

Democratic Watchman

BY P. GRAY MEEK.

INK SLINGS.

Not yet the pungent perfume of the pearly moth ball for your winter flannels. Anyway the farmer who didn't get his oats in last week is happier now than the one who did.

How time does change the condition of things. Now it appears that Mayor GAYNOR, of New York, was only a near presidential possibility.

The Democratic cinch is still cinching. Baltimore city went Democratic on Tuesday in one of the bitterest fights they have had there in years.

The average business woman just can't get over the habit of making a social call out of every telephone communication she has with another woman.

When the dis-Honorable JACK JOHNSON gets those three dress suits and thirteen fancy vests on we fear he will be lit up so that poor King GEORGE V won't be seen at all at his own coronation.

It was a little too facetious for such an occasion but there was a vast lot of feeling voiced in it when they sang that old hymn about December being as pleasant as May at prayer meeting Wednesday evening.

Because there are ten thousand persons over 65 years of age dying in New York every year the Press of that city thinks it "the best old folks town in the world." Perhaps it is, for the heirs of the old folks.

The initiative, referendum and recall received a setback in the State Senate on Tuesday. The trouble seems to have been that the Senate was taken by surprise and not one of the Senators would take the initiative in pointing the way to duty to the others.

Judged from his work thus far it looks as though the Washington management had agreed to take most of that seventy-five hundred dollar salary it is paying pitcher WALTER JOHNSON out in advertising. He certainly has been returning very little of it in pitching.

The esteemed but misguided Johnstown Democrat has a prize department that is nursing along a lot of amateur poets. It is all very pretty. But it will only be a few years until the Democrat will be wondering why the clamor for the location of a State asylum in Cambria county.

A poker game and cigarette stumps are now said to have been the cause of the recent three million dollar fire in Bangor, Maine. Large as was that loss it is but a bagatelle in comparison with the anguish and distress these two pernicious habits of man have caused since they came into vogue.

The Legislature is going crazy on the tax question. Representative BENTLEY, of Washington county, wants to tax the receipts of base-ball and foot-ball games. Now wouldn't the State have had to have a magnifying glass to have found anything to tax at the box office of those Mountain league games last season.

Those French scientists who have announced that flies do not bother anything painted or papered blue and that a hop vine growing over a cottage or stable will keep the pesky fly away might be right so far as the aversion to blue coloring is concerned. But we have seen too many flies in ecstasies of delight on the nose reeking with the extract of the hop to believe that there is anything in the vine story.

The Carlisle Herald states that a Reading merchant who advertised for a servant girl and offered her good wages, all the comforts of home, the use of the telephone and automobile, got one instant. Being in the same need as the Reading merchant and in a position to offer the same inducements we are deterred from doing it only out of sympathy for the poor girl who might accept without a full knowledge of what that "old green devil" of ours is capable of doing at times.

P. F. STIMSON, an "efficiency engineer," predicts a future working day of four hours at higher pay than is now received for eight, greater results and no one being allowed to work who is under twenty-one nor over forty-five. It sounds a little as though Mr. Stimson might have a bug, but who can tell. The eight hour day succeeded the ten with a corresponding increase in pay and efficiency, so why not the four hour day with scientific management most rigidly applied in all lines of endeavor. However, the thing that interests us most is the advent of that happy day when the law won't even sanction our writing Slings.

The Democratic reorganizers are planning to form a league of the Democratic clubs of the State. It should not prove a very difficult task, since there are so few. The WATCHMAN has always felt that more party efficiency and interest can be aroused and kept active through the agency of attractive clubs in every community than in any other way. It is an incentive to the younger Democrats to stay by their moorings, as well as to keep the older ones from becoming disgruntled and dormant. And we know of no other causes by which the Democracy of Pennsylvania has been so insidiously attacked as by these two.

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The Judicial Salary Increase. The bill to increase the salaries of judges has been finally juggled through the Legislature. This measure has had "a rough road to travel," but it has overcome all difficulties. It was introduced early and was the first bill to get through both Houses. But upon the intimation that the Governor was opposed to some of its provisions, the votes for it at various stages were reconsidered and the work begun over again. Presumably the objections of the Governor have been removed and the bill will be signed like the other salary raising measures of this session have been. It is not likely that the line will be drawn on the judges. Properly controlled they are a valuable machine asset.

