

INK SLINGS.

—Another American heiress has bought an English Lord. The Lord only knows what'll happen to her.

—This summer's hot spell could probably have been better described by dropping the 's' and substituting an 'h'.

—Texas has started a boom for WILSON for President. The quickest way to find out whose boss anywhere is to start something.

—Let us all pray a little for our Presbyterian friends. And let us pray, especially, that their new minister may find his lot cast in a pleasant place.

—It would only be natural, when the lumber trust investigation gets down to the real facts, if its members would be found taking to the woods.

—And now it is said that a party of New Englanders are trying to form a button trust. Evidently working to have something to be put into a hole.

—The New York preacher who complains that women attend church mostly "to show off hats and dresses," should have gone for the men who rarely attend for any purpose.

—Signing the greatest peace treaty ever consummated one day and urging the fortification of the Panama canal the next looks like one or the other of the two is more bluff than anything else.

—Senator LA FOLLETTE and chairman UNDERWOOD are so far apart on the wool bill that they can't get together in "three shakes of a ram's tail." Therefore Congress is not likely to adjourn as soon as was expected.

—From the amount of gas that brother BLAKESLIE'S numerous interviews indicate is troubling the disorganizers headquarters it would not be surprising to hear, any day, that they, too, would blow up from the inside.

—The newest thought in designing houses is said to provide for the elimination of the coal bin from the cellar. This is probably for houses in the tropics and others that are heated with steam from a distant plant.

—One of our exchanges is authority for the statement that "Washington has got its eye on the high cost of living again." "Again," just as if this result of the work of the trusts hadn't been continuously picking our pockets three times a day ever since Republican protection gave them the power to do so.

—It is said that an English physician has made the discovery that persons used to an atmosphere rotten enough to breed magots, are cured of, or immune from consumption or tuberculosis. If this is so, what a sanatorium for these diseases Republican State headquarters or the council chambers of Pittsburgh and Philadelphia would prove.

—One or two arrests for exceeding the speed limit on Bellefonte streets would be a wholesome lesson to thoughtless automobilists. Many of the men who are driving our streets almost daily at a thirty-mile clip would probably never forgive themselves if they were to kill or maim some pedestrian for life yet they are courting that sad eventuality every day.

—Anent the recent unpleasantness over the Bell telephone at the Bellefonte hospital the Lock Haven council is just now pushing home a demand for two more free telephones in its fire engine houses by threatening to pass another ordinance rescinding the old one granting that company pole rights on the streets. Lock Haven now gets four free telephones and wants six.

—JOHN W. GATES, one of the most spectacular figures in latter day American financial circles, died in Paris Wednesday morning. The son of a poor farmer he was a millionaire at forty, down and out—pretty near—at fifty-two and fabulously rich at fifty-six when he died. "Square" and "honest," as the words are used among gamblers, he was a thoroughbred, a sport and a plunger. He made himself what he was and judgment of the success of his life is not for us to pass upon.

—Col. EDWARD H. GREEN, the son of the eccentric HETTY GREEN, has just delivered himself concerning the foibles and follies of New York women in a way as to leave no doubt that he is sensible enough to handle the millions that his mother will leave him. He promised his mother that he would not marry until he was twenty years over age, and as that time has arrived, naturally there is speculation as to whether he will marry at all. He says: "I'll be married if the right one comes along, but I want to marry a woman and not a clothes horse."

—President ROOSEVELT on the stand before the Congressional investigation committee, admitted that he knew it was illegal when he permitted the United States Steel Co., to gobble up the Tennessee Coal and Iron Co., but permitted it in order to stop the panic of 1907. While some people may think that the end justified the means in this particular case we are of the opinion that had the laws regarding trusts and other illegal combinations of great money powers, been properly enforced, MORGAN and the United States Steel Co. would never have been in a position to make or unmake a panic in this or any other country.

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Roosevelt and the Tennessee Merger.

Two years ago THEODORE ROOSEVELT would have pursued a different course, assumed another role. His appearance as a witness in the Steel trust investigation forced him to confess either that he was a fool or a knave in the Tennessee merger incident. He eagerly admitted that he was a fool. In the period of his power he would have boastfully asserted the other alternative. Adversity chastens the spirit and ROOSEVELT is a different man. He can no longer fool the people with his absurd pretensions, and he knows it.

