

INK SLINGS.

Congress is in session again. Is that new resolution still making good alone or are you feeding it a tonic already.

Russia and Japan are each planning to supply themselves with a new lot of old China.

Anyway a fellow who has to be caught in the leap year toils is hardly worth considering.

Statistics show that there is a decline in tea drinking. There always is the first few days in January.

No matter how good it may have been, here's hoping that your 1912 may be far better than your 1911.

1912 came in with bluster enough to make even the most pessimistic conclude that it will amount to something.

Those Ohio Democrats don't seem to be any more given to boosting favorite sons than the Ohio Republicans.

A cannon's report has been heard as far as 146 miles. No test of the one at Danville, Illinois, has ever been made.

That recent New York peace dinner was a failure because there weren't enough big guns there to start a good scrap.

Ours would be a Happy New Year, indeed, if every subscriber whose label is dated earlier than 1912 were to send in one nice long dollar at once.

St. Nick and Old Father Time have each had their inning. Next will come ANDY JACKSON, GEORGE WASHINGTON, LINCOLN and St. PATRICK'S days.

Since they are going to put rats, puffs, switches and wigs on the free list—we might derive some personal benefit from this Democratic Congress after all.

The progressives of Ohio regard LAFOLLETTE as too fast or too slow for them. Whichever it is it is all the same to the pyro-technical Senator's presidential ambitions.

One hundred and forty thousand automobiles were manufactured in this country last year and some were remanufactured one hundred and forty thousand times.

From the way rents are being marked up one would almost imagine that WARDEN FRANCIS has been looking for separate cages for each one of his birds right here in Bellefonte.

J. PIERPOINT MORGAN having sailed for Egypt there will probably have to be a little panic ere long to afford an excuse for calling him back to look after his own dear little America.

One or two of the retiring officials let go the reins of office with a spirit different, indeed, from that displayed by their predecessors when they were being ushered into the office.

Many a youngster who can't carry up a bucket of coal or shovel the snow off the pavement can spend half the night trying to learn the turkey trot or the grizzly bear dance.

Gossip has made a number of very important real estate deals in Bellefonte within the past few days, but gossip neither pays down hand money nor writes deeds to property.

Already the matter of the spring primaries is beginning to worry some. The real politician just can't let the pot simmer at all any more. He must be stirring it up to the boiling point always.

President TAFT is a very portly gentleman but the ROOSEVELT shadow is growing so large that it looks as though he might be completely enveloped by the time of the Republican National convention.

It is said that when Sheriff HURLEY spied those eleven farm wagons, carrying Sheriff-elect LEE's 'fittin', climbing jail hill on Monday morning he just naturally began to whistle "Every Little Movement Has a Meaning of its Own."

And to think of it! Those meetings of JACK JOHNSON and FLYNN to arrange for a prize fight for the championship of the world are drawing only a few inches in the Metropolitan papers. Surely this is water on the mill of those who think the world is getting better.

Those Pleasant Gap Mummies were all to the mustard again this year. More of them, more grotesque and bringing along their usual cold weather. It's always cold for the Pleasant Gap Mummies, but they're such "hot stuff" that they don't mind how low the weather man marks the mercury.

Feminine fashion notes are proclaiming that Turkish towels are to form the greater part of the stylish costume that milady is to wear in the spring. Ah me, to what extremes milady goes with her fads. She has been wearing Turkish towels in her bath tub so long that now she essays to wear them in the spring. Not our spring, if we catch her at it.

"Scientific Marriages" are being exploited by assistant secretary of Agriculture HAYS. He wants all peoples classified so that those "genetically efficient" marry in their class with the idea of producing the largest families possible. It seems to us that Mr. assistant Secretary HAYS should confine his propaganda to the realms of agriculture. The "genetically efficient" idea among the humans is causing entirely too much baby farming as it is.

Democratic Watchman

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An Absurd Statement.

In an interview published the other day Mr. JAMES I. BLAKESLIE, principal clown and press agent of the Guthrie rump State Committee, states that he has no doubt Colonel GUFFEY will attend and participate in the deliberations of the Democratic National Committee, in Washington, next week, and adds that Mr. A. MITCHELL PALMER will be present to urge his claims to the seat.

The last Democratic National Convention, which is not only the parliament but the Court of Last Resort of the party, adopted, by a practically unanimous vote, a rule to regulate the filling of vacancies in the National Committee. The rule thus made the law of the party provides that "when a vacancy occurs on the National Committee, the State Committee of the State entitled to the place shall fill the vacancy."

