

INK SLINGS.

The straw hat is becoming more and more passe. All the kiddies are back at school and a few hours of mother's troubles are shunted to the teacher. Who can tell? The bluff at municipal house cleaning in Philadelphia may turn out to be the real thing. Don't get into trouble that can possibly be avoided. There is no tonic like happiness and its greatest antidote is trouble. Dr. WILEY thinks the use of tobacco for smoking and chewing will be obsolete within fifteen years. In his other lines the Doctor is credited with being reasonably sane. Nine million words are the record in speeches, debate, etc., during the last session of Congress. It is noticeable that many of them were not Uncle JOE CANNON'S. His word didn't go as it once did. The Philadelphia Record wants to know where "Bill" VARE got his millions and we'll bet a red apple against a doughnut that Senator McNICHOL could answer the question with both hands tied behind his back. If the adage "when rouges fall out honest men come by their own," is true, the honest folk in Philadelphia ought to draw a lot of comfort out of the Republican machine straggle now in progress in that city. Anybody can see at a glance that Senator PENROSE looks well in the garb of a reformer but it would be wise for those concerned to take a squint under the mask in order to see whether or not he looks happy. Those Persian natives who relish the young asafoetida plant as a diet must be the evolution of the suckers we used to fish for as a kid when we thought that asafoetida in the bait can always make them bite better. Many of the highest buildings in Chicago have recently been discovered to be seriously out of plumb. It has not yet been revealed whether they got crooked in the last campaign for United States Senator in Illinois. OTTO HELL, a New Yorker, applied to the courts in that city to have his name changed. He thought O. HELL, in big electric lights in front of a confectionery he had just bought, wouldn't look good and the court agreed with him. The women have just touched off the first big gun of their campaign for school directors. Read it in another column of this paper. They say "We cannot vote, but we are influential." So then it is to be a campaign of "influence" is it? We presume that the Hon. GEORGE W. GUTHRIE was among the first to get registered in Pittsburg on Tuesday. Of course this is only presumption because history tells us that the Hon. GEORGE has frequently failed in this little duty of citizenship. Mr. JAMES I. BLAKESIE is having a "halcyon and vociferous" time traveling over the State and giving expensive dinners to political adventurers but it is not easy to discover how those who are paying the "checks" get the worth of their money out of it. France and Germany are strutting about on their respective frontiers just now with the proverbial chip on the shoulder. International peace advocates are respectfully invited to keep hands off until the bluster is over and arbitration can be suggested. One of the men candidates for school director in Bellefonte was interrogated by a member of the Civic club, the other day about as follows: "Are you running for school director?" He: "I don't know whether I am running or walking." She: "Well, you'd better sit down, then." Authorities seem to be hunting hard to find a location in Centre county for the new penitentiary. While there might be some temporary advantage in having such an institution built in this community we are of the opinion it is not a thing to be very enthusiastically sought after. Think the matter over carefully now. The time is growing short. Attend the primaries and vote for the man whom you honestly think would make the most acceptable incumbent in the office he aspires to fill. But if more people vote for some one else, remember the old adage about two heads being better than one. The inspectors who examined the Canonsburg opera house have reported that the stairway was "wide enough for all demands of the law." This announcement has prompted the Philadelphia Inquirer to suggest that the law ought to be changed. All the laws that could be enacted wouldn't have thrown a single safe guard around that ill-fated audience that was not there. The show might have been in the open and a panic started with fatal results. What we have to learn is the lesson of self control and that all of us will never succeed in learning. The Canonsburg horror was only a little more horrible than the average of incidents that occur almost daily and in every one of which the element of self control is found to be lacking in a greater or less degree.

Democratic Watchman

STATE RIGHTS AND FEDERAL UNION.

VOL. 56. BELLEFONTE, PA., SEPTEMBER 8, 1911. NO. 35.

The Catlin Commission.

