

INK SLINGS.

Hobble and other close fitting skirts are out of fashion in Paris. The Lord be praised.

Our Senator ALEXANDER voted to confirm BIGELOW's appointment as State Highway Commissioner.

The elder DIAZ may resolve that he prefers the Nile to a very possible journey on the Styx and remain away from Mexico.

The local option bill has failed in the Legislature by a vote of 83 to 121; thus endeth the struggle that will be renewed again in two years.

Hon. C. L. GRAMLEY voted for the local option bill at Harrisburg, which probably represented the wishes of the majority of his constituents.

Anyway HARRY THAW's case has revealed the fact that a number lawyers who demand fancy prices for their services are quite ready to render shady services.

Revolution will not end in Mexico until MADERO's death is avenged and then it will break out anew again in its frenzy to avenge those who avenge MADERO.

All the cabinet guesses put BRYAN in the chair of the Secretary of State. And the Democrats of the country are hoping that the guess will prove a good one on March 4th.

According to statistics just completed to February first Americans are consuming more whiskey than ever and this in face of the fact that we have had the warmest winter in forty years.

The report of government investigators at Washington shows that bachelors are more liable to become insane than married men. But that depends largely upon whom the men are married to.

When it comes down to the real principle of the thing how much worse were DIAZ's actions toward MADERO than those of a notoriously prominent friend of our own President toward him last year.

What Mexico needs more than anything else right now is THEODORE ROOSEVELT and Gen. ROSALEE JONES and we can spare them both long enough for them to benevolently assimilate the Greasers.

Why waste time juggling with woman's suffrage and local option bills in Harrisburg. Put them up to the people to vote on. Surely they are the ones most interested and the only ones competent to pass finally on such momentous questions.

The prices of meat and potatoes and flour and butter and eggs are coming down but that real necessary, gasoline, is going higher and higher. Them Democrats never intended to keep their promise about reducing the high cost of living, anyhow.

Prof. STARR, of Chicago University, declares that the coming man will be hairless and toothless. We are almost persuaded to believe it when we see so many of them who are half way there gathered together in the front rows of the "girlie," "girlie" shows.

State chairman GUTHRIE's message to the Senators on the confirmation of BIGELOW was evidently unappreciated, but then state chairman GUTHRIE is not the authorized dictator for the voters of the various districts who sent Senators to Harrisburg to represent them.

Wasn't it just fine in President-elect WILSON tendering our distinguished Pennsylvania, A. MITCHELL PALMER, the War portfolio. Of course no one will suspect that Mr. WILSON knew that he was a Quaker and couldn't accept it because of the ritual of his church.

The one new case of smallpox that has developed in Bellefonte within the past week is said to be due to violation of the quarantine regulations. It is said that the victim or members of his family exposed themselves to the contagion by visiting in a house that was under quarantine.

After returning to Washington from New York, on Sunday, President TAFT had traveled 114,700 miles since his inauguration four years ago. It is an average of 78 1/2 miles a day for every day that he has been President. He will leave the White House with the record for being the greatest gadabout we ever had in the presidential chair.

Suppose the Legislature and not the Senate had had to confirm BIGELOW's appointment as Highway Commissioner, and suppose you were a Democrat representing Centre county in the Legislature. State chairman GUTHRIE told you that it was against the best interests of the Democratic party to vote to confirm. But, suppose, meanwhile, Governor TENER, or one of his agents, had sent you a tip that he would use the pruning knife vigorously on the appropriations to The Pennsylvania State College, the Philadelphia and Bellefonte hospitals unless you did vote to confirm BIGELOW. What would you do? The situation is a perfectly possible one and you are an honest man representing honest constituents. Think it over and decide what you would do. Possibly the little mental communion you have with yourself will change your mind on some things political.

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Mr. Bigelow Confirmed.

The confirmation of the appointment of E. M. BIGELOW to the office of Highway Commissioner, is not surprising, in view of the circumstances. There was just reason for protesting against the appointment, for by his own admission Mr. BIGELOW has managed the department profitably. We have taken occasion in the past to criticize his administration of the office on that account. But the testimony of his neighbors as to Mr. BIGELOW's capability and integrity left no doubt in the minds of those who have given the subject attention, on that score. He came to the office with a clean record and so far as can be discovered the opposition to him was based entirely upon the enmity of BILL FLINN.

