

BY P. GRAY MEEK

INK SLINGS.

—More court next week—that is, more than there was this week.

—Even if Mr. ROCKERFELLER has lost his job he will be able to buy Christmas presents as usual.

—Meantime the Catlin Commission appears to have got lost, strayed, or stolen. And the public cares little what came of it.

—Here's to the robust health, general usefulness and determination to do something of the proposed new Board of Trade for Bellefonte.

—We can't say so much for the "referendum" but the truth compels us to acknowledge that the "recall" scored, during every inning, as long as the Thanksgiving turkey lasted.

—Come to think it over Mr. BRYAN'S idea that there ought to be more religion in politics than there is, is not a bad one. It could possibly be used as a consolation to the fellows who get licked.

—Thinking of that new trouble down in Mexico makes us conclude that even the earth itself can't turn up its nose at some of the Republics south of us, when the matter of revolution is considered.

—Somebody has just assured the public that the mother-in-law is omnipotent in China. Just wait and see how soon Mr. Henpeck will proclaim that fact as the principal cause of the many rebellions over there.

—It may not be because they want to, but we understand, that a number of gentlemen up about the Court House will become advocates of the "back-to-the-farm movement," in about three weeks from this time.

—Maybe old Santy is going to hang the Pen. on one of those little hemlock trees out in McBride's Gap on Christmas eve. If he doesn't do that he'd better bring the Hon. "Deacon" HARRIS a new voice to answer questions with, for surely his must be about worn out.

—The confession of the McNAMARAS is a grave lesson for Union Labor. Not that it sanctions dynamiting and wholesale murder, but that it must purge itself of the fanatics and desperadoes who commit crimes in its name, or stand convicted of being an accessory before the fact.

—The INFANTA EULALIA must have imbibed some of the spirit of American independence during her visit to this country a few years ago. In any event she has indicated to her royal brother that she proposes to do as she pleases and most of us will wish her joy in her new undertaking.

—If every tax payer were compelled to spend two days in the common pleas court of Centre county we feel sure that there would be an universal demand for a public spanking machine, or some other device for administering mild punishment to justices and litigants who bring so many trifling cases into court.

—The fact that son-in-law LONGWORTH has publicly announced that he has been trying to dissuade father-in-law ROOSEVELT from being a candidate for President in 1912 confirms the WATCHMAN'S declaration of four years ago that ROOSEVELT was only catapulting TAFT into the office in order to pave the way to get back himself four years later.

—The merchants of Bellefonte are certainly offering a great convenience to the people along the line of the Lewisburg railroad who have always been greatly handicapped in the Christmas shopping in Bellefonte by reason of the short time the regular trains permitted them to tarry here. With a special train from Bellefonte to Coburn Wednesday, Thursday and Friday evenings of the week before Christmas, without extra fare, it seems to us that the problem has been most satisfactorily solved.

—Probably not since the blowing up of the battleship Maine, in Havana harbor, has this county been so dazed by a public announcement as it was when reading the confession of the brothers McNAMARA, that they had willyfully blown up the plant of the Los Angeles, California, Times, thereby killing twenty-one of the unsuspecting workmen in that establishment. It wasn't the number killed that frightened the confession with such stupefying horror. It was the consciousness that in this intelligent, peace loving, fair play land of ours there could be those who regard the lives of their fellows as but trifles in the way of speeding their propaganda.

—In summing up the traverse jurors for our courts why would it not be a good plan to call them for Tuesday, instead of Monday. This would give the first day to constables reports, the presentation of petitions and the findings of the grand jury and make it possible to get down to real work Tuesday morning. The last session of court lasted two days and the traverse jury was not in the box three hours during that time. If it had been called for Tuesday morning it could have finished up its work in half of that day and saved the county \$120, for then it would certainly not have had to spend hours waiting for indictments from the grand jury and probably so much time would not have been consumed by lawyers hunting up litigants and witnesses who should have been in court.



STATE RIGHTS AND FEDERAL UNION.

VOL. 56. BELLEFONTE, PA. DECEMBER 8, 1911. NO. 48.

LABOR ORGANIZATION NOT IN BLAME.

