

INK SLINGS.

The candidates are on the last lap of their hustle for office.

Wonder if any of the good folks who prayed for rain thought of praying for it to stop.

A man is never so bad that some poor woman isn't willing to take a chance with him.

More hogs are killed in the United States than all other animals combined yet there seems to be a great many of certain kinds in evidence.

That millionaire's wife who declared that she must have sixty-seven dollars a day on which to maintain herself probably isn't worth thirty cents as a home maker.

A new race of people has recently been reported found in the Arctic regions. They had never seen a white man and not even heard of GEORGE W. GUTHRIE, of Pittsburgh.

We are growing old fast. It seems only yesterday that everyone was naming a new baby RUTH because RUTH CLEVELAND was the baby of the White House. Now one of her younger sisters, ESTHER, is old enough to have her engagement to marry announced.

It is funny that Uncle SAM has never thought of doing something in the way of reducing the tax burdens of his people before he started his postal savings banks. It seems like a case of putting the cart before the horse, unless he expects to get blood out of a turnip.

In the early ages of the Christian era the fathers of the church protested most vigorously against the wearing of wigs. In modern times many of the fathers of the church have to provide their wives and daughters with rats before they can get them to the services.

It is a fact that the musca domestica have been fewer in numbers this year than they have been in a long time. The relief to Centry county folks is not correspondingly appreciable because the paucity of the pestiferous fly is more than offset by the plethora of candidates.

You need not be surprised to see a lot of ladies with their knitting at the polling places in November. They intend to make a regular jambouree out of their campaign for school director so you may look for any old thing. Honestly we can't see how they will actually man the polls.

Ohio physicians are going to experiment with sauer-kraut as a diet calculated to lengthen life. The subjects will be kept in the Massillon state hospital and those of them who die from cabbage stuffing will be spoken of as the surgeons do their operation cases: "The operation was successful but the patient died."

MARY GARDEN has cabled from Paris that she is coming back for her grand opera engagements in the fall with a trousseau that will be an eye-opener for the bald headed row. MARY calls her new costume "the pneumonia garb," but why waste further words in description. In truth it is something that you would scarcely notice at all.

Really we never gave a serious thought to that prediction from Washington county that the world is to come to an end soon. But when PENROSE comes out with a proposal to turn reformer in Philadelphia, as he did last Friday, then, be golly, we have to admit that there might be something in this dope about the early dawning of the millennium.

"Mona Lisa," the DE VINCI master piece, valued at millions of dollars, was stolen from the Louvre in Paris last week. What made the painting famous was the smile on the face of the subject; a smile so peculiar that it had never been seen before and baffled all attempts at successful copying. It was a smile that made President TAFT famous in his campaign two years ago, but, unlike the "Mona Lisa's," the President didn't hold to make him valuable either to his country or his party.

That Canonsburg theatre accident was the most horrible catastrophe that has occurred in Pennsylvania since the fire at Boyertown. In this case the folly and frenzy of excited humanity was responsible for all of the deaths, as there was neither danger nor fire. It was a case of panic in a crowded theatre when a boy shouted "fire," when there was none, and twenty-six human beings were tramped to death in the scramble to get out. Verily, the lesson of sanity in all things is a hard one to learn.

The women of Bellefonte are going to get into politics in the fall. The Civic club has two candidates for school director in the field and already they are framing up a lot of campaign thunder. You will recall that the WATCHMAN told you of the brick that was thrown through a window of a Linn street home where they were in secret session a few weeks ago and how panic stricken some of them were. Now they are trying to connect Col. FORTNEY and Dr. LOCKE with the assault because those gentlemen are candidates for school director also. It is a slander on both of them, of course, but the women have listened to their husband's talk politics so long that they know most anything goes.

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Penrose as a Reformer.

In an open letter, recently issued, Senator PENROSE declares that the government of Philadelphia is "indefensible." For years it has been a government of contractors, for contractors and by contractors. The basest vices have not only the sanction of the municipal administration, but the protection of the police, Ballot box stuffing has become the safest occupation and crime the most favored industry. This intolerable condition is the logical consequence of the political habits of the business community. Covetous of unearned bounties, the leading commercial and professional men have supported bad government for the reason that it guaranteed them a share in the graft.

