

INK SLINGS.

The circus, the hurdy gurdy and the straw hat are abroad in the land, but where, oh where is spring.

The latest veils for my lady's face must have imitation spiders on it. A sort of come into my parlor suggestion for the only man.

Four days in succession of sunshine and balmy weather have done more for billious humanity in this neck o' the woods than a ton of calomel could do.

Governor WILSON, of New Jersey, must certainly be out for President. He is planning a rear platform tour through the west and south. Certainly that's a symptom worth watching.

Those Los Angeles dynamiters are caught at last, so the detectives say, but the faith of the public in detectives has been so severely shaken that Mr. BURNS will have to make it very clear that the men he has are the right ones.

The Daughters Congress was war from start to finish. That of the Mothers of America as placid as a May morning. Possibly the Daughters would not have so much ginger to work off in their annual rumpus if a few more of them were Mothers.

That New Jersey woman who has demanded to know of Col. ROOSEVELT why his own family doesn't show twelve children evidently doesn't understand that the Colonel has been a very busy man in recent years and has had to spend much of his time away from home.

It must be said in justice to the victim that DELICE did his part in the horrible affair of Tuesday in a way that reduced the unpleasant features of official duty to a minimum. He must either have been a hopeless degenerate or sincerely repentant and conscious of his shortcomings.

The record of the battleship Delaware in running thirty thousand miles under continuous steam is another reminder of Uncle SAM's superiority in all things and we might have time to get pretty well swelled up about it before some muck-raker figures out what the coal bills must have been.

Don't stand around on the street corners talking hard times. If you are temporarily out of employment fix up that garden and yard of yours. They can both be made to yield prolifically in vegetables and pleasure and your home will appear bright, even if the industrial prospect is dark.

President TAFT has been called upon to name the triplets recently born to a Kentucky family. He might suggest Faith, Hope and Charity. Faith that the country had in him, hope that he has of succeeding himself and charity that the public should now enshroud his failure as a President.

Against the Pennsylvania Legislature has blasted the hope of the old soldier. The bill to pension him has been killed in the Senate. Possibly Harrisburg is only considering this bill as a sort of "teaser" until the last of the Vets have gone to a place where their votes will not be needed. And the good Lord knows they are going fast enough.

Justice LEE of the Superior court of Rhode Island, has ruled that a man is justified in slapping his wife for rifling his pockets. That may be the law in Rhode Island, but it is far from our sentiment. The man who degrades his wife to the point where she is compelled to go through his pockets is the one who ought to be slapped, according to our notion.

The Guttenberg bible, printed in 1450, brought fifty thousand dollars at the HOE sale in New York on Monday. It was the first book to be printed from movable type. The one grand thing about this sale is that while few of us would have fifty thousand dollars to give for a copy of the book of books, a fifty cent copy contains just the same sublime truths and points the way to the Home where riches make as little difference in persons as price does in the contents of the bible.

The Republican's story of how Mr. QUGLEY and Mr. HURLEY have both withdrawn from the race for county chairman for harmony's sake is really delightful. It would have you believe that their love for harmony brought about their withdrawal, when the truth is that the new law does not provide for the election of a county chairman for their party in Centre county this year, consequently there was nothing to fight for. Were it not for this fact the fur would be flying as usual and the Republican's harmony dope still bottled up.

Representative A. MITCHELL PALMER, of Monroe county, is satisfied that the conspiracy of seven which has undertaken to destroy the Democratic party of Pennsylvania, has chosen the only man in the State who is capable of filling the office of member of the Democratic National committee. In fact it may safely be predicted that Mr. PALMER is satisfied that that office has never been properly filled and never will be until he gets in. The Hon. A. MITCHELL PALMER is very much pleased with the Congressman from the Twenty-sixth district, morally, mentally and physically.

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Either Ignorant or Untruthful.

It is perfectly natural for Senator PENROSE and his lieutenants in control of the State Legislature, to do what they can to assist the discredited and deposed Democratic leaders who for years have been their allies in the misrule of the State.

The bills to postpone the election of committeemen until next year's primaries, and to deprive the Keystone party of the right of representation on the registration boards in Philadelphia, were intended to retard and embarrass the honest and thorough reorganization of the Democratic party in accordance with the demands of the rank and file. This has been perfectly understood from the beginning.