The CATLIN commission has organized for the ostensible purpose of investigating charges of corruption in the government of Philadelphia. It assembled, in pursuance of a call of the chairman, Senator CATLIN, of Luzerne county, on Saturday last. It was created for an entirely different and essentially sinister purpose and for that reason suspicion adheres to it. It is authorized, by a resolution of the State Senate, "to investigate any charges that may have been heretofore or may hereafter be made, between legislative sessions, against any person holding office in this Commonwealth, of any immoral or dishonest conduct, or who has in any way violated his oath of office." It is also empowered to summon witnesses, administer oaths and compel witnesses to testify. The original purpose of the commission was to blaze a way by which the Republican machine might harass judges who refused to obey its mandates. One of the Philadelphia courts had given offence to Mayor REYBURN by rendering decisions according to law instead of in the interest of the municipal administration and the machine devised this method of "getting even." Subsequently, however, a difference among the machine leaders led up to an irreconcilable factional quarrel and the offices of the commission have been invoked by one faction to destroy the other. That there is abundant reason for the intervention is beyond question. The REYBURN administration has given the most flagrant example of rotten municipal government of which there is any record in any country. The investigation which has thus been inaugurated is capable of rendering most valuable service, not only to the people of Philadelphia, but for the entire State and possibly for the whole country. So far as Mr. LOGAN M. BULLITT and the attorney for his committee, Mr. THOMAS RABURN WHITE, are concerned, we have no doubt of an honest purpose to abate a great evil and correct a serious fault. But we have not the same faith in the integrity of purpose of the Philadelphia factionists who have procured the activity of the commission or the majority of the members of that body. It is impossible to imagine that either Senator PENROSE or Senator McNICHOL has turned in for real reform, or that they contemplate such a political renovation as justice requires. If these gentlemen are in earnest, however, this investigation will result in such an upheaval in politics and such an exposure of corruption as has not occurred in this country since the late SAMUEL J. TILDEN ran down and brought to punishment the members of the TWEED ring in New York. But we apprehend that such is not the purpose of the pending investigation. We greatly fear that the only intent of those behind it is to force the REYBURN administration to abrogate its "working agreement" with the machine of the VARE brothers and thus make certain the defeat of a candidate for chief magistrate of the city whose fondness as well as first ambition would be to put both PENROSE and McNICHOL in the pillory and inflict upon them all the tortures of the damned. Of course the candidacy of Senator LAFOLLETTE for the Presidency is a joke which gives little or no concern to President TAFT and his campaign managers. Yet viewed from this distance it looks as if President TAFT and his campaign managers are mainly responsible for it. They have seemingly enticed LAFOLLETTE and his friends into the Republican convention and when TAFT carries that body by an overwhelming majority, there will be nothing for LAFOLLETTE and his followers to do but turn in for the ticket. Otherwise they might claim that they were not bound by the convention and support a Progressive like WOODROW WILSON. The Republican machine is a shrewd organization and not too conscientious. Mr. GIBBONEY has announced that he will abide by the result of the Keystone primary in Philadelphia "unless the primaries should result in the nomination of a gangster." As there are only two avowed candidates for the Keystone nomination for mayor, GIBBONEY and BLANKENBURG, it will be impossible to nominate a "gangster." Still the announcement gives GIBBONEY a wide latitude. Like Mr. BERRY last fall, he may decide in his own mind that anybody except himself is a "gangster." It is charged that Dr. HILL was forced out of the German Embassy by Secretary of State KNOX in order to make an attractive place for the Secretary's friend, Ambassador LEISCHMAN. KNOX and LEISCHMAN are Pittsburgers and this little piece of juggling is simply characteristic.

