

INK SLINGS.

-Its been sprinkling dollars for the past two weeks and we're certainly expecting the "shower" tomorrow.

-Don't forget the WATCHMAN's dollar shower. If you can't get in for the deluge we expect come in on the clearing-up storm that ought to follow it.

-The skeptic does not believe in Santa Claus, but thank God, the dreams of all the little folks are not turned to nightmares by those who would make them skeptics.

-Mr. CARNEGIE having reduced his fortune to \$25,000,000, or thereabouts, is delighted with the prospect of dying a poor man. Yet to most of us country newspaper men that seems like a fairly safe competence.

-Two hundred and five big dollar drops that have fallen into the WATCHMAN office in the past two weeks make the prospects good for the big "Shower of Dollars" we asked for about the 20th. The preliminary sprinkle is fine. Now for the deluge.

-Really it begins to look as if the people of the country had come to an accurate estimate of WILLIAM SULZER, the deposed Governor of New York. The effort to make a martyr of him failed for the reason that martyrs are not made of the metal from which crooks are moulded.

-As long as love, and generosity, and devotion and simplicity rule human hearts Santa Claus will live and be real, though unseen, in the minds of the little ones. Will you take him away from them? Will you prick the bubble and change the merry sparkle of the child's eye to sadness and distress. Will you shatter the glad memories of the chimney-corner and break the charm of the one beautiful legend of childhood?

-BILLY SUNDAY closed his six week's campaign in Johnstown on Monday with a record of over twelve thousand converts. His collection on the last day amounted to \$16,064 or at the rate of about \$1.30 per convert. That's certainly cheap enough and we'll bet the old straw hat against anything you name that lots of those converts have already more than saved the price per by staying away from the old places that got their coin before BILLY got them.

-The Surveyor of the Customs at the port of Philadelphia sends word to the home folks up in Centre county that he is really doing more for them than they know. Those who have been expecting a job in the service on the Delaware are told to cheer up and cheer c. r. k. because he has already promoted an old Centre countyman, whose promotion was recommended by his predecessor, and extended his wonderful influence into the post-office in Philadelphia and had the salary of an employee there raised. Can't you just see our old friend ARTHUR KIMPOT cheering when the great news leaks into his new home down in Montgomery county.

-Editor FRED C. KIRKENDALL, of the Wilkesbarre Times-Leader, has been made collector of internal revenue for the Lancaster-Scranton District. Mr. KIRKENDALL is qualified to give the government splendid service and, knowing him, we know that he will measure up to every requirement of the office, which becomes unusually exacting through the operation of the new income tax law. The Johnstown Democrat will please note that the WATCHMAN knows that there is something more of virtue in Mr. KIRKENDALL and something more to recommend him than the mere fact that he was a front rank Reorganizer which latter the Democrat seems to think was all that was necessary.

-The Democratic State committee has opened a publicity department in Philadelphia with Mr. KENNETH M. PRAY, a real newspaper man in charge. The usefulness of the department will be exactly proportionate to the tact Mr. PRAY displays in handling the situation that confronts him. If he doesn't damn the Old Guard he'll be damned by some of the Reorganizers. And if he does damn the Old Guard he might as well close up shop, because there can be no Democratic victories in Pennsylvania until all the Democrats get together. And all the Democrats won't get together until Mr. PALMER and his understrappers stop harping about a bi-partisan machine and stop emphasizing the fact that no one but Reorganizers will be recognized either for federal offices or in the state councils.

-Last year the WATCHMAN advised those who wanted to give something that they really could afford for Christmas, to give a smile or a kiss to some poor soul unaccustomed to receiving such heartfelt greetings. Just recently it has come to our knowledge that one of our own contributors took the advice and offered the oculatory sugar-plums rather promiscuously. In fact, we believe, without a proper sense of discrimination. Notwithstanding the intemperance to which our suggestion led this particular person we repeat the advice. The Christmas spirit, more than the Christmas gift, counts. You may not know who would cherish a smile from you, yet the one whom you think least of might cherish it most. This is a season of glad tidings and gre at joy. See to it that you do your part in making it so.

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The Old Guard and the New.