The passage of this bill will, of course, reopen to public discussion the validity of legislation which is directly in conflict with the fundamental law of the State. The constitution of Pennsylvania provides that "no law shall extend the term of any public officer, or increase or diminish his salary or emoluments, after his election or appointment." That would seem to be conclusive. It is plain language and practical common sense. But the Legislature has more than once, since the adoption of the constitution, increased the salaries of judges and though every judge in commission at the time had taken an oath that he would "support, obey and defend" the constitution, all those in commission accepted the increased pay.

The public will watch the judges with curious interest in view of this action of the Legislature. The first judicial salary increase was enacted during the administration of Governor BEAVER who vetoed the bill, so that the temper or rather the temperament of the judges of that time was not put to the test. The second judicial salary increase was enacted during the administration of Governor PENNYPACKER but the validity of it was not judicially affirmed until after his term of office had expired. Every judge in commission accepted the increase, however, under the pretense that the decision of the court made the law. The judges now in commission will justify the acceptance of the added compensation by the same line of reasoning.

It is a conservative guess that less than one in fifty of the judges of Pennsylvania believes in such an interpretation of the constitution. It may be asserted with equal confidence that among the capable lawyers of the State there is equal unanimity in the opinion that the constitution has been misconstrued. Yet the Legislature, every Senator and Representative in which is under sworn obligation to "support, obey and defend" the constitution, has three times passed such a law and the judges have once and probably will again acquiesce in it. This is a shameful moral condition to present to the view of the world but it is the condition which exists in Pennsylvania.

The Legislature and the Appropriations. It is to be hoped that the chairman of the Harrisburg House Committee on Appropriations will make good his promise to keep the appropriations within the limit of the revenues this year. No greater public outrage has ever been perpetrated than that which has grown into a custom of permitting the Governor to fix the amount of the appropriations. The constitution authorizes the Governor to veto any distinct item of an appropriation bill of which he does not approve, but the framers of that instrument never contemplated such a perversion of that power as has grown up in recent years. Beginning with the administration of WILLIAM A. STONE it has been continued by PENNYPACKER and STUART.

The Legislature has no more important duty to perform than that of appropriating the funds obtained by taxation to their proper uses. In the performance of that duty they are serving in a fiduciary capacity. It is not their own money they are distributing, but that of the people and they are under both moral and legal obligations to perform the service according to the constitution and the law. Therefore in recklessly appropriating the funds by legislation in excess of the amount available they are betraying both their moral and legal obligations. But the Governor doesn't correct the fault by usurping the powers of the Legislature. Two wrongs do not make a right.

If the Legislature limits the appropriations this year to the revenue receipts the Governor will have no excuse for the dangerous usurpations in which his immediate predecessors have indulged. Governor STONE declared that he had no alternative. Of course a man with a keener conscience would have found one. Governor PENNYPACKER justified himself by precedent. A man of finer moral organization would have known that one fault does not make a precedent. Governor

STUART didn't take the trouble to offer an excuse and the present Governor would probably be equally indifferent if the matter were brought up to him. For that reason it is to be hoped that the Legislature will do its duty this year.

Machine Managers to Fool the Governor. The Republican machine has determined to rip Governor TENER up the back in so scientific a way that he will not feel the injury, according to reports of a recent conference in Philadelphia. In other words the managers propose to stifle his Public Utilities bill in such a way as to leave him under the impression that the operation was unavoidable. The bill will be passed the House practically in its original form. That is expected to fool the Governor into the notion that everybody is playing fair with him. But when it reaches the Senate committee the strangling process will be introduced. That is to say it will be held in that committee so long that there will be no time to pass it finally.