When Mr. BIGELOW was director of public works in Pittsburgh, some years ago, WILLIAM FLINN was a municipal contractor. For years he had enjoyed the favor of the municipal machine to the full measure and when Mr. BIGELOW undertook to hold him to the same conditions which were imposed upon other contractors, a quarrel ensued and FLINN being wealthy and powerful "ripped" BIGELOW out of office. On the commercial principle that one bad turn deserves another BIGELOW organized a force and literally threw FLINN out of politics and kept him out until the ROOSEVELT tidal wave of last fall restored him. The effort to defeat his confirmation as Highway Commissioner was, therefore, the logic of events.

As between FLINN and BIGELOW the average citizen has little choice, probably, and if their personal difference were the only item in the equation the popular verdict would be "a plague on both your Houses." But Senators in the General Assembly are under sworn obligation to fulfill certain duties to the public, free from prejudice and passion, and what BIGELOW did to FLINN or how FLINN countered upon BIGELOW has nothing to do with the matter. The capability and fitness of the appointee are the only questions to be considered with respect to the vote on confirmation and the good report which came to the Senators on these points justified affirmative action. The Governor is responsible for the conduct of the office, anyway.

It is to be regretted that Mr. GEORGE W. GUTHRIE, chairman of the Democratic State committee, "batted" into the affair as he did. In what Mr. FLINN's Philadelphia organ calls "a manifesto" Mr. GUTHRIE summoned the Democratic Senators to FLINN's service much as a school master would command a kindergarten class. The result was anything but flattering to Mr. GUTHRIE's vanity though entirely right from a political viewpoint. Everyone of the ten Democratic Senators voted directly opposite to Mr. GUTHRIE's expressed will and thus proved that they are now as they always have been absolutely unbossed. The three Keystone Senators tried to pull FLINN's chestnuts out of the fire but failed.

A Local Option Problem.

The vote by which the local option bill was defeated in the House of Representatives in Harrisburg on Tuesday settles that mooted question for the present. There were eighty-three votes for the bill, exactly twenty-one less than the necessary number. The 121 votes in the negative completes the full complement of members so that there was no dodging or evasion of the question.

The vote of Tuesday was substantially the same as that of two and four years ago so that it may justly be assumed that it is a fair expression of the sentiment of the people of the State on the subject. It need not be assumed, however, that it will settle the matter for all or even a considerable time. The local optionists will be doing business at the old stand two years hence.

As one of the participants in the debate of Tuesday said, it is not the right way to proceed for the attainment of the moral improvement desired. There is altogether too much money wasted in booze and it is the cause of far too much evil. But the proposition to legislate morality into people has failed so frequently and proved abortive in so many localities and ways that it might as well be abandoned.

The liquor traffic ought to be regulated so as to minimize the bad effects of it and the way to achieve this result is for those who favor and those who oppose the traffic to get nearer together. The liquor men ought to do something toward eliminating the evils and the other should be more charitable in treating the subject. The closing of bars in the towns and cities at midnight would be a step in the right direction, and the strict enforcement of the laws, now upon our statute books, would tend greatly to the amelioration of the evils justly complained of as due to the liquor question.

Clouds on the Political Horizon.

The controversy between Mr. WILLIAM JENNINGS BRYAN and the President-elect is unfortunate, perhaps, but it was inevitable. The dispute is with respect to the personnel of the cabinet. The President-elect imagined that in allowing Mr. BRYAN to choose any portfolio he fancied all obligations would be cancelled and that he might then proceed to fill the other cabinet chairs according to his own judgment. But he "reckoned without his host," so to speak. In other words Mr. BRYAN wants not only to select a place for himself but to name the gentlemen who shall occupy the other seats at the cabinet table. President-elect WILSON is not entirely happy under the circumstances but we can't see how he may avoid the trouble that is impending.

