

INK SLINGS.

The season of the year is at hand when the sap begins to start up. Be careful lest you get too much in your head this spring.

Lock Haven is starting to wrestle with a municipal lighting plant. Bellefonte might be able to give her some valuable hints on how not to succeed.

RINGLING's circus enterprise might hunt a long time before they could find a more efficient press agent than the one who handled the GOULD-DECIES wedding.

Many of the vociferous gentlemen who are most vociferous for reorganization of the party just now are the ones who, last year, were declaring that "there is no Democratic party in Pennsylvania."

It looks more every day as if WOODROW WILSON were pointed right direct at the White House and the people of the country gradually falling in behind to shove him in there whether he wants to go or not.

Go out and look at the board walk council had erected around RHOADS' corner, then call to mind that council elected an engineer to take charge of the streets at its very next meeting, then have a laugh.

On Tuesday an English nobleman married one of the New York GO(U)LD girls. The Lord deliver us from any more of the CASTELLANE-de SAGAN scandals aired so frequently as a result of an earlier marriage in this same GO(U)LD family.

Two million Chinamen are reported to be starving to death and Japan, Russia, Germany, England and Uncle SAM go merrily on arming themselves against the day when they plan to blow the rest of the Chinks off the earth and snatch their wonderfully rich Empire.

Prof. MILTON J. BRECHT, of Lancaster, has been appointed a member of the state railroad commission. Here is where the Republican Keystone has it on his Democratic ally of last fall. He is hand-somely baited back into his former loyalty to the Machine while the Democratic kicker is left with nothing to kick but himself.

The PAYNE-ALDRICH tariff bill has been in operation eighteen months and notwithstanding the claim that it would prove the greatest revenue producer ever the government business still shows a deficit. The explanation is simple. The wall is too high for foreign business to crawl over and we can't use up at home all we can produce.

An entire family has been found near Pittsfield, Mass., that never eats meats and subsists entirely on uncooked vegetables and cereals. Of course they are freak religionists, but the fact remains that they are healthy and thriving and do not have to wash their food down with a tonic and anchor it there with a load of dyspepsia tablets.

It has been discovered that a solution of radium will infuse new life and youth into old horses. The experiment is being tried, of course, with the hope of finding an elixir of life. If it should prove as wonderful to the human system as it has to the horses experimented upon there may be hope of long years for many of us. That is, if we can raise the price, for radium costs several million dollars per ounce.

Bishop SAMUEL FALLOWS, of Chicago, has disagreed with THEODORE ROOSEVELT on the large family proposition. The former maintains that it is the quality of the family and not the quantity that makes for good and that it is better to have a useful small family than a worthless large one, as is so often the case. There is a certain Row in Bellefonte where even Bishop FALLOWS' modification of the duties of citizenship will be sown on desert air.

Of course it was to be expected that the National Grange would oppose reciprocity with Canada, if reciprocity would reduce the price of our food stuffs. It took him some time to catch on, but the Granger is "next" all right now. If there is to be a tariff to fatten the steel magnate, the woolen manufacturer and the others, why not the farmer? is his question. And you can't answer it. The truth of the matter is that there should be a tariff to support the government only and, after that, let every corporation, every individual look out for itself.

The would-be reorganizers of the Democratic party have discovered, what they should have known from the very first, that there is only one way sanctioned by law, by which the party management can be changed and that way is by starting at the primaries in every election district in the State. We await, with interest, to see the result of their efforts in getting down to do some real work in the party. There never was a time when the management of the party could not have been changed had the voters so desired it, but the trouble with the gentlemen who are now so desirous of reorganizing is that they haven't the time, the inclination or the party zeal to get out into the hustings and work. They are of the superior brand who want to manage after others have gotten together that which is to be managed.

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The Grange and Reciprocity.

The Grangers are organizing to oppose the Canadian reciprocity scheme of President Taft, according to published statements. The Legislative Committee of the National body has taken the initiative in the matter and at a meeting held in New York, the other day, adopted a resolution "protesting against the enactment of the reciprocity bill."

Of course this is only a subterfuge. Most of the Grange officials are tariff-mongers and oppose reciprocity for the same reason that Senator PENROSE, Senator OLIVER and other congressional "stand-patters, object to it. They imagine that it is an entering wedge for general tariff reduction which will culminate in "tariff for revenue only."

Those Democrats who voted for a permanent tariff commission will be entitled to popular felicitation when President TAFT appoints DUNCAN MCKINLEY, of California, and Senator BEVERIDGE, of Indiana, to fill two of these high-salaried places. Both of these gentlemen are among the Congressional "lame-ducks" which must be taken care of but so far as we are able to discover they have never done anything to entitle them to the help of Democrats in discovering soft snaps.

Tariff Commission Likely.

