during the hunting season. This is as unjust as it is un-American. The game belongs to no one in particular but the farmers who feed it ought to have an equal chance with others in getting it.

Lent will begin this year on March first, Ash Wednesday, and Easter will fall on April 16th.

A Purveyor of Misinformation.

As the late but unattractive SILAS WEGG was wont to "drop into poetry," Mr. EUGENE C. BONNIWELL, of Delaware county, has dropped into political history. Mr. BONNIWELL was the manager of Mr. BERRY'S campaign for the nomination for Governor, at the Allentown convention, and made the motion, which was enthusiastically agreed to, that the nomination of WEBSTER GRIM be made unanimous. Subsequently he became vice chairman of the Keystone State committee, but tenaciously held on to the Democratic nomination for Congress in the Seventh district, acquired before his political perjury had been revealed. As the Democratic candidate for Congress he industriously fought the Democratic candidate for Governor, thus qualifying himself as an historian of the Keystone party.

In a speech delivered in Pittsburg last Monday night Mr. BONNIWELL recited what he declared were "the inside facts" of the "deal" which culminated in the nomination of WEBSTER GRIM for Governor. He carried it back to a period some weeks before the election of 1909, when Mr. MUNSON was the nominee of his party for Justice of the Supreme court and accuses Mr. MUNSON and others of perjury. It is a trifle singular that in view of that fact Mr. BONNIWELL should move to make the nomination of Mr. GRIM unanimous. These Keystone statesmen are a queer lot of scandal mongers, however, and probably Mr. BONNIWELL ought not to be held to account for such inconsistencies in statements. He might have gone further and still imposed upon the credulity of his audience.

But Mr. BONNIWELL ought to show higher respect for the intelligence of the citizens who are not hypnotized by the spirit of Populism and not as easily deceived as the Keystone mercenaries. As a matter of fact the most insistent and vociferous advocates of an early convention were Mr. BERRY and Mr. CRESAY, who imagined that the party had suffered from a late convention four years previously and who with others believed that the trend was in our favor and should be kept in motion. In the half truth he tells of the attitude of one of the Philadelphia leaders he is equally dishonest, moreover. If he had told, what he knew, that the gentleman was committed to Mr. PALMER, of Monroe county, the sinister aspect would have been removed. Besides more delegates were instructed for Mr. GRIM than for Mr. BERRY.

Millions More for Pensions.

The jaunty passage of the Sulloway service pension bill through the House reflects the existence in that body of a rather irresponsible state of mind. The measure would as estimated add \$45,000,000 to the existing pension expenditure of \$140,000,000 or so, and this means an actual result of some \$200,000,000 a year determined upon such an enactment, what taxes will be imposed to raise the money? Nothing is being said just now about this feature of the case, but something will have to be done if the bill is enacted. Even on the basis of present expenditure the government is not quite sure whether it will have a surplus revenue next fiscal year or not. Meanwhile, if the passage of the Sulloway bill correctly reflects the temper of the expiring Congress, the administration might as well throw up its hands in the effort to economize and cut down the government's expenses.

The Fight Nearly Won.

An interesting dispatch comes from Washington. It is to the effect that the Democratic leaders in Congress have concluded that the sentiment in favor of taking the appointment of committees from the speaker "is too strong to be ignored." This is good news. They are right; the sentiment is entirely too strong to be ignored and they should not want to ignore it. It is no reflection on the speaker to be elected to take this power from him; it is a favor to him. It will not only give Mr. Clark a distinguished place in history, but it will enable him to avoid the abuses that clouded the career of Speaker Cannon. But while the fight is almost won the constituents should continue to write to their Representatives and urge the change.

Fixing the Classification.

According to Lawson Purdy, "a tax is a contribution enforced by sovereign power," and he argues that as the personal property tax cannot be enforced upon rich men, it is not so much a tax as "a farce." It would appear that all contributions from the source should be classified as conscience money.

Up to this writing Spring creek is still quite high and muddy as the result of last week's rain and thaw and fishermen are somewhat anxious to have it become clear so that they can fish in the stream from the Bellefonte hatchery are still there or were washed down stream by the high water.

Has the Right Focus on the Job.

