

INK SLINGS.

—March has done right well, thus far, in the snow business.

—It is back to real conservation and the pines for Mr. BALLINGER.

—The first robin has made its appearance and it won't be long till BILL LYON or GEORGE BUSH is out with a straw hat.

—If prices keep on soaring seven passenger touring car can be bought in Centre county for less than a yearling hay motor.

—It isn't the sins of commission as much as those of omission that the last Congress will have to answer to the public for.

—The Colonel is off on another tour of the country. Look out for variable winds through the south and west for the next six weeks.

—It isn't so much the strenuousness of the campaign as what their opponents say about them that makes the candidates for office feel all run down.

—It took three years to land ABE REUF, the San Francisco grafter and briber, in the penitentiary, but it will take ABE fourteen years to land himself out again.

—Right or wrong the retirement of Secretary BALLINGER from the Interior Department will end a squabble that has been inimical to the dignity of our government.

—The mobilization of an army of twenty thousand soldiers on the Mexican border looks a little as if Uncle SAM were getting ready to benevolently assimilate something.

—The Pennsylvania Legislature has given local option another set back, but it takes more than a machine controlled body like that to dampen the ardor of the local optionist.

—If President TAFT really did say that he finds "much to rejoice in over the work of the Congress just ended" he must have meant that he rejoiced because it was no worse than it was.

—Senator BAILEY, of Texas, is a very able man. There is no refuting that. But Senator BAILEY is not the alpha and omega of all that is wise and therein lies the folly of the stand he has taken in the Senate.

—Adolphus BUSCH, the millionaire brewer, was given a gold loving cup at his golden wedding anniversary on Tuesday. A tub 'o suds would have been more appropriate and possibly better understood.

—Maine seems to have had nothing to regret over her Democratic landslide of last year. At her municipal elections on Monday a large majority of her cities elected Democratic mayors to succeed Republican incumbents.

—If that New England high brow is right in his statement that it was a pear and not an apple that ADAM and EVE ate it will be entirely proper to speak of your Adam's pear, if you are a skinny man and have just cut it while shaving.

—The tortoise lives longer than any known animal. But science will reconstruct its views when it reads the memoirs of Senator BAILEY, should his hasty resignation be accepted. About three years as a private citizen of Texas will fit him to tell how long some lives really seem.

—Every Democrat who is to occupy a seat in the next Congress should see to it that some one knocks all foolish notions out of his head between this time and April 4th. The country wants Democracy and sense. Nothing else will answer and if it doesn't get that there will not be another Democratic Congress.

—The call for the extra session of Congress may prove a boomerang that will force more than the Canadian reciprocity pact on President TAFT. The people voted for more than that and when the men they elected to give it to them get busy we fear the President will be unable to stem the tide that is unmistakable in its trend to a tariff for revenue only.

—The Democrats of Centre county would do well to let the matter of reorganizing the party rest until after we get our county ticket elected. No matter which side you are on keep quiet until we decide the thing of most importance right here at home. A hasty word now may mean a good many votes against you or your friend in November and argument isn't going to settle the controversy anyway. Let's all pull together to get a good, strong, clean ticket. Then pull again to elect it; then argue our heads off, if we want to, about this reorganization business.

—The Rev. Dr. AKED has grown tired of the professions of the ROCKEFELLER church in New York and has resigned. He declares that the professions of his wealthiest congregation in America are only "such stuff as dreams are made of" and he wants work, not professions. While we admire the ambition of the Doctor we are prone to think that possibly he might be failing in getting the "work" because he has failed to inject the right kind of religious ginger into his flock. It is certain that some people are hard to move. It is just as certain that all human beings, savage as well as civilized, have a modicum of religious sentiment. Therefore the belief that the New York congregation is capable of being awakened if the spirit should touch them in the right way.

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The Reorganization of the Party.