The hope that the tariff commission bill might fail of passage through the Senate is diminishing. The end of the session, three weeks from to-morrow, will strike from the pay-roll a number of Congressional "lame ducks," and places must be provided for them. A permanent tariff commission will help in this direction. At least five of the repudiated patriots will find lucrative berths in this needless body. In view of that fact it is small wonder that "the Republicans are more strongly in favor of the tariff board measure now than they were a few weeks ago."

Senator MONEY, of Mississippi, made a strong argument against the inquiry the other day while it was being considered in a special session of the Senate Finance committee. "The President is not warranted in undertaking tariff tinkering," he said. "Such action," he added, "is a function of Congress and this co-ordinate branch of the government can secure its own committees."

Of course there is a chance of defeating this inquiry. If the Democrats of the Senate will work together and assiduously a vote may yet be prevented during the present session and it is certain that the House will prevent its passage during the next Congress, though some Democrats voted for it in that body the other day. It will put an annual burden of several hundred thousand dollars on the public for all time. But that is not the worst. It is subversive of the constitution and the people demand a return to the true principles of the government as expressed in the fundamental law.

Dangerous Powers Proposed.

The bill to exact a license fee from the resident hunters of the State which was prepared by the Secretary of the Game Commission, is more preposterous than the measure which was defeated four years ago. For example, one of its features provides that "possession of the described gun or device where it might be used for hunting, or the possession of any dead or living body of one of the birds or animals, or any part of such a body, by any person in the State, shall be prima facie evidence of violation of the law, and render the person liable to the penalty."

Moreover the game wardens or other officers authorized to make arrests under this law may do so "without warrant." This is plainly an infringement of the Bill of Rights and should be prevented in all cases other than felonies. It gives to magistrates the power of "summary conviction," another dangerous proposition. Under such conditions it is easy to see how these servants of the privileged class might prevent all hunters except those who are within their favor, from enjoying the chase. A man who had previously been in the habit of hunting on his own premises or those of his neighbors would be compelled to either take out a license or dispose of his gun for the inquisitorial game wardens could mulct him for penalties whether he hunted or not.

The advocates of this absurd measure hold out to the members of the General Assembly the promise of considerable revenues to the State. As a matter of fact it will provide no revenue to the State for the ample reason that all fines and penalties will go to the Game Commission to be disbursed by the secretary of that body according to his own caprices. The bill provides that the money shall be used for the purposes of propagating game but the constitution provides that no money can be paid for any purpose out of the treasury except upon appropriations made by the Legislature. In every respect this measure is objectionable if not actually vicious and the General Assembly should defeat it promptly.

In the school books of the olden time there used to be an interesting story of a man who had hold of a bear's tail and couldn't let go because of the certainty of dire disaster after the bear's release. As the time for the Democratic reorganizers to reorganize approaches, they look as if they felt like the man who had hold of the bear's tail.

Public Utilities Commission.

While we have no sympathy with governing commissions of any sort we are constrained to hope that something useful will be developed from the proposed legislation for the creation of a Public Utilities Commission. A committee composed of Representatives in the Legislature and others is now engaged in the preparation of a measure of this kind, to be introduced in the near future. It will cover the operations of gas, electric, telephone and trolley railroad companies and will be drawn on the lines of laws for similar purposes now in force in Maryland and New York.

The proper way to regulate such utility companies is through one of the existing departments of the State government, preferably that of Internal Affairs. Whatever legislation is necessary to enable the secretary of that department to perform this service ought to be enacted. In fact the duties of the Railroad Commission ought to have been committed to him. It would have saved the State many thousands of dollars annually. The chances are, however, that the other course was adopted for that reason. The dominant political machine wanted patronage and the Railroad Commission affords a good deal of it. The proposed Utility Commission will present the bosses with another lot of juicy plums.

But something ought to be done to bring some of these utility corporations under reasonable control. They are intolerably arrogant, insolent and exorbitant in their charges. The proposed remedy will be expensive, of course, but the increasing use of telephone and other services provided by such corporations is becoming so burdensome to the people that restraints are necessary to prevent confiscation of the property of the public. Care should be taken, however, that such legislation is in the interest of the people rather than for the benefit of the corporations.

A New Jersey law maker proposes to limit by statute the amount of food his constituents can use daily. Just as if Republican prices had not cinched that job long ago.

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"The Wish is Father to the Thought."

Mr. CHARLES M. SCHWAB, president of the Bethlehem Steel company, has fallen a prey to the fear of Japanese invasion and conquest. In a speech delivered in Paris, the other night, he amazed the French savants of finance and statesmanship with a word picture of the little yellow warriors forcing their way through the Pacific seaports and deluging the land with the blood of victims of our unpreparedness for war. He said that these Japanese pigmies are ambitious for conquest and covetous of power and that unless the Congress of the United States promptly authorizes the increase of the navy to enormous proportions and provides for the fortification of every foot of sea coast we are doomed.