In his speech at the Kennett Square banquet, to which we made reference last week, Judge BONNIWELL, of Philadelphia, declared that "had there been any capacity exercised in the last National campaign the electoral vote of Pennsylvania would have been counted for WOODROW WILSON. For the moment we are obsessed with a leadership both vain and incompetent." The accuracy of this statement can hardly be questioned. The party has never had a more popular candidate. No campaign was ever conducted under more auspicious conditions. Every Democrat in the State had confidence in an overwhelming victory and local leaders throughout the State were inspired with the hope of substantial reward, in the subsequent distribution of patronage.

But the vote was less than for any Democratic candidate for President within a quarter of a century, with one exception. For example, in 1884 Mr. CLEVELAND's vote in Pennsylvania was 398,875. In 1888 the same candidate polled 446,633. In 1892 his vote was increased to 452,274. In 1896 Mr. BRYAN was the candidate for the first time and though GEORGE W. GUTHRIE, VANCE C. MCCORMICK and most of the other conspicuous reorganizers fought him from beginning to end he polled 427,125 on the Democratic ticket and received 6,103 votes on the People's party ticket. In 1900 with GUTHRIE, MCCORMICK and the rest of that bunch still fighting him Mr. BRYAN received 424,232 votes, nearly the vote polled by CLEVELAND in 1888.

The campaign of 1904 will long be held in unpleasant memory by the Democrats of Pennsylvania. Mr. BRYAN had resisted the nomination of Judge PARKER, with all his mental and physical strength for nearly a week and after the nomination had been accomplished the candidate further offended the then idolized Nebraskan by demanding the elimination from the platform of the only plank which BRYAN cherished. The result was that in Pennsylvania nearly all of Mr. BRYAN's friends refused to vote, or voted for the opposition candidate, and Mr. PARKER's total was only 335,430, more than 50,000 less than the vote polled for CLEVELAND twenty years before. It was the inevitable result of a divided and hopeless party. The voters could not be brought to the polls.

In 1908 Mr. BRYAN was again the candidate of the party and though he had unjustly and inexcusably meddled in a local factional quarrel his campaign, conducted by what is now known as "the Old Guard," meaning Colonel J. M. GUFFEY and his friends, resulted in a vote of 448,872 votes. In 1884 BLAINE's majority was 81,019, in 1888 HARRISON had 79,458 majority, in 1892 HARRISON had 64,347 majority over CLEVELAND. In 1896, with the help of GUTHRIE, MCCORMICK and their crowd the Republicans were able to run MCKINLEY's majority over BRYAN to the enormous total of 301,175, and with the same help in 1900 the Republican majority was kept up to 288,533. ROOSEVELT's majority in 1904 was 505,519. This enormous total being ascribed to the reasons stated above.

In 1908 the political conditions in Pennsylvania were most inauspicious. The district delegates that year had been chosen by direct vote of the people and appeared in the convention at Denver with certificates of election from the office of the Secretary of State. Notwithstanding this fact, however, Mr. BRYAN, by telephonic communication, ordered the convention to throw out six honestly and regularly elected delegates and substitute men, some of whom had not been voted for at all. This extraordinary and revolutionary course was taken to prevent the re-election of Colonel GUFFEY to the office of Member of the National committee. Nevertheless the majority of TAFT over BRYAN was reduced to 298,997. Colonel GUFFEY and his friends were faithful to the party.

Now we come to the campaign of 1912. The very atmosphere was charged with the spirit of Democratic triumph. The candidate, WOODROW WILSON, was the practically unanimous choice of the Democrats of the State. We believe that we can justly claim that the WATCHMAN was the first paper in the country to suggest his name for the nomination, which it did in 1904. In any event, however, he was an unusually popular candidate and the party was in an unusually hopeful frame of mind. But the highest vote polled for any elector was 395,619 and the average less than 395,200. The Republican party was split in the middle and yet one faction had 51,807 majority over WILSON and together they had 325,112 majority over the Democratic candidate.

It is well known that hope of victory is the greatest asset in political campaigning. In the contest of 1912 no reasoning man had the faintest hope of the election of either ROOSEVELT or TAFT.

No man with analytical capacity above that of a rabbit, ever doubted the election of WILSON. Yet this "vain and incompetent" party leadership was able to bring to the polls for such a candidate, under such circumstances, only a few more votes than were polled in 1884, nearly thirty years previous. There can be but one reason for this and that is the utter incapability of the party managers. The largest campaign fund in the history of the party in the State was raised and disbursed, but the party vote diminished rather than increased as the result of the labor of our leaders.

