

INK SLINGS.

—Of course the only big day in March is the 17th.

—House-cleaning or moving. It's all the same and April 1st only a few weeks off.

—Anyway the harem skirt will afford no treat for the naughty boy on a windy day.

—To call the turn to the last cent up to February 25th, 1911, the remodeling of the court house had cost the tax payers \$122,205.56.

—God save the Commonwealth! It has been announced that PENNROSE will go to Harrisburg next week to personally boss the Legislature.

—March came in windy enough. Let us hope that old Probs. doesn't hold any of the weather we should have this month over for April.

—Itch has broken out in the public schools of Pittsburgh. The poor children probably were infected by shaking the itching palms of the directors out there.

—The average man will do little penance by cutting out meat during Lent. With him almost every day has been Lent, so far as meat is concerned, for the past two years.

—The saplin bender, the poor man's manure, the robin and the onion snows have to come yet, so don't get gay about shaking your winter flannels or thinking that spring has come.

—The Republican Keystoneers of Philadelphia having decided to go back to their own party we are confounded to know what will become of their Democratic consorts of last fall.

—So Senator LORIMER, the blonde boss of the Chicago stock-yards, has been given a coat of whitewash. A stiff kick with a frozen boot is what our Uncle SAMUEL should have given him if he hopes to conserve public respect for his upper House of Congress.

—Under the law only those who voted the Tener ticket at the last election can participate in the Republican primaries this year. How, then, are the reformers in the party going to get back without first doing penance?—Philadelphia Record, March 1st.

How then, dear Record, can the reorganizers in our party hope to reorganize it without first doing penance?

—While we have no intention of getting mixed up in the controversy it does look as if the present post-master must amount to more than some of his party managers think he does, else the united efforts of all the heavy-weights on the upper floor of Temple court would not be required to keep him from holding his job.

—No, dear discouraged parent, there is no hope for you. Those cherubs will no sooner quit asking for money to go to the basket ball games and the opera house than base ball and the park will be ready to gobble up the quarters that you might as well make up your mind, right now, that you are never going to get a chance to save.

—The Popular Magazine makes the rather startling announcement that FRANK MUNSEY, the millionaire publisher, began life with only fifty dollars in his pocket. No wonder he's a millionaire. Look at the start on the rest of us poor devils he had. We all started life without a cent and without any clothes to have pockets in.

—Senator JONATHAN BOURNE, of Oregon, did a little talking out in meetin' in Washington, on Monday, and the whole world is considering his grave charges against our President. Unfortunately he seems to have produced the goods that proclaim the White House to be a mere political trading post. Unfortunately as the expose was the greatest misfortune in our being unable to entirely refute its truth.

—You have heard of the fellow who climbed out onto the limb of a tree and then saved it off between his perch and the trunk. Well, we have just discovered that he is a relative of the Bellefonte man who moved west this week but before going crated all of his furniture most securely and then discovered that none of the crates could be taken out through any of the doors or windows of the house he occupied.

—The Premier of Australia warns the people of that Commonwealth against falling into the hands of trusts like the unfortunates of the United States. He says that here "One per cent. of the people own fifty per cent. of the wealth and fifty per cent. of the people own nothing." Premier FISHER probably forgot that the last fifty per cent. hold some lingering claim on their souls; at least those do whom the ministers haven't scared into thinking they have none worth holding onto.

—While we can never be brought to believe that PENNPACKER'S administration of the State was as clean as STRAITS' yet the old man's statement of Saturday was not without its modicum of truth. He said he built the state capitol even if it did cost thirteen million, and left as much money in the treasury as STUART did when he left the office. And this in face of the facts that revenue were larger during the STUART administration and he even vetoed the state road bill in order to conserve the treasury balance.

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A Tale of Two Administrations.

In criticizing Governor STUART'S administration, the other day, former Governor SAMUEL W. PENNPACKER brought to mind the aphorism of "Satan reproving sin." PENNPACKER'S administration was so wretched in every respect, so utterly and entirely devoid of merit and since its end has been so absolutely discredited, that it ought to remain forever undisturbed in oblivion. At any rate, one would imagine that Mr. PENNPACKER would be the last man on earth to summon his rotten record into public view. But he did so the other day in a newspaper interview and comparing it with that of STUART actually scored a point. He left something for the money he took out of the treasury.