There are some features of this bill of questionable merit. In some provisions it is drastic and dangerous. But the Governor and some of his friends believe that extreme measures are necessary to put needed restraints upon grasping corporations and seem willing to take the hazard of reversal by the courts in order to achieve the purpose. Wiser counsel would probably recommend a more conservative course. The modification of the radical provisions so as to bring them nearer in accord with the constitution might serve a better purpose. But the Governor has set himself to the opposite course and the public will watch the outcome of what promises to be a lively scrap with great interest.

Meantime, viewed from this distance, it looks as if the machine managers are presuming on the Governor's credulity. He has not had much experience in public affairs and probably lacks something in the matter of education along the lines of statecraft. But he is hardly stupid enough to be deceived in the way that is contemplated. He knows how many days are required to pass a bill and it is also, probably, as to the possibilities of secret work in the committee. If his pet measure is held so long as to make its passage impossible he will be more than likely to correctly interpret such action and if he represents an injury as a Governor can there will be something doing later on.

Mr. Nathan T. Folwell Protests. MR. NATHAN T. FOLWELL, president of the Manufacturers' Club of Philadelphia, is strenuously opposed to the Canadian Reciprocity agreement for the reason, as he declares, that "it is an entering wedge of free trade." All the tariff mongers in the country are of the same opinion and all the members of the Philadelphia Manufacturers' Club are tariff mongers. They have grown rich on the graft that the tariff affords them and are not willing to relinquish their advantage. It is the most contemptible form of robbery ever conceived by the human mind, but that makes no difference to them. It is like picking the pockets of a drunken man or rifling those of a corpse. But Mr. FOLWELL likes it.

We are not surprised, however, that Mr. FOLWELL should declare himself in this way. It has been charged, and so far as we have been able to discover, never denied, that the members of the Philadelphia Manufacturers' Club have freely and generously contributed money to buy votes for candidates for Congress who believed in protection. Debauching the ballot is the gravest crime in the calendar. It is like poisoning the water supply of a community. It is infinitely worse than overt rebellion against the government for it is a cowardly form of treason. But the Philadelphia Manufacturers' Club indulges in it, according to report, and the members of that organization make money out of the perfidy.

The Canadian Reciprocity agreement is not, as a matter of fact, an "entering wedge of free trade." It is not even a step in the direction of free trade. From the foundation of the government the levy of imposts has been a policy of the government and will continue to be so to the end of time, if the government endures. But it was never imagined by the founders of the government that the system would be prostituted to the base purposes of robbing the people as has been done by the political associates of Mr. FOLWELL. The Canadian Reciprocity agreement is a step in the direction of fair trade and justice between men and that will come notwithstanding the protests of political pirates.

The Bellefonte councilmen have decided to heed the demands of the borough auditors and will turn over their books for an audit of the fiscal year ending the first Monday of March, 1911. Subscribe for the WATCHMAN.

Would Deny Democrats Representation. Hon. GEORGE W. GUTHRIE has announced to his supporters that they, if Democrats, should make no claim for the appointment of Democratic "Registrars" in cities where personal registration is required. Evidently Mr. GUTHRIE holds the same ideas he entertained and the policy he enforced after the Democrats of Pittsburgh elected him to the office of mayor. And these were that Democrats were not fit for office or were unworthy of trust in public places. Then he made Republicans his chief advisers and placed at the head of his different departments men who had always denounced and opposed the party that gave him his position. Under his administration, if you ran across a Pittsburg official, you were sure to be up against an agent and supporter of the Republican party, although many of them boasted or being independents. In this case he would do even worse than he did in that. He would now deny to the Democracy the right the law gives them to have a voice in seeing that the registry lists in his and other cities are not padded, and would put the power, of determining who shall go on these lists and be allowed to vote, entirely in the hands of the Republican machine and the tools it could find in the Keystone party.

Nine tenths of the men who claim to be Keystone men, in the cities of Philadelphia, Pittsburg, Harrisburg and other strong Republican districts, are just as much Republican today, on all political questions, as they were before the Keystone party came into existence, and would resort to any devilment to defeat the Democracy, that the Republican machine would suggest. Mr. GUTHRIE knows this. He also knows that a mob, that has no fixed or recognized principles, no rules of guidance, no purpose other than to defeat some organization that they could not rule, is not a party in a legal sense, and that the law never contemplated such a construction of its provision as the new words forth.