He made a feeble effort to "brazen it out" on the occasion in question, but failed. He admitted that he was responsible for the violation of law involved in the measure, but protested that it was for the public good. Judge GARY and Mr. FRICK had informed him that a disastrous panic was imminent, he told the committee, and that the abrogation of the SHERMAN law was necessary to avert it. He was under sworn obligation to obey and enforce the law, but perjury is of little consequence to him.

GARY and FRICK didn't tell him where the panic was coming from. He was too polite to ask such eminent "malefactors of great wealth" important questions, and besides, he says, he and the Secretary of the Treasury were "intimately acquainted with the situation." They didn't tell him that they had been negotiating for the Tennessee property. They didn't tell him that nine-tenths of the Tennessee stock was held as collateral by the men they represented. They didn't tell him that the value of the stock as collateral was impaired by their friends for a purpose.

They didn't, in fact, tell him anything except that a panic was impending which they could stop if they wanted to, and that if they were permitted to absorb the Tennessee company, which gave them an absolute monopoly of the ore supply, they would stop it. They did tell him that Mr. MORGAN was interested and he lied to him frankly and freely and he yielded to his importunities as placidly as a kitten accepts the purred invitation of the mother cat to dinner. The Steel trust wanted \$200,000,000 worth of property for a comparative trifle.

They couldn't accomplish this without the help of ROOSEVELT. If a couple of ordinary bankers of moderate wealth had gone to ROOSEVELT with such a proposition he would have had them kicked out, for it involved perjury and perjury. But MORGAN and GARY and FRICK had supplied abundance of money to buy his election, he needed their contributions to purchase the election of his successor, and he was willing to oblige them. It was an act of recreancy which ought to have ruined him.

Nobody but a fool could have been deceived as ROOSEVELT was, if he was deceived. Nobody but a knave would have done what he did if he wasn't deceived. It was the culmination of a conspiracy which had been in progress for months. In order to discredit the Tennessee stock as collateral MORGAN and the Steel trust magnates had commanded that all banks refuse it. And finally when they found two or three important banks loaded down with it they threatened a panic unless the absorption were permitted and ROOSEVELT consented at the expense of perjury.

Notwithstanding these facts, however, ROOSEVELT swaggered into the witness chair with the claim of righteousness on his lips. "I averted the panic," he said. He averted nothing but sacrificed his own honor and the interests of the country. The panic was started in order to force the result which was achieved, the merger of the Tennessee Coal and Iron company and the Steel trust. It was carried to the very verge of disaster in order that ROOSEVELT might set up the absurd defense he has brought forward for his part in it. But it would have gone no further.

The investigation, however, has presented ROOSEVELT in his new role. He no longer boasts of his outrages. He apologizes for them and offers a defense which, while shielding him from the charge of venality stamps him with the mark of idiocy. Yet we don't believe that ROOSEVELT is an idiot. If he is mad "there is method in his madness." He did what he did in the case in point with a full understanding of the moral turpitude involved and because it was necessary to get money to buy the election of his successor.

—Mayor REYBURN, of Philadelphia, says that RUDOLPH BLANKENBURG is incapable of administering the office of mayor of that city. Mr. REYBURN has administered the office for four years and only those who personally know both gentlemen will be able to appreciate the hugeness of this joke.

—According to sworn testimony both the President and the Secretary of Agriculture were in the conspiracy to force Dr. WILEY out of the public service but neither of them has the courage to act.

The Passing of Mr. Bryan.

One of the most gratifying recent developments in politics is the progress being made in the work of eliminating WILLIAM JENNINGS BRYAN from the equation of Democratic management. For some years Mr. BRYAN has been making himself obnoxious to self-respecting and sincere Democrats. He has set up fidelity to himself as the standard of party loyalty and arrogantly read out of the ranks all who failed to acquiesce in his mandates. In the Denver convention three years ago he ordered delegates elected by the people and certified by the Secretary of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, to be thrown out of the convention and others not elected at all to be put in their places. But his influence over the rank and file of the party was then so great that resentment would have been folly.