Public Interests and Political Exigencies

The State Highway Department has issued an order for the construction of a State road covering the distance between Millintown and Lewistown, known as the "Lewistown Narrows." It is an important bit of public highway and the department was wise in deciding upon an early improvement. But we regret to say that the work is not progressing as rapidly as it might. Beyond the decision to construct the road, which was made some weeks ago, nothing, we understand, has yet been done. Even the surveys have not been made or ordered, though in order to complete the work before inclement weather sets in, it ought to be in progress now. The reasons given by current rumors, moreover, are worse than the delay itself, if such a thing is possible. There is a very hot contest on, the gossip has it, for the Republican judicial nomination in the Forty-first district, composed of Juniata and Perry counties. The Republican machine has always taken a deep interest in the judicial succession in that district, though for what reason we are not informed. Judge Shull, of Perry county, is the present incumbent, and is known as the "migratory judge," for the reason that having little to do at home he is available for service wherever and whenever an "obliging" judge is needed elsewhere, and possibly that is why the machine is interested in the succession. In any event rumor alleges that work on this dangerous piece of road is retarded on account of this judicial contest. There are several candidates for the nomination, and singularly enough the one favored by the Republican machine is not very popular with the people. In the process of road construction under the new highway law, a good many officials are necessary. Surveyors are required in considerable number, inspectors in great force, overseers and laborers and teams and implements are used freely, and this army of dependents make a potent force for electioneering purposes. In the selection of the men, teams and materials, in this particular instance, it is said that the judicial interests of one of the candidates are always kept in mind. Thus public interests are subverted to political exigencies and the people, justly or unjustly, complain. It is noticeable that the leaders of the Keystone party are more concerned about getting themselves into office than securing good government for the people. It may also be noticed that most of the Keystone aspirants for office are men who have failed, at one time or another, to get office in one or the other of the old parties. Danger for Reformers to Consider. Our esteemed friends, the reformers of Philadelphia and Pittsburg, are greatly encouraged by the first two registration days in those cities. They are absolutely certain that the large registration in the reform wards and the comparatively small registration in the "gang" districts, indicate a splendid reform victory. Probably they are right and we certainly hope their expectations with respect to the matter may be fulfilled. But in a friendly spirit we would caution them against overconfidence. There is always danger in that for those who make politics a diversion rather than a profession, and it is just possible that the registration records may be deceiving. A falling off in the machine districts would be encouraging to those who favor political regeneration, if it were not a matter of design. In other words if the voters in the machine districts have not been held back in order to give the other side a fictitious basis of confidence that will beguile them into negligence on the last registration day, it may be all right. But it is a safe prediction that on the last day every machine voter in every district in the cities will be registered, and it is not nearly so certain that the voters opposed to the machine will be equally well prepared for the battle of the ballots in November next. There are tricks in all trades. The machine managers who are professional politicians are "on the job" all the time. If the voters upon whom they can depend are not registered on the first or second day it is for the reason that it was deemed wise to delay the operation until the last. At the closing of the registration on the evening of the last day, however, every machine voter in every election district in every city in the State will be registered. We are not so certain of a full registration of those who are not controlled by the machine. They are likely to imagine that success is possible without such troublesome operations and the result is that the machine will have its usual vote and majority. If you want high class job work come to the WATCHMAN office.

New Rule Sadly Needed.

