

INK SLINGS.

Another man with his ear to the ground Another petition passing round Another candidate is found Who swears, by jinks, he can't be down'd.

—English theologians are discussing a plan to shorten the Ten Commandments—some Pittsburghers would probably vote to do it by cutting out the seventh and eighth.

—It is rather an anomalous condition of affairs but it is a fact nevertheless that Centre county is spending an awful lot of money most zealously guarding a boarder whom she would be only too happy to be rid of.

—Today there will be announced the most substantial bequest that has ever been given a Bellefonte institution, by any resident of the town.

—Something has come out of that Mexican revolution at last. JACK LONDON is in jail for having been caught at the head of a party of insurgents.

—Rumor has it that it is a woman who is to become the first of Bellefonte's substantial philanthropists.

—The Democrat thinks that Johnstown is assured of being a city worth while because she is soon to be a city of skyscrapers.

—Before another issue of the WATCHMAN reaches you the harmonizers will have tried to benevolently assimilate or sand-bag the old organization of the Democracy in the State.

—It is not likely that the Game Commission cares much for the revenues which might be derived from the license tax on gunners proposed in the pending legislation.

—With its characteristic tendency to be honest (?) and not deceptive (?) the North American on Monday announced in startling headlines "Penny Monopoly on Water in State Covers 26 Counties."

—The new capitol park extension bill proposes to prolong the work so as to limit the disbursements to \$400,000 a year, if the treasury is not able to afford more and that is a good idea.

—Some fifteen or twenty years ago when our friend WILLIAM I. SWOPE, of Clearfield, was budding in journalism and using the Raftsmen's Journal for the dissemination of his effervescent effusions, there appeared an appealing editorial to the boys to stay on the farm.

—The condition of things today proves that WILLIAM had taken a longer look into the future and seen more of the light than the most of us thought possible and we therefore take great pleasure in apologizing for a very slighting comment we made on that particular article of fifteen or twenty years ago.

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An Indiscreet Congressman.

Congressman A. MITCHELL PALMER, in a rather belligerent statement published in an esteemed Philadelphia contemporary last Sunday, reveals that lack of information on the subject he discusses, which characterizes most of the so-called reorganizers, of whom he claims to be the leader.

These statisticians overlook one important point, however. They forget that the express companies deal with the railroad companies on a business basis. There are no obligations between these two fictitious personages except that of rendering service on one side and paying the price on the other.

Aside from this, however, Mr. PALMER is approaching the proposed reorganization meeting breathing a spirit which is ominous. Obviously he doesn't want harmony at any price.

—Senator SPROUL's excellent good roads project might have been organized at less expense to the State, moreover. A salary list of \$142,000 a year for bosses alone is ominous of a too profligate machine to accomplish good results.

Canadian Reciprocity and Tariff Taxes.

If we had the least confidence in the veracity and sincerity of President TAFT we would be glad to see the pending legislation to give force and effect to the Canadian reciprocity agreement fail of passage.

Therefore, if the agreement is not ratified by the present Congress it can be made the basis for tariff legislation of a general character. In other words, in the event that the present Congress adjourns without affirmative action on the Canadian agreement and President TAFT calls the new Congress into session the agreement can be amended by striking out the word Canada and make it applicable to all countries.

The new House will be Democratic by a large majority and the Republican majority in the Senate, including the insurgents, will be reduced to eight or nine. More than that, many insurgents have been acting with the Democrats for more than a year and the only objection any of them has raised to the Canadian agreement is that it only reduces tariff taxes on agricultural products and leaves the schedules on manufactured articles intact.

Postal Rates and Revenue Deficits.

Those enterprising magazine publishers whose profits are threatened and confidence betrayed by the increase in the rate of postage on the products of their presses, are summoning statistics to prove that there is no necessity for the drastic legislation proposed.

If the government bargained with the railroads for transportation services as the express companies do it is more than likely that present postal rates would be adequate to make postal receipts equal expenditures and the magazine publishers could keep on giving their measly \$20,000 to \$50,000 a year to the Republic corruption fund.

—Uncle JOE SIBLEY is still too sick to stand trial on the charge of corrupt practices in his late campaign for the nomination for Congress.

Meagre Grist of the Legislative Mill. The Legislature is making slow progress with its work. Eight weeks have elapsed since the organization of the body and only one bill has been enacted into law and parts of it were vetoed by the Governor.

Are there not readers of this paper who are able to send a little to aid in this work for humanity? A single dollar to buy food for a starving Chinese, would do more towards making and cementing lasting bonds of friendship between that country and this, than all the warships the Jingoos can build in a century.