The foregoing we take from Mr. VANCE McCORMICK's Harrisburg Patriot of Tuesday last.

One would imagine that an individual big, or broad, enough to aspire to the position of leader of the Democracy here in Pennsylvania would hesitate to show how little he knows of the Democratic party or its organization, within the State, by the publication of such unmitigated rot; or at least would try to find some excuse for attempting to disorganize and discredit the party he seeks to boss other than through such unfounded charges and insinuations as are contained in the above.

But then there are people whose size would never be known to the public if they did not show themselves, and this would-be "boss" appears to be one of them.

The facts are that the bills referred to by Mr. McCORMICK, as being passed "by Senator PENROSE and his lieutenants" to "assist the discredited and deposed Democratic leaders who for years have been their allies," by "postponing the election of committeemen until next year's primaries", applies to and will effect the election of committeemen in but eight of the sixty-seven counties of the State. These counties are Centre, Clarion, Elk, Forest, Monroe, Montour, Perry and Pike. These are the only counties in which the party rules provide for the election of county chairmen (who are also the members of the State committee,) at the primaries, and in which this alleged PENROSE bill will have the effect of continuing the present chairmen until the primaries in April next; so that in any event the passage of the measure would have such an infinitesimal effect, in the way of "assisting the discredited and deposed Democratic leaders," that no man with ordinary political vision can see it as Mr. McCORMICK pretends to.

Additional evidence of Mr. McCORMICK's untruthfulness in his charge that this bill is being pushed by Senator PENROSE in the interest of the men he refers to as "discredited Democratic leaders," and will aid them in continuing their present membership in the state committee, is proven by the fact that four of the eight counties named—Forest, Montour, Perry and Pike, have as their members of the committee, men who stood cheek by jowl with Mr. McCORMICK, at the committee meeting, last March, in his effort to foment additional trouble for the party and to continue the division and demoralization of the Democratic forces of the State, thus showing that the bill he uses as an excuse for his dirty fling at the real and regular Democrats, gives exactly the same aid, if aid is given to any, to his own little disorganizing faction that it does to those he charges as being "allies of PENROSE and his machine."

And this charge of Mr. McCORMICK is on a par with every other charge that he or any other of his disgruntled followers have been able to hatch out against the Democrats who have born the brunt of the fight the Republican Machine has been waging against the Democracy for years and years back. It is the kind of stuff they have been using for years. The kind they depend upon to disrupt and destroy the Democratic party of Pennsylvania.

These malcontents, for whom Mr. McCORMICK, through his paper, seems proud to pose as leader and speaker, began this work in 1896. They have stuck to the job persistently ever since. Some of them may have voted an occasional Democratic ticket, as did Mr. GUTHRIE when he was supported for Lieutenant Governor in 1896, by the "reformers," he is now willing to sacrifice the party to defeat, and Mr. McCORMICK possibly did the year the regular Democrats of Harrisburg, whom he has ever since been denouncing and discrediting, honored him with their nomination for mayor. But as a whole their efforts and work has been directed *offener* and with more vigor against the party and its nominees than for it or the ticket its people had nominated.

And this has been going on ever since their work as PALMER and BUCKNER adherents showed them how much more effective they could make their efforts to defeat the Democracy through the demoralization of its organization than by open and manly opposition to its platform, its candidates and its purposes.

Taft and Tariff Reform.

During the debate on the Canadian reciprocity agreement, in the House of Representatives, last week, leading Republicans frequently declared that the free-list bill now under consideration will not pass the Senate or, if it does, will be vetoed. These are twin measures intended to reduce the cost of living to a fair level. The reciprocity pact which, though urged by the President, failed of passage in the last Congress, entirely removes or greatly modifies the tariff tax on agricultural products. The free list bill which originated in the Democratic Ways and Means committee of the present House will recompense the farmers for any loss caused by the reciprocity agreement, by abolishing the tariff tax on agricultural machinery and other implements and supplies used by farmers and decreasing the rates on cotton and woolen fabrics.