Mr. BRYAN is a peculiar man. He imagines that the President-elect is under obligations to him for the office into which he is about to enter and being a modern reformer he thinks, likewise, that he has both legal and moral right to foreclose the mortgage thus figuratively written against the political estate of the President-elect. On the other hand President-elect WILSON feels that he was elected by the people and that after recognizing Mr. BRYAN's claim to a seat in the cabinet, he, being responsible to the people for the administration, ought to be allowed a free hand in the selection of the other members of the cabinet. That would make it a WILSON administration, with a reservation. Mr. BRYAN desires to make it a BRYAN administration, with a "recall."

It is practically agreed that Mr. BRYAN is to be Secretary of State in the WILSON cabinet, that being the office Mr. BRYAN preferred, and it is only just to add that the people, generally speaking, acquiesce in that arrangement. But Mr. BRYAN wants Mr. JOSEPHUS DANIELS to be made Postmaster General and Mr. WILSON had in mind another gentleman for that office, especially important from a political viewpoint. There's the rub. Mr. BRYAN insists that unless Mr. DANIELS is chosen for that office he, Mr. BRYAN, will not consent to become Secretary of State and thus the whole fabric will be shattered. It is a sad state of affairs, whatever angle it is viewed from and we contemplate the consequences in a haze of despondency and fear.

The Senatorial deadlock in West Virginia has been broken by the election of Justice GOFF of the United States Circuit court. Happily no scandal has ever "been connected with" the name of Justice GOFF, but some grouchy persons may wonder why he quits a life job for a six year Senatorial toga at less annual salary.

Make Him the Last Offender.

Governor TENER has resumed the habit of lobbying for pending legislation. Other Governors of the State have at intervals suggested legislation to the General Assembly, as a matter of fact that is what the Governor's annual and special messages are for. But TENER goes beyond this conventional expedient and personally solicits the support of Senators and Representatives in the Legislature and other visitors to his office to help along this measure or that, in which he may have some interest. Two years ago he literally kept men away from his office in this way and now he is at it again.

The other day a gentleman from one of the northeastern counties of the State visited Harrisburg to attend a public hearing before the House committee on game upon the gun license bill. Having been a member of the Legislature two years ago he called upon the Governor, out of a sense of courtesy. After a brief exchange of compliments between the Governor and his visitor, the Governor asked the gentleman to use his influence in behalf of the gun license. His visitor promptly replied that his business at the capitol was to oppose that inquiry. After leaving the Governor he attended the session of the committee and made a strong speech against the bill.

We can imagine nothing more despicable than this perversion of the power of the Governor in the interest of legislation. Senators and Representatives in the General Assembly understand that a request of the Governor may easily take on the form of a command and that a refusal of such request may work grave harm to the interests of the man thus refusing. That being the case the Governor ought not to misuse his office and the influence it has in that way. As a matter of fact we believe the present Governor is the first to do so and legislation ought to be enacted to make him the last.

Of course it would be impossible to enlist any considerable amount of sympathy for MADERO, recently President of Mexico, but most anybody is willing to admit that he got "a raw deal."

The Question of Preparedness.

Ever since the Civil war army officers and ordnance makers have been a unit in favor of a larger army and in all that time there has not been a naval officer or a shipbuilder in the country who wasn't ready to swear that additional warships are the supreme necessities of the day. Army and navy officers and ordnance makers and shipbuilders prosper by war and what has of late years come to be talked about as "preparedness" is simply an expression of the hope of these men that promotions will come on one hand and profitable business on the other. The recent Spanish war was literally forced upon the country by these elements in the population. It was the fruit of selfishness.

General LEONARD WOOD, chief of staff of the army, is the latest recruit to this army of alarmists. In a recent interview, made public for the ear of Congress, this "favorite of fortune" declares that we are unprepared for war and unfit to meet the exigencies which would confront us in the event of war. Of course if he believes that it was his duty, as head of the army, to conceal it from the world and convey the intelligence in the quietest way possible to the Congressional committee the duty of which is to deal with such situations. But that course would not have served his purpose. He couldn't fool the House committee on military affairs and he has therefore undertaken to frighten the constituents of Congressmen who compose that committee.