Since then he has been pursuing his arrogant course with even greater boldness. A year ago he issued a ukase injecting into the party platform an irrelevant issue and branding anathema upon all who failed to obey his orders. Subsequently he bolted the party ticket in his own State and defeated the candidate for Governor, regularly and fairly nominated. Immediately after the election last fall he denounced half a dozen of the successful candidates and declared that they should not be nominated for President under penalty of his personal opposition and consequent defeat. But in the face of all these outrages upon the principles of the party there was only a mild protest. The courage of the party seemed to be paralyzed.

Nearly always, however, there is a "last straw that breaks the camel's back." In the present instance it came in the form of a wanton attack upon Representative UNDERWOOD, chairman of the congressional committee on ways and means. Mr. UNDERWOOD was never a blind follower of the Nebraska orator, though he always supported Mr. BRYAN. He was growing in popularity very fast, however, and Mr. BRYAN thought he must be set back. Accordingly he published an interview in which the personal integrity as well as the political fidelity of the congressional leader were disputed in unmistakable language. It pretended to give details of a Democratic caucus and ascribed to Mr. UNDERWOOD language and actions which were never uttered or acted. It was a bogus cloth woven out of falsehood.

When the interview came under the notice of Mr. UNDERWOOD he was justly indignant and at the first opportunity rose in his place in the House of Representatives and emphatically declared the statements of Mr. BRYAN false and malicious. Two years ago such an accusation against Mr. BRYAN on the floor of the House, would have been vehemently resented by half the Democrats in the body. But on this occasion not a word was uttered further than a corroboration of Mr. UNDERWOOD'S statements by Representative KITCHIN, of North Carolina, formerly a devoted follower of the Nebraskaan. Mr. BRYAN has since given the source of his misinformation and promised a correction after investigation. But he is too late. His bluff has been called and he is down and out. There will be no more dictation from Lincoln, Nebraska.

—The popular enthusiasm manifested in the welcome of Admiral TOGO, of the Japanese navy, is an expression of the savagery which is in us. TOGO is nothing but a fighter, though he is a good fighter and a fair one. But if the greatest scientist in the whole world, or the man of greatest achievement in the arts of peace within the limits of civilization were to come among us his reception would be less hearty than that which has been extended to TOGO who has never increased the number of blades of grass in the world or done anything else to promote the prosperity, peace and happiness of mankind. Still TOGO is all right and we cheerfully join in the cordial welcome which has been bestowed upon him.

—The Democrats of the House of Representatives in Washington are not inclined to accept the LA FOLLETTE compromise on wool and as a matter of fact it is not an attractive proposition. But "half a loaf is better than no bread," and the LA FOLLETTE compromise cuts the tariff tax on wool in half giving the people the benefit of more than forty per cent of tax reduction. Besides it doesn't close the question against future action. At the next session of Congress an amendment may make the measure more nearly what we would all like.

—The trusted clerk who stole \$50,000 from the Sugar trust was simply following an illustrious example. The one long drawn out and uninterrupted lesson taught by the Sugar trust is that it's no harm to steal.

Taft and the Tariff.

If President TAFT vetoes the various tariff bills which have been or will be enacted during the pending special session of Congress, he will have a hard time fooling the people with respect to the motives which will influence him. It is understood that he will assert that no tariff legislation should be enacted until after the tariff commission has made its report. That "packed" body is making a scientific study of the subject with the view of ascertaining the difference in labor cost of production in this country and others. Guided by that report, the stand-patters allege, Congress will be able to write a scientific tariff bill which will allow a "reasonable profit" to American producers and most revenue necessities.

The constitution authorizes Congress to "lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises, to pay the debts and provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States." In general words tariff taxes may be levied and collected for revenue and for no other purpose. If there were no questions of public policy observed there would be nothing for Congress to do, therefore, except to fix the rate of tariff taxation and lay it impartially and indiscriminately upon every article or commodity imported. But all manufacturing countries agree that it is unwise to lay a tax on raw materials used in manufacture and consequently such commodities should be exempt. In fact ours is the only manufacturing country which taxes raw materials.