We can see no valid reason why the confessions of JAMES B. and JOHN J. McNAMARA, of dastardly crimes in and near Los Angeles, California, should work permanent injury to organized labor. One of these miscreants exploded a dynamite bomb in the building of the Los Angeles Times, wrecking the structure and killing twenty-one persons. The other exploded a similar bomb in one of the buildings of the LLEWELLYN Iron works near that city. Both of them had persistently and vehemently denied their culpability. Both of them were intelligent and industrious men and entitled to the average credibility. Believing their protests of innocence labor organizations contributed to a fund for their defence, but in no respect condoned the crimes which had been perpetrated.

Nevertheless there is in this incident a grave lesson to organized labor. The right of workmen to organize for their own protection and advancement is fundamental and the aggregate results of such organizations in this country are in our judgment, beneficial both to labor and capital, for higher standards alike in morals and efficiency have been attained through such organizations. But labor organizations must come to an understanding of the fact that their operations must be within the law. In other words the resort to violence to achieve ends, however desirable in themselves, is criminal and cannot be tolerated under any circumstances. Labor organizations must be as earnest in maintaining the laws as they are zealous in promoting the interests of labor.

These self-confessed malefactors may have been influenced in their homicidal enterprises by the humanitarian hope of helping their fellow workmen throughout the country. But if that be true their perverted minds moved them in a wrong direction. No doubt if the truth had been known from the beginning organized labor would have promptly and emphatically reprobated their action rather than offered support for their defence. In fact the consensus of opinion among workmen, organized and otherwise, favors not only adequate but condign punishment and that fact acquits labor leaders and labor organizations of complicity in the crimes of which the McNAMARAS are accused.

In view of this fact it is unjust to condemn labor organizations for the offences of individuals.

Mr. BRYAN is beginning to find out that he is not the whole cheese in Washington. It would have been better for the Democratic party if he had learned the lesson sooner.

Mr. Littleton's Grave Mistake.

The Hon. MARTIN W. LITTLETON, of New York, exaggerates the importance of his own actions in Congress. Like many other lawyers in public life Mr. LITTLETON is disposed to regard his Congressional commission as a professional asset. An eloquent dissenter in the councils of the majority may accomplish a good deal in the way of obstruction if those whose interests are affected are able and willing to pay liberally for such service. Mr. LITTLETON is eloquent, beyond question, and the interests are able and willing to pay. It is hardly surprising, therefore, that he should antagonize his Democratic colleagues on the committee engaged in the investigation of the Steel trust.

Possibly the chairman of the committee of which Mr. LITTLETON is a member has not held to the rigid rules of law courts in interrogating witnesses and receiving testimony. The principal value of parliamentary inquiries is the fact that legal rules of evidence are not scrupulously followed. Court rules are frequently employed to conceal rather than reveal facts and for that reason parliamentary investigations are invoked. In the case in point Mr. LITTLETON appeared to be as zealous in behalf of the Steel trust as if he had a "brief" in his inside pocket. This concern upon his part was, justly or unjustly, resented by his Democratic colleagues on the committee.

We are among those who cordially welcomed MARTIN W. LITTLETON into the public service of the Democratic party and country. He is an able lawyer, an orator of much force and eloquence and a man who gave promise of great usefulness. But he is altogether too new in the harness, this being his first term in Congress, to set himself up as the mentor of the party. The Steel trust could not have suffered much from the manner of the investigation if he had remained quiet. The Republican minority of the committee and of the House could have depended upon to take care of that industrial conspiracy. Therefore Mr. LITTLETON might well have remained quiet for a while at least.

The Work of Congress.

The session of Congress which opened on Monday promises to be one of great interest but little achievement. The policy of the Republican minority, indicated in the resolution introduced by Representative MANN, of Illinois, floor leader, at the beginning, will be one of obstruction and guttersnipe politics. In fact with that perennial grouch directing the operations, nothing else can be expected. The sum and substance of his long legislative career is expressed in the phrase "I object." A dyspeptic, the enjoyment of others makes him unhappy, and it may be predicted with absolute safety that his whole effort during the session will be to halt progress and retard business.