And, while the President is advocating a measure of benefit to the masses, he is at the same time confounding his political opponents—the persistent and pestiferous progressives who have made matters uncomfortable for all parties of stand-pat tendencies.

The insurgent Congressmen and Senators in the main represent agricultural constituencies, which have profited inordinately through inflated prices. They are reluctant to see the present pleasant arrangement disturbed. If reciprocity becomes a settled policy, they will, it is urged, be brought into competition with the farmers of the north, and will receive less for the products of their farms than would otherwise be the case.

They are willing that there shall be reciprocity for manufactured products, which would affect the east. But they want the tariff wall high enough to keep out products that might be brought into competition with the source of the unparalleled prosperity.

The east is satisfied to let down the bars to western products and the west the same sentiments towards the manufactured articles of the east. All of which serves to prove that the tariff, in theory and practice, is heartless, selfish and cruel.

The Next Best Thing. Reciprocity as the next thing to free international trade would be the next best thing in the world. With reciprocity fleets and armies might be dispensed, custom houses abandoned, taxes reduced to one-fifth their present amount and living expenses turned back to the minimum cost of our great-grandfather's days.

Representative C. A. BENTLEY, of Washington county, on Monday introduced a bill in the Legislature to abolish the fee system in all counties having a population of less than one hundred and fifty thousand and put the officials on a stated salary. In counties having a population of less than fifty thousand and more than twenty-five thousand, the class to which Centre county belongs, the bill provides for the following salaries: Sheriff, \$2,500; prothonotary, \$2,500; clerk of courts, \$2,000; register of wills, \$1,800; recorder of deeds, \$2,500; treasurer, \$2,500; commissioners, each, \$1,200; auditors, each, \$150; coroner, \$500; solicitor, \$500. Where the prothonotary is also clerk of the court he shall receive \$1,000 additional to his regular salary of \$2,500.

Of course the free list in the PAYNE-ALDRICH tariff law is absurd as the capable cartoonist of the esteemed Philadelphia Record shows that the free list expressed in the Canadian reciprocity treaty is admirable. But the free list in the PAYNE-ALDRICH tariff bill is exactly the same today as it was the day that President TAFT delivered his Winona speech in which he eulogized that measure as the best tariff law ever enacted. Other things have changed, of course. The people have emphatically registered their disapproval of the PAYNE-ALDRICH schedules but there is no use in defying TAFT because the public has rebuked him.

The Christian world has its eyes focussed on the sick bed of the learned and pious Catholic prelate, Archbishop RYAN, who has been at the point of death at his Episcopal residence in Philadelphia for more than a week. Bishop RYAN is one of those men who has given his life to the service of religion and the happiness of the people and in his illness he has the sympathy of all Christians, whatever faith they may profess.

The Standard Oil company is taking an active part in the Senatorial election in Montana and naturally is exerting its influence against the Democratic party. Senator CARTER, who was repudiated by the people at the last election, has been a servile tool of the interests for many years and naturally the Standard Oil company hopes to re-elect him.

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Tariff Selfish and Cruel.

President Taft is said to be most determined and aggressive when he smiles. And just now he is wearing his most benign smile.

By recommending an insulating upon equitable reciprocity with Canada he killed two birds with one stone. First, and most important, he has adopted the most direct method of relieving the distress entailed by high cost of living. Even the opponents of reciprocity concede that the arrangements made by the American and Canadian officials will mean lower prices for foodstuffs and other necessities of life. There is no opposition on that point. But special interest rears its head and declares that attack upon the industry of the nation is proposed.

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SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

There are twenty-five students from Clearfield county in the State College this term, a greater number than has been there for a number of years.

The woven wire plant at Lock Haven has been running fifteen hours a day and expects to go on double turn to catch up with heavy orders for wire screen.

Viewers from Clearfield and Centre counties have reported favorable for a bridge across the Moshannon, near the site of the old mill at the town of Osceola.

Nanticoke has finally landed the big cigar factory which its board of trade has been after for the past month. The plant will employ upward of 500 people, and asked nothing from the townpeople.

Because their son came to a violent death by contact with a wire belonging to the Kittingham Electric company, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Kahn have brought suit against the company for \$25,000 damages.

Two unknown men, passing as bookbinders from Philadelphia, who sought board with Mrs. Mary Amos, in Allentown, turned out to be sneak thieves and got a diamond ring valued at \$925 and \$3 in cash.

A Sharon woman who was recently robbed of \$120 was surprised to find \$70 of the amount thrust under her bedroom door on Wednesday morning, while the balance was found outside the door on Thursday evening.

The Selinsgrove board of trade has announced that a new industry—the Orwigsburg Shoe factory—has been secured for Selinsgrove and that it will change its location as soon as possible. The plant will start with 100 hands.