By the narrow margin of one vote the Democratic State Central committee, at its recent special meeting in Harrisburg, adopted the recommendation of the McCORMICK committee authorizing the appointment of a special committee of seven to reorganize the State Organization. The reasons given for this revolutionary proceeding was that the Democratic vote of the State, as expressed at the polls, had fallen to a meagre proportion. The party strength has been gradually diminishing, the supporters of the revolutionary movement declared, until at the last election it reached the minimum of less than one-third of its full complement. Inferentially the blame for this lamentable fact was shifted upon the shoulders of the present State Chairman.

Nobody regrets more than we this decadence of Democratic strength and no one has labored more assiduously to avert it. There have been influences at work within the large cities during recent years, over which neither the Democratic State organization nor the active Democrats of the State, have had control, which account, in part, for the condition. The traffic in federal and other offices, so eloquently reprobated by Senator BOURNE, of Oregon, the other day, is one of these agencies. Voters have been debauched by such methods of bribery, the high cost of living contributing largely toward the result. Honest differences of opinion among Democrats upon financial and economic questions have been contributory causes of demoralization in the party ranks but these were not the only or even the most potential influences in the evil operations.

During the last fourteen years there has been working in the Democratic mind the spirit of faction. In the beginning those who believed in one system of finance repudiated the candidate of the party for President because he was an advocate of another theory. Gradually this cause of quarrel was eliminated in fact by force of circumstances and the element which deserted at first became sufficiently strong to assert itself, in some measure, in the organization. In 1904 a candidate for President was nominated who held the views of the original voters and though the party leaders in control in Pennsylvania had been faithful throughout, the followers of Mr. BRYAN resented the nomination of Judge PARKER and organized a systematic campaign to punish those in authority in the party because Judge PARKER was nominated. Out of this unjust and unnatural quarrel has come the disaster which we all deplore.

For six years or more this strife has been maintained. Professed Democratic newspapers have attacked with surprising vehemence party leaders who were guilty of no offence unless generosity in supporting the party candidates and unselfish fidelity to the principles of the party are faults.

These same papers have worked assiduously to discredit the organization in every way and to belittle every effort it put forth for party success.

Men posing as Democrats, like those at the head of the present movement to assume control of the organization without consulting the Democratic voters, refused to do anything for the party, or to even vote its ticket because they had not been chosen as its leaders or acknowledged as its bosses.

Petty factional feelings controlled the actions of others who were constantly throwing every obstacle in the way of party success they could because their faction was not directing the party.

These things brought discouragement to the masses. Discouragement of the masses brought hopelessness to the voter and the result was a large stay at home vote.

It is to the stay-at-home Democratic vote that our present condition is most attributable.

And to the course of the very men and newspapers that are now seeking to take charge of the Democratic party that the stay-at-home vote is attributable.

It was not a lack of diligence upon the part of the Chairman or recreancy of leaders.

—It is worth while to observe that though more than half the time which usually marks the length of a session of the Legislature has elapsed since the beginning of the present session no important legislation has been enacted as yet and some of the important bills have not even been started. The school code, the mine code and the road bill are in committee with little prospects of early emergence and the tax and election bills are yet to be introduced. It is either the intention of the machine to make the session very long or the output of legislation exceedingly short.

—Spring will be here in less than two weeks.

Washington Was Surprised.

The Washington correspondents inform the public that the call for an extraordinary session of Congress was a complete surprise. The President had stated in the most positive terms that in the event of the failure of the ratification of the Canadian reciprocity agreement he would call an extra session. But the Senators and Representatives in Congress didn't believe him. They were betting on the other side. As a matter of fact nobody takes TAFT seriously, except himself, and nobody has the least respect for his word. He prevaricates whenever it serves his purpose. He falsifies whenever it suits his convenience. He doesn't vilify men or bear false witness against his neighbor as his predecessor in office did. But nobody can depend upon his word.

We own to an agreeable disappointment in the issue of the call for the special session. We had read his positive statements on the subject but in view of his previous departures from the line of veracity, paid no attention to them. The Senators in Congress understood his relations to the trusts and tariff mongers, as we did. They believed that he would yield to the importunities of the "interests," as we did. But he disappointed their expectations, as he did ours. During a lucid interval, in which courage asserted itself, he fulfilled his obligations and carried out his threat. It was the most surprising incident of his official life and the most gratifying. If Congress is equal to the emergency it will work splendid results for the country.