The chastening influence of party disaster admonished Senator PENROSE, however, that better conditions must be brought about. The people of Philadelphia have not actually revolted but the people of other communities are protesting and PENROSE wants to avert the calamity to his party all over the country which is impending. It is not that he has undergone a change of heart. His conscience has not been aroused. But his intelligence teaches him that unless a change for the better is made in the citadel of Republicanism, the less secure localities will be compelled to capitulate. PENROSE is simply appealing to the sense of self-preservation. He would save the party at the expense of his home friends.

We sincerely hope that Senator PENROSE will succeed in his effort to nominate Mr. GEORGE H. EARLE Jr., for the office of mayor, not because we believe in the possibility of reforming the Republican party of Philadelphia by such a result, but for the reason that Mr. EARLE is personally honest and certainly capable. Besides he is not so very far removed from Democracy. He is in favor of tariff for revenue only, civil service improvement and government for the people. He also dispises that arch-demagogue and grafter, THEODORE ROOSEVELT, and that is greatly in his favor. It would be better for the people of Philadelphia to elect a Democrat of course, but EARLE's nomination would give the Republicans a reputable candidate, at least, and might prove an excuse for the gang to elect a Democrat, rather than submit to the election of a Republican whom they despised.

The business of the Steel trust for August was the best of any month of the year, according to a statement of the directors. Yet the tariff agitation and congressional investigations were expected to make it the worst. There is certainly something the matter with things. They don't come out just as the Captains of Industry would like to see them.

Taft and the Tariff Bills.

There can be only one reason for the President's veto of all tariff legislation enacted during the recent special session of Congress. TAFT is an exceedingly vain person and the opportunity of making it appear that he was compelling the Democratic majority of the House to serve his personal caprices was probably enticing but it would hardly induce him to offend a vast majority of the people. Men of small mental calibre do absurd things, under the influence of an obsession of ego, but we can't imagine that TAFT would be silly enough to literally outrage public sentiment for no other purpose than to get a joke on the Democratic majority of Congress. He is too cunning for that.

When TAFT called the Sixty-second Congress into special session for the expressed purpose of enacting the Canadian reciprocity pact, he necessarily created the opportunity for the majority to take up any sort of legislation that might be occurred in by both branches. But we felt in the beginning that he intended to play a trick and advised the majority of the House to pass the other feature of its program first and make the passage of TAFT's pet measure, Canadian reciprocity, contingent upon his approval of the other bills. The majority preferred to treat him as a manly man however, and enacted his bill first and the others afterward. He approved his and vetoed all others, just as we expected he would.

But his personal vanity, colossal as it is, was not the influencing reason. TAFT is under mortgage to the trusts and they compelled him to do what he has done. There are a hundred millions of dollars of graft to the interests in the postponement of tariff reduction legislation for another year and TAFT is obliged, under penalty of exposure, to serve the trusts. The people of the country will be excessively taxed to the full measure of the gain of the trusts and thousands of poor children will contract fatal maladies because of the extortion of the wool tariff, meantime. But TAFT doesn't care for the people. He believes that he can fool them again and serves the trusts.

Taft's False Promises.

Article 2, section 7 of the constitution of the United States provides that "The President shall, at stated times, receive for his services, a compensation, which shall be neither increased nor diminished during the period for which he should have been elected, and he shall not receive within that period any other emolument from the United States or any of them." The compensation fixed by law for the President is \$75,000 per annum. In the way of emolument, in violation of the constitution, he draws a traveling fund of \$25,000 a year, rents a house at the seashore at probably \$6000 a year, has for his exclusive use two ships of the navy and half a dozen automobiles.

