

BY P. GRAY MEEK.

INK SLINGS.

-It wasn't "Let George do it" when the cherry tree was chopped.

-Anyway I'd rather have a case of small-pox than be President of Mexico.

-The local option bill has passed first reading in the House at Harrisburg, but there's many "a slip 'twixt the cup and the lip."

-What the Hon. GEO. W. GUTHRIE didn't know about politics when he became state chairman he is learning now by experience.

-Anyway the suffragette cause has reason to congratulate itself. It is not "cold" feet but only "sore" ones that has taken hold of its hikers.

-Anyway, the longer Governor WILSON holds off his Cabinet announcements the longer a lot of impossible "possibilities" will remain in the lime light.

-Possibly the Balkan war is still going on, but really Mexico has kept us so busy watching during the past few days that we have lost sight of the Turks entirely.

-It's a funny condition of affairs when J. PIERPOINT MORGAN can have an attack of indigestion in Cairo, Egypt, that makes nearly every broker on Wall Street throw a fit.

-The suffragettes are pursuing their weary way from New York to Washington and it looks now as if the only reward for sacrifices will be sore feet and sad disappointment.

-From the way some of our Jingo exchanges have been declaring war on Mexico they evidently imagine themselves clothed with the power the Constitution has vested in Congress.

-Many a fellow who is after a twenty-five dollar cross-roads post-office will spend fifty in going to the inauguration to whoop 'er up for the new President. But think of the good time he'll have.

-Of a truth misfortunes seldom travel alone. Just when Mr. BILL FLYNN's voice fails him his "reform" sheriff gets into the hands of a grand jury for failure to properly perform his official duties.

-If anything should happen to the confirmation of E. W. BIGELOW, as state highway commissioner, by the Senate there would be a lot of QUIGLEY lieutenants in Centre county looking for new jobs in the spring.

-Wilson's seven sister bills are destined to be enacted into laws of New Jersey. Let us hope they become more famous than the Seven Southernland Sisters were when they were making us believe they could grow hair on bald heads.

-Governor SULZER, of New York may not succeed in making a farmer out of VINCENT ASTOR, no matter how much the youthful millionaire longs to become one, but he did succeed in getting a delegate who would pay his own expenses and represent the Empire State at the world's congress of agriculture in Rome.

-The Altoona Times sums up a lengthy editorial on "Home" in these words: "The real possessions are not what the hands may grasp, but what the heart holds." How true! And that accounts for the supreme contentment and happiness to be found so often in humble homes and so rarely in the more pretentious ones.

-The metropolitan papers are full of comment on the fact that as professor of law at Yale President TAFT is to receive \$5,000 a year while Howard JONES, the football coach at Yale, is to receive \$4,000. Why laugh? JONES will make more men who can earn their own living by athletics than the professor of law will make lawyers who will not be utter failures or parasites on their families for ten years at least.

-People who decline to visit Bellefonte because of the small-pox "scare" have a perfect right to do exactly as they think best. But those who persist in exaggerating it are doing a gross injustice to this community and one that there should be some law to prevent. It would be criminal for any official, physician or newspaper in any community to cover up the truth in a time of contagious disease, but it seems that the effort to tell the exact truth about the situation in Bellefonte has had no effect whatever. All manner of wild stories are in circulation, notwithstanding the fact that, all told, there have not been ten houses under quarantine for the disease in this place.

-It seems to us that the calling off of the regular term of February court on account of a small-pox "scare" is ill-advised. If it were anything more than a "scare" it would be justified. But when the schools, the churches, places of amusement and every public enterprise is working as usual in Bellefonte we cannot understand how the situation is serious enough to warrant a suspension of court; especially if there are litigants who must suffer by such a delay of justice. Nothing has been concealed here. The local papers have given full publicity to every case developed and they are so few as to constitute only a "scare." Far be it from us to advise our readers that there is no danger in Bellefonte if there were, but we do so advise because if there were danger here the State Board of Health would have quarantined the town long ago.

Democratic Watchman

STATE RIGHTS AND FEDERAL UNION.

VOL. 58. BELLEFONTE, PA., FEBRUARY 21, 1913. NO. 8.