A long session may also be predicted for the same reasons that wrangles are likely to be frequent and bitter. The majority will strive to accomplish results and the minority to prevent achievement. The Republican machine hopes to prolong the tariff graft until after the next election. It is their only hope for campaign boodle and they will need vast sums during the coming contest. The "interests" could well afford to pay millions for another year of tariff spoliation and the Republican leaders will exhaust every resource to get the money. Of course the efforts on the other side will be equally energetic and constant. The majority is pledged to lighten the burdens of the people and they will try to fulfill their obligations.

In the absence of definite information as to what course the insurgent Republicans will adopt, however, it is impossible to even conjecture what the outcome will be. As a rule insurgent Republicans are quite as selfish as the regulars and LAFOLLETTE and his followers are more than likely to play for popular applause and continue rather than check the contention between the Democrats and regulars. LAFOLLETTE imagines that there is a chance of capturing the Republican nomination and so long as he is deluded with that notion he is not likely to give much time or attention to the consideration of the interests of the people. But, as Sir LUCIUS O'TRIGGER would say, "it may be a pretty trick."

The WATCHMAN has received a sample of the apples grown by the Harrison Nurseries at Berlin, Maryland, for which the thanks of its publisher are hereby returned. To be entirely honest in this matter, however, the sample at hand, while it is a most excellent variety and fully equal to the western fruit we hear so much about, is not a whit better than scores of Centre county orchards produce. It is good but this county can furnish fully its equal in looks, size and flavor.

Evil of Profligacy.

The exposure of unlawful expenditures in the State Department will surprise no close observer of events. It has been generally known that ever since the middle of ROOSEVELT'S first term raids on the treasury to gratify the appetites and pander to the caprices of high officials have been the rule. ROOSEVELT made no concealment of his grafting operations and while he was denouncing others for petty thefts he was himself plunging his fists into the treasury to his elbows. TAFT has been a trifle more cautious in his processes but scarcely less rank in the results.

According to Representative HAMLIN, of Missouri, chairman of the House committee on Expenditures in the State Department the officials of that Department have spent \$732,981.00 within six years for secret service, though the appropriation was only \$90,000.00 a year and the expenditures of money in excess of the appropriation is a violation of the constitution which each of the officials concerned are solemnly sworn to "support, obey and defend." Last year, the first under the TAFT administration, the expenditures amounted to \$200,000.00, more than double the amount appropriated.

These are, next to the tariff, the principal reasons for the high cost of living. Public officials live extravagantly on stolen money and set the prices which others must pay out of their earnings or do without. One of the results is that men live beyond their means in trying to emulate the practices of these public thieves and bankruptcy follows with the result that the losers must overcharge solvent customers to reimburse themselves. That is not the worst feature of the evil, however. The fact that the action of these officials creates contempt for law is the most grievous consequence.

—Those who are trying to mix SAMUEL GOMPERS up with the McNAMARA crimes are wasting mental energy as well as time. SAMUEL GOMPERS has never been involved in any real crimes thus far.

Gratifying Assurances.

Mr. OSCAR UNDERWOOD, chairman of the House Committee on Ways and Means, gives the country the comforting assurance that the tariff reform will be the burden of the business of Congress during the session which began on Monday. His statement that the SHERMAN anti-trust law will not be repealed or mutilated is equally gratifying. The people of the country want a substantial reduction of tariff taxes to the end that the excessive expenses of living may be materially decreased. They also believe that the SHERMAN anti-trust law, if properly enforced, will work such a regulation of the trusts as to compel them to conserve rather than destroy the interests of the people.

The Democratic victories of last year and last month were the results of the failure of the Republican party to fulfill its pledges, made in 1908, for a downward revision of the tariff on one hand and the strenuous effort made by the Democrats in Congress during the special session last spring and summer to keep their pledges, on the other. Of late there have been reasons by some that the Republican majority in the Senate will defeat the proper legislation and by others that the veto of the President will prevent it anyway, so that there is no use in striving against such odds even for ideals.

Under the circumstances, therefore the assurances of Chairman UNDERWOOD are most encouraging. The same elements were present during the special session and partially achieved their purposes, but they didn't fool the people. On the contrary they emphasized the courage and conscience of the Democrats and encouraged the voters of the country to restore faith in them. If the Republican majority in the Senate sets itself against the measures which the people want so much the worse for that party and if the President vetoes tariff reform legislation the penalty will be upon his head.