It is a safe guess, however, that TAFT will try to make the special session yield as little harm to the interests and as little good to the public as possible. He will try to limit the activities of Congress to the Canadian reciprocity agreement, which may do some good, but can't achieve much. The decrease of tariff taxes on woolens is of greater importance than putting potatoes on the free list. But TAFT will exhaust every expedient to prevent the decrease of the tax on woolens, while he is willing to put potatoes on the free list. He imagines that the people don't know the difference. He thinks he can fool all the people all the time. If he had more intelligence and less conceit he would know better.

The Extra Session of Congress.

President TAFT has called an extra session of Congress for the purpose of determining "whether Congress shall, by the necessary legislation, make operative," the Canadian reciprocity agreement. Obviously his purpose is to limit the activities of Congress to that proposition. There is a parliamentary maxim that a legislative body in extraordinary session can consider only questions enumerated in the call. President TAFT has stated that he will veto any tariff measure other than this Canadian treaty, which may be enacted and the call for the extra session next month enumerates no other subject than the Canadian agreement.

It may be presumed, however, that the Democratic majority in the House and the Democrats and Insurgents in the Senate of the new Congress will pay no attention to traditional restrictions. Article 2, Section 3 of the constitution of the United States authorizes the President to "convene both Houses, or either of them," on extraordinary occasions. He regards the failure of the Canadian agreement as justifying the exercise of this authority, and he is right. But the right of Congress to amend the agreement cannot be denied. Therefore it is not only the right but the duty of Congress to so alter the agreement as to make it apply to all countries with which we have trade relations and to include all necessities of life as well as food stuffs.

President TAFT is under obligations to the tariff mongers and the trust magnates, but he will hardly dare to veto legislation which will instantly and effectively solve the problem of the high cost of living. He is a candidate for re-election and with the record of such a veto he wouldn't carry a State in the union. But he will try to prevent such a proposition coming before him. He will exhaust every resource to limit the action of Congress to carrying out his own program. Such a course would be ruinous to the Democrats in Congress who are responsible to the people. The Democrats of the House will be recalcitrant if the tariff tax is not abolished on every necessary of life during the session.

—Hon. J. C. MEYER has as far as we can learn the universal approval of the people of the county for his vote against an increase of the salaries of the Judges of the State. Unfortunately for the taxpayers, a majority of the members of the Legislature do not have the judgment or the independence that Mr. MEYER shows as a legislator.

—Subscribe for the WATCHMAN.

Senator Bailey's Resignation.

Senator BAILEY's resignation the other day was an exhibition of temper as little creditable to him as some of his recent votes and speeches. He was chagrined, he says, because a number of Democratic Senators voted to approve the constitution adopted by the people of Arizona, as the basis for Statehood. The people of that new State have written into their fundamental law some Populist heresies, he declares, and for that reason the Territory should not be admitted as a State. It seems to us that the eloquent but too opinionated Texan is asserting poor political philosophy, from a Democratic viewpoint. We have always understood that home rule is a cardinal Democratic doctrine.

We are as little inclined to the initiative, referendum and recall as Senator BAILEY, but if the people of Arizona want such things it's their affair, not ours or Senator BAILEY's. Oklahoma has written a lot of those things into its constitution and seems to be getting along fairly well with them. Oregon and other western States have incorporated a lot of absurd things in the fundamental and statutory laws governing them, but we can see no reason why citizens of New York or Ohio should complain. A recent incident in Seattle, Washington, revealed the absurdity of the recall, but the shame of it is on the people of that city and not on those of Pennsylvania or any of its cities.

Viewed from this distance it looks as if the Democratic Senators who projected themselves into the affair with the purpose of inducing BAILEY to withdraw his resignation were "butterflies in." BAILEY has been acting a good deal like a spoiled boy lately. He may be, as some of his colleagues estimate, a very able Senator. He has proved himself to be a very persuasive and eloquent debater. But he is in the habit of misusing his talents and misapplying his influence. He is largely responsible for the presence of briber LORIMER in the Senate and altogether blamable for some of the inequities of the PAYNE-ALDRICH tariff law. As the faults of that measure are to be corrected it might be as well if BAILEY had taken himself out of the Senate.

