

INK SLINGS.

-You can almost see vegetation jump- ing. -The usual epidemic of spring fever is raging. -The straw hat is gradually coming into its own. -\$15,000 for the Bellefonte hospital isn't enough, but half a loaf is better than no bread. -DIAZ says he will resign when peace is restored in Mexico and peace refuses to be restored until DIAZ resigns--so there you are. -That Mexican unpleasantness is most unpleasant for Americans living near the border. Five of them were accidentally shot on Tuesday. -The surrender of JAUREZ has made a provisional capital for the revolutionists in Mexico and a provisional president as well. Mexico is now in a class with the Democratic party in Pennsylvania. -Of all the trusts the sugar combination seems to be the only one without a friend in court at Washington. Accordingly, when it gets its dose it may be expected to be of the bitter old alopathic kind. -Entertaining the clergymen and the physicians at the same time Bellefonte needed but an undertaker's convention to complete the cycle of our being brought here, being taken away and being prepared for the going. -Governor TENER's pre-election promise to probe the Rittersville asylum scandal has been made good--the public won't think--by his appointment of a new commission on which he has placed three members of the old one. -Just now when men are eager for the little bit of work they can find wouldn't it be better for those labor organizers and strike agitators who lately flocked into Altoona to start trouble in the shops there to go home and try to earn a few dollars by hard work themselves. -The coroner of Philadelphia seems to have constituted himself court, jury and witnesses in the McMAHON case. The acts of few Philadelphia officials are to be marveled at, but this was a little too raw for the courts of that city and the grand jury has been called upon to indict the murderer in the manner and form that the law really provides. -Judged by the relative amounts appropriated to the two institutions it would appear that the machine has finally succeeded in making the Legislature believe that the University of Pennsylvania and not The Pennsylvania State College is the one that the State accepted the land grant from the federal government for and entered into a solemn compact to support. -We scarcely get settled down to enjoy the present because of the continual looming up of the future. Already Fourth of July celebrations are being agitated then will come the business men's picnic, the fair and winter again. Time flies so fast, now-a-days, that we often wonder how the author ever found enough of it to give him inspiration for that song about "The Good Old Summer Time." -Dr. JULIUS FRIEDWALD declares that after extended experiments on rabbits he can "prove that good whiskey is less toxic than poor whisky." Of course it is well to know this, so long as we have the price of the good stuff, but it was scarcely necessary for the doctor to resort to rabbits for his subjects. The world is full of men who would gladly have lent their aid to the development of science. -Let us wait and see how much pre-tenders HICKS, BONNELL, et al do to help Mr. HENRY BAUER defeat "My Son," meaning the scion of the house of Mayor REYBURN, of Philadelphia, for Congress in the Second district of that city. Young Mr. REYBURN is evidently not qualified for the office in any way, while his opponent is, so there will be no excuse for indifference on the part of either Moses of the Keystoneers. -Representative SCOTT's bill to increase the pay of Legislators from \$1500 to \$2400 passed the House on Wednesday. In the debate on it he said: "If we increase the pay of members of the House the State will get better Legislators." It is rather pathetic to hear such an admission from the floor that better ones are needed, but we fear that the same crowd that framed up this salary grab will be back in Harrisburg two years hence and they will not have improved to the extent of the \$900 additional salary they will draw if the bill is approved. -Talking of clean up days in Bellefonte it may not be generally known but it is a fact, nevertheless, that there is one section of a residence street in Bellefonte where those who reside are so earnestly desirous of keeping their thoroughfare clean and attractive looking that you might pass over it for weeks and see no evidence of a horse's ever having passed over the street. All the litter and dirt of every kind is gathered up early in the morning and disappears as if by magic and the street looks as if it were a new one. And the street and the homes are only what their occupants have made them.

Democratic Watchman

STATE RIGHTS AND FEDERAL UNION.

VOL. 56.

BELLEFONTE, PA., MAY 12, 1911.

NO. 19.

Not Getting Along Well.

For some reason or other our friends, the re-organizers, don't seem to be getting along as happily, or as prosperously as many of our people may have hoped for. In fact, if divisions continue arising among them as frequently as they have since they "went on the job," it will be a question if they don't need a re-organization committee to keep their own little committee together long before the Democracy of the State will meet to elect its own chairman in July.