Meantime let the Democrats perform their full duty and they will reap a generous reward.

The first snow to amount to anything in this section fell on Sunday. About six inches of "the beautiful" covered the streets of Bellefonte but it was from eight to ten inches deep at places throughout the county. While there was not enough to make good sleighing, there was enough for a good tracking snow and quite a bunch of hunters took advantage of it to go after rabbits. There is one object lesson to be learned from this first snow, and that is the clean pavement question. Not one pavement in twenty was cleaned off when it could have been and the result is they have been covered with ice since, and dangerous to travel. All of last winter many of the Bellefonte pavements were well nigh impassable because of the ice and the proper borough officials should take the matter in hand in time this year and insist on property owners and business men keeping their pavements clean, in accordance with the ordinance governing the same.

—Mr. GEORGE W. GUTHRIE, who has been trying for some months to usurp the office of chairman of the Democratic State Central committee, has undertaken to "run with the hare and hunt with the hounds," an equally impossible venture. Among the first to congratulate RUDOLPH BLANKENBURG upon his election, he also obtruded himself as an uninvited guest at the inaugural ceremonies of the Philadelphia reform WARWICK. Yet when Mr. BLANKENBURG was a candidate Mr. GUTHRIE moved his rump headquarters from Harrisburg to Philadelphia, where, under the direction of the absurd BLAKESLIER, their influence was used in an attempt to defeat BLANKENBURG.

—The Chicago beef barons are letting no opportunity to delay their trial in the criminal courts get away from them. Their last trick is an appeal to the Supreme court of the United States to have the criminal sections of the SHERMAN law declared unconstitutional. Unless the local courts have been fixed, however, that expedient will be brushed aside very speedily.

—The prison commission held a meeting in Harrisburg yesterday but up to the time of going to press it was not learned whether they agreed on the site for the new penitentiary or not. So far as known the situation remains unchanged, all rumors to the contrary, notwithstanding.

—The present Secretary of the Navy is not likely to suffer on account of modesty. He says we need forty battleships which at present rates would cost \$400,000,000; a "good round sum" to be taken from the tax payers in hard times.

Bread or a Stone.

From the York Gazette.

The attention of *Gazette* readers is invited to extracts from an article in the *Johnstown Democrat* printed in another column on this page. This speaks eloquently for itself and it is difficult to add anything to the facts and deductions appearing therein. It is the old, old story of the request for bread being met with the gift of a stone.

But there is always something new in this story for those who may be the victims. If it does nothing else the repeating of it shows them how negligent they are of their own interests, for as a rule the responsibility for having to beg for bread rests with the beggars. This is particularly true of political mendicants in this country. It is a reflection upon them that they are reduced to the seeming necessity of such begging.

The only reason that the people do not rule at all times and in all places in the States is that they fail to exercise the privilege. All political power rests with them, but many times through indolence or indifference they allow cunning and unscrupulous schemers to assume this power. That is the reason Penrose and his machine reign today in Pennsylvania, and that is the reason there is so much talk of and so much need for real commission government in so many other places. Failure to recognize the truth of the saying that eternal vigilance is the price of liberty is responsible for most of the political and social trouble in the land.

When the people, who are all powerful, refuse to exercise their power the politicians are not to be too much blamed if they seize upon what is not properly valued by the people. But of course when power is thus usurped there is nothing to do but submit tamely, or recover it. This the people can do at any election. They do not need to beg for favors from the political powers that be. All they need to do is to take again that which they are theirs.

So far as the commission idea is concerned there is no question of its value, provided it is the right kind and not simply exchanging one evil for another as great. If the people want it they can get it too. Nor is it necessary to beg Penrose for the privileges either. The question now is whether they will do it, or whether they will be content with the imitation which the bosses apparently are preparing to hand them.

The President's Mistakes.

From the New York Press.

Recently Mr. Taft indulged in the unusual luxury of an informal chat, for publication, with a Washington newspaper correspondent. The President seemed to be under less than habitual restraint in this interview as it is reported, but with some freedom and candor discussed his various policies and revealed interesting circumstances surrounding his acts.

