

INK SLINGS.

The battleship Pennsylvania cost \$15,000,000, and ten years from now she will be practically obsolete.

The first day of spring was only a calendar product. There was nothing else about it to indicate that the winter is over.

Anyway, the Rev. BILLY SUNDAY can't dodge the income tax if he would. What he earns seems to be most everybody's business to keep tab on.

The Austrian fortress, Przemysl, has capitulated to the Russian army that had invested it for the past four months. It was a hard one to capture, but just about as hard to pronounce.

There will be plenty of snow in the mountains of Centre county on April 1st. At this time last year, you will remember, there was good sleighing on many of our mountain roads.

Swat the first fly you see and every other one that comes within your reach. If Dr. GORGAS could exterminate the mosquitoes on the Canal Zone we can, at least, reduce the fly population some.

President Judge ROBERT E. UMBEL, of Fayette county, has resigned his seat on the bench, to avoid impeachment proceedings brought in the Legislature by a fellow attorney whom he defeated for the nomination for the office he held.

The aggregate value of live stock in Pennsylvania, according to the Department of Agriculture is \$157,107,172. Considering the ravages of the foot and mouth disease recently this is a surprisingly good showing, though there is room for five times as much.

Here's hoping that the Bible class now meeting every Sunday in the halls of the Legislature will not merely putty up the cracks in some of the old sinners who may wander in there. May it be the real thing and no mere religious veneer for political purposes that they get.

BILLY SUNDAY converted 45,324 people during his eleven weeks campaign in Philadelphia and that city voluntarily presented him with a draft for \$51,136.85 besides innumerable presents of trinkets, apparel, etc. It was the most wonderful campaign in the history of evangelism. He redeemed one soul every 2 1/2 minutes he was there and received 46 cents for every minute.

Dr. DIXON's weekly health talk inveighs against stoop shoulders. They do disfigure the body and impair the health and we quite agree with the Commissioner of Health that they can be corrected by physical exercise. There is another way, however, of correcting them. It can be done by mental exercise. If everyone were to fasten his eyes on the stars and see the bright things in life and understand that with all our troubles, there are wonderful blessings to be thankful for, there would be an end of stoop shoulders, shallow breathing, depressed and melancholic people.

The WATCHMAN has differed with the opinion of WILLIAM JENNINGS BRYAN on a number of things. It has likewise coincided with many of his views, but of them all we believe that we are most hearty in sympathy with the following closing paragraph of a recent speech he delivered on the subject of "Why We Should Disarm."

"My friends, the building of these great battleships, these preparations by Christian nations to fight one another, is a challenge to the Christian civilization of the world; it is infidelity to the doctrine taught by the founder of the Christian religion. Christ taught no such doctrines. He taught us the power of love, not the power of the sword; and those who have tried to put into practice this doctrine are the ones who have suffered least from the use of force. I believe that this nation could stand before the world today and tell the world that it did not believe in war, that it did not believe that it was the right way to settle disputes, that it had no disputes that it was not willing to submit to the judgment of the world."

Gradually the tariff, as a political issue is going the way of the "bloody shirt." When Republican papers fill their columns with such reports as the United States Steel Co. has published of its 1914 business it is either a sign that they don't expect their readers to remember long or that they realize that, after all the tariff is only a local issue. The greatest steel company in the world ascribes its poor showing for 1914 to two causes, viz: "Falling off in its foreign business and a drop in prices after the beginning of the foreign war." If the foreign business of the United States Steel Co. was so great that its loss reduced the income of the company to the point where it couldn't pay any dividend at all on its common stock that business must have been far greater than the tariff mongers would want the public to know. And if it was so great the tariff evidently wasn't affecting it at all. On the other hand, if a protective tariff protects American industry from foreign competition why should prices have fallen off when the foreign war began and there was no competition from abroad? In the face of such facts and especially at a time when there is no need of making political capital out of it we fancy the protectionist papers are admitting that the tariff hasn't anything to do with it and that, in the last analysis, it is really the law of supply and demand that regulates all business activities.

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Political Ideas of Two Statesmen.