It is probably true that this country is unprepared for war but it is not because the army is small or the training and discipline deficient. In ninety days from any given date we could put an army in the field equal in discipline and superior in numbers, intelligence, courage and equipment, to any army in the world. But so long as we have officers like LEONARD WOOD, catapulted into high places through favoritism, we will be unprepared for war or any other important military service. Dr. WOOD was advanced to the head of the army because he had helped ROOSEVELT in his political ambitions and so long as that sort of thing continues we will be unprepared, however big our army may be.

Mr. Groundhog is losing his reputation as a weather prognosticator. He made good the first two weeks but most of last week was too mild for groundhog weather, and while in all probability there will be more cold weather before spring sets in earnest, it is hardly likely there will be any long stretch of it, or severely cold. Robins and bluebirds have both made their appearance in Bellefonte and they are pretty sure harbingers of an early spring.

Wall Street emissaries have gone to the trouble of advising Governor WILSON that currency reform is a pressing necessity. But Wall Street did all that it could to prevent the election of Governor WILSON to the office which gives him a voice in the matter and every mother's son in Wall Street knew that in the event of his defeat there would be no currency reform within the period which will be covered by his administration.

The old saw that "there's nothing in a name" may be true in some instances but if that name is Scenic, there's a whole lot in it in Bellefonte. Everybody in town as well as visitors know that it stands for one of the best moving picture shows in this part of the State. A place you can attend every evening and always see something new. And, while the pictures change every evening the price always remains five cents.

Monday was license day in Mifflin county but Judge Woods very tersely announced that all applications for license to sell liquor were refused. The only applications were from three hotel proprietors in Lewistown.

For the information of those who read the daily papers it may be worth while to say that the Balkan war is still in progress but the Mexican trouble gets the first page.

So far as having sense enough to behave themselves is concerned we know our American Suffragettes are not the "same breed o' cats" as those riotous English women.

Even Mexico is likely to attract less attention in the near future now that the League ball teams are moving toward the training grounds.

The suffragettes hiking from New York to Washington have reached their destination but they are far from achieving their purpose.

When TAFT retires there will be a pair of ex-Presidents, but the senior is not likely to welcome the junior into the exclusive fold.

His Place at the Front.

From the Johnstown Democrat. Why doesn't Mr. William Randolph Hearst take the Mexican situation into his own puissant hands? Why does he insist on embroiling Uncle Sam in what is apparently his own personal quarrel with things Mexican?

We believe the United States would view without the least alarm a declaration of war on Mexico by his yellowness. With equal equanimity it would permit him to head a private army of invasion.

The fact is, that Mr. Hearst ought to do any fighting which the occasion requires. No one is quite so wrought up as he over Mexican affairs. He is in a fighting humor; he thirsts for blood and he is simply wild in his desire to smash things below the Rio Grande. But singularly enough he shrinks from putting himself on the job.

This is most unexpected modesty on his part and it gives an extremely embarrassing hint of timidity when his own skin is in question. He is willing enough for the boys in the trenches to face Mexican guns and pour out their life blood on an alien soil for glory, but no offer has come from William Randolph Hearst to expose his own precious person.

At William Randolph belongs right at the front. And there is where he should go.

The Sober View.

From the Pittsburgh Gazette-Times. The Mexican embroglio has been on for more than two years. Americans in the various Mexican States are familiar with internal conditions. They have had ample opportunity to get away. For such as have been unable to do so, or are in Mexico of necessity, on duty unavoidable, there is proper sympathy and should be adequate protection at any cost. That our government should be at the beck and call of the adventurous, however, and should respond to the demands of interests and individuals that have disregarded the ordinary dictates of prudence and ignored the force of events, is asking more than Congress and the executive are likely to grant. There is a vast difference in the status of a man who voluntarily and persistently exposes himself to danger and one who becomes involved against his will and through circumstances beyond his control. To the extent that it is practicable the place for citizens of the United States who have been living in Mexico is on this side of the frontier until the storm blows over.

"Curbing" the Trusts.