Last year the expenses of maintaining the White House were \$50,000. The domestic service at the White House and summer capital amounted to \$25,000. His daughter uses a naval ship to give outings to her friends and his son uses an automobile belonging to the government to go to and from college. The White House table is supplied at the expense of the public treasury and the expenses of his golfing exercises are discharged from the same strong box. His stable is supplied and maintained at public expense and his compensation is clear gain. All these extra charges are in violation of the constitution which he is sworn to "support, obey and defend." LINCOLN received \$25,000 a year for his services as President and paid all his personal and household expenses.

While TAFT was a candidate for President three years ago he pledged that he would compel a revision of the tariff downward. Two years ago that pledge went to protest and hasn't been redeemed since. Now he is on the stump again, at public expense, making new promises of tariff reduction. He must imagine that the voters are exceedingly credulous. No banker will accommodate a borrower who fails to meet his obligations. Why should the public be less exacting? TAFT knew he was uttering false promises three years ago but the people didn't. Now the people have the right to assume that he is again trying to deceive them and if they are wise they will not be fooled again by a false pretense.

The WATCHMAN has an esteemed subscriber in Scharrachbergheim, Germany, who states in a letter received yesterday that she has a new variety of potato growing in her garden this summer, the vine or stalk of which is three yards high and still growing. She also promises, if the potatoes grow accordingly large, to send the editor one as a curiosity, and we certainly would appreciate it—if it grows that big.

Places for Party Henchmen.

One of the complaints of the American colonists against King GEORGE III was that "he has erected a multitude of new offices and sent hither swarms of officers to harass our people and eat out their substance." But in that line the Pennsylvania Republican machine has the cranky old King of England skinned a mile. It has created more offices and appointed more officers in this State, within the last dozen years, than King GEORGE did during the entire period of his sovereignty over this country. And King GEORGE was never half as profligate in the matter of salaries either.

Within that period the Department of Health, with its myriad of officers has been created. That department has accomplished some good but it is not an unjust criticism to say that it could do as well with half the force. The State highway department is equally overcrowded and profligate. Under the new law there are, in the office at Harrisburg, nearly 100 employees besides the vast number of inspectors to be appointed while work is in progress. Even now the patronage of that department is being used to control the nomination of candidates for judge and other offices in various sections of the State.

Every sane citizen is in favor of good roads and most men are willing to pay liberally to procure them. But what use is there for a commissioner, two deputies, a chief engineer, two bridge engineers, fifty superintendents, five draughtsmen, and eleven clerks to conduct the affairs of the department? A commissioner competent to perform the services of chief engineer might easily have been obtained at the salary of \$8,000, and there is no more need for fifty superintendents at \$1,000 a year each, than there is for two tails on a dog. But this profligacy provides places for party henchmen.

Probably Mr. J. PIERPONT MORGAN had the "Mona Lisa" stolen in order to get a decoration from France upon its return at some time in the near future. Mr. MORGAN has already worked Italy and Germany in a way something like that.

Philadelphia Reformer Unmasked.

Mr. D. CLARENCE GIBBONEY has announced himself as a candidate for mayor of Philadelphia on the reform ticket. Mr. RUDOLPH BLANKENBURG had previously expressed a willingness to run. Senator PENROSE has brought out Mr. GEORGE H. EARLE Jr., for the office and an organization which styles itself the Republican Nomination League has asked former Superior Court Judge DIMNER BEBER to enter the race and he has accepted the call. Mr. THOMAS L. HICKS, who was chairman of the Keystone State Committee last fall has a lightning rod up in confident expectation of a strike and FRANK M. RITTER is watching for an opportunity "to shy his castor into the arena." There are other reformers and back wards have not been heard from.

The real machine candidate for the office is Mr. WILLIAM S. VARE, brother of Senator VARE and silent partner in the VARE contracting firm. The hardly concealed purpose of his ambition is to loot the city through contractual frauds and present millions, in unearned bounties to the VARE family and its favorites. If those who are opposed to the consummation of this scheme would unite on a candidate, he would easily be elected. But outside of EARLE and BLANKENBURG, the announced candidates have no such object in view. GIBBONEY and HICKS and RITTER simply want to make certain of the nomination of VARE and his election and they are in the field as "decoy ducks" for the machine.