The administration of Governor STUART was destitute of constructive results. Judge PENNPACKER declares. STUART vetoed a road bill, he added, because there was insufficient money in the treasury to carry out its provisions. Yet with less revenue resources PENNPACKER'S administration built and furnished the new capitol building, while there was precisely the same amount of money in the treasury at the end of the period as there was at the beginning. The road bill which STUART vetoed carried an appropriation of much less than the amount which the construction and furnishing of the capitol cost and yet STUART was unable to make it serve the purpose of building the road.

There is "more truth than poetry" in this criticism. The revenues of the Commonwealth reached high tide during the STUART administration and yet there isn't a permanent or even a perceptible improvement to show for the expenditure of this vast treasure. Mr. PENNPACKER says that when he assumed office there was \$15,000,000 in the treasury and when he retired the balance was precisely the same, though meantime the capitol was built and furnished at an expense of \$13,000,000. According to PENNPACKER'S statement, therefore, there was \$15,000,000 in the treasury when STUART assumed office and only about \$10,000,000 when he retired and meantime no improvements were made at all.

What became of the money paid into the treasury during the four years of the STUART administration? It has never been claimed that the PENNPACKER administration was frugal or even economical. Yet out of the revenues of the four years during which he was Governor he paid all the ordinary expenses of the government and built and furnished the capitol at a cost of \$13,000,000, while STUART fell five or six million dollars short of paying the ordinary expenses of his administration, if PENNPACKER'S statement that there was \$15,000,000 in the treasury when STUART assumed office and the State Treasurer's report that the balance was less than \$10,000,000 when he quit the job, are true.

Keystoneers Deserting Their Allies.

The Philadelphia Keystoneers, of Republican proclivities, have decided to "go back to the farm." They served the purpose of the PENROSE machine most admirably last fall by supporting Mr. BERRY and beguiling a lot of thoughtless Democrats to stray from the path of political righteousness, and there is nothing left for them to do but return for their reward. Hereafter they propose to do their reforming within the party. It is more genteel, they imagine. In any event it will not require them to "wash their dirty linen" in public, and that is something. Republicans don't like to tell the truth about each other.

It is just as well that these sham reformers have come to this conclusion. They never had any heart in the Keystone movement. They are concerned in nothing except selfish ambitions and local offices. In 1905 they had to be driven into the support of Mr. BERRY for State Treasurer. They hoped to harvest a lot of spoils by the election of their own type in the city and after they had gone so far that retreat was impossible the Democratic managers notified them that they must support BERRY or else the Democratic voters would refuse to support their candidates. They squirmed and grimaced distressingly but finally yielded.

But they are treating their country Keystone cousins badly in abandoning them at this stage of the game. Mr. BERRY, Mr. BONNIWELL and other dupes of their political chicanery have been urging Democrats and others to perpetuate the Keystone organization and split the Democratic vote for local candidates next fall and thus complete the destruction of the party of JEFFERSON. Of course this open desertion of the Philadelphia contingent will interrupt the success of this plan and probably open the eyes of the misguided voters to the fact that they were simply used as cats' paws to draw PENROSE nuts out of the hot ashes.

Too Grotesque to be Amusing.

The somewhat hysterical effort of the PENROSE machine in the popular branch of the Pennsylvania Legislature to prevent a vote on the resolution to instruct the Senators in Congress for Pennsylvania to vote affirmatively on the joint resolution to amend the Federal constitution so as to provide for the election of Senators in Congress by popular vote is not only amusing but exceedingly grotesque. In the first place the resolution is not concurrent and consequently is without force or effect. Besides that it would make little, if any difference to PENROSE how Senators are elected. If by popular vote he would nominate whom he pleased and the people of Pennsylvania would elect his nominee.