At the next Democratic State convention the party rules ought to be amended so as to forbid candidates for office from occupying the position of chairman of the county committee. In Philadelphia the Keystone party has such a rule and it seems to work admirably. When the chairman of the county committee is "seized" with an ambition to hold office, he must resign the chairmanship before announcing his candidacy. The purpose of the rule is, no doubt, to prevent the chairman using the organization to promote his own selfish interests. Such a misuse of power would be subversive of justice. It deprives other aspirants for office of the equal opportunities to which all citizens are entitled. In this State, among Democrats, recently, this abuse of power has become conspicuous. Nearly one-third of the county chairmen who compose the State Central committee are candidates for county or municipal offices. When the attempt was recently made to reorganize the party by absurd revolutionary methods, this aspiring third of the State committee was persuaded to vote for the "reorganizers" by the promise that they would guarantee to themselves the support of the Keystone electors both for nomination and election. It was a corrupt proposition such as only ambitious political adventurers would make. But it served the nefarious purpose in more than a dozen instances and but for the fact that the laws of the State stood in the way the conspiracy might have been successful. There is quite as much moral turpitude in packing a party committee as there is in stuffing a ballot box. Bribing committee men to vote for or against a measure is as obnoxious to political morality as buying votes at the polls. Yet GEORGE W. GUTHRIE, VANCE C. MCCORMICK, A. M. PALMER and their co-conspirators in the treacherous attempt to disorganize the Democratic party, committed both of the offences. The so-called reorganization committee was packed for a purpose and members of the Democratic State Central committee were bribed, by the promise of support for office, to support the conspiracy by their votes. SAMUEL SALTER, of Philadelphia, is no more a criminal than these respectable millionaires. The esteemed New York World imagines that the record of the government's relations with the Beef trust is scandalous. Of course it is, but in the language of the late Boss TWEED, what is our contemporary "going to do about it?" The Republican machine is a huge and premeditated scandal. Senator Catlin's Broad Field. Now that the CATLIN Commission has begun business it would be a great pity for it to discontinue operations before its work is completed. Of course the Commission has a large field to cover and it may be doubted if it will be able to thoroughly clean up Philadelphia before the expiration of the present year. According to the best evidence attainable every department of that municipal government is reeking with corruption. The announced plan is to take these departments up in turn and expose and renovate them in order. The Department of Safety is scheduled for first attention and after that the others will be taken up in regular sequence and treated as they deserve. But when the last of these "sinks of iniquity" has been probed, the last of the evils in that city abated and the last of the official criminals justly punished, the CATLIN Commission will still have plenty of work to perform. There lies Pittsburg, for example, putrid in vice and "stinking to high heaven" with corruption. Why should that vile spot be permitted to continue its offences against decency and order? Scranton was nearly as bad until the form of government was changed by the Legislature, and those responsible for the evils there ought to be brought to justice. Wilkes-Barre and Harrisburg are little better. Why doesn't the Commission take cognizance of these facts? According to newspaper accounts and gossip in the capital and hotel corridors, Harrisburg is even in worse condition than Philadelphia. The present Mayor is a candidate for the office of City Treasurer and openly declares that the policemen and other municipal employees must not only support his ambitions but invoke every available expedient, legal or otherwise, to compass the results he desires. Immorality has become rampant in that little city under the shelter of a vicious official protectorate and all these agencies of evil are being used to promote the political expectations of the Mayor. Senator CATLIN ought to level his guns on that seat of vice before he shuts up his shop. Subscribe for the WATCHMAN.

Fighting Without Ammunition.