In the face of such a record how absurd it is for those near Republicans, GBO, W. GUTHRIE, VANCE C. McCORMICK and A. MITCHELL PALMER, to take a claim for a seat in the committee. There have been famous claim cases threshed out in court, both in England and in the United States, in which the claimant had little more to stand upon.

President TAFT's widely advertised "Peace Dinner," which was "pulled off" at the Waldorf-Astoria hotel, New York, last Saturday evening, failed to score a success. The purpose of the feast, according to common understanding, was to create public sentiment in favor of the ratification of peace treaties with Great Britain and France, now in the United States Senate for that action.

Of course the President was greatly disappointed with this issue of his pet enterprise. It was really the opening gun of his 1912 campaign and he imagined it would accomplish great results. The recognized Apostle of Peace would naturally cut a big figure in the estimation of men all over the world in this era of burdensome war taxes, and TAFT expected to be "it" in capital letters.

As a matter of fact, however, the dinner would have been a flat failure if all the diplomats had attended and spoken enthusiastically of the event and its sublime purpose. Everybody is getting on to TAFT. As ROOSEVELT intimates, he is a hypocrite and his insincerity no longer fools the people. It would be hard to imagine anything more absurd than a President constantly plauditing on peace and with equal assiduity advocating forty more battleships and a considerable increase of the military force of the country.

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Cut Out the Graft Fund.

It is to be hoped that the House Committee on Appropriations will adhere to its announced purpose of cutting out of the sundry civil bill the "traveling fund" of the President. There never was a more flagrant example of graft than this. The constitution forbids it and it is abhorrent to every principle of morality.

Previous to 1860 the salary of the President was \$25,000 a year and out of that sum President LINCOLN paid all his personal expenses and those of his family and household. After the election of GRANT in 1868 the salary was increased to \$50,000 a year without emoluments or perquisites of any kind.

During the second year of TAFT's administration, however, another traveling expense fund of \$25,000 was lobbied through and in the face of the protest of the minority, the last Congress made a similar appropriation. Now that the minority of that time has been changed to a majority, there is nothing for it to do but maintain its consistency.

ATWOOD is planning to cross the Atlantic in a flying machine. He is probably preparing a feast for the fishes.

The Corporation Tax System.

Auditor General SISSON continues to merit popular approval, though it is not certain that he is liked the better in machine circles for his labor. His latest achievement is in the matter of reforming the methods of assessing corporation taxes. The revenues will be largely increased by the system he is inaugurating.

It seems that the expert accountants who investigated the expenditures of the capitol building fund reported that "the system of assessing corporation taxes in Pennsylvania is susceptible of more graft, in the hands of dishonest officials, than the capital job yielded."

It is said that as the result of this juggling the State has been swindled out of something like \$4,000,000 annually, a fair percentage of which was regularly covered into the Republican corruption fund. Of course we have no personal knowledge of this perversion of the taxing power of the State, though several years ago we called attention to the method of settling corporation tax accounts.

The President and the Colonel.

President TAFT's friends are uneasy concerning the attitude of his predecessor in office, the Colonel. They regard his recent actions and utterances as ominous, and are inclined to force an issue. They advise an open break and challenge a declaration one way or the other.

Whether it is or not, remains to be seen, of course. The Colonel is used to being coddled and may resent this independent attitude of the President. In that event we would be in for a very pretty fight. ROOSEVELT is a grafter, a falsifier, a vilifier of men and a usurper of authority.

The only thing that is certain at present is that ROOSEVELT can't defeat TAFT by espousing the cause of another than himself. His support of LAFOLLETTE would scarcely make an impression upon the convention. The Southern delegates will not be enticed into the support of such a candidate.

The evidence against the Beef trust is startlingly clear and crinating, but if ROOSEVELT had continued in office the perpetrators of the crimes would have escaped through the medium of immunity baths.

Now that Congress has resumed business the work of tariff revision downward should be pressed forward with every. The country is weary under the burdens of needless tariff taxation and the more certain they are to achieve a victory at the polls next fall.

Unless the other fellows watch out JIM BLAKESLIE may nominate MITCHELL PALMER for President and in that event it wouldn't be worth while to hold an election. JIM would simply issue a proclamation or settle the matter in an interview.

The President of the new Chinese Republic took the oath of office on New Year's day but he'll probably break his resolution before the first month is finished.

The holiday business in Bellefonte, according to various merchants interviewed on the subject, was about equal to that of last year. Up to the Saturday before Christmas, however, the outlook was somewhat doubtful but that day was a big one for all the stores. In fact a number of merchants state it to have been the biggest day they ever had.