As a matter of fact the campaign was begun wrong and managed wretchedly. Before the convention Messrs. GUTHRIE, PALMER, MCCORMICK and a few others assembled in "Star Chamber" session made a ticket, composed in most part, of political delinquents, party lame-ducks, inveterate office-seekers and social adventurers, and compelled a servile following to ratify it. Then a series of dinners was inaugurated and "hot birds and cold bottles," paid for out of the campaign fund, radiated mutual admiration, while Mr. BLAKESLIE promised victory in extravagant periods. But there was no attempt at organization, no effort made to get the vote out. It was simply a riot of self-laudation and a revel in a broad field of incompetency.

At these dinners the speakers were coached to denounce the former Democratic leaders. Those men who had given their time, labor, brains and money during years of adversity were to be thrown overboard. It was realized that the task was difficult and the plan of "giving them a bad name" was resorted to. The charge was set up that those who had made all sorts of sacrifice for the party were in collusion with the common enemy and a credulous few and a selfish many believed. The cry "mad dog" invariably starts missiles into motion and faithful Democratic leaders became victims of slanders and scandal-mongers. The impending national victory and the consequent promise of spoils had made these ghouls ravenous and "they lied like pirates."

But the records have not been destroyed and the facts are not obliterated. By the records we learn that Colonel GUFFEY became the leader of the party in the State, with the practically unanimous support of all who remained faithful to the candidate in 1896. In every important campaign which has ensued the party was divided on some question beyond the control of the leader. When Mr. BRYAN was the candidate GUTHRIE and MCCORMICK were in opposition. The first grave prohibition which confronted him was the resignation of Mr. GUTHRIE from the ticket as candidate for Elector-at-Large, for the reason, as he stated substantially, "that he, (GUTHRIE), was unwilling to prostitute the Democratic party to the service of Populism." Others of his type harassed him in other ways.

Notwithstanding these discouraging facts, however, Colonel GUFFEY continued his unselfish efforts to strengthen the party. We say unselfish because during all these years he never put himself forward as claimant for remunerative office. But he kept the party in trim, won victories now and then and with the single exception of 1904 when Mr. BRYAN's friends openly opposed the candidate, brought to the polls a larger number of voters of the faith than the reorganizers were able to summon last year though the candidate was the most popular, the conditions more auspicious and the hopes higher than in any campaign since the GUTHRIE desertion of 1896. Nothing except stupidity or perfidy could have accomplished such a result.

These are the facts and it is the duty of the Democratic voters of the State to analyze them. The leaders are either incompetent or perfidious. The result last year indicates one and the refusal of the organization to promote the election of GRIM indicates the other. The lesson is equally plain. The party can't afford either incompetency or perfidy in its management. If we hope to prosper in the future we must turn these selfish office-seekers out and put unselfish men in their places. Our splendid President must be supported in his policies and purposes in a more substantial way than the present organization has supported him. An increasing vote will strengthen his arm and that is possible only through a change in leadership.

The Senate majority hopes to get a vote on the currency bill by tomorrow. But LA FOLLETTE is likely to break out with a six to ten day speech any time between now and Saturday and delay the final vote another week.

Senator TILLMAN, of South Carolina, drinks a gallon of hot water every day which probably accounts for his neglect of the pitch fork exercise which formerly made him famous.

Present and Past Methods.

The four gentlemen who assembled in Washington a few days ago and selected candidates for the Democratic party revealed an unexpected measure of lucidity in naming Justice MESTREZAT for the office of Senator in Congress. As we said in proposing him to the Democratic electorate as an available candidate for Governor, he has all the qualifications for public service. He is able, honest and earnest and such a man is not likely to go wrong in any office. It is the incompetent pretenders who force themselves to the front, that make trouble. But there is nothing in the office of Senator in Congress, unless there is some certainty of long tenure, to entice a man from the Supreme court bench.