From the Altoona Times. President Taft has set out to wage war on the Democrats and insurgent Republicans for their efforts at tariff revision during the extra session. He characterizes these attempts at dealing with the public interest "in lighthearted way and with absolute ignorance of the effect of the legislation and with a willingness to sacrifice business interests to political exigencies." But it is like fighting a battle without ammunition. President Taft's criticism may create sound, but it will have no killing effect. The cold, penetrating logic of the situation is with the Democrats and insurgents. The President says the tariff must be lowered. So say his opponents, the Democrats and insurgents. On that both sides are agreed, but when profession is put to the test of deed, how does it work out for each? The allies pass revision laws and Taft vetoes them, his excuse being that the hard conditions should continue until such time as his tariff board shall deem it proper to make a report of their findings. He thinks that all tariff wisdom will die with his board, while the allies are confident: that the people will die with tariff oppression before the board will ever uncoil its wisdom. Tariffs were made and unmade before the idea of this board was ever conceived, and the country, notwithstanding, increased both in wealth and population. A chance for immediate relief from schedules admitted by every one to be too high was seen by the Democrats and insurgents, and they took advantage of it. Their action was disapproved by the President, but it is unquestionably approved by the nation. Reform in Philadelphia. From the Harrisburg Star-Independent. The people of Pennsylvania will easily be able to restrain their enthusiasm over the approaching investigation of municipal affairs in Philadelphia until after the event. To become enthusiastic now would be much like bragging about the catch before the fishing begins. It is commonly reported that the investigation will be directed against one of the departments of the government from which the VARE brothers got profitable contracts. The public would like to know something about other departments and McNICHOL'S contracts. It would be interesting, too, to learn why Philadelphia members of the House defeated, in the 1909 session, a bill that would have given contracts to the lowest responsible bidders instead of to the contractors' combine. The thrilling speech of Mr. Reynolds, of Philadelphia, against the villainous scheme of awarding contracts to the lowest responsible bidders still rings in the ears of some Pennsylvanians, and they would like to learn the secret of that eloquence. Senator Penrose is behind the probe, and will direct it. He declares that: "Under no circumstances will the scandalous personal obligations and financial operations of certain city officials be carried into another Mayorality term." That sounds quite as good as Senator Quay's platform of State-wide reform which he created when the ants were after his scalp sixteen years ago. It is not to be pessimistically reckoned that the promises as to revealing Philadelphia scandals will not be carried out. It is to be hoped that every department of the local government will be investigated in the meanwhile let us be calm. La Follette and the Presidency. From the Springfield Republican. It is an idea firmly and tenaciously entertained by many people who are not children in political experience and knowledge that Mr. La Follette will some time actually run for the Presidency, not merely for a nomination, even if he has to break away from all party restraints in placing his candidacy before the people. It is in the man's blood. He believes in his "destiny." He never will be content until he has made the great race. It is still an open question whether this will happen next year, or some other year. The Senator may be satisfied for the present with a futile campaign for a nomination; but, in that case, he will make his contest against President Taft a mere tryout of his strength in preparation for 1916. In Substance a Bribe. From the Springfield Republican. A suitable corrupt practices law in Pennsylvania would prohibit Senator Penrose's unique "relief fund" of \$100,000 for his followers, in case any of them lose their offices as the result of supporting his candidate in the Philadelphia municipal campaign. In substance, it is a bribe to them not to desert their leader. It Fails to Surprise. From the Kansas City Star. According to a news story from Texas, Senator Bailey will oppose the nomination of Gov. Wilson for President. This, however, is no more sensational than word from Pennsylvania would be to the effect that Senator Penrose had decided to oppose La Follette as the Republican nominee. Another Canal to Fortify. From the Boston Globe. August Belmont says the United States government ought to take over the Cape Cod canal. Sure—and fortify it, and establish a neutral zone, and abolish the mosquitoes, and have the President's picture taken, standing on the steam shovel. Hunting parties throughout the county are beginning to make their plans for the annual hunt this fall.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