Taft Prostitutes the Appointing Power.

The failure of the permanent tariff commission bill to pass finally is one of the gratifying incidents of the last Congress. It was one of the President's favorite measures. He didn't care for it for the reason that it was needed or would be beneficial to the public. He wanted it because it would have provided a lot of official patronage. If it had passed he would have been able to take care of several of the Congressional "lame ducks" who, without it, will be obliged to earn their living by some sort of labor or service, honest or otherwise. TAFT hoped to be able to put them into comfortable berths at public expense. This expectation has been disappointed.

The President has revealed to us what he would have done with this tariff commission if it had been created. For the last ten or twelve years one of the Georgia Congress districts has been sending to the House an insignificant little nobody named HOWARD who hasn't enough brains to grease a gimlet. At the organization of the Sixty-first Congress HOWARD deserted his party and supported the CANON interests in the fight for improvement of the rules of the House. In resentment of this recency he was refused a re-nomination and consequently failed of election to the next Congress. In order to recompense him for this loss TAFT has appointed him to a seat on the existing tariff board.

It is a safe bet that HOWARD wouldn't know an economic principle from a flying machine. As a member of the tariff board he will be of no more use than a fifth wheel to a wagon. But in an emergency he helped the Republican congressional machine by sacrificing his honor and TAFT rewards him by placing him in a lucrative position which if it were of any use at all would require the highest order of talents. Senator BOURNE, of Oregon, denounced TAFT the other day as a "huckster in official patronage" and this appointment of HOWARD, of Georgia, to a seat on the tariff board corroborates every accusation made. He is a briber and pays his obligations by trading in offices.

—The Pennsylvania Democratic delegation in the next Congress hasn't been very generously treated in the committee assignments if the list of probable chairmen published recently is anywhere near accurate. Possibly, however, the Pennsylvania Democrats in the next Congress have formed a voting trust and are so elated over getting a seat in the Ways and Means committee for the "holding" member that they don't care for individual honors.

What Congress Did and Did Not Do.

From the Philadelphia Press.

Out of the smoke of the closing battle in Congress emerge these results of large interests:

POSITIVE RESULTS. Provision of \$3,000,000 for the fortification of the Panama Canal. Provision for two new battleships. Recodification of the judicial code—regarded as most important for the amelioration of the law's delays.

Creation of forest preserves in the southern Appalachian and White Mountains. Providing for the construction of embassy and legation buildings abroad.

Requiring the inspection of locomotive boilers. Creating Robert E. Peary a rear admiral on the retired list of the navy and formally tendering thanks of Congress to him.

Creating a commission of five Senators and five Representatives to investigate conditions in Alaska.

NEGATIVE RESULTS. Failure of the Canadian reciprocity agreement and consequent calling of an extra session. Failure of the permanent tariff board bill, which passed the Senate but was killed by a filibuster in the House.

Failure of the resolution to admit to Statehood Arizona and New Mexico, killed by a filibuster in the Senate. Failure of the proposal to increase the rate of postage on the advertising sections of the large magazines; but a commission provided for to investigate the subject.

Failure of the resolution providing for the direct election of United States Senators. Failure of the general age pension bill. Failure to act on Ballinger-Pinchot investigation reports.

Failure to enact the ocean mail subsidy, passed by the Senate alone. Failure of the effort to unseat William Lorimer as Senator from Illinois on the ground of alleged bribery in his election.

Failure of bill fixing canal tolls and settling form of government for Panama Canal zone.

Lorimer.

From the Altoona Times.