What greater assurance could Senator PENROSE have had of the election of his personal choice to the office of Governor, at all, if the method of election had been by vote of the Legislature, in joint session? The opposition party assembled in convention and nominated as clean and fit a candidate for Governor as was ever named by any party. Senator PENROSE named as the candidate of his party the man of all those mentioned, least qualified and least desired by the people. Yet the PENROSE candidate was elected. And why? Because PENROSE, through JOHN O. SHEATZ and other emissaries of his machine, organized a bolt in the Democratic party and through the abnormal lust for office of WILLIAM H. BERRY, elected the PENROSE candidate.

Whether better results would be obtained by the election of United States Senators by popular vote is a mooted question. It was gravely considered in the convention which framed the constitution of the United States and for reasons satisfactory to the old-fashioned but certainly capable and patriotic gentlemen who composed that body, was rejected by an almost unanimous vote. Possibly conditions have changed so that in some localities fitter men would be sent to the Senate if conditions were changed but we can see no reason for believing that it would make any difference in Pennsylvania. It is much easier to control a convention than to manipulate a Legislature.

At noon to-morrow the present Congress will expire by limitation and whether its successor begins operations in a month or nine it will mark the end of the control of the government by the predatory interests when it begins. That is a pleasant prospect for the friends of good government to keep in mind and an inspiration for confidence in the future.

A Crime Against Civilization.

Those Democrats in Congress who voted for an appropriation to fortify the Panama canal will have a hard time explaining to their constituents. The amount appropriated is only \$3,000,000, but it commits the government to the profligate and preposterous policy and that is all the Steel trust cared for. Probably no part of the appropriation will be needed within the next two years. The chances are that the work of fortification will not be begun within five years. But having been approved by Congress this year it will be difficult, if not impossible, to get away from it when the ditch is finished. Therein lies the evil of the action. In that is concealed the iniquity.

Chairman TAWNEY, of the House Committee on Appropriations, who has given the matter careful consideration, estimates that these absurd fortifications will cost the country \$60,000,000 to complete and \$25,000,000 a year to maintain. It is admitted that 10,000 troops will be necessary to man the fortifications and therein will be found not only an excuse but a necessity for increasing the standing army. These things will combine to increase the taxes and before many years, notwithstanding our productive capacity, our people will be as poor as those of Russia and for precisely the same reason. The earnings of industry will be diverted from their legitimate uses to pay the profligate and useless expenses of the government.

If there were any necessity for fortifying the canal this wild extravagance might be overlooked. If building forts and locating guns and troops on the canal zone would contribute to the safety of the country, the profligacy might be forgiven. But as a matter of fact there is no more need for forts and guns and soldiers to safe-guard the canal than there is for two tails on a dog. The entire civilized world is committed to the policy of neutrality of the canal and no hostile ship of any nation could enter it without bringing down upon the power it represented the condemnation and hostility of all others. Under the circumstances the fortification policy is a crime against civilization.

If candidates and public sales count for anything in the business way Centre county is just now enjoying one of the greatest booms in her history.

The Freight Rates Decision.

The Pennsylvania Railroad is the first of the great carrying corporations to accept the decision of the Interstate Commerce Commission forbidding the increase of freight rates. The other corporations will follow the example later, reluctantly, no doubt, but certainly. The alternative is an appeal to the courts, which is expensive, and not promising of success. The Commission heard all the evidence that could be procured on both sides. It analyzed the testimony with great care and its decision was unanimous. It is hardly possible that the court would have decided otherwise and it is unlikely that either the Commerce Court or the Supreme tribunal will reverse the judgment.

From the viewpoint of the layman, moreover, no other decision was possible. The railroad companies alleged that increased freight rates are necessary to maintain wages, equipment and fair profits. But the facts are that during the recent past well managed railroads have been making immense profits at existing rates of wages and under present conditions with respect to equipment. Possibly ill-managed roads are not making good, but that is not the fault of the freight rates. In fact it was asserted during the investigation that railroads are extravagantly conducted and it certainly ought not to be expected that the people shall pay penalties because of incompetent railroad managers.

Government interference with business is reprehensible, as a rule, and is tolerable only under certain conditions. But carrying corporations are quasi public utilities and have no right to tax the people to excess. Those who provide the public with conveniences have a just right to demand fair remuneration for capital and their services. But they have no right to water stocks and charge the users of their utilities profits on fictitious values. This is what some of the railroad companies have been doing, and wanted to do to a greater degree, and it is fortunate that the Interstate Commerce Commission has given them a check. Profits are all right but robbery is wrong.