Mr. ROLAND S. MORRIS, Chairman of the Democratic State Committee, can see no reason why A. MITCHELL PALMER should resign his seat in the Democratic National Committee. Mr. PALMER has been appointed to a seat on the bench of the United States Court of Claims and newspapers and others expressed the opinion that the judicial service would take him out of politics. But Mr. MORRIS doesn't take that view of the subject. "There is no law which disqualifies a judge from service in a political committee," he declares. There was no law which prohibited the use of money contributed for the maintenance of the party organization to pay for "plate matter" for factional candidates, either, and Mr. MORRIS so used it.

There is no law, fundamental or statutory, which prohibits the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States from running a peanut stand on Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington and we know of no statute which prohibits the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania from conducting a pool room in Philadelphia or Pittsburgh. Ethically speaking such a thing would be incongruous but that wouldn't make any difference to Chairman MORRIS. His idea of political obligation is to distribute the spoils of office to the best advantage for the faction to which he is attached and let the consequences take care of themselves. Political honor has no place in his philosophy.

Happily for the party and the President Mr. PALMER takes a different view of the question. In an interview given to the public from his home, the other day, he states that he will resign his seat in the Committee upon assuming a seat on the Bench. But he will delay the action as long as possible, and in making the concession to propriety, he will vindicate his reputation for thrift. That is to say he "will take the oath of office," get his name on the payroll, about the first of June, but he will not take his seat on the bench until October. That will give him at least four months of fine business in office brokerage and ample opportunity to choose his successor.

Bishop McDOWELL predicts a "religious wave" after the close of the foreign war. After reading the Philadelphia papers for the past three months we were almost persuaded that a religious deluge is due.

Scandal in the School Department.

The Commissioners of Dauphin county uncovered something like a scandal in the Department of Education at Harrisburg. During the teachers' institute of the city of Harrisburg, Dr. NATHAN C. SCHAEFFER, Superintendent of Public Instruction, was one of the lecturers. In the bill of expense of the institute there was a charge of \$30.00 paid to Dr. SCHAEFFER as recompense for his services as a lecturer. The Commissioners refused to pay the bill on the ground that the Superintendent's salary covered all such services. An inquiry which followed developed the fact that while Dr. SCHAEFFER makes no charge for institute lectures it is customary to give him a "gratuity" of from \$10.00 to \$100.00.

The salary of the Superintendent of Public Instruction is \$5000. As secretary of the State Dental Council he gets \$1200. As ex-officio member of the Bureau of Medical Education he draws down \$500 a year and expenses, making a total of \$6700, besides gratuities that certainly amount to a couple of thousand dollars annually. Yet Dr. SCHAEFFER defends the gratuities and regrets that he can't command as big pay as BILLY SUNDAY and Secretary of State BRYAN. He declares that he has as much right to charge for institute lectures as the Attorney General has to charge fees in private practice. If the Attorney General charges for professional services in cases for or against the State, that is true. But we have not heard that he does so.

The truth of the matter is that this case of Dr. SCHAEFFER simply reveals the evil of dual office holding and multiplying salaries. What his predecessors did is not in question because he has had no predecessor for thirty-two years and we are not certain that there were paid lecturers at teachers' institutes before he became superintendent. But be that as it may the fact remains that gratuities men connected with the Department of Public Instruction are simply a form of "graft," which should be dispensed with at the earliest opportunity. Those men are paid for performing that sort of service and they ought to be required to fulfill their public obligations.

They raised \$22,780.50 for the Y. M. C. A. in one day in Allentown and nobody has ever suspected that Allentown is a centre of piety. But then you never can tell.

Our Weekly Summary of Legislative Activities.

Feeling that the people of Centre county have a personal interest in what is being done by the Legislators at Harrisburg and that laws that may affect the future of every individual more directly than ever before are under consideration now and may be written into the statutes of the Commonwealth, the WATCHMAN has arranged to publish a weekly summary of what has been done at Harrisburg. It is not the purpose to go into detail of the various Acts proposed and furnish you with a burdensome account of them. Merely to set them, and whatever else is deemed of interest to the people of this community, before you in a general, unbiased statement that will keep you informed of the progress that is being made. The contributor of this Summary is one of the most capable and best informed of Harrisburg's newspaper men and the WATCHMAN has been very fortunate in enlisting his service for this work.—Ed.

HARRISBURG, PA., March 24, 1915.