Mr. GUTHRIE's willingness to cowardly surrender the right of Democrats, to name the minority registrars in the cities of the State where personal registration is required, has disgusted and incensed so many of his followers that it is difficult now to find a real Democrat among them who will claim that he has either the spirit or the Democracy about him that would make him a fit person to take charge of the Democratic State organization. They realize, and think he should also, that the "Keystone party" is not a political party as contemplated in the Act of Assembly giving to the minority party the right to representation on the boards of registrars. They know it is a party growing out of local conditions in the cities of Philadelphia and Pittsburgh and has no more permanency about it than the many other fusion movements, to accomplish local purposes, that have come into and gone out of existence almost yearly since the Machines in those cities have become so strongly entrenched.

They know also that in a presidential contest there would be no place for a Keystone party. That at elections that would decide as to the principles that were to be enforced in the administration of the general government, it would dissolve as best before the morning sun. They know also that three-fourths of the Republican voters who joined that organization last fall are Republicans still on every question that enters into politics, except some local matters that have no more business in politics than a bar-tender has in the pulpit. And to give to these "Keystoners" the right to name the minority members of the boards of Registrars would simply be giving to the Republican machine the power to have sole control of this most important part of our election machinery.

It is the willingness of Mr. GUTHRIE to surrender this important privilege of protecting the ballot box as far as possible that has so incensed Democrats who were formerly supporting him, until it now looks as if it would soon be a necessity to re-organize the re-organizers themselves. Possibly another committee of three, backed by our brilliant brigade of Congressmen, could get them out of this trouble by abolishing Mr. GUTHRIE as a chairman and substituting some other sore-head to put on his greatly bedraggled political garments.

The WATCHMAN fosters only the hope that what little fun the real Democrats are having out of the re-organizers condition, may not be cut-short by the untimely dissolution of that self constituted body.

The Capitol Park Extension.

The Capitol Park extension bill is still slumbering in the House Committee on Appropriations at Harrisburg. The machine managers have not, as yet, made up their minds concerning it. It is universally admitted that an enlargement of the park is needed now and in the near future will be absolutely necessary. It is well known that the revenues are ample to make the appropriation at this time. But under existing conditions there is little or no chance for graft and the machine managers are disinclined to allow such an enterprise to be consummated without some kind of a rake off.

The value of property is increasing rapidly at Harrisburg under the influence of increasing population and improved civic conditions. If the park extension had been completed six years ago the State would have a million dollars as compared with the cost now. Two years hence another million will be added to the value of the ground to be taken and the value of the material which may be taken off will be considerably decreased. But the money in the treasury is of greater advantage to the political machine than it would be if appropriated for the purpose of park extension. The favored bankers are willing to pay a liberal bonus for such funds.

The government at Washington is now paying the penalty of similar delay in acquiring ground needed for government use. A few years ago vast areas could have been acquired at comparatively small expense. But the opportunity was let slip from year to year until the actual necessity was present and then a town lot cost as much as an acre of ground would have cost a few years earlier. The Legislature of Pennsylvania appears to be following this stupid example. At least it looks at this time and from this distance from the capital as if the extension bill is to be stifled in the House committee.

Veteran Democrat Protests.

That veteran Democrat and venerable publicist, Hon. B. F. MEYERS, is unable to conjecture what excuse there is for a Democratic committee which deliberately surrenders its only opportunity to safeguard the interests and promote the success of the party. In his newspaper, the Harrisburg Star-Independent, Mr. MEYERS thus comments upon the advice of Mr. GEORGE W. GUTHRIE to Democrats to make no claim for the appointment of representatives of that party on the registry boards in cities. "Mr. GUTHRIE claims to be chairman of the Democratic State committee. In that position he would be the sentinel guarding the Democratic citadel. Yet he voluntarily offers to surrender all his functions, not to an ally, but to a declared enemy."