In view of the constitutional restraints and the requirements of wise policy, therefore, the only course open to Congress is to levy such tariff taxes as are necessary for revenue. There is no warrant for taking into consideration "reasonable profits" or any other kind of profits at either end of the transaction and there is no way under the sun to base tariff legislation upon scientific principles. The Democratic majority in the present House is amply able to devise a tariff measure which will comply with the provisions of the constitution and the requirements of revenue conditions and if the President vetoes such legislation there will be no escape from the fact that he acts in the interest of privilege.

—Possibly the Philadelphia preacher is right in denouncing the proposed marriage of Colonel JOHN JACOB ASTOR and a young girl whose parents have placed her in the market, as "an unholy alliance." But society in some of the fashionable resorts is simply training schools for future lives of shame and what is the difference who leads in the work.

Fortification of the Canal.

The esteemed Philadelphia Record can't understand, it declares, why the administration in Washington is in such haste to begin work on the fortifications of the Panama canal, in view of the recent achievement in the direction of universal peace as expressed in the treaty signed the other day. The canal was to have been a neutral highway in the advantages and conveniences of which all nations were to share. The fortification of it is, therefore, the breach of a moral obligation which would be tolerable only in the face of a great danger. As the peace pact removes all danger from that source the fortifications are, necessarily, an outrage upon all other commercial countries.

Our esteemed Philadelphia contemporary misinterprets the purpose of the canal fortifications. They are not intended to secure the waterway or this country from foreign attack. As a matter of fact they will be absolutely useless for that purpose. Any resistance of an attempt to capture the canal by a foreign foe, or use it against this country, must be made by war ships at the mouths of the ditch. There never was any danger of such attempt, however, and never will be. Even if the trend of public sentiment were in the direction of war rather than peace, such a fool-hardy enterprise would never be undertaken. Trying to dig out the rock of Gibraltar with a tooth-pick would be as sensible.

The purpose of the fortifications of the Panama canal is to give the Steel trust an opportunity to loot the treasury. The building of useless battleships is inspired by the same motive. President TAFT'S election to the Presidency in 1908 was purchased by funds contributed by this and other trusts, and he is under pledge to shape the policies of the government so as to reimburse them. The chances to accomplish this result are constantly growing less and are now reduced almost to two items, fortifications and war ships, and though TAFT will prate about peace until the Quaker mind is bewildered he will always be for "the old flag and an appropriation" for warships and fortifications.

Taxation of the Food Supply.

Dealers in and distributors of the necessities of life blame the mercantile tax as one of the principal causes of the high price of foodstuffs. They declare that the assessments are made so exorbitant as to necessitate a price to the consumers entirely out of proportion to what it should be, and assert if the assessments were based on reason and equity there would be a material reduction in the cost of living.

In many cities of the country there is an earnest campaign on foot by commission interests for a change in the methods of taxing dealers in foods. Pittsburgh, it is reported, which has long suffered from the burden of prices on the food supply, is about to join the movement. This feature of the great economic problem comes nearer the people than any other, and if it can be solved by a reform in the methods of assessments and a regrading of the assessments on the dealers, it ought to be done without further delay.

One of the plans advanced contemplates a lowering of the assessments or even exempting dealers in food-stuffs entirely. When it is known that this form of raising revenues must, in all instances, come from the pockets of the people there will be a general public approval of the suggestion for reform. No citizen should be compelled to pay a tax on the food that graces his family dinner table; that is a blow at prosperity and may be a reason for the cost against which the people complain.

Taxation is one of the necessities of government, but there are other and less burdensome methods of acquiring revenue without imposing it on the bread and meat of an industrious citizenship. There will be general indorsement of the proposition that the entire system be looked into with a view to affording the much-to-be-desired relief.

A Tiresome First Gun.

Another campaign for the Presidency is to be opened on September 16, when the President is to start on a six weeks' trip through the West, making speeches and inspecting political fences. That the struggle for the Presidency should thus be inaugurated more than a year before the election, and by the present occupant of the office, is certainly a cause for weariness.

Granting that the choice of a President and the determination of our national policy in that election are matters of the gravest moment, there is no good reason why we should be required to fill a whole year with contention and shouting, and the more or less disturbing controversies of parties and factions, winding up with a real campaign of some three months of furious politics.