The atmosphere on Capitol Hill is charged with political dynamite and there is likely to be an explosion at any moment. Little legislation has been completed thus far this session and even now the activities are mainly in the committee rooms. The Governor's attendance at committee hearings is an innovation and the appearance of the Attorney General as a partisan on pending legislation caused something in the nature of a shock, the other day. But these incidents are simply expressions of the spirit which passes for progressivism and nothing else goes in this era of agitation and unrest.

Governor BRUMBAUGH is a problem to the politicians. He wants his own way in everything and his persistence in forcing his views upon the Legislature suggests that he has in mind the experience of another great educator who took the political bull by the horns and broke a trail through a forest of uncertainty to a splendid triumph. WOODROW WILSON, as Governor of New Jersey, treated the public to a series of surprises about four years ago which opened to him a rose-straw path to the White House. The rumors current here are to the effect that BRUMBAUGH hopes that his defiance of the machine will have a similar effect in 1916 and he is working it to the limit.

Probably the surprise of this week was the resignation of Judge UMBEL of Fayette county. Two years ago Judge UMBEL was threatened with impeachment on account of expenditures in his campaign for the nomination in 1909. Judge UMBEL was among the conspicuous reorganizers of the Democratic party and according to report, Senator CROW intervened to shield him. Since then CROW and he have had quarrels, as the custom among Fayette county politicians, and CROW interposed to have the impeachment proceedings renewed. Anticipating removal UMBEL entered into an agreement with his accuser, the man he defeated for the nomination in 1909, that he would resign in 1917 and interpreting that as a corrupt bargain CROW adopted it as a cause for impeachment and had a resolution reciting the facts and inaugurating the proceedings introduced. The resignation has put an end to the proceedings.

Tuesday afternoon the Senate and House Committees on Railroads held a public hearing, in joint session, on the bill to repeal the Full Crew law. Only those who favor the repeal were heard and the incident brought a considerable number of railroad officials to the capitol. These men dwelt upon the expenses of a full crew and blamed most every evil which has occurred within the past two years, with the exception of the European war, upon the operation of that law. Railroad lawyers and officers of allied industries did the talking and alleged that the law put 1705 men into the service of the railroads of Pennsylvania. But there was no suggestion that "safety first" is the declared policy of the railroads of the State and that the Full Crew law is essentially in the interest of safety. The Committees have promised another meeting for the purpose of hearing the other side.

Another public hearing held on Tuesday afternoon was in the interest of the Workmen's Compensation bill, drafted at the instance of the Governor by the Attorney General. At this hearing "safety first" was the slogan, the Governor was present and the Attorney General the principal speaker. So far as we have been able to discover nobody opposes the principle expressed in this measure. But there is objection to some of the details of the bill. For example one of the speakers, representing the Pennsylvania Manufacturers' association held that the provision exempting farm and domestic employees from its operation put it in the category of class legislation and would destroy its validity. Singularly enough the same speaker recommended the elimination of the provision for the compensation of injured aliens which would as completely destroy its universality as the feature in relation to farm workers and domestic employees.

The labor organizations and advocates are generally satisfied with the bill and generously applauded the Attorney General during and after his speech. But they are not exactly enthusiastic. That is to say they believe that the recompense for injured or killed workmen ought to be greater. The bill provides for a pension of fifty per cent. of their wages at the time of the accident and the workmen think it ought to be sixty-six and two-thirds per cent. But it may safely be predicted that the measure will be accepted by workmen generally if passed in its present form and it is equally certain that a measure embodying the substance of the administration bill will be enacted. There may be some changes in the phrasing of the law but the substance will be preserved.

No man who has closely observed the drift of events in and about the Legislature during the past several weeks can fail to see that the administration local option bill is doomed to defeat. A good many observers have come to the conclusion, for that matter, that those who have been most vociferous in supporting the measure want it defeated. Governor BRUMBAUGH is sincere, no doubt, in his expressed anxiety to enact such legislation but he offended a good many Senators and Representatives by publicly applying processes to force them to vote for it. Then, it is freely declared that the Governor made a grave mistake in calling upon A. MITCHELL PALMER and State Chairman ROLAND S. MORRIS to whip the Democrats into line for the bill. Democrats are not, as a rule, cheerfully obedient to boss orders and those of them in the Legislature who were passively opposed to the measure, are inclined to resent the "butting in" of outsiders.