Surely a man who would refuse to stand by the rights of his own party, or without an effort allow the Republicans to steal the few safe guards the law has given it, is not the kind of a person that should be allowed to carry its flag or could be depended upon to see that its interests were properly protected and its privileges defended and preserved.

And Mr. GUTHRIE has virtually announced that the Democrats should have no power to protect itself by protecting the purity of the ballot box.

Leader Underwood All Right. Representative UNDERWOOD, chairman of the House committee on Ways and Means, in Washington, has already measured up to the requirements of floor leadership. It is a difficult task and one that requires courage as well as capability. His antagonists are experienced and resourceful. Former Speaker CANNON, JOHN DALZELL and JAMES R. MANN are veterans and fighters. They are familiar with all the tricks of legislation and entirely free from the restraints of conscience. But UNDERWOOD is a match for all of them. He has proved his mental agility as well as moral courage and thus far "nothing has been put over on him."

The other day a shrewd plan was developed to overturn his legislative program, but it failed completely. Under the rules forced upon Speaker CANNON during the last session Mondays were designated as "suspension day." That is to say on that day upon demand the rules may be suspended and committees discharged from further consideration of bills pending. The plot was to have a motion made last Monday to discharge the committee on Invalid Pensions from the further consideration of a pension bill introduced on the first day of the session. If that had been done the pension bill would have taken precedence to the farmers' free list bill, and prolonged the session greatly as well as jeopardized the passage of the free list measure.

Everybody knows that antagonizing pension legislation is a perilous thing and it was believed that UNDERWOOD would lack the moral courage to do such a thing. But that was a mistake. Mr. UNDERWOOD favors liberal pensions, but felt that the time for such legislation was inopportune so that instead of permitting an adjournment on Saturday evening, ending the legislative day, he moved to take a recess until eleven o'clock Monday and thus wiped out the suspension day for the time and left the order of procedure as the majority desired. It was a neat bit of parliamentary practice and proved UNDERWOOD's ability as a leader.

The Senior cotillion will be held at State College next Friday evening, May 12th, and more than one young lady in Bellefonte is anxiously wondering if she will be there.

Tom Johnson. Tom Johnson was a tariff baron, a franchise grabber and a machine politician. Tom Johnson was a tariff-reformer, a champion of the people against the monopolists of transportation and an idealist in politics. And there was but one Tom Johnson. He was the poor southern boy of good stock who made his start during the Civil war selling newspapers at high prices by virtue of a pull with a railroad conductor. He was the ultra-typically precocious young Westerner who at twenty-two got "into business" at the head of an Indianapolis street car line. He was the Ohio capitalist who fought Mark Hanna to a standstill in the Cleveland traction war. He was the Pennsylvania steel man who made a lot of money manufacturing steel rails and selling them to his own street car companies. He was the Congressman who wanted to put steel rails on the free list. He was the manager of Henry George's campaign for mayor of New York and the most devoted of his disciples. He was Cleveland's severely reprobated boss and also its reily inconsistent thug because, having mastered American business and American politics as he found them in his youth, he ardently and sincerely aspired to make them better.

Tom Johnson's inconsistency was consistent with the facts of American life. He admitted it fairly, laughingly. His candor about it was a part of his idealism; and his idealism was real, robust, fearless. It was also effective, notwithstanding that he met defeat, notwithstanding that he seemed to end in defeat. For he was fighting in a big war that is still going on; what he won for good government will be kept; his mistakes were not fatal; and he taught many others how to fight.

A Question of Justice. Every man has the right to the full value of his product. It makes no difference whether the man is a ditch digger, a bricklayer, a farmer, a merchant or a banker; what he produces belongs to him. But if we tax the product of his labor we take from him a part of his product. That is unjust. Let us get rid of that system. We have used it long enough to see that it won't pay. We create every year a common fund big enough to pay all public expenses. That fund is ground rent, or the assessed value of land. Take that for the common good, and then land will be forced into its true value.