In the event, however, that Justice MESTREZAT should hearken to the siren of these self-appointed leaders and accept their appointment to a place on the Democratic ticket, he would see the difference in the methods of the present party bosses and those of the "Old Guard," which was in control of the party organization when he was nominated for the Bench. Now four gentlemen, neither one of whom could be elected to the office of school director in the community in which he lives, meet in Washington and bestow upon him a nomination. Then he met a score of worthy competitors in a convention chosen by the people and after two strenuous days of strife and balloting, he was nominated.

When Justice MESTREZAT was nominated in the Democratic convention for the high office he now adorns, Colonel JAMES M. GUFFEY was his intimate personal friend and close neighbor. No man in the convention was more earnestly for Mr. MESTREZAT than Colonel GUFFEY. No voice in the State was as potent in the party at that time as that of Colonel GUFFEY. Yet while he made no concealment of his preference for MESTREZAT he refused to use his power in behalf of his candidate. Let the convention make choice from the several worthy aspirants, he said, substantially, and after a long drawn out but honorable contest, MESTREZAT was nominated. Now four individuals meet and appoint the candidates, and then go out and announce that the Democratic people are having their say.

Germany is delighted with the Congressional resolution to take a naval holiday. The people of Germany are groaning under the burdens of militarism and their satisfaction with even a sign of relief is not surprising.

There Will Be No Panic.

If the statement issued by the Department of Agriculture at Washington, the other day, to the effect that the value of the fourteen principal crops this year will aggregate \$4,940,301,000, be anything like accurate, the calamity howlers, including Congressman MANN, as well as "close their traps." With such a contribution from the soil to the public wealth, supplemented by the value of the other crops, the most expert panic maker who has ever cursed the industrial life of the country, couldn't paralyze industry. Even the late PIERPONT MORGAN, with his genius for public and private looting, would fail to create a panic under such circumstances.

There are two reasons for forcing a panic at this time. One is to prevent the passage of the pending currency bill and the other to compel the Interstate Commerce Commission to allow an increase of freight rates, through which the public would be robbed of something like \$100,000,000 a year. Incidentally, of course, there is a desire among the money magnates to discredit the Democratic party, but we will let that pass. It was believed that both these objects might be obtained by dismissing men from the railroads and the steel and iron mills. But the currency bill will be enacted within a few days and the Interstate Commerce Commission may have nerve enough to turn down the proposition to increase rates.

In any event there will be no panic. The railroads will probably pay for a few accidents that might have been avoided by keeping their equipment in repair and the steel mills will resume in order to meet demands for their products and make profits. The harvesting, carrying and disposing of such a crop will compel all forces to hustle and the hustling will make industrial and commercial activity a necessity. The calamity howlers may be disappointed for a time but in the prosperity which will follow they will forget their disappointments and contribute their share to the general contentment of the country. These are inevitable facts.

If TEDDY don't come home pretty quick his party will have completely dissolved when he returns from the southern jungles.

A Reform Steam Roller.

From the Philadelphia Record. Governor Glynn, of New York, has broken all precedents in celerity of legislation by securing the passage, within the period of a five days session, of a reform program of unsurpassed comprehensiveness and importance. The penitentiary session, to which Governor Pennypacker summoned the General Assembly of Pennsylvania in 1906, extended through more than six weeks, and this has until now remained unexcelled as a Legislative speed record. The program mapped out by Woodrow Wilson in his inaugural address as Governor of New Jersey in 1911 was not put through until the best part of four months had elapsed—and that was a worthy performance with respect both to the number and the weightiness of the measures enacted.

The Governor of New York called his Legislature to meet on Monday, December 8, and by the following Saturday a Workingmen's Compensation law, a Direct Primary law, a new Ballot law substituting the Massachusetts form for the fraud-promoting party-column blanket sheet, a law providing for the election of United States Senators by popular vote and a law to create a Legislative Bill-Drafting Department, had been placed on the statute books of the State. The passage of the Workingmen's Compensation law, the most thoroughgoing and most liberal yet enacted in any State, had been made possible only a few weeks previously by the adoption of a Constitutional amendment at the November election.

The criticism that this was hasty legislation will hardly bear examination. The ballot reform now accomplished has been under discussion for a generation and is approved by the best sentiment of the entire nation. The Workingmen's Compensation law had been under discussion in the State for more than six years, and the State-wide direct primary has been insistently demanded by the people almost everywhere. The Tammany Democracy of New York had this fact driven home to it by the defeat suffered in the recent election because of its dalliance with this issue. Therefore, when the New York Legislature was called on Monday last it had to do only with well-drafted measures, which had been matured by years of discussion and were backed by an overwhelming public opinion.