Some weeks ago President TAFT intimated that he would not approve legislation of this description and the managers of the Republican congressional machine asserted that the Senate would not enact such a measure. For that reason we believed that it would be wise to enact the free list bill first and make the executive approval of it a condition precedent to the passage of the reciprocity agreement. That course would have made the passage of both measures certain, for the President's anxiety to secure the Canadian measure would have influenced him to approve the other. But the Democrats in Congress elected to adopt the other policy and trust to the wisdom or the honor of the President to complete the reform he had initiated. We sincerely hope these amiable expectations will not be disappointed.

The reciprocity agreement passed the House of Representatives a week ago today, by the overwhelming majority of 265 to 89. Of the negative votes ten were from the Democratic side of the chamber while 198 of the affirmative votes were cast by Democrats. Sixty-seven Republicans voted for the bill and seventy-nine against it, though the President had impudently and even dragged the Representatives of his party to sustain him on this question. Whether the political alignment will be the same in the Senate is, of course, problematical. The Republicans have a majority of ten in that chamber and the ratio maintained on both sides would guarantee the passage of the bill by a safe majority. But the vote on the free list bill is another story. The insurgent Republicans, opposed to reciprocity, are likely to favor the other measure.

The attitude of the President is next to be reckoned with. If he signs the reciprocity bill and vetoes the free list measure he will have used the Democratic majority in Congress to serve his personal purpose. He will also be serving the interests of the trusts which shamelessly oppress the farmers by taxing their implements and supplies. But on the other hand he will have to face the just indignation of the agricultural element of the population, the strongest voting power in the country. President TAFT owes this sinister service to the trusts, but we doubt his courage to fulfill the obligation. By falsely pretending that he favored precisely the tariff reform which is expressed in this bill during his last campaign he converted impending defeat into victory. But he can't fool the people this time.

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Our heart bleeds in sympathy for Mr. P. A. B. WIDENER, of Philadelphia, who has just lost out in a competition with another multi-millionaire for possession of the first copy of the Bible ever printed. This treasure having been put up for sale Mr. WIDENER bid \$49,000 for it but Mr. H. E. Huntington, of Los Angeles, raised the bet a thousand and got the prize. But Mr. WIDENER need not despair entirely. He may be able to secure the first deck of cards ever printed and its safe guess that his grandfather would care about as much for the one as the other.

There are signs of "cold feet" already on the so-called excise commission bill. It will be recommitted, according to the gossip in the lobby, for amendment and we predict that it will never again escape from the committee room.

A Stubborn Legislative Serpent.

There is a serpent wriggling its way through the legislative halls in Harrisburg that is surprisingly like the real reptile of tradition in some respects. There are snakes, according to naturalists, which are difficult to kill. Their heads may be crushed and their backs broken, but they refuse to die. Pernicious life remains in their tails, these stories allege, for hours after the heads have been reduced to pulp and the more venomous the snake the more tenaciously life sticks to it. The bill to require residence hunters in Pennsylvania to take out licenses to hunt appears to be a serpent of this variety. It has been smashed in every conceivable way, but refuses to die.

Four years ago this serpent of graft first appeared in the legislation of the State. By a fraudulent operation it was reported from the committee of the House and wriggled its way on to the calendar when representative DERSHAM, of Union county, heaved a rock at it with apparently fatal effect. It did retire it for that session and another, but early in the present session it again made its appearance. Mr. DERSHAM again got busy and the Hunters' and Anglers' association as well as a number of his colleagues in the House gave him earnest and effective support, with the result that the measure was defeated in the committee of the House by a practically unanimous vote. Everybody thought that would be the end of that legislative snake for the present session at least. But it wasn't. The snake was only scotched, not killed.

It sought another field of operation, however, a safer jungle for legislative snakes. A couple of weeks later it was discovered in the Senate committee on Game and Fish. There were plenty of enemies there to give it a quietus, but its friends begged that it be given a chance on the floor, which was agreed to. On Wednesday of last week it came to a vote and was defeated by a vote of twenty-five nays to thirteen yeas. In all decency that ought to have ended it, but it didn't. After most of the Senators had left the chamber a motion to reconsider the vote was made and carried and the snake has wiggled its way back upon the calendar. Its friends hoping, possibly, that some day in the rush of business they will be able to sneak it through.