From the Altoona Times. Within the last few days the bath tub trust and the National Cash Register company have been found guilty of conspiracy in restraint of trade. Officers of the companies have been given jail sentences, together with heavy fines, and have been assessed the cost of prosecution.

Thus does the work of Attorney General Wickesham go forward toward the curbing of the trusts. Most people are pessimistic on this subject, however. Other trusts have been found guilty. Some have been "dissolved." But fines and dissolution orders have not met with marked success.

If the government is able to land some of the trust officers in jail, the results may be more satisfactory.

Tammany is Alarmed.

From the Pittsburgh Post. A sign that the reform forces are winning in New York is furnished by the alarm of Tammany. This powerful political organization has determined to investigate the police situation and aid in destroying the "system" which has been accused of fostering. It proposes to weed out the criminals and turn them over to the public prosecutor. If this decision of Tammany is carried out it will be deserving of more praise than has been its lot in the past.

There is no stronger force in New York than Tammany, and it could add to its strength by the pursuit of a policy intended to wipe out the criminal police and restore a condition of law and order. The determination is to uncover the unscrupulous police situation and to prosecute to the prison gates evildoers of high and low degree. It is proposed to follow this with legislation to prevent the development of like conditions. If Tammany carries out this program it will merit the applause, not only of New York, but of the country.

Ground for Suspicion.

From the Pittsburgh Gazette-Times. There are considerable sections of these United States where Joseph Patrick Tumulty's Democracy will be under grave suspicion if the news circulates that the house in Washington which he has engaged for two years has three bath rooms.

But Not Too Old.

From the Springfield Republican. Gov. Sulzer's definition of a "Sulzer Democrat" is "a Democrat who stood by the party in 1896." And yet there are many young men who were not six years old in that strenuous year who voted for the Governor last fall. Mr. Sulzer is getting old.

Just Sometimes?

From the Birmingham Age-Herald. A State Legislature is a body of sovereigns who waste time to begin with and sometimes wind up by wasting the people's money.

SPAULS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

Lewistown Odd Fellows have just completed an \$18,000 building. Interesting exercises marked the dedication.

Five thousand hens will find a home in the poultry house at the new sanatorium at Cresson. The great demand for eggs is the reason.

Owing to differences among business men, Portage is likely to have two trade boards and three banks, two of which are not yet chartered.

Mayor Cauffel, of Johnstown, has signed the ordinance which prefaces the abolition of Pennsylvania railroad grade crossings in that city. Work will begin when spring opens.

A youth on parole from the Huntingdon reformatory is blamed for taking valuable articles from the home of Charles Burkett, a Yeagertown barber who had given him a chance to work.

A Latrobe justice of the peace who has had several boy thieves to deal with recently, is of the opinion that the desire to attend the nickelodeons is responsible for a considerable amount of such thievery in the town.

The Church of Christ at Lock Haven on Sunday celebrated its semi-centennial, conducting its morning service, as nearly as possible after the fashion of fifty years ago and the evening service according to present day methods.

Westmoreland county's controller, John Sell, has declined to approve highway contracts amounting to nearly \$200,000, on the ground that they were not drawn in strict accordance with the law. A re-letting will be necessary.

Mrs. M. J. Hurley, on a Baltimore and Ohio train between Foutwell and Scalp Level, was about to leave the train at the latter place, when she discovered that her baby was dead. A doctor said that heart trouble was the cause of death.

A huge rock crashed down the mountain side in Mann's Narrows, flattened a rail on the trolley track near Readeville and went on its way down to the Kishacoquillas creek. It weighed a ton and a half and the small damage is considered remarkable.

Friends of the five men who met death on the Derry sandworks incline, would not allow interment to proceed when they saw the grave. They wanted it large enough to leave space between the caskets and postponed burial until it was so enlarged.

Eight rings, eighteen watches, diamonds and other articles of jewelry, worth probably \$2,000, were found by a railroad man in the Northumberland yard a few days ago. They are thought to be loot from a jewelry store, dropped by thieves trying to board a freight train.

While running across the railroad tracks in the East Tyrone yard Sunday morning, C. W. Ehrenholtz, a Middlefield conductor whose home is in Harrisburg, slipped and fell in front of a yard engine. He was badly mangled by the wheels and was killed almost instantly.