Where personal registration is enjoined by law the result of the election is practically determined at the registration. A man who is permitted to register can hardly be kept from voting. For that reason the personal registration law for cities was so drawn that the Democrats might have a guardian on duty to prevent packing the lists with bogus names and creating a fraudulent electorate. In the cities of Philadelphia and Pittsburgh even that precaution has not invariably proved adequate. But on the whole it has exercised a wholesome influence on elections and reduced the fraudulent vote in the cities to some extent. But Mr. GUTHRIE would relinquish this restraining influence. He would entirely eliminate Democrats from the registry boards.

In Philadelphia the Keystone party is guided by former post-master HICKS, an intense and not very conscientious Republican. In Pittsburgh it is guided by former State Senator WILLIAM FLYNN, a Republican politician who hesitates at no outrage against Democracy. In Harrisburg and other cities the leadership and vast majority of the Keystone party are Republicans, ready to return to their party allegiance the moment overtures are made to them or promises of office given, and thus Mr. GUTHRIE's proposition would turn the entire election machinery of all the cities over to prejudiced and conscienceless opponents of Democracy. It is small wonder that earnest, capable and conscientious Democrats like Hon. B. F. MEYERS should protest against such perfidy.

Mr. Cannon's Whining Lamentations.

We are very much afraid that Hon. JOSEPH G. CANNON lacks the quality of a true sport. He takes delight in a reputation for "gameness," and rather encourages gossip concerning his achievements and adventures in draw poker and other hazards. He assumes a dare-devil demeanor and a careless disregard of conventions. He eats tobacco and gnaws big black cigars. He quotes scripture and uses cuss words with great fluency and frequency, intermingling them with the obvious purpose of conveying the idea that he is equally unafraid of the ultimate destiny of the righteous and the wicked. He can be a saint or a sinner, as circumstances require, and doesn't care much which side of him is exposed to view. But in politics he is a "hard loser." That is to say he refuses to be reconciled to a defeat for which he was largely responsible and whines his lamentations incessantly. He blames the newspapers for most of his own misfortunes and ascribes to the press most of the evils which afflict the body politic. In this he is probably right from his point of view. If there had been no newspapers he might never have been found out. Publicity is the inveterate foe of false pretense and Mr. CANNON is the embodiment of that form of fraud. He will never forgive anybody or anything that contributed to his just humiliation.

In a speech on the floor of the House, the other day, Mr. CANNON inferentially attacked the President for giving support to the Canadian reciprocity agreement. That piece of diplomacy and legislation, he firmly believes, is the "entering wedge of free trade." Mr. CANNON proves this by alleging that the Farmers' Free List bill is in the form of a recompense for losses incurred by the reciprocity pact and the Farmers' Free List bill is unquestionably a step in the direction of free trade. But in that as in everything else the real culprit is the newspaper. It forced TAFT and he compelled everything else. It is a sad situation but the chances are that Mr. CANNON will have to endure it.

Governor Tener has signed the judges' salary bill and hereafter Judge Orvis will draw a salary of six thousand dollars per year, payable monthly, instead of five thousand. General Beaver, as judge of the Superior court, will also come in for a very substantial increase, his salary being raised from \$7,500 to \$12,000 per year.

Commerce in Legislation.

Governor TENER confidently expresses the belief that his pet piece of legislation, the Public Utilities bill, will be enacted into law. He understands that there is strong opposition to the measure on account of certain too drastic provisions, and that a majority of the Senators had made up their minds to vote against it. But the Governor has learned a trick or two in the legislative game since his inauguration, nearly four months ago and proposes to take advantage of all his opportunities. His newly aroused confidence of the ultimate success of his plans is the result of an incident which has recently occurred. In other words the Governor has just turned an important parliamentary trade.

The lawyers in the Senate and House of Representatives have been "dead set" from the beginning on putting the judicial salary increase on the statute book. The Governor didn't seem to warm up to this proposition in the beginning and threatened a veto which would have been fatal to the judicial melon cutting program. Thereupon the measure, which had already been passed, was recalled and somewhat changed. But the Governor remained obdurate until the supporters of that bill, who curiously enough, were the opponents of his pet, agreed to pass the pet in consideration of his approval of the judicial salary increase. The Public Utilities bill was thereupon rushed through the House and sent to the Senate where negotiations were opened up. Last Saturday the salary increase was signed and the Governor expressed confidence as to the other.