The end of the wooden telegraph pole is near at hand, as it is rapidly being supplanted by the improved concrete pole. All the poles erected in the Pennsylvania railroad yards at Northumberland are concrete, and were made there as rapidly as needed.

The directors in Lawrence township, Clearfield county, have had more than the usual trouble in keeping a teacher in the higher grade of the Paradise school this winter and recently secured a third one and hope the final one for this term at least.

Within the past three weeks rabies have been responsible for the death of ten head of cattle, three head of horses and a number of hogs in Indiana county. The losses will total about \$2,000. It is likely that all dogs in the county will be quarantined for 100 days.

Almost every gas jet in a DuBois boarding house was found open by firemen when they were called to extinguish a small fire. Had its discovery been delayed until the blaze had gained more headway, a terrific explosion would have resulted. Police are investigating.

Postmaster Byron A. Weaver, of Montoursville, has been relieved from duty and the office put in charge of his bondsman. He is charged with having boomed the price of stamps in order to increase his salary, which has jumped from \$1,000 to \$1,700 under his administration.

Officers of the Williamsport Packing company, whose plant was destroyed by fire recently, are undecided as to whether to rebuild at that place or remove to Lock Haven. The board of trade of the latter place is offering strong inducements; so is Williamsport and the location is in the balance.

Osterberg is quite excited over the finding of oil in a well at the home of George Deibhaugh. The well was drilled last summer but the oil showed itself only recently. Some people think it comes from a leak in the Crescent Oil company's line. Mr. Deibhaugh has already been offered \$2,500 for his five-acre plot.

Mrs. John Keby, wife of a farmer living near Washington, removed her portion of the house hold goods on Wednesday, having refused to live with her husband any longer. She said he abused her. The man begged her to reconsider her purpose, but she declined. Then he swallowed sufficient carbolic acid to make her a widow.

Two big mortgages are being recorded in the Somerset county court house. One is for \$40,000 on the property of the Consolidation Coal company. It will cover about 100 pages and cost about \$100. The other is for \$3,585,000 on the Somerset Coal company's property, taken over some time ago by the Consolidation company. It will cover seventy-five pages.

A. E. Hall, a produce salesman of Baltimore, and who has operated in Lock Haven to some extent is under arrest at York, Pa., charged with a multiplicity of crime. Accordingly to reports Hall has had a checkered career and aside from having Mormon instincts—a desire for numerous wives—he has a penchant for attempting to pay his debts with worthless checks.

An Indiana county farmer sold his farm recently for \$3,800. It was no sooner done than he rued bargain but the purchaser, who was pleased with his new possession, didn't want to sell it back. Finally, when he saw how hard it would be for the man to leave his old home, he consented and the original owner bought it back for \$450 more than he had sold it for.

The Hanover silk mill, which has been idle for several years, is expected to resume operations in a few weeks and give employment to a larger number of people than before. This is the only idle manufacturing plant in Hanover at present, and if the parties interested are successful in their project the industrial condition of Hanover will show unmistakable signs of prosperity in every branch of trade.

They are doing more than raising apples in Adams county. They will store them at home if necessary. A large three-story cold storage plant with a capacity of 25,000 barrels will be erected at Biglerville. The plant will be built during 1911, and will be for cold storage and nothing else. The storing of apples for the market will be the principal business, and 25,000 barrels will be the capacity of the plant.

Contracts for 18,000 tons of steel rails will be placed by the Lackawanna railroad within the week. Only recently the road received a shipment of 7,000 tons. The new rails are for 1911 track and switch improvements, and it is understood that the orders will be followed by much bigger ones from time to time as the market permits of advantageous buying. Fifty more locomotives of all classes will be ordered during 1911.

Fire which did a total damage estimated at \$50,000 Monday morning, practically wiped out the plant of the Johnstown Journal publishing company. The loss to the paper is estimated roughly at \$25,000 and to the building, owned by State Senator George M. Wertz, at \$10,000. A beauty parlor and shoe shine establishment in the building were also destroyed. The blaze occurred in a densely built up section. The origin is unknown. The Journal will publish from the office of the Tribune.

George C. Kelchner, Jr., the son of an Altoona wealthy merchant, who had suit brought against him by Miss Frances Brumbaugh, the daughter of councilman D. H. Brumbaugh, of that city, for \$5000 damages on charge of breach of promise, and who secured a verdict of \$1800, has asked for a new trial. Among the reasons advanced by Kelchner's attorney for what is claimed an unjust verdict was that the reporters of the Altoona daily newspapers gave lengthy articles in sensational manner on the proceedings of the case, which were published with scare headlines. It is averred that the jurors read the accounts in the papers which were the means of prejudicing them against the plaintiff. The court has not given a decision.