Mr. Palmer's Disappointment.

The Washington correspondent of the New York World writing upon the personnel of President-elect WILSON's cabinet, the other day, said that "the friends of Mr. PALMER, who is generally credited with having rendered valuable service during the campaign, say that he will be grievously disappointed if denied a cabinet place—the Attorney Generalship preferred—but they also say he is too good a sportsman to sulk over it."

Mr. PALMER having put his political service on a commercial basis desires to realize early upon his investment. So far as the records available show he has done nothing to entitle him to such recompense as he demands, however. It is true that he was instrumental in breaking up a Democratic organization in Pennsylvania which had twice elected a State Treasurer and brought the vote of a Presidential candidate to the highest ever reached. But that sort of service hardly deserves the reward which Mr. PALMER claims.

It is absolutely safe to say that no Democratic candidate for President within half a century enjoyed greater personal popularity in Pennsylvania than WOODROW WILSON. No campaign within that period has seen the party in the State more harmonious and enthusiastic than that of last fall. Yet under the direction of Mr. A. MITCHELL PALMER the aggregate vote for Mr. WILSON was something like 50,000 less than that for WILLIAM JENNINGS BRYAN four years previous, though it is well known that Mr. BRYAN had hosts of enemies in the party and was bitterly fought, by many of our most influential Democrats—the present chairman of the Democratic State committee among the rest.

In the light of these facts what services have Mr. PALMER performed to justify a demand for a place in the cabinet? He is not a veteran party leader whose faithful services in the past should mark him for unusual distinction. The organization which he treacherously betrayed procured for him a Congressional nomination in 1908 and put him forward whenever opportunity presented itself subsequently. But he was not known as a party leader until his revolt against the organization which had befriended him and the vote of last fall shows that that was a misfortune.

We have no desire to interfere with President-elect WILSON's plans or preferences either in the formation of his cabinet or anything else and if A. MITCHELL PALMER is called to the council table we shall not object. But let us hope that the commercial spirit in which he approaches the matter will be abandoned. Neither the party nor the President-elect owes him anything and the party is not urging his appointment.

An Excellent Idea.

Governor SULZER, of New York, has set a wholesome example to other administrators of public affairs. It was reported to him that there is likely to be a deficiency of something like \$6,000,000 in the revenues of the State. He looked into the matter carefully and finally recommended that the Legislature double the tax on the transfer of speculative stocks and automobiles. In this State such things would not have been thought of. Our statesmen would have suggested a tax on coal or some other necessary of life so as to put the burden on those least able to bear it. Governor SULZER has a different notion of things.

The country will never attain a full measure of prosperity until our system of taxation is reversed. Prosperity is not big wages on one hand or extraordinary profits on the other. It is the adjustment of the burdens and benefits of government on a basis that will bring contentment. In other words, the taxation of wealth in at least equal ratio with the burdens put on poverty so that neither the laborer nor the capitalist can feel that he is being imposed upon, is what is wanted. The proposition of Governor SULZER to collect the additional revenues needed from speculators in stocks and owners of automobiles will accomplish the result.

That taxes are paid by the consumer is axiomatic. Whether the levy be upon coal, wool or cotton, the man who uses the product pays, not only the levy, but a considerable per centage for collecting and paying the money. But a tax on speculation will hurt no one who ought to be helped. Even a tax on corporations is paid finally by the people who use the corporations in business and the public gains little by the process. Therefore, the SULZER idea is worthy of consideration. No matter which end of the speculative operation is hit, little harm is done. It is a case of "dog eat dog."

Justice Miscarries Again.

The convicted conspirators of the Bath Tub trust have been fined in various sums aggregating \$51,000. They were convicted, last week, in the Federal court at Detroit, United States District court judge, CLARENCE W. SESSIONS presiding. They were accused of restraining trade, regulating prices and various other things in violation of the SHERMAN anti-trust law. The defendants were corporations and individuals and the trials were in the criminal courts. But there was no differentiation between individuals and corporations and as corporations can't be put in jail the learned court probably thought there would be something like discrimination in making a distinction in the sentences.