We have little fault to find with the Public Utilities bill. As has already been said in these columns it is dangerously drastic in some respects, but some corporations require drastic treatment and all of them need some restraints. But the method of accomplishing this legislation is highly objectionable if not actually perilous. There was not even the shadow of an excuse for the increase of the salaries of the judges and a corrupt bargain between the executive and legislative departments of the State government is about as reprehensible an incident as can be imagined. Legislation, however meritorious, obtained in that way, is altogether too expensive. The public can have no respect for it.

Taft Haranguing the Grangers.

Plainly President TAFT was playing to the galleries in his speech to a group of grangers, at the White House, the other day. It may not have been exactly a "frame up" that gave him the opportunity to make this display of moral courage and lofty patriotism. But it was suspiciously like such a demagogic device and it served the purpose admirably. Mr. N. P. HOLT, who couldn't be induced to vote other than the Republican ticket under any circumstances, was spokesman for the farmers, and he proved a pippin. "The farmers," he said, "have been the backbone of Republican protection. You could count on these people every time." Then the President "cut loose."

He properly and even pathetically expressed regret that these stalwart protectionists are about to desert the party. "But," he continued, "my conviction with respect to the advantage of this treaty is very deep. So far as the effect of this on my political fortunes," he added, "it ought not influence me and does not influence me in the slightest." Then he ventured an opinion that "it is contrary to nature, it is flying in the face of Providence, to put an artificial wall between this country and Canada." Mr. HOLT must have lost his tariff grip at this juncture. He hadn't a leg to stand on. The difference between one artificial wall and another was left to conjecture.

After all the President wasn't taking much risk in assuming this high ground. There may be a few farmers who still worship the fetich of protection and believe with Mr. HOLT that the prosperity of the country depends upon tariff walls. But they are the back numbers in the fraternity. Intelligent farmers like intelligent artisans and laborers understand that the economic policy that leads to success is that which teaches us to sell in the highest market and buy in the cheapest and that no man can be made wealthy by taxing or robbing him. TAFT knew as well as anybody that he was taking the safe side of the proposition and that instead of jeopardizing his political fortunes he was promoting them.

A number of farmers and fruit growers in this section state that the cherry crop has been badly injured if not entirely destroyed by last week's cold weather. Prior to that cold snap there had been a few days warm weather, just enough to bring out the blossoms on the cherry trees and these, it is alleged, were badly frozen last week. So far as known the other fruit has not been injured.

The State Highway Bill.

From the Greensburg Argus. On general grounds much might be said for the proposed amendment to borrow \$50,000,000 for highways if it stood alone, although this is more than the debt the people of a former generation incurred for constructing all the railroads and canals of the State.

But apart from the consideration that there is an ample surplus of \$10,000,000 in the State Treasury that can be applied to road building, this amendment is anticipated by a bill to create a vast highway department with a ridiculous outfit of engineers, inspectors and other salary-eaters. Besides this, the bill arbitrarily lays out a network of roads from county town to county town, with little or no regard for routes of travel and business intercourse. But this is by no means the worst feature of the scheme. The bill makes no provision for appointments in accordance with civil service rules, but all the employees are to be subject to the infamous spoils system that pervades every other department of State administration. Nor is adequate provision made for the letting of contracts to the lowest responsible bidder, and honest contractors capable of giving ample security for their work would be squeezed out for favorites of the Penrose-McNichol-Vare machine.

Should the highway bill be passed in the present shape the people of Pennsylvania would be obliged, in self-defense, to vote down the loan amendment when submitted to them for ratification and await more favorable conditions in the Legislature and in State government. Take it for all in all, a more profligate scheme of jobbery and graft than this highway bill has not been hatched by the Pennsylvania machine in many a day.

The Mexican Situation.

From the Pittsburgh Post. Affairs in Mexico are rapidly nearing the point of decisiveness. The report was heralded from the City of Mexico Saturday that President Diaz would resign his office, this step no doubt being hastened by the announced advance of the revolutionists on the capital. With the resumption of hostilities the forces opposed to the government stated that they would withdraw from the border in order to avoid complications, thus putting an end to the expected operations at Juarez. If President Diaz relinquishes the office he has held for so many years the situation clears very rapidly and peace is soon restored. But conditions in the interior are in a most chaotic condition, and causes a renewal of predictions that this government may ultimately be compelled to intervene, notwithstanding the repeated assertions of President Taft that there would be no interference with the internal affairs of the Republic.