—President TAFT's declaration that he will veto any tariff revision legislation enacted by the Sixty-second Congress, even though it is drawn on the lines of the Canadian reciprocity agreement, reveals that demagogue in his true light.

Of course there are a great many subjects of legislation in which a majority of the Senators and Representatives are interested and if conditions were favorable most of them might get through. But on the other hand a lot of bills have been introduced which the machine managers can afford to neither pass nor kill.

Good Roads and State Debt.

While the road building plan expressed in Senator SPROUL's proposed legislation is of the highest merit we can see no reason for borrowing \$50,000,000 in order to put it into force and effect.

The most energetic highway officials could not wisely spend money in road construction faster than at the rate of say \$5,000,000 a year. There is at present a revenue surplus of about \$10,000,000 and a revenue redundancy of nearly half that figure.

—During the filibuster in the House of Representatives in Washington, the other day, by which one man completely stopped all legislative machinery for three or four days, several of the Pennsylvania Democrats were absent.

Where Help is Needed. While the Jingoos of this country, in order to secure great appropriations for unneeded war vessels and the graft that can be gotten in this way, are crying about the danger of war with China and Japan and the necessity of immediate preparation for that dire event, the Seattle Commercial Club, co-operating with the Red Cross Society, are sending out appeals to the American people for aid to stay the hunger and distress now depopulating China.

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—The Russian bear seems to have become the modern bull in a China shop.

Lobbying for Lorimer.

With hopes temporarily brightened by the magnificent speech made on behalf of Lorimer by Senator Bailey, of Texas, the Lumber Trust, the railroads and Standard Oil are making a desperate final effort to save the Illinois boss from expulsion.

It is very doubtful, however, if Lorimer can be saved. Whatever is to be done in the way of entreating or forcing Senators to stand for Lorimerism must be done within the next couple of days.

Peck is a partner of John S. Miller, of Chicago, counsel for the Standard Oil company and for the stockyard packers, who are the political patrons of Lorimer.

Mr. Wickersham's Opinion. Attorney General Wickersham, speaking at a banquet in New York, expressed the opinion that the proposition to elect United States Senators by direct vote of the people would fail because "the legal profession is opposed" to any such a forward movement in our system of government.

It is quite evident at this particular period of political activity that "a considerable majority of the people" are very much in earnest in their demands for the privilege of electing their Senators and that their desires are to be overlooked because "a majority of the bar" cannot agree with their wisdom, is not calculated to pacify the already greatly irritated mass of the body politic.

An Extra Session Imperative.

And surely, if ever an extra session were justified, it must be in this case. Sometimes one must go far from home to discern the real importance and significance of things.

—Governor Foss, of Massachusetts is all right. After examining his message the readers of the Commonwealth will understand why George Fred Williams preferred him to Hamlin. Foss urges the ratification of the income tax, the election of Senators by the people and the initiative and referendum. What does the New York World think of that? The western Democrats are not afraid of Foss. He is a progressive; strength to his arm.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

—The tannery at Westover is running right along and farmers are hauling large quantities of chestnut wood there.

—The Pennsylvania Forestry association has decided to hold its annual convention at State College, May 24 to 26.

—Clearfield county leads the Fourth Bituminous district in the production of coal during 1910, having mined 2,693,569,569 tons.

—Sandy township firemen, on the outskirts of DuBois, held a chicken and waffle supper last week. They used 99 chickens and served 600 people.

—The name of the post office at Bigler, Clearfield county, has been changed from Williams-grove to Bigler, to correspond to the name of the town.

—As the result of an explosion of a Rochester lamp the store building of E. K. Brant, near Munson, caught fire and was totally destroyed on Monday night.

—DuBois policemen will soon be equipped with portable telephones, which they can use for hurry-up calls by simply attaching to a socket in telephone poles equipped for their use.

—That was a singular experience the lone occupant of the borough prison of Warriors Run, Luzerne county, had the other night when two masked burglars broke into his cell and robbed him of \$29.

—An unknown man committed suicide in his room at the Clifton hotel, McKeesport, on Sunday afternoon by inhaling gas. He registered as Joseph P. Jones, but this name is believed to be fictitious.

—Improvements at the DuBois glass factory are completed and fires in the produce plant were started on Monday. In due time the plant will be running at full capacity and no summer shut down is anticipated.

—Colonel Lewis E. Beiler, deputy secretary of the Commonwealth, has tendered his resignation, which will take effect March 1. It is said his retirement from public life is prompted by a desire to engage in private business.