It is a significant and not altogether agreeable fact that Senator William Lorimer, of Illinois, retains his seat in the Senate of the United States by the votes of the Senators, who have been dismissed by the withdrawal of public confidence and public support at the last election. The "lame ducks" were almost unanimously for the man whose main defense was that he did not have guilty knowledge of the crookedness which landed him in the Senate. The opposition of Lorimer was by no means an insurgent opposition. Senator Root, who must be credited with some degree of intelligence and who is at the same time little given to radical moves, delivered a philippic against Lorimer which must stand for many years as a brilliant example of patriotic oratory. Mr. Root declared that the future of the Republic depended on the United States Senate uttering a clear judgment against the sort of political corruption which was the election of Lorimer possible. The vote on Senator Lorimer is declaratory of character and intention. It will be hard to convince the country that that vote does not imply full commitment to the methods and purposes which have brought the Senate of the United States into no inconsiderable measure of disrepute throughout the country. If persons of the rasher sort draw the conclusions that those who voted for Senator Lorimer believe in all the things which have made Senator Lorimer possible, we cannot much blame them. It is sufficient to say as the final comment on the whole case that the Lorimer vote will do more than any other event in our recent politics to push forward the demand that the election of Senators hereafter shall be by a direct popular vote.

No Higher Rate.

From the Pittsburgh Post.

By a ruling of the Interstate Commerce Commission Saturday the Eastern and Western railroads will not be permitted to put into execution their proposed increase of freight rates, which were to have taken effect on the 10th of March. The Southwestern roads fare a little better, as they gain a few points in which the inequality was so apparent that an increase was considered justifiable.

The proposed increase had the effect of arousing shippers all over the country, who contended that the railroads were getting all that the condition of business would warrant, and that to impose any additional rate would be a burden beyond their means to meet. To offset this contention the railroads held that the cost of operation demanded the higher rate, and that it was the only method by which they could evade financial difficulties.

But as the commission says there shall be no increase it is up to the railroads to adjust their business accordingly. By proper and economical management, and possibly giving some heed to the advice of Mr. Brandeis, they may find a way for increasing their revenues under the existing rate. There is always a way for a corporation as well as an individual to adjust itself to a condition, and "The Post" believes the railroads will prove equal to the emergency.

The Difference.

From the Altoona Gazette.

Congress has passed a bill placing Peary on the navy retired list with the rank of rear admiral, to date from April 6, 1908, the date upon which he reached the north pole. Peary's rival, Dr. Cook, is also on retired list, but it didn't take an act of Congress to place him there; neither will he receive "the highest retired pay of that grade under existing law and the thanks of Congress," as will Peary.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

—Mill Hall is to have a National bank in the near future. A new building is to be erected for its occupancy.

—B. F. Gregory, of Lewistown, has invented a street sweeping machine that is said to be a great improvement on any now in use.

—Something of a sensation was created by the discovery that a man who had been handling provisions in a Harrisburg warehouse had small-pox.

—A DuBois chicken thief was sighted by some young folks of that town a few evenings ago. The police got the chickens, but the thief got away.

—After thirty-eight years in the Pennsylvania railroad employ, Samuel Walls, aged 58 years, a brakeman in the Renovo yard, was killed on Saturday.

—Fires have been lighted at the big mill condenser at Mill Hall. Within the next ten days the tests will be made and the plant ready for operation.

—The epidemic of measles existing in Philadelphia shows no signs of abatement. Last week there were 518 cases of the disease as compared with 466 the previous week.

—Henry W. Maxwell, of Slatington, who died recently, left \$100,000 to his widow as long as she remains unmarried. Should she take another husband she is to have but \$4,000.

—Seeking to gain possession of a \$200,000 farm at Fairview, Erie county, A. F. Dobler's children have sued him, while he is in a hospital and is said to be under a young wife's influence.

—Fifty-seven Zelenopole wives wrote a local pastor that the ideal husband should be truth, economical, liberal with the needy, not join a club that has a sideboard and never gamble or swear.

—It is the theory of some health experts that the epidemic of typhoid fever which has been afflicting Erie is due to the practice of throwing tons of decaying fish into the lake from fishing boats.

—Frank Lee, condemned to be hanged at Lewisburg on March 9th, has been reprieved until April 10th. His attorney will make an effort to get the board of pardons to commute his sentence to life imprisonment.

—Bricks from the Clymer plant are to be used in street paving operations at Indiana, this spring. They will be hauled about one hundred miles by rail, although but nine miles is the distance between the two places.