Early in ROOSEVELT's first term as President special counsel for the government were employed to investigate charges of rebating against the Topeka & Santa Fe railroad. Among the lawyers entrusted with this service was JUDSON HARMON, who had been Attorney General in CLEVELAND's administration and has since served two terms as Governor of Ohio. Mr. HARMON made the report and in it declared that "crime is personal," and indicated the culprit in the case. The culprit having been a friend of President ROOSEVELT criminal proceedings against him were forbidden but the Santa Fe railroad was tried, convicted and fined. The penalty was paid out of the treasury of the corporation at the expense of the share owners, and the culprit went free.

In the bath tub case the same result is likely to follow. Fourteen individuals were fined in sums ranging from \$5000 to \$1. But the fines will be paid by the corporations rather than the individuals so that as usual the real criminals will escape without punishment of any kind. Of course the stockholders who had nothing to do with the offense and probably got nothing out of the unlawful action must pay for the crimes of the managers through the medium of diminished dividends on their stock. This may seem to the outgoing administration a good way to deal with such subjects but the average citizen will take another view of it and happily the present administration will soon be ended.

—We have no prejudice against Republicans who have been appointed to postmasterships within the last month or so but we own to some emotion on the subject. No Democrat within this broad land can see the local postoffice pass under the control of a Republican for "four years more," without emotion.

Resident Hunters' License.

The attempt to levy a gun license tax on resident hunters in Pennsylvania is again being made in the Legislature at Harrisburg. A bill for that purpose was introduced by Mr. DAVIS, of Lackawanna county, in the House of Representatives several days ago and is being pressed in committee by the State Game Commission. Its supporters are mainly city men who represent, so far as this question is concerned, wealthy members of gun clubs and owners of game preserves. There is no game in the cities but there are plenty of hunters. At this distance it looks as if they want more than a fair share of the opportunities to take game.

We can see no substantial reason for imposing such a tax on hunters of Pennsylvania. In the first place it would be unjust because it would be an unequal tax. The ostensible purpose of the tax is to provide a fund to protect bird life from noxious animals and other predatory enemies. All citizens are equally concerned in this achievement and should be burdened alike for it, if it is necessary to burden at all. The preservation of bird life is a universal necessity and the expense of it should be shared alike by all concerned. Because a man hunts is no reason for putting a special tax upon him.

Our game laws are sufficiently confusing and incongruous now without adding another complication to invite contempt. The resident hunters' license would certainly have that effect for it would be unfair upon its face and no man with red blood in his body will submit patiently to unjust and unequal taxation. For these reasons we hope the measure in question will be defeated by an overwhelming majority. It was so disposed of two years ago and ought to be again. We hope our representative in the Legislature, Mr. GRAMLEY, will put his seal of disapproval upon it by voting against it at every stage of its progress in the House.

—If TAFT had behaved half as well during the earlier periods of his administration as he is behaving now in the face of a grave emergency the political history of the country might have taken a different turn last fall. But it was all for the better. WILSON will be better than TAFT at his best.

The Mexican Muddle.

Mr. JOHN BARRETT, who has been for some years head of a bureau for the promotion of the interests of the Latin-American Republics, suggested, the other day, that the Mexican muddle be referred to arbitration and that the several other Latin-American republics be invited to participate in the deliberation. This suggestion has greatly offended some of the dignitaries of the State Department at Washington. Those "high-brows" resent any interference with their prerogatives and imagine that suggesting methods of settling troubles in Mexico and every place else, for that matter, is essentially a prerogative of the State Department "high-brows."

For more than a week the city of Mexico has been in a state of anarchy because of a sort of military mutiny. The legal, and so far as indications go, the capable President of the Southern Republic has been unable to maintain order or even protect life in the capital city and the jingoes in Washington and about the ship yards and ordnance factories have been all the time clamoring for intervention. Intervention means the conquest of Mexico and the absorption of the government and territory of that friendly neighbor. But the suggestion of a rational solution of the problem provokes resentment when, as a matter of fact, it ought to have been welcomed as a remedy for a grave evil.