The rather severe arraignment of the President on account of the misuse of government patronage, made by Senator BOURNE, of Oregon, the other day, invites a comparison of the treatment of public officials. Of course all that Mr. BOURNE said in condemnation of the use of patronage to influence legislation ought to have been said. There is no greater evil in the public life of the country or greater menace to the perpetuity of the government. But in this form of corruption and bribery THEODORE ROOSEVELT has TAFT and all others skinned a mile and the word of protest was never raised against him. A few years ago ROOSEVELT actually appeared in the lobby of the capitol trading offices for votes against a resolution to investigate the Postoffice Department and not even a sign of objection was presented. On the principle of "better late than never," the BOURNE protest against TAFT'S practices should be welcomed. It may lead up to an important reform.

The President continues to iterate his threat that Congress will be assembled in extraordinary session in the event of the failure of the Senate to ratify the Canadian reciprocity pact. But we gravely doubt his sincerity and seriously question his courage in the matter. An extra session means substantial tariff revision within a brief season and that would deprive the tariff mongers of a considerable period of safe and profitable graft. TAFT owes a good deal to these favored plutocrats and if he wants a re-election he must depend upon them for the "sinews of war." Of course if he deserts them now they will abandon him then and measuring his future actions by his past performances, to say that he will sacrifice the interests is a poor guess.

Senator CUMMINGS, of Iowa, views tariff reform through the same lenses as some of the alleged Prohibitionists of Maine look upon prohibitive legislation. That is to say the blustering Iowan believes in tariff reform legislation but is opposed to the enforcement of it. This fact is proved by his attitude on the Canadian reciprocity pact. He has been talking in favor of tariff reform ever since he has occupied a seat in the Senate but the first chance he has had to put it into effect he turns tail. CUMMINGS is a blatherskite.

The country will rejoice that at noon to-morrow the official life of Senator EUGENE HALE will terminate and for a different reason a large portion of the people will be glad that Senator BEVERIDGE, of Indiana, will go into retirement at the same time. HALE is a menace and BEVERIDGE only a nuisance, but their retirement is almost equally desirable.

LENT.

Is this a fast-to-keep
The larder-lean
And clean
From fat of veals and sheep?
Is it to quit the dish
Of flesh. Yet still
To fill
The platter-high with fish?
Is it to fast an hour.
Or rags'd to go
Or show
A down cast look and sour.
No! 'Tis a fast to dole
Thy sheaf of wheat
And meat
Unto the hungry soul.
It is to fast from strife
From old debate
And hate—
To circumsise thy life.
To show a heart grief-rent:
To starve thy sin
Not bin—
And that's to keep thy Lent.
ROBERT HERRICK.

"Fortify the Canal."

From the Johnstown Democrat.
The Southern Washington Development association has sent a telegram to President Taft urging that the Panama canal be fortified, "owing to the threatened warlike condition of affairs in the Orient and the probable invasion of the Pacific coast."
What has the warlike condition of affairs in the Orient to do with the Panama canal? Can't our fortifications in the Philippines take care of oriental warlike conditions? If they can't, how can Panama canal fortifications deal with those alleged warlike conditions?

Where will the money to pay for fortifications of the Panama canal come from? Out of the pockets of labor, of the men who produce wealth. That money must be raised by taxation. All federal taxation is levied upon labor products; every tax upon labor products falls upon labor. Will the railroads pay any of the money used to fortify the canal? Not a cent. Will the street railways, the gas and water companies, the electric light and power companies pay any of it? Not a cent. Will the land and timber speculators pay any of it? Not a cent. Will the great steel companies, which will make the guns and other implements of war, pay any of that tax? Not a cent.

There is no more need to fortify the Panama canal than there is to fortify the Yellowstone Park or the White House; no more need than to encase President Taft in 14-inch armor and put a 13-inch gun in each of his pockets. The Suez canal, controlled by England, is not fortified. All that is necessary is to neutralize the Panama canal; that will cost nothing and it is to the advantage of every nation on earth to have a neutral canal.
However, if the canal is to be fortified, charge the expense to Special Privilege, not to labor. Change the system of taxation so that the taxes will fall where they belong—on private monopoly—and not another word will be said in favor of fortifying the canal. Special Privilege is willing enough to blow in hundreds of millions on war if the people have to pay the bill.