Here is Canada holding a national campaign over reciprocity in the ample space of seven weeks from the moment when it was unexpectedly sprung upon the people by the dissolution of Parliament. That certainly looks like a better way.

Our statesmen should put their heads together and devise some plan for saving us from the weary length and the intolerable turmoil and business disturbance of too frequent presidential campaigns.

Underwood and Bryan.

It is obvious that the matter cannot be allowed to remain where it is. Mr. UNDERWOOD'S explanation will suffice for himself, but it will not at all satisfy the country in explanation of this singular failure to take up the steel schedule when a house investigating committee is raving the country over for facts in demonstration of the existence of an oppressive steel monopoly which is protected in its exactions by the tariff. Washington reports are that many of the Democratic members are beginning to see this. After the hearty demonstration against Mr. Bryan, the sober second thought is saying that a party situation exists which cannot be permitted to continue. There is accordingly a demand that the session be further prolonged and that the steel schedule be taken up for a thorough revision and reduction. But even this would be an admission before the country of an embarrassing party error which a further extension of the present session, already prolonged so far as to tax severely the patience of the country, will not improve the prospects of the party in the coming presidential election.

Preserve Harmony.

A straw vote of Democrats in the Congress gives a plurality for Governor Wilson for President. A couple other prominent members of their party were well supported, but the Governor's nomination and election would be a certainty if the Democrats in the capitol could cast the deciding votes.

The party was never better supplied with good presidential timber, at a time when complete harmony prevailed, and indications are that it will be unbroken. Speaker Clark, Governor Harmon and Governor Wilson have the confidence and respect of the majority of the people of all political persuasions. That confidence and respect will not be disturbed by any narrow-minded and selfish assaults on any one of those gentlemen. The Democratic party will not allow itself to be split into antagonistic factions.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

—One Lancaster county farmer has just sold his farm, situated on the outskirts of Mt. Joy, at the rate of \$350 an acre.

—Chemical water purifiers are to be attached to all pipes leading to the city from the reservoirs which supply the Johnstown city system.

—The regiment of which the late Senator M. S. Quay was colonel in the war—the Thirty-fourth Pennsylvania—will hold its twenty-ninth reunion at New Brighton on Thursday of this week.

—The American Natural Gas company has recently filed leases on twenty-six tracts in West Mahoning township, Indiana county. It is thought that the tracts will be developed soon.

—Charles Wertz, a prominent fruit man, who resides about six miles south of Bedford, has eighty acres in fruit, consisting mostly of apples and plums, although other kinds are well represented.

—Jeffrey Whiles, residing in Huntingdon county, who has had considerable experience as a rattlesnake hunter, was bitten by one on Saturday. He hurried home and although his condition was extremely critical for a time, his physician has not given up hope of saving his life.

—"Billy" Gibbons, a Lewistown negro recently released from penitentiary, is in jail at Lewis' town. He had served a term for assaulting rail' road officer Shaffer at Lewistown Junction, and the present charge against him is assaulting Chief of Police Yeoman, of Lewistown.

—Police are searching for Tony Cadina, employed in a section gang near DuBois, who is charged with robbing a half-dozen of his fellow laborers while they were at work. He was too sick to work, but was gone when his friends returned.

—The Penn Central Light and Power company is installing two 600 horse-power boilers at its power plant at Warrior Ridge and in the near future two additional boilers will be installed with a 2,500 kilowatt General Electric generator. The improvements will tend to increase the capacity of the plant.

—Grand Army day will be celebrated at Lakemont park, Altoona, on September 9th. Preparations are being made to care for a large crowd. Several military companies, Sons of Veterans and the Spanish-American war veterans will help the old soldiers to celebrate. A sham battle and many other diversions will amuse the crowd.

—District Attorney Small, of Columbia county, has presented a petition to the court of that county asking for the appointment of a commissioner to take testimony in the investigation of charges of alleged corruption in the granting of liquor licenses. Judge Evans is so implicated, but the same cannot be said concerning his associates.