The truth of the matter is that the "high-brows" in the State Department at Washington are vastly more concerned about the interests of the shipbuilders and the ordnance makers of the country than they are about those of the people. If ROOSEVELT had been President when the disturbance began our military posts of Mexico and war expenses would now be "eating up" money faster than it could be collected from the people. To his credit it may be said that thus far TAFT has been able to stand out against the importunities of the millionaire magnates but there is no telling how long he will do so. Let us hope, however, that it will be for a couple of weeks.

—Spring is fast approaching and naturally business men are beginning to ponder over the outlook for the coming summer. While there are the usual pessimists always to be found in every community, who can see nothing but dull times ahead, there are many who look into the future through optimistic glasses and not only believe that business will be much improved during the coming summer, but have faith enough in the future of the town to help it along all they can. In this respect we refer to men who expect to erect new dwellings in Bellefonte. While only tentative plans have been made there is assurance that more building will be done in the town this year than for some years past. Of course much of the hope of improved conditions is based on the work to be done in building the new penitentiary in Benner township; and this will depend to a large extent on the appropriation for this purpose made by the present Legislature. If the latter is adequate and a few hundred men put to work on the new penal institution it cannot help but be of some benefit to Bellefonte.

—Quite a sensation was created in Philipsburg last week over the distribution there of a paper called the New Republic, published at Westerville, Ohio, which contained the names of all the signers to the applications for liquor license in that town, and a scurrilous attack on men generally who yield their influence in such a cause. An effort is now being made to locate the author or source of the article and if the man is found he will likely find himself in hot water for a time, at least.

—With gasoline soaring around the 25c. mark and giving promise of going much higher automobilists are in a quandary over selling their machine or putting a blanket mortgage on it to pay for the gas it uses. At present prices traveling by auto is more expensive than it ought to be.

—What an opportunity the present situation in Mexico would have given Mr. ROOSEVELT to swing the big stick if he were in the White House now and how much better we are off that he isn't there?

—President TAFT appears to have always been anxious to get out of Washington but then getting out of the city didn't take him off the payroll and that makes a vast difference as anybody can see.

—We recall the fact that the first announcement of President CLEVELAND's complete cabinet was made on the day of his inauguration, March 4, 1885. But politicians weren't so meddlesome then.

One Scorching is Enough.

From the Harrisburg Star-Independent. Fifteen years ago Saturday the battleship Maine was blown up in the harbor of Havana, and that disaster, whether it was really due to accident or design, precipitated the war between the United States and Spain. War might have been averted had not the battleship been destroyed, and had not an investigating commission reported that the explosion that rent it came from the outside. When that report was made war became inevitable. Here was a casus belli that could not be ignored, although the Spanish government had granted the principal demands of the United States with regard to the government of Cuba.

Intervention in this case has brought to the United States nothing but expense and trouble. It has cost heavily in blood and money, more than the defeat of a weak nation could possibly be worth to the United States. It has enormously increased permanent expenditures. It has plunged the country into wild preparations for imaginary wars. It has created a tribe of prophets who predict great disasters unless the navy and the army be greatly increased, and fortifications be built along a commercial canal and across the Pacific. It has sent the devil of militarism walking up and down in the land and telling the inhabitants thereof that if they be not liberal with military contracts their country will be invaded by armed forces and put under tribute.

All this happened despite the fact that intervention in the affairs of another nation seemed legitimate and unavoidable. The proposed intervention in Mexican affairs is neither one nor the other. It is none of our business how the Mexicans govern themselves. If the child is not an imbecile he will avoid the fire that burned him once. One scorching as a result of intervention ought to be enough for Uncle Sam.

Forcing the Situation.

From the Johnstown Democrat. Washington is doing about all it could be expected to do in making trouble for Americans in Mexico. It is fanning Mexican resentment fast toward the flaming point and should it blaze forth in massacre and rapine with citizens of this country for the victims it would be the most natural thing in the world.