On Saturday morning the barn on the farm of Joseph H. Long, near Jacksonville, tenanted by Frank Wetzel, was entirely destroyed by fire together with all its contents. Mr. Wetzel also lost one horse, a colt, six cows, two young cattle and two hogs.

General orders issued from National Guard headquarters on Monday are in effect that all military organizations will have to undergo two inspections prior to the annual encampment in mid-summer. The date for the first inspection of company L, of this place, has been set for February 12th, Lincoln's birthday.

To Make Morgan Tell.

For the first time in his career, Mr. J. Pierpont Morgan stands in immediate danger of being required to go upon the witness stand and give direct answers to what promises to be uncomfortable questions concerning trust operations.

Chairman Henry of the rules committee has made the definite announcement that the triple investigation is to be started and he says it will be the most important inquiry conducted in this country since the civil war. He is quoted as saying: "What the House Democrats are particularly anxious to get at is just what degree of co-operation exists between these trusts."

The Democrats in Congress just now are particularly anxious to know about the operations of the money and shipping trusts. It is known that the Wall street financiers are extremely anxious to have the Aldrich central bank plan enacted into law and that certain railroad interests are showing much concern about the Panama canal.

What Tariff Board Proves. The Taft tariff board exonerates woolen manufacturers of anything like taking advantage of high tariff rates to advance prices. The board's report would make it appear that the woolen trusts wouldn't do such a thing.

But the report isn't altogether useless, because it proves beyond successful contradiction: First—that schedule K is "indispensable"; it proves this conclusively and for all time.

Second—it confirms practically every charge made against the woolen schedule by Democrats and progressive Republicans. Third—it proves that the American people are victims of extortion from wool manufacturers.

Fourth—And that President Taft's veto of the Underwood-LaFollette bill was because the interest of 80,000,000 consumers of woollens; that it was absolutely unjustified, unnecessary and therefore unforfeivable.

The latest rail order of the Baltimore & Ohio totals 40,000 tons, and other railroads are expected to announce awards for over 600,000 tons of rail for the 1912 delivery, making a total tonnage for the new year of 1,500,000 tons.

The single tax in Alberta. The sou of Henry George must be marching on—in the Canadian northwest, for the province of Alberta proposes to adopt the single tax principle. Premier Sifton and the Liberal government there are committed to the single tax principle.

Another Iowa Idea. Witchcraft is in politics in Fort Dodge, Ia., where the city council lately voted an appropriation of \$20 to a waterwitching expert who pointed out the place for an artesian well. At 215 feet an apparently unlimited supply was struck, so that the town has its money's worth, but the skeptics are indignant at this sanction given to an old superstition.

Dodging the Main Issue. The House Democrats propose adding to their list a congressional investigation of the Shipping Trust and the Money Trust. Nothing could induce them to investigate the system of military pensions since the civil war, which has cost the government up to date about four billions of dollars.

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SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

Various mills and other industries in western Pennsylvania will resume operations early this year, giving employment to large numbers of men.

Cambria county commissioners and controller have decided that neither the coroner nor his deputy can draw their salaries until they have earned them by holding views or inquests.

Twenty-seven petitions for divorce were filed in Huntingdon county in 1911, a little more than one-ninth of the number of marriage licenses issued. Fifteen of the divorces have been granted.

It is said that over 80,000 of the negroes living in Pennsylvania are engaged in business or actually earning their own living in some useful way. The negroes of the State are worth \$20,000,000.

John Owens, an aged resident of Homestead, fell down stairs at his residence and broke his neck. Two nephews who called to wish him a happy New Year found him lying dead at the foot of the stairs.

Burgess Hetler, of Berwick, proposes to walk from his home town to Wilkes-Barre next Sunday. The burgess weighs 230 pounds and his fire has been excited by the declaration of certain of his friends that he cannot carry out his determination.

J. E. Gearhart, the well known Clearfield inventor, whose popular knitting machine has for years been sold throughout this and many other countries, has invented a vacuum cleaner which is said to be far superior to many other similar inventions on the market.

Adolph Herlans, a manufacturer of noodles and living in South Scranton, put himself to death in a Scranton hotel, alleging that nervousness forced him to the rash act. He willed the fatal revolver to the hotel keeper as part recompense for the trouble he caused.

Reports from the Connellsville coke country indicate a general revival of industry. The Frick company expects to fire 1,500 additional ovens within the next few days while the Rainey company says it will have 3,000 ovens in operation within the next two weeks.

In the village of Stoyestown, with a population of 500, only three deaths were reported in 1911. One of the decedents was 89 years old, another 87 and a third 82. There are still seventy-three people in the town over 60 years of age and eleven of these have passed the four-stone mark.