Rev. W. H. Brown, pastor of the Catholic church at Sunbury, Monday climbed a pole on the top of the church to replace a gilt cross that had been broken off at the base and hung down the pole. Father Brown climbed on a befrayed winch and up the pole at the risk of his life.

About seventy-five citizens of Johnstown parted with ten dollars apiece recently in exchange for membership in a Masonic lodge that didn't exist save in the imagination of the strangers who were promoting it. Warrants were sworn out for them, but they had taken their departure.

The Cambria Steel company within the last few days has been awarded a contract to manufacture 100 gondola cars for the Berwind-White Coal Mining company. The car plant of the Cambria is jammed with orders, included in which is a contract for 4,500 cars for the Pennsylvania railroad.

After a married life of fifty-three years, Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Alexander, of Philadelphia, died within twelve hours of each other, the husband expiring on Wednesday and the wife following him the next day. Their death was the fulfillment of an oft-repeated wish that they should end life together.

Jacob Nicwonger, a young man who resides at East Altoona, is under arrest on the charge of robbing the store of Peter Duncan, at Ore Hill, sometime Friday night. On Saturday morning Nicwonger left a big package containing about \$100 worth of loot at the home of Mrs. Irvin Ferguson, at Hillside, and when he was arrested Saturday afternoon he could give no satisfactory explanation of how he came by the stuff.

J. Ellis Harvey, of the Centre Brick & Clay company, of Oryston, sent by parcel post Monday morning a brick of local manufacture to be used in building a brick house at the Coliseum, Chicago, during the Clay Products exposition which is to be held February 26 to March 8. This brick will be one of 25,000 sent by parcel post from every brick plant in the United States which is used in the construction of this house, which will be given away and re-erected after the exposition.

F. G. Dalton, the traveling salesman, of Elmira, N. Y., who for the past five weeks has been confined in the Glen Iron hotel, suffering with smallpox, has returned to his home completely cured. The hotel has been fumigated, the contents of the room where the ill man was confined have been burned, and the quarantine lifted. Calvin Foreman, a resident of that place, and track foreman on the Lewisburg & Tyrone railroad, who also contracted the disease, in a mild form, is reported as rapidly recovering.

Clarence E. Minor, a railroad fireman, put himself in line for a Carnegie hero medal last Friday, when he saved the two-year-old daughter of Burt Van Gorder, of Cross Fork, from being ground to death under the wheels of an engine. The train had just rounded a curve when the engineer noticed the child toddling along the track. He applied the brakes and reversed the engine but realized that he could not bring the train to a stop in time to save the tot's life. The fireman, grasping the situation, jumped to the running board, ran to the front of the engine, sprang to the ground and with the child in his arms jumped from the track just as the engine rolled by.

Mrs. Howard Fisher, 33 years old, and her three children, James, 2 years old; Arthur, 3 years old, and Bruce, 5 years old, perished in a fire which destroyed their home in Smithfield, a suburb of Huntingdon, at 11 o'clock Tuesday morning. Mrs. Fisher had gone to the grocery, leaving the children in the house. When she returned the house was in flames. Men prevented the frantic mother from entering the dwelling by the front door. She ran around to the rear, broke a window and climbed in. She was overcome by smoke and died with the little ones. The house was burned to the ground. Howard Fisher, a carpenter, was at work in Huntingdon at the time. A deaf and dumb child was not at home.

Williamsport was the scene of another near tragedy about ten o'clock Friday morning when a traveling salesman from Corning, N. Y., who gave his name to the authorities as Frederick Fuller, was slashed by a butcher knife by E. J. Crocker, in a room occupied by Crocker, and his wife over the Charles Musonia jewelry store on Market square. The injured man's wrist was almost severed by the murderous weapon. Fuller was removed to the Williamsport hospital, after his case is a critical one and it is possible that his arm will have to be amputated. Formal charges of assault with intent to kill have been lodged by the police against Crocker, who later was arrested and held under ten thousand dollars bail for trial. Not being able to give bond he was sent to jail.