The Forestry Department.

The resolution introduced by Representative FLYNN, of Elk county, on Monday evening, ought to have some effect in clearing the atmosphere of the Forestry Department. Like some other departments of the State government this one is always reaching out for more power and coveting greater authority. The commissioner is never satisfied with his administrative duties and executive obligations. He is constantly yearning for new worlds to conquer. He feels that he ought not only to control the State forests but the forests of the people. He is as ambitious as Caesar and not near as brainy.

It has been charged that the Commissioner of Forestry has been conducting the Department over which he presided in the interest of his own family rather than that of the public. Some say that he has been operating saw mills for the manufacture of lumber out of timber taken from the State forestry reserves. It has been alleged that he is at the present time constructing a boulevard through a forestry reserve in order to make an automobile drive for some Philadelphia millionaires who own a club house adjacent. There are suspicions that a number of his brothers, cousins and aunts are employed at easy work with generous recompense not because they are efficient but for the reason that they are relatives.

These accusations have been current in the form of rumor and gossip so long that they ought to be cleared up. We have even heard it said that the purchase of land for the purpose of forestry reserves has become a matter of favoritism and the price of property is regulated by the measure of friendship which exists between the disposer of the land and the Forestry Commissioner. Such rumors if permitted to go too long develop into public scandals and no citizen of Pennsylvania wants more scandals in the public life of the State. For these reasons we are glad that Representative FLYNN introduced his resolution.

Speaker COX, of the House of Representatives in Harrisburg, has been cut up some capers lately that are likely to give the machine managers a touch of the "high strikes." Last week he called Dr. FAHEY, of Philadelphia, to account for performances and on Monday night of this week he gave Representative GRAY-BILL a turn that nearly plunged him into a convulsion fit. If this thing keeps up COX may be expected, after a while, to ask for a judicial seat, as a reward for his civic virtues.

Harmon in the Field.

The formal launching of the Harmon boom has been accomplished by the Ohio delegation in Congress under the leadership of Senator Pomarene. It remains to be seen what prosperous winds and tides it will be carried forward into 1912. Perhaps there is significance in the fact that Senator Pomarene has made himself responsible for Governor Harmon's presidential aspirations. His own standing as an advanced progressive is likely to be accepted in many quarters as a guaranty that his principal measures well up to the progressive standard. There can be no doubt that Governor Harmon has traveled pretty far since his somewhat spirited encounter with Mr. Bryan a couple of years ago. At that time the Ohio executive was not recognized among the progressives at all and men like Tom Johnson and Herbert Bigelow and Brand Whitlock felt impelled to antagonize him as a hopeless reactionary. It is now Tom Johnson's close friend and political associate who takes the lead in bringing Governor Harmon into the presidential spot light. Just what the reactionaries will do under the circumstances is problematical. They have been thrown overboard first by Woodrow Wilson, of New Jersey, and now by Judson Harmon, of Ohio, and at the moment no one else is in sight to whom they may turn. Of course there is always Senator Bailey, of Texas; and possibly Governor Dix, of New York, might afford them a refuge; but even Dix may not be able to stem the progressive tide. At any moment he may be carried away by it as Harmon has lately been and as Wilson was carried the moment his political bark was launched.

It will be interesting to watch the progress of the Harmon movement. For the present it is unlikely to be encouraged in any material degree by the progressive element of the party. Gov. Harmon was so long and so intimately associated in the public mind with what was generally regarded as reactionary that Mr. Bryan's friends and those who have been disposed to turn to Governor Wilson, Champ Clark or ex-Governor Folk will hold aloof until they behold works meet for a repentance which the distinguished Ohioan seems to have undergone or to be undergoing. They may wait indeed before committing themselves as the Ohio delegation has done until they see that Wall Street has turned upon Governor Harmon as an apostate to the plutocratic cause.

Amending the Constitution.