The peach orchards of the Schuylkill valley will yield large quantities of luscious peaches this year. One man alone expects to peach 6,000 baskets to market. The bondholders of the Clearfield Steel and Iron company purchased the Hyde City steel plant a few days ago, and the plant will likely soon be leased. Stock holders are losers. Thomas W. Patterson, of DuBois, for a long time despondent, was successful, despite the vigilance of his children, in taking his life one day last week. He used carbolic acid and died in great agony. W. R. Foster, of Wells valley, recently had two cows bitten by mad dogs. When the second one showed signs of hydrophobia, a neighbor climbed a tree and shot the animal from that vantage point. Jeff Stone, of Irwona, recently completed his twenty-fifth year's work as a brickmaker. In that time he moulded 34,875,000 bricks, or enough to lay thirty-five miles of brick street. His average is 4,500 daily. Several counterfeit \$1 bills, excellent imitations of real money, have turned up in Altoona. By a strange coincidence, both specimens of the spurious money were discovered at the Mountain City Trust company on Saturday. Building coal barges is still an important industry in Forest county, thirty of these, 26 feet in width and 170 feet in length, having floated past Oil City on their way to Pittsburgh on the present rise in the Allegheny river. Richard Meddlycott, a lad whose home is in Shamokin, placed a revolver cartridge in the tire track to see what would happen. When the shell exploded the bullet struck the boy in the face, inflicting a terrible wound. The Lock Haven school board yielded to public sentiment and leased the school building for so many years occupied by the Bethel African Methodist church to that congregation, at a rental of \$1 per month. But they must not build a parsonage on the plot. Farmers in northern Pennsylvania and southern New York are becoming famous for their blooded cattle. Arling Cobb, who lives out on Ulysses, has just sold his herd of thirty-five Holstein calves for \$7,500. All were re-sterilized and among the very best in that section. The average price was \$214.18. Miss Ferona McGwen, of Irwona, is receiving sympathy of a host of friends in a great sorrow. She was preparing to go to Los Angeles, where she was to have been united in marriage to John Rykmans, foreman of a leather plant, when news of his death reached her. He died in an effort to save some of his workmen from a horrible death. As the result of a quarrel over a game of cards at the home of William Pierce, near Washington, Mrs. Pierce was shot and instantly killed, her mother, Mrs. Irene Hicks, and her husband, William Pierce were fatally wounded, and Robert Brown was beaten into unconsciousness. Stewart Palmer, who is charged with the bloody deeds, is a fugitive. The city of Easton is still stirred over the DeWitt anonymous letter trial. Among those who were favored with specimens of these scurrilous letters was the Rev. Paul S. Leinbach, pastor of the First Reformed church, formerly pastor of Grace Reformed church, Altoona. He received in all from forty to fifty letters, none of which he made public. A silver case watch, the property of Peter Plough, near Davidsville, Cambria county, was lost last September, while Mr. Plough was digging potatoes. In the spring he kept a sharp lookout for it, but in vain. A few days ago the plow turned it up, little the worse for its long interment. When found it began running, same as ever. The field had been plowed three times and harrowed ten times before it was unearthed. William A. Reams, one of the best known men in Clearfield county, died last Sunday at his home at Osceola. He was a member of one of the pioneer families of that section, having been born 75 years ago in a log cabin on the site of the present town of Philipsburg. He was one of the most noted hunters in that region, and probably killed more deer and bear than any other man in this part of the State. The terms of imprisonment of Ex-Auditor, General William P. Snyder and Ex-Superintendent of Public Grounds and Buildings James M. Shumaker, sentenced to two years' imprisonment for participation in the capitol conspiracy, will expire in a little over a month. The men have been model prisoners, and the recommendation for five months' commutation for good behavior, the usual amount on a two-year sentence, has been approved. The new silica brick plant to be erected at Mount Union, in which the principal parties interested are Wilson Kistler, P. P. Griffin, R. P. M. Davis, of Lock Haven, and Rembrandt Peale, of New York, will be called the Mount Union Refractories company. Other parties interested are F. D. Halstead, formerly with the Queens Run Fire Brick company, of Lock Haven, and C. V. Hackman, of Mount Union. The latter will be the superintendent of the new brick works. The big Bear valley colliery, near Shamokin, will be closed down for a period of three months in order to flood the workings to extinguish the fire which has been raging there for many months past. During the past several weeks a large force of men has been at work erecting a mammoth brick and cement dam. In the event of a prolonged suspension of Bear valley almost 1000 men and boys will be thrown out of employment, as the colliery is one of the largest and best operations in the region. The Reading system is to have a round house that will be a world beater. Its engineers have completed plans for the biggest round house in this or any other country. It will be located in the new yards at St. Clair, Schuylkill county, and will be erected at an approximate cost of \$300,000. Within its limits thirty-six engines of the latest design can repose and puff away under full steam. The most remarkable feature about the new round house is that it is to be built entirely of cement, roof and all. The case of the Commonwealth against former Congressman Joseph C. Sibley, of Franklin, who was charged with conspiracy to defraud the voters of Warren county in the congressional election of 1910, will never be brought to trial and it has been stricken from the records by a nolle proesse granted by Judge W. D. Hinckley, sitting in quarter sessions court. The application was made by private counsel for the Warren County Civic League, and was supported by affidavits of physicians asserting that Mr. Sibley's health would not recover, and probably never will, permit him to undergo the ordeal of a trial. James G. Kauffman, a former letter carrier of Johnstown, who was indicted by the United States grand jury at Erie on a charge of opening letters and extracting the contents, was taken before Judge Charles P. Orr in the United States district court for sentence in Pittsburg on Monday. Kauffman's attorney, John W. Dunkle, plead for leniency for the prisoner, as he had always had a good reputation and also because he had been in jail for three months. Three character witnesses for Kauffman also appeared before the court and after considering the case for some time Judge Orr sentenced the man to serve nine months in the Somerset county jail. The prisoner asked that he be sent to the Somerset county jail if sentenced to imprisonment. Kauffman was arrested in June by Postoffice Inspector Pearce, and shortly after his arrest he confessed to taking two letters.