—The deputy attorney general decides that the State cannot be made to pay any part of the cost of certain cattle introduced into the State without permit and killed as the cause of the foot and mouth disease epidemic of 1908.

—Valley Forge Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, at a meeting held at Norristown, adopted resolutions protesting against the removal of the remains of General Hancock from Norristown to Arlington.

—Owing to the fact that there are several claimants for the reward of \$200 offered for the capture of Si Rizzo, the Clearfield court is asked to decide who gets the money. The case of Rizzo, who was acquitted, cost the county \$476.

—While returning to their home near Washington on Saturday night, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Patterson were halted by a masked robber, who pointed a gun at Patterson and compelled him to hand over his money, which amounted to \$10.

—Of a total of thirty-two new applicants for liquor license in Cambria county, Judge O'Conner granted two. He held over nine new applications and eleven old ones. Four new ones were withdrawn and eleven refused. In all, 338 licenses were granted.

—William Schrock, an adventurous Pittsburgh youth, aged 18, created a commotion in certain sections of the city by capturing a West Penn locomotive Sunday morning and taking a wild ride over the tracks for several miles. He was captured and locked up.

—Samuel Adams and his wife Mary, ended their lives by hanging themselves in the attic of their home on a farm near Hamburg. He was 35 and she 29. They couldn't agree and concluded to end their lives rather than ventilate their troubles before the public.

—The Huntington Home for Orphan and Friendless Children closed its thirtieth year on March 1st. Owing to large demands made upon it, the name has been changed to Juniata Valley Children's Aid Society. A considerable endowment fund has been raised.

—Thomas Husey, of DuBois, who had just been released from the Clearfield county jail after making good worthless checks he had passed, worked the same trick successfully on a Punxsutawney grocer. He was arrested but the grocer was merciful and the man was allowed to leave town.

—John Hoover, of High Run, near DuBois, killed a large wild cat last Saturday. Mr. Hoover's dogs were being badly used in the battle when he brought the animal down with a rifle shot. It measured three and one-half feet from tip to tip. It is the third Mr. Hoover has caught this season, besides a fine silver gray fox.

—Lewistown wants Mifflin county to build a bridge over the Kishacoquillas creek in order that a street may be opened to connect the north and south ends of the town. As the town pays one-third of the county's taxes, it feels that it has "rights." The county commissioners are non-committal as to their course of action.

—The Pennsylvania railroad is shipping many railroad ties from northwestern Pennsylvania. Heretofore the company would buy only high-priced railroad ties, but nowadays any old thing is bought. The ties are treated chemically and the beach, maple and other woods that were formerly cast aside become as lasting as white oak.

—Workmen repairing the roof of the house of Nathan Chester, a Montgomery county citizen, were routed by a swarm of bees. Nine buckets of honey were obtained beneath the roof after the bees had been taken care of. Under the same wonderful roof were found bushels of walnuts which squirrels had carried into the place as provender for the winter.

—About two thousand men and boys will be employed when the Stanton breaker in Luzerne county is reopened for operation in April. The new breaker, which has been in the course of construction for several months, while not one of the largest in this section, is one of the most modern in equipment and will have a capacity of 3,000 tons of coal a day.

—There are over 4,500 signatures to the general remonstrance against the granting of liquor licenses in Huntington county. Of these, over 2,500 are qualified voters. In Huntington 1,042 signers affixed their names to the paper. In Black Log valley only three voters refused to sign. Specific remonstrances have also been filed against the different hotels. The Interdenominational Temperance committee of the county and the Woman's Christian Temperance Union took charge of the work.

—Residents of Avoca have been warned by mining men and old experienced miners that, owing to the removal of coal pillars supporting the surface, the entire town may at any time drop into the abandoned workings. Many families in the town are preparing to move from the town. Cave-ins have occurred in the streets and under the railroad tracks of the Lehigh Valley and the Central Railroad of New Jersey. For some time it was supposed that the coal company was robbing pillars, but no official announcement has been forthcoming. Since the surface started settling some time ago, residents have been living in fear of a catastrophe and many have already moved away.