In another column of this issue will be found an account of the settlement of the capitol graft cases; the State receiving back from the thieves, in round figures, \$1,500,000, of the \$5,500,000 stolen; and in return for this partial restitution of the loot, thirty-one criminal indictments standing against the thieves, were dropped by the public prosecutors. To sum up, the situation is as follows: While a number of the thieves have been lightly punished by prison sentences, and several have died from disgrace and worry over the possibilities; in return for a fraction over 20 cents each, the 7,500,000 people of this State, through their courts and public prosecutors, compound thirty-one felonies, allowing the thieves to retain a fraction less than 73 per cent of their total stealings, thereby placing the crime of thievery away in advance of legitimate business as a profitable occupation. And beyond this, the court by allowing the compounding of these felonies on a cash basis, establishes the status of the commission of crime; and the people of this, or any other State may not afford this at 20 cents per capita, nor any other price.

The men who looted the State Treasury in connection with the erection and furnishing of the capitol building, should have been prosecuted criminally to the last man, without any consideration whatever of the number of dollars stolen or returned. Truly, we are a cheap people.

Is a Packet a Parcel?

If the proper judicial tribunals can be induced to place the proper interpretation upon a single word of six letters these United States of America may be compelled, much against the wishes of its lawmakers, to engage in the business of carrying parcels.

Some curious individual has discovered that the law conferring exclusively upon the federal government the right to transport mail also confers upon it the right to carry packets. If packets is synonymous with parcels, we have sufficient legal warrant to compete with the rich and arrogant express companies without further formality.

The bright legal minds retained by these companies argue that packet means a letter or more than one sheet, and that by no stretch of the imagination can it be made to include parcels. Whether the courts would adopt the same view is a matter for future determination. We would not be surprised if it should be decided that a packet is not a parcel.

There has been incessant demand for many years for the enactment of a parcels post law, but the representatives of the express companies in Congress have ignored it. It will come eventually, however, and a lot of time would be saved if the present law could be stretched to meet the emergency.

From the Springfields Pensions.

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From Bryan's Commoner.

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From the New York World.

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SPAULS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

The State police stationed at Punxsutawney have been removed to barracks at Butler.

The Lessig Iron works at Pottsville, resumed operations after an idleness lasting a month.

New steel cages have been placed in the Barnesboro lockup. The chief of police intends to name the place after the first occupant.

Harry Barnes and three of his children have diphtheria, at their home near Donnelly's Mills, Perry county. Another child died of the dread disease on Wednesday last.

The franchise and assets of the Williamsport base-ball team have been sold to Wilmington, (Del.) parties for \$2,400, and it is expected the transfer will be made within a few days.

The old Young Men's Christian association building at Lock Haven is to be sold and a lot of large dimensions purchased on which to erect a new one. The location is not yet fixed but the directors are determined to push the work.

Mrs. Lewis Kelso, of Todd township, Fulton county, has three cows and 150 white and brown leghorn hens. She uses a cream separator and takes good care of her stock. Her income for 1910 was \$922.44. Her expenses are not given.

The Pennsylvania State Corn Show will be held in Harrisburg January 24th. It is expected that many counties will have exhibits. The Corn Growers' association of Chester and Delaware counties will make a display of over 200 choice ears.

The grand jury of Dauphin county has condemned the historic old court house in which many trials of state-wide interest have occurred. It was built in 1860 and is occupied by both county and city officials, the city of Harrisburg never having built a city hall.

Cambria county is in pocket about \$7,000 because in 1910 it paid its sheriff 12 1/2 cents a day for feeding prisoners, instead of 25 cents, as it had paid his predecessor. Sheriff Stutzman says he made some money, the prisoners all look well fed and there have been no complaints.

Chester county school directors are opposed to the new school code because they think a board composed of only nine members could not properly supervise the schools. But a board of six members has done all that has needed to be done in Altoona for a half century and more.

Eight owners of wood land adjacent to the Clearfield Southern branch of the New York Central and Hudson River railroad, in Knox and Boggs townships, Clearfield county, have sued the company for about \$50,000 damages. Fire losses in the past three years are the basis of the suits.