The Mexican Ambassador at Washington declares that the situation is grossly exaggerated and that the federals are in full control. This statement will, of course, be taken with a large grain of allowance. In the meantime the people of the United States will look on with additional interest as the reports are heralded from the scene of action. Something definite ought to come along before the lapse of many days.

Reformers Bills in the House.

From the Harrisburg Star Independent. The Pennsylvania House of Representatives, which was passing everything on the second reading calendar when it ran out of field bills, Thursday, passed without comment or objection the Walnut assistance bill and the J. R. Jones direct election of Senators bill. That looked like a great victory for reform measures in the Legislature. The two bills were taken from committee and placed on the calendar with the assistance of all the Organization men in the House and were passed on second reading without opposition.

Yet the seasoned Legislator will not be deceived by this show of magnanimity. At the same sitting at which these bills were passed every Organization measure regardless of its character was passed including the Sproul bill to amend the Constitution to enable the State to borrow fifty millions of dollars to be expended ostensibly in the improvement of the public roads. After all, the bills were not passed by a body of reformers. Why, then, were they taken from the committee and placed on the calendar with a fine show of friendliness and square dealing? Simply to make the show. The Organization has no more intention of passing those bills than it has of committing suicide. Messrs. Walnut and Jones will soon be called to mourn the death of their pet measures.

To Put Ringsters on Record.

From the Harrisburg Patriot. There were many excellent features in the school code when it left the hands of the commission that prepared it. Some of them are in it still. Some have been struck out since the code was introduced in the Legislature and bad ones have been put in the place of them.

One of the good features that is still in the code is that providing that the vote of each member shall be recorded in the award of contracts of any kind where the amount involved exceeds \$100. The propriety of keeping such a record is so obvious that every school board ought to do it, even though the law does not specifically require it.

But the people of Harrisburg know from sad experience that there is at least one school board that makes no such record and never will so long as it is controlled by the McIlhenny ring. The reason is that such a record might be embarrassing to those who vote to give contracts to the McIlhenny favorites, although they are the highest bidders, instead of the lowest and best. If the school code becomes a law, the provision for a record of all votes on the award of contracts should be retained by all means.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

-Tony Mimosa lost \$1,500 in store stock and house furnishings and Joe Mills \$2,000 on property at Barnesboro in a recent blaze.

-The submerged logs are to be removed from Moshannon creek, between Hawk Run and Phillipsburg, by a Phillipsburg firm. The work will be of considerable advantage to Phillipsburg.

-Two state constablar troopers arrived at Lock Haven a few days ago. They will be located at Orviston, to watch for violators of fish and game laws.

-L. J. Williams, wife and six children are homeless because of a fire that destroyed their residence near Phillipsburg. A defective fuse caused the blaze and only first floor furnishings were saved.

-The No. 3 machine at the Lock Haven paper mill, said to have been shut down for lack of orders, is to be placed by a larger one. Other improvements will be made at a cost of between \$300,000 and \$400,000.

-The Phillipsburg Silica Sand company is the latest industry at that place. It will have a capital stock of \$200,000 and will soon erect a crusher and pulverizing plant. A glass factory is said to be the ultimate object.

-Ten miles of onions have been planted by Huntingdon reformatory boys on the farm connected with the institution. Seventy bushels of potatoes and other vegetables in like proportions have also been put under ground.

-Nathan Vallone, of Pittston, acquires temporary notoriety from the fact that he has just become the father of his twenty-fifth child. He has been twice married, his first wife having been the mother of sixteen, his second nine.

-To prevent land speculators from frightening away manufacturing industries from the town, the Ridgway board of trade is making an effort to get hold of some land in the Elk county seat as available sites for manufacturing plants.

-In spite of the fact that Judge Brumm called the attention of the grand jury of Schuylkill county to the alleged fact that a recent execution was conducted contrary to law, a vast multitude being present, the jurors refused to indict the sheriff.

-Berks county authorities tell us that heavy frosts killed many of the early strawberry blossoms in various sections of that county last week. The black spot, which is the sign of frost bite, has already appeared on many of the blossoms.