—Great activity is reported among the lumbermen along the North Fork railroad, and it is said that as soon as the weather permits one of the largest band mills ever erected in Somerset county will be in operation at Humbert.

—Of fifty-eight houses in one row at Lewisburg, only thirty-four are occupied at the present time. They are rented for \$8 per month. During the boom a few years ago none of the houses rented for less than \$15 and \$20 per month.

—Coleman K. Sober, of Lewisburg, has donated two acres of his celebrated Paragon chestnut trees to the Masonic Home property at Elizabethtown. These trees will be set out in a few months and will be a valuable addition to this wonderful property.

—Harry Falconer, of Red Lion, York county, finding a thief running away with his chickens, filled his face full of shot, recovered the chickens, took the thief to a physician's office, had the shot taken from his face and then gave him his freedom.

—A man whose identity is unknown, who in a "Black Hand" letter threatened Milton C. Pyle, cashier of the West Grove, Pa., National bank, was fired upon when he appeared to collect the money he had demanded, but he escaped unhurt.

—While Constable Jerry Shaffer, aged 50 years, a farmer residing near Somerset, was milking at his barn on Wednesday morning, he was shot from behind through the heart. His 19-year-old son found him after a time. The state constabulary put blood hounds on the trail of the murderer.

—A superintendent had been chosen for the J. C. Blair Memorial hospital at Huntingdon, for fifteen years superintendent of the charity hospital of Montgomery county. She was formerly a resident of Huntingdon. The buildings will be ready for furnishings by April 15.

—The campaigners who started out to raise \$50,000 for a new Young Men's Christian Association building at Indiana did not reach the coveted goal at the appointed time, February 15th. But they started at once to "try again" for the last \$15,000 and at last reports were still working away, confident of success.

—Nurserymen say that more trees have been planted in Pennsylvania during the past year, and more orders are now waiting to be filled in this State, than in any other State in the Union. This is chiefly because of the activity of the persons officially engaged in advancing the interests of orcharding in this State.

—A resident of Ephrata, Miss Lizzie Grant, 67 years old, lost her voice 33 years ago and could not in all these years speak above a whisper. Last week she was attacked with the grip, and upon her recovery was surprised at regaining the full use of her voice. It was the first time since 1878 that she heard her voice.

—An officer of the state veterinary board will look into conditions in Indiana county soon. It is believed that, owing to the rigid quarantine established in various parts of the county, the epidemic of rabies is checked, but expert advice is wanted. Dogs acting suspiciously are promptly shot, and no additional livestock has been infected.

—Running to greet the young woman to whom he was to be married in a few days, Michael Durwan, of St. Clair, was instantly killed on the railroad in full view of his hurried sweetheart. Durwan had eyes for nothing but the girl as soon as he saw her, and stepping across the track, he walked directly in front of an express train, which tossed him high in the air.

—Favored patients in different hospitals of Pittsburgh Sunday had chicken broth, in which the ingredient chicken was worth \$50. The feast was the result of a raid of a cooking main the previous midnight. About sixty stars, many of them in evening dress, and thirty-six high-bred gamecocks, were captured by Superintendent James Bell, of the Western Pennsylvania society.

—Hon. Andrew Carnegie has donated a second tract of land near Cresson to the Commonwealth for the use of the state health department. The tract, which is a small one, is adjacent to the property which he conveyed to the State two years ago and upon which the State's western sanatorium for tuberculosis is being built. The sanatorium buildings at Cresson will be pushed to completion as soon as the winter is over and will enable an extension of the work which the State is doing for consumptive poor at Mont Alto.

—At a meeting of the board of trustees of Dick-inson college, Carlisle, Pa., held in Philadelphia, Thursday, the Rev. Dr. Geo. Edward Reed stated that it was his intention to resign as head of that institution on or before the commencement in June. At his request a committee of seven was selected to choose his successor. Dr. Reed, who has been president of Dickinson college for twenty-one years, said that the duties of his position were becoming too burdensome for a man of his years. He will continue as a trustee.

—Search for a mad dog at the Black Diamond mines, Mineral Point, last week caused the accidental shooting of N. A. Barnette, a miner who was killed instantly by Joe Frezrow. The latter had gone to Barnette's house in pursuit of the mad dog and had killed him, firing four revolver shots into the animal. Frezrow then playfully turned the weapon on Barnette, believing he had emptied the weapon, and when he pulled the trigger the bullet struck Barnette in the heart. Deputy Coroner Mainhart went to Mineral Point and held an inquest the verdict of which was accidental shooting. Frezrow was not arrested.