Pennypacker's Criticism.

From the Harrisburg Star Independent.
There was neither occasion nor excuse for Mr. Pennypacker's criticism of Mr. Stuart's administration of the office of Governor of this Commonwealth. Good taste should have smothered any inclination to compare the Stuart administration with his own, in order to make it appear that his was the better of the two, and Mr. Stuart's friends resent it.
Whatever may have been Mr. Pennypacker's motives, he should have stuck more closely to the facts in his self-laudation. He laid special emphasis on the statement that "no constructive work" was done during the Stuart administration. He means that Governor Stuart did not erect any public buildings. The state capitol and the Rittersville hospital which Pennypacker named in his interview were authorized to be built before he became Governor, and the stench of what was done during his term still nauseates the Commonwealth and offends the nose of every sister in the Union. The less Mr. Pennypacker says about his connection with the capitol the better.

Mr. Pennypacker said that when he became Governor the treasury surplus was \$12,000,000, and when his term was ended it was \$12,000,000. Evidently he has forgotten the real figures. According to Small's Hand Book, which is pretty good authority, in 1903, the year in which Mr. Pennypacker took the office of Governor, its treasury balance was \$15,818,559.19, and at the end of the fiscal year 1906 it had been reduced to \$11,440,042.92, and the following year, after Mr. Stuart had become Governor, it was increased by a million and a half.

As to the two administrations the popular verdict has been rendered and it will not be changed by any distortion of the facts.

The stand-patters and their Democratic allies in the Senate have had a good deal of trouble and put the country to a good deal of expense in retaining Mr. LORIMER, of Chicago, in his seat in the Senate, acquired by bribery. But LORIMER is worth a good deal to these elements in the body politic. His vote saddled a ship subsidy on the public the other day and as the Republican majority dwindles it will be needed more frequently in the future. Possibly he may have the deciding vote on the question of fortifying the Isthmian canal zone, a source of graft to which the Steel trust is looking anxiously.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

—Mauch Chunk is to have a large new modern business building and a cigar factory to employ forty or fifty hands.

—Word from various eastern counties indicates that the coming spring will witness a decided boom in building operations.

—Ground has been broken at Swedeland, Montgomery county, for the erection of a third blast furnace by R. Hecksher & Sons.

—Fifteen cases of whooping cough, one case of scarlet fever and four of chicken-pox were reported off the quarantine list in Huntingdon last week.

—Work has been started on the construction of the new trolley line between Johnstown and Ebensburg. It is expected that cars will be running by July.

—A thriving new industry in the shape of an extensive brick manufactory is located just east of Newton Hamilton. Macklin & Stevenson, the owners, have offices at McVeytown.

—A number of Italians are under arrest in Pittsburg charged with the murder of James Barrell, who was shot five times and his body slashed with a knife in McCoy Road late Wednesday night.

—The authorities of McKeesport have just discovered that many hundreds of citizens of that town have been getting their water supply free of charge. An effort is to be made to compel them to pay up.

—Frederick Keim, proprietor of a barber shop in Chester, has been missing since February 11th. As he was in the habit of carrying considerable money about his person his friends fear he has met with foul play.

—Frank Graham, a resident of Homestead, has achieved notoriety and won \$20 by consuming fifty raw eggs in less than 26 1/2 minutes, the time limit set when the bet was made. This gastronomic feat didn't hurt the eater.

—The DuBois Express tells of a prize hog owned by T. J. Wayne, a farmer near that place. The hog measures four feet across the back and ten feet from nose to tip of tail. It weighs about 1,000 pounds, not fattened.

—John Kleiner, a naturalized American, was taken into custody by state officers at Lebanon, as the result of the discovery that he had manufactured a bomb, the contents of which are now being subjected to the examination of an expert.