A New York city syndicate is negotiating for the Clearfield and Centre street railway, the Phillipsburg electric light and heating plants and the lighting plants of Oascon, Houtzdale, Clearfield, Curwensville and Grampian, with a view to the extension of the Clearfield and Centre trolley line to all of these points.

Frank Beatty, a well known liniment salesman, was found a few days ago near Huntingdon so badly frozen that he died at the Blair Memorial hospital a little later. He was 39 years old. It is thought that his strength gave out after he had waded Crooked creek and he stopped for the rest which resulted in his death.

Mr. and Mrs. John J. Stains, of Worlestown, Franklin county, have just celebrated the sixty-first anniversary of their wedding. The groom is 84 and the bride 83. They are healthy and happy and do their own work although they have a large company of loving descendants who would be glad to shoulder their burdens.

Jay G. Pennell, a Philadelphia and Reading railway fireman, was killed in a singular manner on the line between Harrisburg and Shippensburg on Monday. He was shoveling coal into the firebox when the engine parted from the tender and he fell between being ground to pieces by the wheels. Pennell was a prominent member of the Governor's troop.

Secretary Critchfield, of the Department of Agriculture, and Dairy and Food Commissioner Fount have united in a letter to the officers and members of the State grange and subordinate granges of the Patrons of Husbandry asking them to get busy in opposition to the proposal to abolish the national tax of ten cents a pound on colored oleomargarine.

Harry B. Clark, proprietor of the Beech Creek poultry farm, had a total egg yield for the month of December from his 176 White Leghorn hens of 2,814 eggs. His record for November was 2,333 so that the last month was a gratifying increase. Mr. Clark says that had he not experimented with a new food he is satisfied his hens would have laid fully 3,000 eggs in December.

If he lives until January 9th, Levi Shoemaker, of Berlin, Somerset county, will celebrate his centenary, the celebration to take place in the Reformed church in that place, of which he has been a member since its organization. It has been arranged that the school teachers, the ministers and many others of the town will take part in paying tribute to this venerable citizen.

Israel Corp. of Howe Camp, near DuBois, died recently, after thirty-two years of helplessness with a broken back. He was aged 64 years and was but a young man when, thirty-two years ago, he was working in the woods and was caught under the swing of a falling tree. Since that time he had been paralyzed below the waist and the fact that he lived at all had been the marvel of all the medical men who knew of his case.

The estate of the late Mrs. Julia Courtwright, of Weatherly, was recently divided at the Mauch Chunk court house. An aggregate of \$40,000 was divided between 21 heirs. Mrs. Courtwright was the daughter of John Reinsmith, a Mahoning Valley pioneer, of Carbon county, with one of the most remarkable war records in the State. He and his two sons and five sons-in-law served as soldiers in the Civil war, while his father, Samuel Reinsmith, was a soldier in the Revolutionary war.

Little Margaret Emilie Beck, six year old daughter of Clyde and Elizabeth Beck, of Warrior's Mark valley, was burned to death on Monday, January 1st. The parents were busy in an out kitchen when the little girl who had been playing at another stove, ran to them enveloped in a flame of fire. The father hurriedly extinguished the flames but not before they had gotten in their deadly work, as the little one passed away about 5:30 o'clock on Monday evening, after passing through excruciating pain. She is survived by her parents and two sisters, Frances and Hazel Beck.

The great drainage tunnel which was begun nearly three years ago by the Lehigh Coal and Navigation company, at a point a short distance above Nesquehoning Junction, and is being driven in a southerly direction, will soon reach No. 1 shaft above Nesquehoning, four miles from the beginning. Two sets of men are working toward each other, one from the entrance and the other from No. 1 shaft, and they are only about 800 feet apart. The drainage tunnel when finished will have reached Dutch Hill on the outside of Tammasqua and will have cost over \$3,000,000. It will drain nearly or quite every colliery operated by the Lehigh Coal and Navigation company.

The Potter county commissioners are in receipt of a check for \$910 from George C. Bayless, of Binghamton, N. Y., president of the Bayless Pulp and Paper company, to pay for the burial of the bodies taken from the wreck resulting from the Austin dam disaster, September 30th, 1911, when the Bayless company dam burst. The undertaker, who buried 30 bodies, presented his bill to the county commissioners, as there was no one else for him to look to to take care of the expense. The surviving relatives of the dead had lost everything in the catastrophe. The commissioners appealed to Bayless and he promptly authorized the board to audit the accounts and send him a statement. His check was received Monday.