Force the land into its best use. But land can't be used for production unless labor uses it. Idleness does not use land. All that idleness can do with land is to hold it out of use and make labor pay for using it, or buy it at the capitalized ground rent to get a permit to use it. But how long will idleness hold valuable land out of use if the community takes in taxes what it creates—the annual rental value of land? How long would you hold a \$10,000 lot out of use if you had to pay to the community every year the value the community adds to that lot?

The Democratic Program. The present purpose of the Democratic party, as represented by its real leaders in State and nation, was admirably stated by Governor Wilson in a speech at the banquet of the Pewter Platter club, of Norfolk, Virginia, on Saturday evening.

Responsible business and representative government, he said, is the program and it will be carried out, item by item, by men of courage and understanding. We are living in an age of reconstruction, calling for high gifts and men of indomitable courage; an age as critical, perhaps, as that in which our government was set up, and we shall meet its tasks as deliberately and as successfully. The liberal program, which is the Democratic program, is growing clear, he said, and added:

It does not represent a revolutionary temper or state of mind. Its purpose is, not to upset things, but to set them right. It is not impatient of existing constitutional safeguards. It holds no brief against any essential institution. On the contrary, its object is to restore them to their first purpose and simplicity, to purify them, to recover their spirit and to infuse into them the spirit of a new age of human life and endeavor. The patriotism of the progressive, the liberal, is the patriotism that restores, reconstructs, revives.

Force Against Force. Organized capital has its vested rights. Labor should have its legal guarantee to a living wage. Capital very properly has its day in court and much more under the demand for "due process of law" when attempt is made to divide capital in the interests of the community's health, safety or economic betterment. Labor on the other hand, should have some kind of a guarantee. For instance, the kidnapping of these men who are charged with this crime is unfair, un-American and as lawless as their act. Assuming that they are guilty—two wrongs does not make one right. So long as the employees of organized capital can kidnap as these labor leaders were kidnapped—even though they are guilty—so long will organized labor have its justifying example of the use of force in strikes when labor's same leaders try to stop the use of force.

Will Have to Hustle. With less than three weeks remaining for work the members of the Legislature are beginning to realize that more activity will have to be displayed in advancing important bills are still on the calendar of the two Houses, and the indications are that there will be a crush during the closing hours of the session.

SPAULS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

One hundred and fifty men and boys have been thrown out of employment by the burning of the Pierce gas plant, at St. Mary's, involving the suspension of a monthly wage account of \$10,000.

The 200 men thrown out of employment by the burning of the power house at the Barnesboro shaft of the Madeira Coal Mining company are at work again. Only four weeks was consumed in the rebuilding.

Hugh McCabe, a family man residing in Norristown, is having troubles of his own. Four of his five children are in bed with scarlet fever, while the fifth has a broken collar bone sustained in a fall from a chair.

F. P. Dugan, superintendent of the gas end of the Penn Central Light and Power company's works at Huntingdon, recently received the authorization from headquarters to go ahead with the \$15,000 worth of new gas mains for Huntingdon.

Trapper John Swope, of Huntingdon, had two good days last Friday and Saturday with his traps. On Monday morning he obtained the warrants from Justice of the peace Black on sixteen polecats and twelve weasels, caught on those two days.

Laporte is probably the smallest county seat in the State, the census returns giving it a population of 247. In 1900 it had 441. Eaglesmere has 184, in 1900 it had 312. Dushore, the largest town in Sullivan county, has a population of 813, in 1900 it had 784.

The Wayne county jail at Honesdale became vacant Saturday when George Adantius, who has served six months for unfortunately getting mixed up in a fracas in which the state constabulary interfered at Lake Lore last year, was released. He has been a model prisoner.

The Port Royal Times, of Juniata county, with this week's issue passes from the hands of J. C. McAfee, who has been editor and proprietor for well-nigh two years, into the hands of John B. Parson, of Duncannon. Mr. Parson has been in the newspaper business for twenty-two years.

William Claycomb was arrested at the Baltimore and Ohio construction camp at Huband, near Somerset, by State Trooper Dresser. Claycomb is charged with operating with the gang of chicken thieves working around Berlin for some time. He was taken to Berlin, where he was locked up for a hearing.