Moreover Chairman MORRIS has injured the cause in another way. With characteristic stupidity he opened his campaign for the bill by casting an imputation upon the personal integrity and political sincerity of the Commander-in-Chief of his forces, Governor BRUMBAUGH. Such things ought not to count, probably, among full grown men of sufficient intelligence to secure election to the General Assembly of Pennsylvania. But they do count and it is safe to say that in his reference to BRUMBAUGH's relation to the Personal Liberty party, ROLAND S. MORRIS drove more votes away from the measure than he could bring to it in half a century. As a matter of fact, however, outside interference hasn't made a vote for local option on the Democratic side of the House. The Democratic party had no platform last fall and every candidate on the ticket made his own platform. Some of them are and always have been for local option and will no doubt express their sentiments in their votes. Others are opposed to summary legislation of all kinds and in obedience to Democratic principle and traditions will vote against the measure. But none of the real Democrats in the Legislature will be cajoled or coerced into voting one way or the other by self-appointed and incapable party bosses.

The Legislature has been a good deal of a joke, thus far, this session, but signs of improvement were revealed this week. In other words up until this week the Senate has held two brief sessions a week and the House has adjourned for the week every Thursday. Of course little work can be expected in that desultory way and it may be added that for several sessions the Senate has done little deliberating and less thinking. But the Senate began work this week on Monday evening, as usual, and held sessions on Tuesday and today. Committee work may have occupied a good deal of the time of Senators during the early period of the session, but it has not been perceptible to the naked eye. Generally speaking Senatorial Committee work is done on the floor or in the corridors by those interested in particular bills and though that method shows scant respect for the constitution it serves the purpose.

The House, on the other hand, is an industrious body this year, though an imitation of the House of Representatives in Washington would work improvement. In the national capitol the House works six days every week and occasionally gets in a little over-time. A few years ago it was the rule in Harrisburg to put in five full days in the chambers and the committee rooms. But there was less ready-made legislation than now. Every man had to write his own bills then while in recent years such labor is performed by a bureau liberally paid for the service. This is the first Legislature in the history of the State, however, that has had a Bible Class of its own.

Long, Long Way to Constantinople.

From the Harrisburg Star-Independent. In the light of the most stubborn resistance that is being offered to the Allies in their efforts to force a way through the straits of the Dardanelles, as instigated by the news of the sinking on Thursday of two British and one French battleship and the damaging of several others, it must be conceded that those persons who a few weeks ago were inclined to picture Constantinople as in imminent danger of falling into the hands of the enemy were, to say the least, somewhat too rapid in their calculations.

It may have been, as represented by the man who draw the funny cartoons for the newspapers, that Constantinople was in panic and that the population was precipitately making its way into Egypt, but if that were true it was a premature panic based on the overwrought state of the people's nerves rather than on any real danger of a very early attack on the city by the battleships of the Allies. It will be recalled that while much of the wild talk about the "imminent danger" of the Turkish capital was going the rounds, confident statements were being given out from Berlin that there need be no alarm felt for the safety of the city by the fortifications, all along the more than one hundred miles of waterways from the western end of the Dardanelles straits, through the Sea of Marmora, to the city, are very strong and that there are plenty of armed forces and inland intrenchments to make land operations by the Allies most hazardous. In fact they said the position of Constantinople is impregnable.

This statement was discounted in the public mind, perhaps, as coming from an ally of the Turks. A good many people regarded it as a mere bluff to reassure the friends of Germany and its Allies. Yet it is hard to think that Germany, which has displayed such wonderful preparedness for war in all other directions, could have overlooked the necessity of effectively closing to its enemies the tremendously important waterway between the Mediterranean and the Black Sea.

The plan taken as absolutely certain that the Germans have rendered such assistance to Turkey by shoring up her defenses, officering her fighting forces and, perhaps, even sending German soldiers and machines of war for the protection of the water route, that the Allies will be met all the way with the most effective possible sort of resistance, a taste of which they got on Thursday.

With the strong hand of the Kaiser holding up those Turkish defenses all along and under the more than a hundred miles of that water route, the Allies are likely to find it a long, long way to Constantinople.

Enter the Dish Inspector.