Thus he told us that his Winona speech on the tariff was hurriedly composed on the train between stations. He also cheerfully confessed that when the White House explained the sending of troops to the Mexican frontier as "an army maneuver" it was allowing itself the privilege of official fibbing. Mr. Taft is delightfully ingenuous in his disclosure that there was nobody around to get advice from in the emergency and that he depended on his own judgment.

In the light of various events one rather wishes that Mr. Taft had found himself in similar straits often when it was a vital matter up for decision. If Wickersham and Ballinger and Wilson and Hilges had been missing when Mr. Taft acted in the back-dating of official documents, in the Wiley incident, in the writing of the unfortunate letter depriving the insurgents of the benefit of Federal patronage, and if the President had been thrashed on his own resources in other instances his administration might have escaped much of the blame which has been justly heaped upon it.

The President's confessed lack of confidence in his own judgment has been a notable cause for regret, because scarcely any President has been surrounded with official advisers more erroneous in their counsel than those who have inspired him to commit the indiscretions that stand out against the moderate record of achievement on which he dilates.

What Kind.

From La Follette's Weekly.

When President Taft said: "I love the judges; I love the courts; they are my ideal on earth and typify what we shall meet afterward in Heaven under a just God," did he have in mind the Supreme court of the United States that decided the Sherman anti-trust law to mean every dollar of restraint of trade, or did he have in mind the Supreme court of the United States that decided the Sherman law to mean only those reasonable? Did he have in mind a court like the federal court presided over by Judge Sanborn which decides that the State has practically no power to regulate railroad rates; or a federal court like the one presided over by Judge Warrington which decides quite the opposite? When the federal courts exhibit such remarkable differences of opinion as to what constitutes justice what kind of courts does President Taft have in mind when he says "they typify what we shall afterward meet in Heaven under a just God?"

The Man of the Hour.

From the Springfield Republican.

Mr. Shuster still holds the fort of Teheran against the combined Russian and British empires, and, at the present rate, he will soon acquire popularity enough in America to make him mentioned for something within the gift of the people.

—For high class Job Work come to the WATCHMAN Office.

SPAULS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

—Ten tons of poultry, butter and eggs were included in one recent shipment from Newport to eastern markets.

—The Allentown Fair association is about to spend \$14,000 for new cattle sheds and \$4,000 for a tunnel under the race track.

—Work at the new Berwind-White shaft near Uthville is progressing nicely. The company expects to build several hundred houses in the near future.

—Johnstown poultry dealers are making efforts to stop the practice of raffling off turkeys and chickens. Mayor Cauffiel will get a petition asking him to enforce the law.

—The condition of Hugh Jennings, manager of the Detroit base ball team, who was injured in an automobile accident near Scranton, last Friday night, continues to improve.

—A thief who stole \$80 from the Koland home, near Columbia, a short time ago, has returned \$60 of the amount, which he laid on one of the window sills, weighted down with a stone.

—The bodies of four deer, evidently shot by hunters in mistake for bucks, have been found in Carbon county. Their slayers were afraid to take them along on account of the penalty.

—Federal officers have arrested seven thousand Chinamen and seized \$10,000 worth of smuggled opium in Philadelphia. The distributing centre for the illegal opium was at Ninth and Race streets.

—Charles W. Noble, of Lewistown, recently recovered a verdict for \$1200 against the Philadelphia Press, damages for an alleged libel. Mr. Noble has a similar suit pending against the Philadelphia Ledger.

—Having recorded thirteen thousand legal papers in three years and turned over to the county four thousand dollars surplus, Schuyler's Recorder, S. S. Bailev, re-elected, begins an optimistic new term.

—Mrs. Annie Moschugt, aged 32 years, of Johnstown, died recently of rabies. She had been bitten by the family dog six weeks previous, but the wound had been cauterized and danger was not apprehended.

—A favorite amusement among Lancaster county hoodlums is to capture and burn smaller boys at the stake. Two Howard that torture recently, one of them, suffered that torture pretty badly scorched.