The whole course of Taft and his underlings in this delicate business has been in the very last degree calculated to inflame the passions of our southern neighbors against the United States and against Americans resident in Mexico. He deliberately set about inviting their hatred and resentment we could not have chosen a more certain course. Ex-President Diaz declares from his exile that he is ready at a moment's notice to return to Mexico to die fighting the United States should intervention be undertaken. The old president would join the new president and the revolutionists now making war on the Madero government would unite in a common cause against the invader. All Mexico would rally instantly to a single standard in patriotic protest against an unspcakable indignity.

While Taft is protesting that no intervention is contemplated and while he is insisting that in any event the question of an invasion of Mexico will be put up to Congress, he is doing all it is possible for him to do in paving the way for that end. It will be through no fault of his should a situation fail to develop which would afford ostensible justification of armed intervention. It is indeed impossible to believe that Washington is not deliberately forcing a condition that would call for war with Mexico. Is this what the American people desire?

Threatened Strike Averted.

From the Pittsburgh Post. The announcement that the railroad managers and firemen have finally agreed to arbitrate was received by the country with a sense of relief. This is as it should be. Both sides were willing to arbitrate, but disagreed as to the method, as a result of which the country was brought nearer to a transportation calamity than it has been for years, and that, too, without any justification.

If the Erdman act is not satisfactory immediate steps should be taken to have it amended so that an objection to it cannot be raised in the future. Under that law arbitration is provided for by a board of three, one representing each side to the dispute, these two to select the third arbitrator. The railroads asked that this board be doubled, contending that in its original form too much power was placed on one man. To prevent a strike, however, they agreed, under protest, to arbitrate under the law as it exists.

This means that the differences will be adjusted without subjecting the country to the business disturbance that would have followed a cessation of work. It is a triumph of the principle of arbitration. It is impossible to imagine the consequences of an interruption of railroad traffic, and the public would have been the greatest sufferer.

Made His Own Name.

From the Springfield Republican. President-elect Wilson nips in the bud overzealous sticklers for ceremony who refer to him formally as "Thomas Woodrow Wilson." "Thomas" is past history with him, as "Stephen" was with Grover Cleveland and "George" with Washington Gladden. In the very literal sense Mr. Wilson made a name for himself while he was an undergraduate at Princeton.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

—Mt. Union needs fifty houses to accommodate the people who want to live there. The new refractories plant causes the scarcity.

—Conemaugh is compelled to ask state aid to fight smallpox, having spent all its money for street paving and other improvements.

—C. A. Deitrich, who escaped from the Huntingdon reformatory on Monday night, was captured in Washington county on Thursday night and is now back at the institution; reduced in grade.

—The family of Albert Wresh, of Lilly, is sorely afflicted. Two children died in one day of scarlet fever, another is thought to be dying, the mother is broken down and the father is suffering from erysipelas.

—An order issued from the National Guard Department announces the discharge of Captain William H. Nevin, of Company E, Twelfth Infantry, it appearing that he is unfit to discharge the duties of his office.

—David Scabetti, aged 10 years, is the youngest prisoner ever tried for murder in the Westmoreland county court. Angry at his brother, he had, the prosecution says, picked up his father's revolver and pulled the trigger just as Andy Sabon came within range.

—The Pennsylvania Coal and Coke corporation on Monday fired some 400 coke ovens at its No. 10 mine at Gallitzin. They have been idle for the past week or longer for repairs and these have been finished and all will be put into operation as quickly as possible.

—Leonard Huling, aged 12 years, stood and looked at a burning shanty at Cook's Run, near Renovo, recently and has likely lost the sight of an eye by so doing. There were some 38 calibre cartridges in the shanty and when they exploded one of them struck the boy in the face.

—Miss Ruth Fisher and Miss Violet Winkelman, of Flemington, went skating on Bald Eagle creek a few days ago and skated through thin ice. They went in the water up to their necks but fortunately touched bottom and were able to cling to the edge of the ice until their cries brought help.

—The W. C. T. U. of Eaglesmere showed enough violations of the law to knock out the last remaining liquor license at that summer resort. Before they did so, however, they secured financial backing for a temperance house which will be open to the public in a short time and will remain open all the year round.

—The diphtheria scare in Blanchard is fast disappearing, as the development of no more than the three cases has reassured the residents that the quarantine established has been effective. The anti-toxin treatment in these cases, one of which was advanced to a critical stage, was covered, has proved the efficacy of this method of treatment.