From the Louisville Courier-Journal. The Texas Senate has passed a bill requiring hotels, restaurants and eating houses to sterilize all dishes, glass-ware and cutlery into boiling water as often as they are used.

"We suppose," says the Huston Post, "that after the bill becomes a law it will be in order to enact further legislation for the creation of an office of state superintendent of dishwashing with a corps of assistants sufficiently numerous to maintain effective oversight of all the dish washing that is carried on in the establishments named in the bill." Unfortunately the worst effect of a lot of the dishes laws that are placed on the statute books is the augmentation of offices or the accumulation of boards and commissions. It is exceedingly difficult to abolish an office once it has been created. In the great majority of cases it remains a burden on the state revenues sometimes long after its usefulness, if it ever had any, has ceased. And its occupant very early discovers the need of "extra help."

Texas goes into the business of superintending dishwashing at the hotels and restaurants it might appropriately create the office of "chief cook and bottle washer" and no doubt there would be plenty of politicians ready to take the cash and let the credit go." But there will be no such title in the event the bill becomes a law. There will be merely a few additions, to begin with, to the grand army of inspectors, and by and by the chief inspector will find the work growing so onerous that he will want an addition to the inspectorial staff every time a new hotel is built or a new dairy lunch is started.

It must have been a wise politician who conceived the idea of regulating the dishwashers. To effectively enforce such a law in Texas, inspectors would have to be as numerous as grasshoppers in Kansas.

Fifty-five Years of Bryan.

From the Philadelphia Evening Ledger. Mr. Bryan, who was 55 years old on Friday, can look over his life with pride and satisfaction. His fellow citizens can contemplate his career with wonder. In 1896 he was a twenty-four-dollar-a-week reporter, covering the St. Louis convention for his paper. By the magic of his eloquence and by his ability to make the yearnings of his party vocal he won the nomination for the Presidency against all his opponents. There is not on record in American history any more remarkable achievement than this, unless it be the success of the same man in retaining for 18 years the hold on his party which he won by his crown of thorns and cross of gold speech. He could not be President, but he has become Secretary of State in the Cabinet of a President whom he assisted in making. Mr. Bryan may not be a good Secretary of State, but no one will deny that he knows how to play the game of politics, whether he is a statesman or not.

—If BILLY SUNDAY doesn't look out he will get himself disliked at Oyster Bay. There can be only one popular idol while the Colonel lives.

SPAULS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

—The Tipton store and postoffice was robbed on Saturday evening, the thieves getting about \$35 in money and a lot of groceries.

It is estimated that Williamsport has 500 victims of the drug habit, all of whom will need assistance in breaking their bonds.

—Chief of police Jeffries, of DuBois, raided all pool rooms, stores and gambling places and confiscated all slot machines of a gambling character.

—Although many glass plants over the country are closing for thirty day periods, the plant at DuBois will not suspend operations, at least not until after the firing season.

—Four drunken hoboes got mixed in a fight at Punxsutawney and one attacked the Salvation army. A woman put them to rout with a well directed blow with her tambourine.

—Lewistown will spend over \$100,000 in a building boom this year. A Trust company building, United Evangelical church, fraternity house and several other structures are included.

—Woodward township Clearfield county, is minus a High school as the result of a fire that completely destroyed the building, entailing a loss of \$12,000. The origin of the fire is a mystery.

—E. C. Cochran, aged 67, a traveling man whose home was in Punxsutawney, was found dead in an Indiana hotel the other morning. Heart trouble is believed to have caused his sudden death.

—The Civic League of Meyersdale is contemplating the launching of a flower culture campaign for the coming summer. Prizes will be awarded for the most successful efforts to produce flowers.

—James Brown, aged 60, a Lycoming county man living near Liberty, sold a farm on which he had lived for twenty-five years and then blew out his brains while members of his family were packing preparatory to moving.

—Judge O'Connor was recently found guilty of reading a newspaper in the court room during a trial case. He smiled, or rather grinned, when his attention was drawn to the fact that newspaper reading was prohibited in the Ebensburg Court.

—Benjamin Valbrath, a Lancaster traveling man, was waylaid by highwaymen near Waycross, Ga., Sunday and so badly beaten that he is in a serious condition. He was robbed of some valuable diamond jewelry and several hundred dollars in money.