—Under the new school code about 100 State institutions that have been receiving aid from the Commonwealth annually will be obliged to make reports to the State board of education and submit to inspection by its agent.

—Ray & Chapman's butcher shop at Munson was entered recently by burglars. They stole picks from nearby mines and forced open a window. Some meat, two guns and a small amount of small change formed the booty.

—The bursting of a fire in the boiler at the Avis planing mill badly scalded John Augst and Fred Sasserman, each about 18 years old. Sasserman was a visitor and was talking to Augst, near the boiler, when the accident occurred.

—J. B. Shenefelt, of Smithfield, Huntingdon county, an experienced farmer, now retired, based on two vacant lots next to his residence during the past summer about 375 bushels of mangel wurzels, or sugar beets, for cattle feed.

—It is expected that two thousand farmers, accompanied by their wives and families, will attend the annual State convention of the Pennsylvania State Grange, Patrons of Husbandry, to be held in Scranton for three days, beginning December 12th.

—An event which is heralded with much delight by the stockholders of the Adams Ostrich farm, near Bloomsburg, was the laying of an egg Thursday last by one of the Blue Nile ostriches. This is the first egg that has been laid by any of the birds. The eggs are worth \$50 apiece.

—John K. Royal, the new Democratic mayor of Harrisburg, announces that he means to permit the present incumbents of the offices filled by appointments of the mayor to remain in office until January 1st, 1912. He wants them and their families to enjoy the Christmas holidays.

—D. E. Notley, of Cherry Tree, Indiana county, was recently defendant in a suit for \$12,000. He had signed notes for that amount to a bank in raising money and had left them in a drawer in a Pittsburgh broker's safe. They were stolen and turned up in the hands of an innocent party, who sued Notley and lost the suit.

—The eve of Thanksgiving day in Lock Haven was the first book reception to the Annie H. Ross library. Besides being a largely attended, pleasant social affair, it netted the library 300 volumes and \$75 in cash. A tablet was placed in memory of Philip M. Price, who founded and endowed Lock Haven's first public library.

—The decision of the Montgomery county court that the funds of the Centennial and Memorial association of Valley Forge shall be paid to the Valley Forge Park commission, has been appealed from by Harry J. Stager, representing the Patriotic Order Sons of America, and will be decided by the Supreme court. The amount involved is over \$15,000.

—According to a dispatch from Selinsgrove, Mrs. Jane E. Rohrbach, of that place, celebrated the 95th anniversary of her birth by hitting a half dollar with a bullet fired at a distance of fifty feet. The story goes on to say that she does all her own housework, and that her principal article of food is fried potatoes. She drinks a cupful or more of coffee at each meal, but never indulges in fruit and seldom in meat.

—The Lycoming Foundry and Machinery company, of Williamsport, is in receipt of a rare Thanksgiving present, consisting of an order from the Velle company for 1,000 engines, involving an expenditure of over \$250,000. To rush the order through will mean that the men will have to run night and day. There is a night shift working at present, but not so large as the day force. A full crew will be put to work nights.

—Agents of the State meat hygiene service who have been operating in some of the larger cities in advance of the usually heavy holiday business in butcher shops have been making some discoveries that indicate that meat unfit for food is being either brought into the State or food sold to owners of slaughter houses by cattle owners. The agents have been instructed to pay special attention to those establishments where various products are prepared in advance of Christmas.

—It is understood that a big engineering building for practical work will be erected at Bucknell University in the near future. It is said that the new structure will be built on the site of the present athletic field. The new athletic field will be located on the broad plain in the rear of West college and will mean a new era in the history of Bucknell athletics. Andrew Carnegie and John Rockefeller are both mentioned as subscribers to the fund to cover the outlay necessary for the erection of the new building.

—If a new movement which is now afoot among several Pittstonians is carried into effect, one of the largest and most modern paper plants in the country will be erected at Ransom within the next year. Application is to be made next month for a charter for the corporation, which will be known as the "Hamin Pulp and Paper company." The new industry will be built along the Susquehanna river. The men interested in the new establishment figure that by building the plant at Ransom they will be able to secure the water to run it and the wood pulp much cheaper than were they to conduct the same establishment in that city.