While Mrs. Peter Kumel, of Lost Creek, Schuylkill county, was absent from her home on Saturday her 6-months-old infant was burned to death. Two other children who had been locked in the house were rescued with difficulty. The woman's husband is a patient in the state hospital at Shenandoah, in a critical condition from a mine injury.

Owing to the breaking up of the ice on the river and other unfavorable conditions the Renovo gas company has decided to suspend operations in the vicinity of Hyner until next spring. The promoters of this natural gas enterprise are much encouraged with results thus far obtained and hope when work is resumed in the spring that a sufficient flow will be obtained to make the investment a paying one.

The Blair county commissioners have been billed by John Francis, warden of the western penitentiary, for \$2,668, representing the expense of keeping of fifty-eight Blair county prisoners in that institution. The daily cost was thirty-one cents each, making the total bill \$4,135.48. The county is allowed a credit for \$1,467.46, for labor performed by the convicts, leaving a net cost to the county \$2,668, or exactly twenty cents per day.

The W. E. Hoffman company, of Tyrone, with which several Phillipsburg people are connected, is about to establish a branch ice cream factory and ice plant at Houtzdale. The Phillipsburg people are of the opinion that the factory and ice plant at Houtzdale, with a view of taking better care of its growing trade in that section. Ground has been purchased in the heart of the town, and work will soon be commenced in putting up a good, substantial brick building, which will be equipped with the most modern machinery for each department.

Ella May Forrester, 15-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Forrester of Nam-y-Glo, Cambria county, died Saturday night at the Altoona hospital. Pneumonia struck the girl, who is believed to have been the cause of death. Before her death the girl charged William Moore, a Johnstown youth, with a serious offense. A post mortem examination will be held to determine whether or not there was anything criminal in an abortion that occurred January 5th, the day before the girl contracted pneumonia.

Mrs. Elizabeth Smeek, of South Fork through counsel, has brought suit against the South Fork Coal Mining company for \$10,000 damages for the death of her husband, Michael Smeek, who was killed in the mine, December 20th. Smeek was caught on the cable tramways without chance of escape and was run down by a trip of cars going into the plant for the night shift. He left seven children, four of them under 15 years of age. He was a naturalized citizen and his family are above the average of foreigners, owning their home.

Levi Shoemaker, of Berlin, who a few days ago celebrated the 99th anniversary of his birth, is not only the oldest resident of the county, but he has attained the greatest age of any man known to have ever lived in Somerset county. Mr. Shoemaker was born in Berlin and has lived all his life in the same community. Until last summer he cultivated a farm of about twenty-five acres, doing nearly all of the work unassisted. He has never used tobacco and with the exception of a slight deafness is in the full enjoyment of all of his faculties.

An order for 150,000 tons of steel rails which had been held up for some time was released Thursday by the Pennsylvania Railroad and contracts for the material awarded. The Carnegie Steel company and the Illinois Steel company received contracts for 70,000 tons, while the Cambria Steel company is to furnish 63,000 tons. The Bethlehem Steel company received the smallest order calling for 800 tons. It is understood that the railroad has agreed to pay an advance in price to cover the added cost of the manufacture of the rails from ingots.

With Mrs. Adam Mowrey, formerly of Benton and now residing at Mildred, Sullivan county, ill of diphtheria and quarantined in her room, there is illustrated again in truth of the oft-repeated statement that trouble never comes singly. A week ago last Wednesday, her son, in a moment of anger over a trivial quarrel with his father, blew off the top of his head. His death so preyed on his father that he refused all nourishment, and a week after his son's death, died a victim of despondency. His death was closely followed by the illness of his wife and the diagnosis of the illness as diphtheria.

Train No. 158, on the Millifin and Centre county branch of the Pennsylvania railroad, ran down and killed a catamount, or Canadian lynx, in the little trestle known as No. 9 bridge, between Schrader and Nagney stations at an early hour Friday morning. Engineer Daniel Arnold and fireman Nathan Manbeck, in charge of the locomotive, say their attention was called by an unearthly screech to something running low along the rail, but were unable to ascertain the exact nature of their victim until the train was stopped and they ran back to find the animal's body across the rail and cut in half. The body weighed about seventy pounds, and it is the general opinion that the animal became confused by the bright rays of the headlight.