—Mrs. Catherine Dougherty, of Catawagua, has been arrested on the charge of wholesale shoplifting in Allentown. She admitted her guilt and wept bitterly while in the police station, declaring that she was the mother of eight children, only four of whom are living, however, and that poverty compelled her to steal. Her husband secured her release on bail.

—Lawsho Dorr, of Clearfield, had his nose broken in a peculiar manner recently. He was in his auto when something amused him and he dropped his head on the head rest to laugh. It was in the vicinity of Snow Shoe, where roads are not good and the machine struck a breaker. Mr. Dorr was bounced against the top of the auto and landed with his nose broken.

—Mrs. John Davies, of Dorranceton, Luzerne county, who was born in Wales seventy-five years ago, holds the record for numerous descendants. She is the mother of ten children, fifty-seven grandchildren and sixteen great-grandchildren. Even at her advanced age, Mrs. Davies enjoys excellent health and is in possession of good health and good eyesight.

—There was a sad ending of a picnic party at Huntingdon, when Myrtle Wilson, aged 11 years of Connelville, was drowned in Blair park. She was visiting her sister, Mrs. D. F. Fradette, and had gone with the family to the park. She had left the others to go for a drinking cup and evidently had fallen down the steep bank into the creek, where her body was found two hours later.

—Early Sunday morning a Philadelphia policeman found a woman in an unconscious state lying on the sidewalk. She was removed to a hospital where she recovered consciousness long enough to say that her name was Annie Hamer, that she was a widow, that her age was 29 years and that she had taken a large quantity of morphine in the hope of ending her existence because she was tired of life.

—Joseph Krutendorfer, an elderly resident of Ebensburg, was lost in the "California" woods, near that place recently for almost two days. A searching party found his bucket of berries, but couldn't find him. Finally he emerged from the woods on a road which he knew led to Ebensburg. He was met by a friend in an auto and the anxiety of his wife was quickly ended. A number of years ago a man was lost in the same thicket for five days.

—The exceedingly dry weather previous to the hay harvest almost ruined that crop on many Indiana county farms. A White township farmer who cut ninety-three acres of grass and who should have had over 200 tons of hay, put in his barn less than seventy tons. Another White township farmer cut sixty acres and put in his barn less than thirty tons of hay. Both these men are known as good farmers, but the drought knocked their calculations end-ways.

—Charles T. Derick, of Bellwood, has filed a complaint with the state railroad commission against the Logan Valley Trolley company, operating a line between Altoona and Tyrone, alleging discrimination. The fare between Altoona and Bellwood, a distance of seven miles, is fifteen cents, and between Bellwood and Tyrone, a distance of seven and four-tenths miles, it is ten cents. Complainant thinks the charge between Altoona and Bellwood should be cut to ten cents.

—McKean county oil producers are agitating a project to drill a test well to the approximate depth of 4,000 feet. It has been a long-mooted and much-debated question whether the lower strata of the rocks underlying Bradford bear oil and this agitation is intended to get the men with money together on the proposition. The Medina sand lies at a depth of 4,000 feet in the Tuna valley and this will be tested out. It will cost a large sum to drill such a well, but the Bradford men are resolved to try to do it. If they should succeed, it would rejuvenate the old oil fields.

—Mrs. Charles McAdoo, one of the biggest women in Central Pennsylvania and a sister of assistant cashier E. C. Swartz, of the Brookville Title and Trust company, was found dead in bed at an early hour Thursday morning by other members of her family. She had retired in good health Wednesday night and it is supposed that death was caused by apoplexy. The deceased was 46 years of age and is quite well-known personally about Brookville. She weighed in the neighborhood of 400 pounds at the time of death. The deceased is survived by her husband and several children.

—Jack O'Hara was recently killed at Jimtown, Indiana county, by the overturning of a traction engine he was running. In speaking of the occurrence the Indiana Gazette says: "The deceased was one of the most unfortunate men ever recorded in this county. He was the victim of a score of serious accidents, having had legs and arms broken upon a number of occasions. He had his back seriously injured in a mine accident; not to speak of a number of minor accidents; he was incapacitated from work for various periods of time. He was thought to bear a charmed life as his escapes on a number of occasions were little short of miraculous."