The house in which the late United States Senator Matthew S. Quay was born still remains on North Baltimore street, Dillsburg, York county. It has not been occupied for a number of years. The ownership of the home has changed many times since Mr. Quay's birth, but it is now owned by the Senator's daughter.

Ephraim La Bush, a Frenchman, employed in the Robertsdale mines, drew \$1,015, his savings for ten years, from a Huntington bank. He became intoxicated and went home with a trio of fellow employees. When he reached Three Springs his money was gone and with it his ticket to his home in Normandy. One suspect is in jail.

The Conneaut Lake fish hatchery has commenced the work of sending out white fish to Lake Erie, and 5,000,000 fry per day has been sent out to the lake since last Friday. The hatchery this year has only run out about half capacity of their present battery, but a total of over 25,000,000 white fish will be furnished for Lake Erie waters.

Myron Gummo, of Bald Eagle township, Clinton county, was out fighting forest fires last Friday and during the day met an infuriated bear and her two young cubs. Mr. Gummo was not unscathed and had to run to get away from the mother bear. Edwin Williams and James Gummo later captured the two cubs, one of which had been hurt by the fire.

Plans are being made by the Milton Fair as a suggestion for the holding of a midsummer fair ever held in Central Pennsylvania. It will take place on Monday and Tuesday, July 3 and 4, on the fair grounds, and there will be horse, automobile and motorcycle races, as well as all kinds of track and field sports.

The tax collector at Titusville got disgusted when he looked over his long list of delinquents the other day. Then he started an innovation for this town. About twenty persons who had neglected to pay their taxes were arrested within an hour and the news spread like a declaration of war. It caused a rush to the treasurer's office and about \$5,000 were paid in in one day.

The Standard Steel works are beginning to show substantial evidences of returning prosperity. One of its most recent orders for 600 built up wheels. The foundries are very busy and it is believed that the coming month will be one of the busiest in the history of the plant. Night turn has been placed in the hammer shop and in the steel foundry.

The will of the late Henry W. Kurtz, formerly vice president of the Harbison-Walker Refractories company, probated at Clearfield Monday, places the estate of \$300,000 in trust for twenty years, one-half of the income to go to the parents of the deceased and half to the parents of A. J. Kurtz, of Philadelphia, are beneficiaries. No public bequests are made.

Cyrus A. Starkey, of Wilmington, Del., employed for the past eighteen months as desk editor of the Lewistown Daily Sentinel, has been appointed by Bishop Darlington, of the Protestant Episcopal diocese, to officiate as a supply minister in the parsonage at Clearfield. Starkey has had a varied career as city hall detective in Philadelphia, railroad policeman at Wilmington, newspaper man and minister.

Work on a trolley line which when completed will extend from Scranton to Binghamton, is under way. The road is being extended from Factoryville, Wyoming county, and it is expected that before the summer is out a whole new division of the road will be ready for operation. The indications now are that the road will go by way of Hoopbottom, Brooklyn, up the creek to Hart Lake and through New Milford to Binghamton, leaving Montrose at least five miles away from the line.

The Saxton Vitrified Brick company has negotiations well under way for the establishment of an additional plant at Yeagerstown, near Lewistown. Definite action is expected within a week. The Saxton plant will be operated principally on the famous Saxton paving blocks and the Yeagerstown plant will manufacture principally building brick of light and dark shades. The products of this company are of especially good quality, and the proposed enlargement of output is necessary to meet demands.

The safe in the postoffice at Winburne, near Clearfield, was blown open by cracksmen some time during Monday night and \$800 in stamps and between \$150 and \$190 cash stolen. It is evident that the burglars were professionals, as the job was pulled off without any person hearing the explosion. The first intimation that something unusual had occurred was when the postmaster found the doors open. On making an examination he discovered the safe door blown from the hinges, while on the floor lay an iron sledge and several horse blankets, the latter being used to deaden the sound made by the explosion. There is no clue to the robbers, but some weeks ago several suspicious characters were in Winburne and made an examination of the postoffice building and other places in the town.