-A lace peddler named Rosalio was caught burying the body of Salvatore Magro in the woods near Beaver Falls. He admitted that he had killed Magro, also a lace dealer, and claimed that they had engaged in a quarrel, with fatal results.

-Superintendent Herbert S. Putnam, of Tioga county, declined to accept an increase of \$500 in his salary when he was re-elected last Tuesday. A motion was made to fix the salary at \$3,000 instead of \$2,500, but Mr. Putnam begged the mover to withdraw it.

-As Mrs. Newton R. Parks, of Wysox township, Bradford county, was leaving the Sayre hospital after being operated on for appendicitis, she met her husband coming in the front door of the institution, suffering with the same complaint and for the same purpose.

-Beginning with July let the post office department has ordered that the name of the Williams Grove post office, in Clearfield county, be changed to Bigler so as to harmonize with the name of the town. Considerable contest arose over the changing of the name.

-It has been discovered that the Legislature enacted a bill amending the divorce laws of the State so as to deprive a wife of the constitutional right to a jury trial. The Governor signed the act on April 29th. It is thought it was meant to apply to a Pittsburgh case.

-After he had been missing twenty-four hours, Solomon Keener, one of Lehigh county's best known farmers, was found dead on a public road. On the way home from a barn raising he sat down on the bank at the roadside to rest and expired. He was 60 years old.

-A few days ago, while burning refuse in her garden, Mrs. Hannah Adams, aged 55 years, of Amersville, Clearfield county, had the misfortune to have her clothing catch fire, and before the flames could be extinguished she was so badly burned that death soon followed.

-To protect its mules from cremation in case of mine fires, the Reading Coal and Iron company is preparing to erect concrete stables of all its mines. The first of this series of fire-proof stables is already in process of construction at the Knickerbocker colliery at Shenandoah.

-Twenty-four Bedford county fishermen were arrested a few days ago for a gross violation of the fish laws about April 15th, when a dam in Woodbury township broke. It is charged that a bushel of fish were caught in nets. Twenty-one men paid fines and three were held for court.

-Clearfield county prohibitionists are getting in the field early. They held their convention last Friday, showed the courage of their convictions by deciding against fusion and nominated a strong ticket. George W. Rheem, for many years secretary-treasurer of the county committee, was greeted warmly by his co-workers.

-For six years Allen S. Meyers, a prominent florist of Blair county, kept a daily record of the number of Pennsylvania railroad locomotives that stopped in front of his greenhouse. He fixed the number at \$2,500, and Wednesday entered a trespass suit against the company to recover \$43,000 damages for the destruction of flowers, foliage and plants by the smoke and soot from the locomotives.

-The Central post board, of Luzerne county, has made an agreement with the White Haven sanatorium to care for indigent tuberculosis patients. The board will pay for the maintenance of patients sent to the institution by the district at the rate of \$7, 50 and \$10 a week, according to the amount of care and kind of food required by the individual patient. Two patients were sent to White Haven on Thursday.

-Hard-hearted officers arrested Miss Frances Bue while she was about to board a Pennsylvania railroad train for Chicago, in the Philadelphia station. The young lady hails from Bristol, is 19 years old and was arrested at the instigation of her mother, who said she was running away. Miss Bue admitted that she wanted to go to Omaha, where she expected to meet and marry her sweetheart, and declared that she would marry him yet.

-Last Sunday evening William Trough, of Huntingdon, laid an envelope containing strychnine tablets on the dining room table while he went to his wife's room to give her one, she being ill with heart trouble. When Mr. Trough returned to the room he found his 19-months-old son eating the tablets. Between ten and fifteen had been swallowed by the baby. Three physicians worked for four hours, with no hope of success, while the child was working in convulsions. By noon on Monday he was out of danger.

-The south side of Columbia county, a number of miles back of Catawissa, is being steadily acquired by foreigners, many of them Poles, who leave the Centralia and Mt. Carmel coal regions to buy farms in the Roaring creek valley. Not only farms but stores as well and one hotel have come into their control. Saturday government officers sent there for that purpose swept through the valley and, searching the homes of the farmers, found shotguns in all. As none of the men were naturalized, they were all liable to fine and the amounts totaled \$300.