From the Harrisburg Star Independent. It would seem that the constitution of Pennsylvania has become such an ancient, imperfect, nonsensical piece of claptrap popular legislation, that it is the ambition of many statesmen to modernize it and make it what they think a real constitution ought to be. Hence there are introduced as many resolutions to amend it as there are bills to change the game and fish laws. In the present session more than a dozen such resolutions have been introduced. There are half a dozen on the calendars that were taken up last night—four in the House and two in the Senate. These do not include the Tustin amendment to increase the indebtedness of municipalities, which was sent to committee last week. Among them is the resolution proposing an amendment to allow the State to borrow \$50,000,000 to be used in the construction of roads. The improvement of roads in this State is one of the great public necessities of the day, for the results of piecemeal have not always been the very best. Hence the comprehensive plan of road building contained in the Sprull bill was proposed, and as it is bound to be very costly, it is also proposed to enable the Commonwealth to borrow \$50,000,000 for the purpose. Four years ago a proposition to borrow half that sum was defeated because the Capitol scandal was fresh in the minds of the people, and they would not trust the ruling party with that much money for the purpose. Now the people are brought face to face with a proposition to borrow twice twenty-five millions. It comes from the same party that is responsible for the Capitol scandal and all other scandals of maladministration and misgovernment. It is proposed in a Legislature that is running riot with the people's money. That is why the bill, which has already been passed in the Senate, will not be passed so easily in the House.

House Keeps its Pledge.

From the Pittsburg Post. The passage by the House of the Canadian reciprocity bill is a fulfillment of the Democratic pledge made to the people when that Legislation failed in the last Congress, and justifies the wisdom of President Taft in convening the extraordinary session. The bill met obstruction, as was expected, at the hands of Republicans and was opposed by a meager handful of Democrats.

The final vote showed 265 in the affirmative to 89 in the negative, which of itself is evidence of sentiment favorable to the measure. The vote was forced by the majority in the face of a movement to defer action until to-day.

The measure now goes to the Senate, where it will again have to run the gauntlet of opposition at the hands of members of the President's own party, who control that body by a small majority. There is hope, however, that with the support of the independent element it may get through and ultimately become a law. But no matter what its fate in a Republican Senate a Democratic House has put itself on record in the interests of the people and taken a direct step to aid a Republican President in reducing the cost of living to the common people. In that the Democratic majority has kept its pledge.

This will be followed by other tariff revisiting that will be more far-reaching in its effects and benefit the people to even a greater extent.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

All the social clubs in Franklin and Oil City have been reported to the grand jury of Venango county as violators of the liquor law.

While blacking her stove a Pottsville woman was blinded by an explosion of the polish. This is an argument in favor of the new "brown" stove.

Robbers made a haul last week at Vintondale, at the general store of Sam Bretts, the Rose jewelry store and Mrs. Isaac Myer's home. The booty amounted to \$200.

Phillipsburg is to have a new opera house, to be erected on the site of the one recently destroyed by fire. It will seat 1,600 people, will be on the ground floor, entirely fireproof and of substantial construction.

By direction of State Health Commissioner Dixon, the butter produced in the greater part of Lower Macumaze, a rich agricultural township of Lehigh county, has been quarantined on account of scarlet fever.

The Trinity Methodist Episcopal church of Lock Haven will have new windows, redecorated walls, new electroliners, new carpet and various other improvements, the total cost of which will be about \$10,000.

Thirty sheep, fifteen lambs, three cattle, farming implements, hay and corn went up in smoke on the Robert Weisell farm in Centre township, Perry county, when the large bank barn burned. The loss is \$5,000.

Joseph Frickhorn, of Johnstown, is the father of thirteen children, all of whom spent Easter Sunday with him in honor of his seventeenth birthday anniversary. Twenty-three grand-children were also present.

Charles Leeper, of Quarryville, gets his name in the paper once a year by reason of his capacity for Easter eggs. This year he managed to eat sixty-four for his Easter morning breakfast, three more than a year ago.

George Pearce, of the coal firm of George Pearce & Sons, of Portage, died suddenly a few days ago at the age of 30 years. He was smoking after dinner when stricken with apoplexy. For many years he was a resident of Houtzdale.

George W. Herbert, of Harrisburg, who is something of a bass fisherman and a good deal of a newspaper man, is to be editor of the Mountain and Stream Journal, a monthly publication, that will be issued in the interest of and by the Hunters' and Anglers' Protective Association of Harrisburg.