The People's Postoffice.

From the Harrisburg Patriot. The further great increase in the weight of packages that may be sent by parcel post in the first and second zones, accompanied by an important reduction in postage on parcels in all the zones which will go into effect on the first of next month, emphasizes the fact, already apparent, that Postmaster General Burleson means to conduct his department primarily in the interest of the people, for their convenience and benefit. This is what was intended when the department was established, but for a great many years that intention was nullified and subverted by Congress under the influence of the express lobby. An important member of that lobby was for many years a Senator of the United States.

Under that malign influence the post-office department, so far as the transmission of parcels was concerned, was conducted not for the benefit and convenience of the people, but for the profit of the express monopoly.

The logic of events proves that the same policy would have been pursued down to the present time had not the people risen against this and many other forms of injustice that Congress was imposing upon them and placed the Democrats in power, first in the House of Representatives and later in the Senate and in the Presidential chair.

Postmaster General Burleson by his conduct of the postoffice department during the last months has relieved the people of previous burdens in the form of excessive express charges, and they will be further relieved when the new order increasing the weight of parcels and reducing the postage thereon goes into effect January 1st.

How It Worked.

From the Altoona Gazette. A lowering of the cost of living by the admission to this country of cheap Canadian meats was to have been one of the benefits of the new tariff law. But how has it worked out? Sir Wilfrid Laurier has just called attention to the results in a keynote political speech. It is true that under the new tariff Canadian cattle have come into some of the border States. But this, instead of lowering prices there, has merely raised them in Canada. These exportations have diminished the food products of the Dominion and naturally the prices had to go up.

The additional meat supply for the United States is so little in comparison with the vast amount required that the market prices here apparently have not been affected at all. It is as though the mill pond had been drained into the Great Lakes. Canada has felt the effect for the worse and this country has felt it not at all.

Ought to Try Something Stronger. From the Memphis Commercial-Appeal. Give 'em a little more grape-juice, Mr. Bryan; they're beginning to wobble on their diplomatic pins.

Oh, You Poker Game!

From the Philadelphia Press. Those night sessions in the Senate are thrilling. Sometimes as many as five Senators attend them.

If you want to get results, advertise in the WATCHMAN.

SPAULS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

-James Wertz, a Lycoming county farmer aged 65 years, is an inmate of the Williamsport hospital, suffering from a double fracture of the jaw, the result of an encounter with an enraged bull.

-Nathan Stahl, aged 55, a wealthy Quemahoning township, Somerset county farmer who had been in poor health for some time, was found hanging in his slaughter house a few mornings ago.

-Clearfield is suffering from a mad dog scare, not less than a half dozen persons having been bitten recently by dogs which are believed to have been mad. Three of the animals have been killed.

-Lewistown is seriously contemplating removing all smallpox patients to the pest house. Five cases in four houses entail an expense of \$16 a day for the guards, besides the cost of looking up contracts and feeding those under quarantine.

-Thomas Casey, proprietor of the Central hotel, Curwensville, in which Daniel Ryver was recently killed by a blow inflicted by the clerk, has informed Ryver's widow that he will not permit her to suffer by reason of her husband's death.

-The State Department of Health on Wednesday caused the arrest of Dr. W. C. Sittler, of Mahoning, Carbon county, for failing to make a report of a smallpox case. It is charged that he attended a case for two weeks and did not report it.

-The Calvinistic Methodist congregation of Ebensburg, after an existence of seventy years, has voted to dissolve. The membership has been dwindling and those who remained concluded to wind up the affairs of the church. All its debts have been paid.

-A new high price for hogs was established in Westmoreland county at a sale at the farm of James Loughner, near Greensburg, last week. The combined weight of the pair was also a record breaker. The two hogs weighed 1,400 pounds and brought \$200.

-Indiana sheep raisers around South Mahoning have been greatly annoyed by the raids of dogs in the past few weeks. Five flocks have been attacked recently and many sheep killed and wounded. The loss from this source is placed at fully \$300.