During the gubernatorial campaign last fall it is alleged that HICKS offered to withdraw Mr. BERRY from the fight for the consideration of \$160,000 to be paid to him by the friends of WEBSTER GRIM. It was rumored at various times during the campaign that Mr. GIBBONEY was willing to decline the Keystone nomination for Lieutenant Governor and denounce Mr. BERRY if the Democrats would withdraw their candidate for that office and put GIBBONEY in his place. Neither of these offers was considered because they involved political recency and moral turpitude. But they show what sort of fellows these reformers are. They were playing into the hands of the Republican machine then and are now.

Even the Lock Haven newspapers have been commenting upon the action of the Bell Telephone company of Pennsylvania in refusing to furnish free telephone service to the Bellefonte hospital and their comments have been anything but complimentary. It has always been said that a corporation is a soul-less monopoly and in their action regarding the hospital telephone the Bell company has fully emphasized that fact. Now if the borough council would take up the matter of exacting a proper and just pole tax from the company for the use of the streets and alleys it would undoubtedly prove a piece of popular legislation. And goodness knows, the borough is in sorry need of all the money it can get at this time.

Mr. ROCKEFELLER is having a tunnel made from his stable to his residence, a distance of 1000 feet, in order to avoid the necessity of delivery wagons approaching the house. JOHN D. is very exclusive but the only way that he can entirely escape the curious eyes of the public is to die. Nobody can see six feet under the sod of the graveyard.

The New York World is anxious to find out whether or not President TAFT has committed suicide. We regret to say that we have no information on the subject but are able to assure our esteemed contemporary that he has killed all chances for the Republican party in the future.

Cold-storage commodities are bad enough under the most favorable conditions but when cold-storage warehouses are kept in filth they are intolerable. Recent investigations have revealed some of that sort.

The Tobacco trust has ordered another increase in the price of cigarettes but if it never does anything worse than that it will probably escape a good deal of just complaint.

Early in the summer there was a large cavein in the pavement on Allegheny street, in front of Temple Court, and at the time there was considerable speculation as to what caused it, with never any satisfactory explanation. This week the brick pavement in front of the Reynolds block, on the same street, caved in and again the query: Why is it? In one place there was a hole almost five feet deep and the cave-in extended for a length of ten feet and two feet in width. The only plausible explanation so far advanced is that recent hard rains soaked the ground and washed it down into fissures of the limestone rock thus allowing the pavement to cave in.

The President's Mistake.

The horse on which the President seeks to ride away is "scientific revision." We must be judicially minded and get all the facts before us, especially must determine to a hair's breadth the difference in cost of production at home and abroad, before doing anything. Yet without anything of all that, Mr. Taft was ready to assert two years ago and, in fact, does it in this very message, that he believes the Payne-Aldrich wool duties to be excessive. How does he know that, inasmuch as the tariff board has not yet reported and until it does we are not supposed to know anything? Why he knows it, of course, just as does any man with common sense, by a mere glance at the outrageous duties now exacted.

The President states that the average existing rates on clothes are 97 per cent. and on wearing apparel 81 per cent. If manufacturers cannot get along without such exorbitant protection, with its resulting taxes weighing so heavily on the poor, then, as Representative Redfield said in his speech on June 12, they ought to turn their factories over to men with brains enough to run them. We need no one to come from the dead to tell us that a tax of 100 per cent on clothing is a gross injustice, or that cutting it in two is an act of justice.

Nor is it true that Congress did the cutting wholly in the dark. Early in June the house asked for all the information about the woolen schedules in the possession of the tariff board, and the President ordered it sent. It was not complete, of course, but so far as it went, the ways and means committee had the advantage of it. Mr. Taft is able to point out no lack of "science" in their use of it, or in the framing of their bill, yet he nevertheless excises his veto.

In our opinion the President has made a great mistake. He has disappointed the just expectations of the country. For the sake of dubious relief in the future he has sacrificed an assured present relief. Politically, he has made a present to the Democrats of a telling issue and a golden opportunity.

Great Work for the Democracy.