—Harvey Marshall, one of the best known Pennsylvania railroad employees in Indiana county, was struck by an engine near Avonmore last Monday and died later at his home in Blairsville. He had been since childhood a member of the Baptist church.

—A new company is being formed in Ebensburg to take over the stock of the Ebensburg fair association, which has been dormant for four years. The move, if successful, will mean a fair at that place the third week of August with new grandstands, exhibition halls, stables, etc.

—Knocked down by a street car, thrown out of an automobile and dropped from a man's arms while being conveyed to a hospital, Benjamin Cohen, aged 5 years, a resident of Philadelphia, died of his terrible injuries on Sunday afternoon within an hour of the beginning of his misadventure.

—Alderman Domohov, of Wilkes-Barre, has decided that it is no crime for a woman to have pretty eyes and to use them. The case grew out of the arrest of Miss Marion Chappelle, charged with disorderly conduct by Mrs. Annie Ludlow, whose susceptible young son Henry she had hypnotized.

—In the mountains of Somerset county the maple sugar season is on in full blast. The open weather of the past week with occasional freezes at night, has caused the sweet sap to flow. In the larger camps men are working day and night to convert the sap into syrup and sugar. The indications are for a large crop.

—At Jersey Shore the other day when a New York Central train stopped at the station passengers were surprised to see a stranger walk into the smoker and snap a pair of handcuffs on an unsuspecting traveler. He was an Italian wanted in Tioga county, for trying to murder his wife and also the man who attempted to interfere.

—A flock of wild geese numbering twenty-three were guests at the Somerset county almshouse corn patch recently. They were so numbed by the cold and bewildered that Steward Gray's son drove up to within twenty-five yards of them while hauling out fertilizer. Fortunately for them the hunters did not know of their presence until they had gone.

—A man giving his name as Benjamin Decker, but whose real name is W. J. Hart, several days ago hired a horse and buggy from liverman L. J. Swartz, of Huntingdon, claiming that he was going to the Raystown dam, where it is said, he had been employed. The horse and buggy were later found at Mount Union but the man has not yet been apprehended.

—Citizens of McKean county, owning or representing in an official capacity valuable oil property, will shortly appear before the Pennsylvania State Legislature to petition that body to pass a law which shall afford protection to property from forest fires. While these men represent oil interests their petition will be in the interest of forest conservation throughout the State.

—Citizens of McKean county, owning or representing in an official capacity valuable oil property, will shortly appear before the Pennsylvania State Legislature to petition that body to pass a law which shall afford protection to property from all forest fires. While these men represent oil interests, their petition will be in the interest of forest conservation throughout the State.

—Arthur Myers, aged 19 years, son of J. W. Myers, of Shireburg, left his home November 1, and the lad's parents have not seen nor heard from him since his departure. The boy is of heavy build, has grayish eyes, dark hair, and has a scar above his right eye, the injury being caused by a horse kicking him ten years ago. After he ran away he was seen in Lewisburg about December 1st.

—Russell Cook aged 6, died at his home in Johnstown Saturday night, of hydrophobia. While coasting a day before Christmas he ran into a strange dog. The animal snapped at him, severing the rope on the sled and inflicting a small scratch on the lad's ear. Nothing was thought of the matter and the lad continued to go to school. Friday he was seized with convulsions and his jaws became locked. The child died in terrible agony.

—Railroad construction work seems to be in a healthy state, in spite of the claim of dull business. An order for 1000 steel cars for the Lehigh railroad company has been completed by the Middletown Car Works, to whom the contract was awarded some time ago. The cars are now ready for shipment. The car works has also turned out twenty flat cars that will be shipped to South America. Arrangements are being made at the works for the construction of 500 wooden cars with steel underframes. These will be sent to South America.

—The reports of the relief departments of the Pennsylvania railroad system show that during the month of January, 1911, over \$7,000 a day were paid in benefits to employees of the company or their families. On the lines east of Pittsburg and Erie during the month of January payments to the amount of \$149,905.96 were made by the relief fund. In benefits to the families of members who died \$45,911.62 were paid, while to members incapacitated for work the benefits amounted to \$103,994.34. The total payments on the lines east of Pittsburg since the relief fund was established in 1886 have amounted to \$21,794,654.80.