-Two ladies of molten metal toppling into the Conemaugh river on Monday resulted in an explosion that shattered windows for a mile in every direction and injured many employees of the Cambria Steel company, two of whom are in a critical condition.

-By January first the State will be the possessor of a million acres of forestry reserve lands. The State now owns 994,082 acres and has just signed contracts for 8,485 acres to be delivered January first. The new purchases are in Clinton and Putnam counties.

-Kicked by a lively horse he was driving in place of the regular horse belonging to Breining's grocery store, Williamsport, a month ago, Arthur J. Maffett died at the hospital at that place. He had been thought to be improving, but suffered a relapse.

-Father Smalko, pastor of the Slavish Catholic church of Winburne, is an inmate of the Phillipsburg hospital, suffering from gunshot wounds caused by the accidental discharge of his gun while he was on a hunting trip. His right hip and the calf of the right leg are injured.

-In the Clearfield court William Currie, indicted for the murder of David George, entered a plea of guilty of murder in the second degree. It was accepted by the court and the prisoner was given an indeterminate sentence to the Huntingdon reformatory not to exceed twenty years.

-John James Hurley, aged 29 years, has just rejoined his mother, Mrs. William Hughes, at her home in Jefferson county, after a separation of fourteen years. He was stolen by his father, John Hurley, Sr., and later abandoned. He has been studying his own canoe the last three years and accidentally located his mother a few weeks ago.

-Dairy and Food Commissioner James Foust has arranged to institute suits in Centre, Venango and Clearfield counties against packing firms on the charge of violating the cold storage law in shipping to this State meats and products from cold storage which are placed in so-called cooling rooms. This will start a test of the cold storage law.

-The State Game Commission has reports to show that about 1,000 buck deer were killed during the season in this State, as against 800 killed last year. Less than a quarter of the number of hunters were killed and wounded this year as compared with the number last year, but several hunters were killed by other hunters taking them for game in the woods.

-Mercer Haston, aged 73, is in Franklin county jail, rather than pay his wife, aged 69 years, the sum of \$23 a quarter. She is the mother of nine children and claims her husband deserted her in Shippensburg two years ago. He said he wouldn't move from Shippensburg, to avoid the high cost of living, but doesn't state where he intended to go out of the draft.

-Frank Huff was convicted of murder in the first degree by a jury in criminal court at Clearfield on Sunday. Huff killed his wife at Penfield, Clearfield county, in 1913, during a quarrel. Counsel for Huff pleaded insanity. The tolling of the court house bell announcing a verdict had been reached, mingled with the tones of church bells calling Clearfield people to Sunday morning services.

-W. C. Anderson, a Blairsville druggist who pleaded guilty to selling liquor without license, was sentenced to pay \$1,000 fine and serve six months in the Allegheny county workhouse. He is a prominent citizen and was convicted at the preliminary hearing largely on the testimony of Burgess Graham, who will be charged by Mr. Anderson with selling liquor illegally at the Elks' home in Blairsville some two years ago.

-Killing wild ducks by the light of the coke ovens at Glasgow proved expensive sport for fifteen residents of that vicinity. A dam near the ovens attracted the wild fowls on their southward journey and they congregated in large numbers. Some of the hunters didn't have license, some shot quail out of season and some simply shot after night. But the fifteen men paid the game warden a total of \$225 and he let them off at the minimum fines.

-Following a night of revelry, Mamie Lindsay shot and instantly killed Joseph Anderson, who boarded with her, at Lancaster. Anderson and his son, Howard, were both intoxicated with the woman, and it was said that a quarrel arose over the attentions paid by the woman to Anderson's son. The elder Anderson started the trouble and when he became threatening, the woman pulled a gun and fired, killing him almost instantly. Anderson came to Lancaster a year ago from Philadelphia, where he has a wife living. The woman gave herself up to the authorities.

-A new proposition has been put up to the Public Service Commission regarding discrimination in rates for service. It comes from the Citizens' Water Company, of Scottsdale. This company now sells water to the churches in that town at a half-rate, and the Young Men's Christian Association, which has recently erected a building at Scottsdale, desires to make a contract for water on the same terms as are given to the churches. The company wants to know if such a practice would be allowable. "Der the law creating the commission, and also wants advice as to whether the churches are to be notified that their special rates will cease after January first.