From the Kansas City Star (Independent.) As an independent newspaper the Star now records its conviction that in the session just ending the Democratic congressional organization has shown itself alert, intelligent and sincere in promoting progressive measures. In passing the reciprocity bill without amendments the Democratic Congressmen resisted tempting opportunities to play politics and worked sincerely for what they believed to be the country's best interests. They might have sought to make political capital out of reciprocity. That they did not attempt—except in the broad way of tariff reductions. Each one of them was a sincere effort to remedy glaring evils. Each one of them was blocked—most mistakenly and most unfortunately—by the President. It is simple truth to say that the record of the special session has enormously strengthened the confidence of independent voters in the capacity of the Democratic party as represented in Congress. On the strength of this record with a presidential candidate like Gov. Wilson, in whom the country believes, the party would make a powerful appeal to the nation next year.

A Suggestion for Mr. Taft.

From the New York World. If Mr. Taft will look up the records he will discover that his own party, then in control of Congress, last year refused to create a tariff commission, and that the present tariff board "exists only by executive order, and therefore its reports are addressed to the President through the Secretary of the Treasury." If he search the records further he will find that a number of the leading high protectionists, with whom he has now taken sides by his tariff vetoes, opposed any board of tariff experts and ridiculed the idea that their work could be of real value in framing legislation.

Cause and Effect.

From the Fairhope Courier. No city on the Pacific coast is putting up more buildings in proportion to population, or better buildings, than Vancouver, British Columbia. To exempt improvements from taxation means to encourage capital to invest in buildings. To tax them means to encourage land speculation.

Work for the Dis-Organizers.

From the Greensburg Argus. Will not some one kindly remind Chairman Guthrie, of the rump State committee, to not neglect to pay his poll tax and otherwise qualify himself for voting either the Republican or Democratic ticket at the approaching primary and general elections?

Trade Obstruction.

From the Toronto Globe. The obstruction of trade will not long be regarded as the foundation of any nation's prosperity. That fact accounts for most of the fierce hostility to the taking of a little off the top.

A Tour of Explanation.

From the Rochester Herald. The President will make a tour of the west in September to explain how it happens that the American Woolen company possesses so much influence in Washington.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

Pennsylvania railroad water is being pumped by electricity into the town reservoir at Gallitzin to avert a water famine.

The biggest pay day in the history of Meyersdale occurred last week, when \$24,500 was the amount handed out to railroad employees.

The last of the typhoid victims in the Blough family near Johnstown, is now convalescent. Eight members of the household were afflicted.

They say that parties in St. Marys have 10,000 bushels of charcoal in storage. They are holding it because of the depression in the market.

Canonsburg has buried her dead out of sight but it will be many a day before the ghastly horror of which they were the victims will be out of mind.

A campaign for raising \$150,000 for Hamot hospital, in Erie, will be started on Sept. 1st which will be used for the enlargement of the building and for paying off the debt of \$18,400.

Although 82 years old, Mrs. Matilda Zillinger, of Zionsville, a Schuylkill valley town, milks two cows daily, does all her own housework and recently bound by hand the grain off a three-acre tract.

The Penn Enamel company has taken over the plant of the Clymer Manufacturing company and assumed its obligations, giving shareholders equal stock. Indiana is pleased to have the industry retained.

William T. Burke, sentenced to be hanged in the Chester county prison next Thursday, has requested his counsel to appeal to Governor Tener for respite that he may have opportunity to present his case to the state board of pardons.

The new digests of the game laws on linen for posting in the woods and in game preserves have been prepared by the state game commission and will be put up without delay. The game wardens are getting ready for a good game season.

The first coal from the new main town of Colver was shipped this week by the Ebensburg Coal company. A new branch of the Blacklick and Yellow Creek railroad has been completed and Pennsylvania surveyors are now busy in that vicinity. The town is booming.

John Young, aged 91 years, one of Johnstown's oldest citizens and staunch Democrat, is dead. He was the father of fourteen children, seven of whom survive him, with forty-two grandchildren, thirty-five great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild.