—Grace Stidole, the Williamsport girl shot by John Erble last November, has recently been improving. For a long time she lay at the hospital between life and death and was taken to her mother's home to die. It is now thought that she will recover and Erble, who had not been outside of his cell since the shooting, is allowed to exercise in the corridor.

—Last Thursday afternoon, at two o'clock, the Penn Vitrified Brick works, located near Cameron, was sold by attorney Chas. G. Stroth, master, under bond of U. S. Court; the bondholders purchasing same for \$12,000. What disposition will be made of the property we are unable to learn. It is a valuable piece of property, costing considerably more than \$100,000.

—John P. Kissell, formerly of Jersey Shore an employee of the Lackawanna Bridge company which had charge of the construction work of the new railroad shops at Avis, and now has charge of the work on the new shops at Lima, Ohio, was struck by a large piece of iron at the latter place on Saturday, which crushed his skull and broke his neck. Just how the accident occurred is not known.

—Mt. Union is excited over a case of black smallpox. Arthur Hill, the victim, had been mingling freely with neighbors and a number of quarantines are expected. Rev. A. C. Lathrop, Baptist minister, and his wife are among the first to be isolated. It is stated that during the epidemic of "Cuban Itch," declared by state officials to be smallpox, Mr. Hill was one of the victims.

—A deal has been closed by which I. W. Seaman and Thomas B. Palmer, of Uniontown, secure possession of 2,400 acres of timber lands in Somerset and Westmoreland counties, a half interest of which was owned by the estate of the late W. A. Crist, of Johnstown, and the remainder by E. J. Berwind, Thomas Fisher, B. L. Simpson and W. T. Geddes. The price is said to have been in the neighborhood of \$80,000.

—State Dairy and Food Commissioner James Fouat was in Johnstown recently and issued a warning against the sale of bleached flour in that section of the State. He also gave out a list of counties in which prosecutions are to be brought for the violation of state pure food laws. During the coming summer, he said, it was the intention of the department to go after the dealers in adulterated soft drinks.

—Mary Ann Hughes, an aged serving woman, died at Williamsport and left a small fortune of \$7,000, saved from her earnings. The estate is made up of valuable securities. By her will she bequeaths bonds to the value of \$3,540 to Mrs. J. H. Breeze, a daughter of a family the woman served for 30 years; \$1,500 to Frank B. Otto, \$1,000 to St. Joseph's parochial school and \$875 to the city hospital.

—Charles Steele and family, near Bloomsburg, spent an hour of terror a few mornings ago, when he was attacked by a savage bull as he was leaving his home. He turned to re-enter the house, but the door had locked. He took refuge in an out building and found a piece of iron pipe. The bull was battering the house door and Steele was battering the bull with the pipe when neighbors arrived with pitchforks and revolvers to end the combat. Steele fell exhausted, but with few injuries.

—Another big contract has just been received by the West Branch Knitting company, one of Milton's most progressive industries, employing more than 200 people, mostly girls. The latest contract received is for the supplying of 120,000 undershirts to the United States army and the undershirts must be made and delivered within one year. Some months ago the West Branch people accepted a contract for the supplying of 57,000 dozen pairs of socks to the government for the army.

—Ex-Sheriff John E. Shields, of Westmoreland county, who is serving a term in the penitentiary for malfeasance in office, fraud, etc., will again ask a hearing of the Board of Pardons next Wednesday on his petition for a pardon. Shields has twice been refused a pardon, but he is persistent, and says he has new evidence that will influence the board in respousing his case. He is reported to be suffering from tuberculosis in the western penitentiary. His counsel is ex-Congressman Robbins, of Greensburg.

—The proposed home for veteran Pennsylvania railroad employees will not be located at Cresson, according to information from that mountain borough. The Cresson Board of Trade some time ago placed before the railroad men the advantages of the town as a site for the proposed home. An inspection of the Cresson location was made, but the committee apparently was not impressed or had another site offering greater advantages. It is now thought the home will be erected in Dauphin county.