The Valley House, in Lewistown, was closed last week. Mrs. Susan Breneman was proprietress of the house for fifty years. The hotel, when first opened, one hundred and eleven years ago, was known as the "Black Bear." The property was recently purchased by Harry Smith, who will convert it into a clothing store.

Despondent because of continued illness, which occasionally brought irrational moments to him, Harvey Galbraith, aged 53 years, a well known farmer of West Taylor township, Cambria county, committed suicide about 4 o'clock Monday morning in a hay shed on his farm, firing one barrel of a shotgun into his brain.

The West Virginia pulp and paper mill, at Tyrone, is to be enlarged by the erection of a building 100 feet wide and 250 feet long, made of concrete, in which bleach and soda ash for the use of their paper mills at Tyrone and Williamsburg will be made. It will have a capacity of 30,000 pounds of bleach and 15,000 pounds of soda ash daily, and will give employment to a large number of men.

Professional decorators are already at work in Berwick putting the principal buildings in gala attire for the meeting of Odd Fellows there on April 29th. Word has already been received from thirty lodges and it is known that no less than eighteen bands will be in line. Following the parade there will be a massed bands' feature, together with a grouping of I. O. O. F. banners and Patriarchal Militant.

DuBois will have good reason to call itself a convention centre this year. It will entertain the State convention of the Knights of Columbus the second week of May, when 1,000 or more delegates are expected. May 15th-19th are the dates for the State shooting tournament, which will bring about 500 marksmen to the city. In August the Central Pennsylvania Firemen's association will be guests of the town.

Mrs. Catharine McCune, Bedford county's oldest resident and no doubt one of the oldest in the State, died last Friday at Hyndman at the age of 105 years. She was born in Londonderry township and for a number of years had resided with her daughter, Mrs. Catherine Luman, at whose home she passed away. The funeral was held on Sunday and was attended by a large number of people, by whom this aged lady was held in high esteem.

On Monday a resident of Barnesboro while drilling a water well, struck oil, which is flowing at the rate of 100 barrels an hour. A score of Pittsburg oil men left that city the same night for the purpose of leasing all the ground available in that vicinity with a view of drilling. As soon as the oil was struck the fortunate Barnesboro man immediately notified a Pittsburg oil man, and a special train was made up at Sharsburg and two car loads of piping were rushed to Barnesboro and the oil tacked.

The new Baltimore & Ohio tunnel through the Allegheny mountains at Sand Patch, Somerset county, the cost of which will approximate \$1,250,000, will greatly facilitate the operation of the Baltimore & Ohio by providing three tracks between Pittsburg and Chicago. Work on the improvement will be started without delay. The new tunnel will be of standard Baltimore & Ohio design, with a bore of about 4000 feet 30 feet in height, double tracked throughout and lined with brick.

William Larkey, aged 17 years, of Falls Creek, Clearfield county, was the victim of an accident last Saturday afternoon which deprived him of the sight of one eye and fears are entertained that he may lose the sight of the other. Young Larkey is employed as a machinist's apprentice at the Osburn Machine company and was assisting in doing some chipping at the time. Young Larkey happened to pass in front of the chipping hammer about the time a big piece of steel was unloosed and it hit him fair in the left eye and knocked the ball from the socket.

When the National Guard goes into camp next July, Governor Tener will have to do something new in order to get to the four brigade camps. During the week beginning July 8th he will be in camp with the Fourth Brigade in the vicinity of Philadelphia for a part of the week and will then jump to the west. Connect probably, to camp with the Second Brigade. On July 22nd he will visit the First Brigade near Philadelphia, and then go to Mount Gettys to dwell in the tents of the Third Brigade that same week. By the time the Governor gets through camping he will have a fair idea of the life of a soldier.

The new dam of the Pennsylvania Water & Power Co., on the Susquehanna river at McCall's Ferry, is proving a death trap for thousands of shad, and the predictions of old rivermen that these fish would be unable to get above the dam through the fishway are being verified. Alf-fisheries above the dam are consequently doomed. Thousands of shad can be seen swimming about at the foot of the structure, principally on the York county side, where their instinct led them because of the swifter current there. They seem wholly unable to locate the fishway, which is on the Lancaster county side. Fishermen are taking advantage of the situation and making big catches with seines and dip nets.