—A cigar store, butcher shop, pool room, 5 and 10 cent store, shoe making shop and sewing machine agency are all located in a shop 17x29. J. J. Palmer, of Blacklick, the proprietor, has been burned out so often, that he finds it necessary to consolidate these businesses.

—James Hartless, of Reynoldsville, Jefferson county, aged 35 years, drank a half pint of a mixture of whiskey and carbolic acid when his wife refused to live with him, and died in about fifteen minutes. He had tried to persuade the woman to take a drink of his "whiskey," but she declined.

—Messrs. Brinck and Malleck, both of Thompston, claimed a hen with fourteen chicks. Justice of the peace Tierney took the chickens into a field between the two homes, and allowed them to go to the home they chose. They went to Brinck's coop, and Malleck cheerfully paid \$10 in costs.

—Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Crissey, of Nant-y-Glo, who buried their only child a few days ago, were almost cremated about 2.30 the very next morning. They lived on the second floor of a building and a cigarette carelessly thrown on the floor in another part of the same building is blamed for the blaze. They escaped in night clothes.

—Roger and Thomas Mooney, brothers of Warren county, aged 74 and 76, respectively, died within two hours of each other Monday. They resided together and Thomas, who was the last to die, was not told of Roger's death. Thomas was an oil man and Roger a farmer. Both had been tax assessors in Warren county for twenty years.

—If Keith Dalrymple, the missing Port Alleghe boy, returns home now, after an absence of more than eight years, he will find that the fortune of \$305,000 is about all that awaits him. The missing boy's mother, whose death occurred a year ago as a result of worry over her missing son, has been followed by the death of Hugh Dalrymple, his brother.

—Road supervisor Frank R. Miller, of Westmoreland county, had a marvelous escape the other day. His buggy, in which he carried fifteen sticks of dynamite, collided with West Penn street car, near Hostetter, was dragged 150 feet and badly wrecked. Yet the dynamite failed to explode and Miller was able to extricate himself from the buggy without injury.

—A special election has been decided upon by the Johnstown borough council to be called for April 20th at which the question of raising the present indebtedness of the borough to the amount of \$45,000 for the purpose of erecting a sewage disposal plant and for a new bridge over the east branch of the Clarion river at Centre street in that place will be submitted to the voters.

—Angered by a red bandana handkerchief he carried, a big bull owned by James Miller, a farmer living near Kline's Grove, Northumberland county, attacked and knocked him down. Miller was being seriously sore and trampled upon when his 18-year-old daughter, Mrs. George Thomas, heard his cries, and seizing a pitchfork, drove it off, but not before her father suffered deep gashes across the face and the shoulders, and was unconscious.

—After spending time and money for medical treatment to relieve violent pains in his stomach, James Smith, residing on the Swamp road, in Vernon township, Mercer county, was seized with a fit of coughing on Sunday afternoon and great relief after it was over. Investigation showed that he had coughed up a small frog, which, after a few moments, began to show signs of life. Smith remembers swallowing something while drinking from a brook one day last summer.

—A number of Curwensville men have organized a company which will erect a plant for the manufacture of reconstruction stone. This stone is a product which has recently been developed and has proved to be a better and cheaper material for building purposes than wood, brick or stone. The product is manufactured from crushed stone, sand and cement, compressed to 35 ton pressure and made in any shape or color. They expect to have the new stone on the market by the first of May.

—At Eldred, McKean county, on Saturday afternoon, J. March, trustee, sold at public auction the land of the Eldred bank assets to Austin Shaw for \$165. Notes of formerly rich men were sold as follows: About \$70,000 worth of J. D. Downing's paper brought 55 cents; \$20,000 worth of C. P. Collins' paper, 55 cents; \$16,000 worth of A. R. Sloan's paper, 20 cents; \$6,000 of Cutlery notes, 65 cents; \$1,500 worth of Krest & Mount notes, 15 cents. The Eldred bank closed its doors about five years ago.

—By a decision of the State Supreme court handed down on Monday, former county treasurer P. F. Duffy, of Lackawanna county, will have to return to the county \$14,000, representing interest on county funds collected by him during his tenure of office. Mr. Duffy on retiring from office signified that he would be willing to turn over the money if the courts so ordered. Judge E. C. Newcomb, before whom the test cases were heard, decided against the former treasurer, and this decision is now finally affirmed.