United Mine Workers of America at Barnesboro are planning a monster Labor Day picnic as a means to aiding the miners' hospital at Spanishler. Ladies of the various churches will furnish tables and there will be a big attendance. Proceeds will build a wing to the hospital.

James Scabo, the Italian, who placed a tie on the Pennsylvania railroad tracks in the Lewistown Narrows, several weeks ago, on Monday pleaded guilty before Judge Joseph M. Woods at Millifort. He was sentenced to from nine months to three years in the western penitentiary.

As John Mahoney, of Sharon, was passing a building in course of erection a mosquito tried to alight on his nose, causing him to jerk his head back. At the same moment a workman on the structure dropped a heavy hammer, which grazed his face and chipped a piece off the stone pavement.

After escaping the horrors of yellow fever while a nurse for American soldiers in the war with Spain, and then living for years with a silver plate in his head, the result of a fall, Frank S. Hausmann, of New Hanover Square, Schuylkill county, met a tragic death by falling down stairs at his home.

The largest industrial building ever known to have been constructed is that of the New Jersey Zinc company at its new plant, near Millport, Carbon county. The building, which is known as the oxide building, is 865 feet long, 100 feet wide and four stories high, and the oxide furnaces directly opposite to the building are of the same length.

Crawford M. Orr, a life-long resident of Altoona, met death at his own hands on Saturday afternoon, when he committed suicide in Schenley park, Pittsburgh. The man took laudanum, then shot himself in the head, dying a few hours later at the Mercy hospital, in Pittsburgh. Melancholia and derangement, both resulting from business reverses, are given by relatives as the cause of his act.

Because Carbon county commissioners decided to have this year's township, ward and borough nominations made by caucus and primaries as heretofore, instead of by direct primary, there is trouble ahead for them, and the court is being called upon to decide whether the action of the commissioners is legal and binding. Lansford and Summit Hill citizens brought mandamus proceedings against the commissioners.

The remains of David Petzer and his son Lester, who were killed in a grade crossing accident near Milton last Wednesday, were interred in one grave on Saturday. Over 500 people attended the funeral and more than 75 carriages followed the two hearse to the big double grave where the two caskets were laid side by side. Rev. A. F. Weaver, of Milton, and two assistants had charge of the services which were most impressive.

A fatal accident that proved a great shock to the people of Houtzdale was the instant killing of Robert Willett, a young carpenter, at 7:30 o'clock Wednesday morning, caused by coming in contact with a live electric wire while making repairs to the roof of T. J. Kevey's store. He immediately fell over on both wires, holding one in each hand, and burned there in the presence of spectators on the street until the current was shut off at the power plant, when his lifeless body was taken down and conveyed to the undertakers.

George Warren McCloskey, aged 19 years, of Lock Haven, was drowned in the Susquehanna river near that place a few days ago. He was out with a companion in a leaky canoe and while his companion was battling he rocked the canoe. The boat capsized and young McCloskey went down. His friend pulled him out, left him clinging to the canoe and started to swim to the shore for help. But although boathmen had heard his cries, when they reached the canoe McCloskey had gone down and it was some time before the body was recovered.

A mysterious death which occurred at Clover Run, Clearfield county, on August 7th, has just come to public knowledge. John Mikesell, aged 16 years, a punper boy in No. 2 mine, went to work as usual. At 7:30 it was noted that he was not at work, but no attention was paid to the report. When his brothers went home in the evening and didn't find him, they went back and found him lying on his face in three inches of water. The coroner was not notified. As the boy was in perfect health, it is likely that there may yet be an investigation.

That branch of the Juniata river which has its source south of Claysburg, and one of whose chief feeders is the Cove creek, which comes from Roaring Springs, known locally as the second river, contains the carcasses of countless numbers of fish, which but a few days ago swam, breathed, eat and played as any fish is prone to do. But now they are dead. They were not killed by any person in an effort to secure a mess of fish. If they had been, the county would be swarming with fish wardens, running down every clue, in order that the guilty party might be caught and punished. As it happens, there is a pier or mill further up the stream, and suspicion point strongly to it. The water is greatly discolored and smells like alkali. The mouths of the dead fish are iritated and sore.