

STRONGEST BANK IN THE COUNTY

Capital \$100,000. Undivided Profits \$30,000. Surplus \$150,000.

First National Bank, OF BLOOMSBURG, PA.

MAKE NO MISTAKE BUT DEPOSIT YOUR SAVINGS IN THE STRONGEST BANK.

OFFICERS:

E. W. M. Low, President. J. M. Staver, Vice President.
E. B. Tustin, Vice President. E. F. Carpenter, Cashier.

DIRECTORS:

E. W. M. Low, F. G. Yorks, Frank Ikeler, Joseph Ratti,
E. B. Tustin, Fred Ikeler, Geo. S. Robbins, S. C. Creasy,
J. M. Staver, M. I. Low, Louis Gross, H. V. Hower.

THE COLUMBIAN.

ESTABLISHED 1866.

THE COLUMBIA DEMOCRAT.

ESTABLISHED 1837. CONSOLIDATED 1896
PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY MORNING.

At Bloomsburg, the County Seat of
Columbia County, Pennsylvania.

Geo. E. ELWELL, Editor.
Geo. C. KOAN, Foreman.

TERMS:—Inside the county \$1.00 a year
in advance; \$1.50 if not paid in advance.
Outside the county, \$1.25 a year, strictly in
advance.

All communications should be addressed
to THE COLUMBIAN, Bloomsburg, Pa.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 1907

WASHINGTON

From our Regular Correspondent.

Washington, D. C. Feb. 23, 1907.

It looks now as though the President were going to accomplish through executive order what he failed to do through legislative enactment, and that is to get an actual valuation of the railroad properties in the United States, without which it is hard to enact intelligent rate legislation or railroad legislation of any other sort. The provision for a valuation of the real property of the railroads was incorporated in the Newlands bill that never got out of committee and the La Follette resolution that never became effective. This valuation has been urged by various "enemies" so called of the railroads. It is rather strange that this legislation is never pushed by any but the enemies of the railroads. It would seem that the real valuation of railroad properties was a very harmless and simple question, but whenever a public man suggests it, he is immediately set down as an enemy of the roads.

The LaFollette bill was to have been reported out of the Senate Committee last week, but though a day was set for a discussion and there were enough members in the room at one time or another to form a quorum, there were never enough there for the purpose at any one time, and the matter went by default. However, some light was thrown on the situation by the fact that a letter was received by the committee in response to a request made by the Interstate Commerce Commission, saying that the commission had been in favor of such a valuation for some years past, and that it had made the recommendation in its report year after year and had only omitted it this year owing to the fact that there were so many other demands made on it that it did not think it could the work. But the President had directed the committee to make the investigation, and if it is not done through congressional action it will be done by the commission acting under the President's orders. The time consumed in the work will be considerable, and the work will cost something. If the job is spread out over two or three years, it will cost a million and a quarter, but if it is done in less time it will cost proportionately more. But whichever way it is done, the work is in a fair way of accomplishment, and afterward there will be in possession of the government data on which may be based rate legislation that will really be effective.

The Administration is a little nervous about getting through a subsidy bill at the present session. There have been so many other pieces of important legislation in the way and the bill itself is such an important measure over which there is likely to be considerable talk and discussion that it is in danger of getting side tracked. There have been several conferences between the President, Speaker Cannon, and Representative Watson, who is in charge of the bill, but no definite program has yet been decided on with a view to pushing the bill through. It prob-

ably will be taken up at some of the succeeding night sessions.

Something of a joke was sprung when the general deficiency bill was finally drafted into shape last week. The bill carried a total of \$11,739,000, but of this only \$2,500,000 was for the ordinary deficiency. Last year on the other hand the average departmental deficiencies totalled \$23,000,000. This was all due to the small provision that Representative Tawney had inserted as an amendment in the law last year declaring it a misdemeanor for a departmental officer to create a deficiency except in a case of real and very great emergency. Even in such case the amount had to be certified to Congress with a written explanation of the circumstances, upon which Congress was to judge whether the expenditure had been warranted. This hit all of the departments hard, for they had been in the habit of creating deficiencies pretty much as they pleased. Another thing was that the appropriations for the departments had been made in a lump sum and the cabinet officers had been in the habit of spending and apportioning the amounts as they pleased. Now there is no more of this. The cabinet officers and the bureau chiefs were all afraid of running afoul of the misdemeanor clause in the law, and the deficiency list was remarkably small. There were several items that went to swell the total, but they were real emergencies. The intervention of the United States in Cuba cost \$6,387,000. There was a million on account of the service pension law and nearly two million on account of the post-office. But there was practically nothing from the regular departmental list, and as to the Cuban expenditure, this country is supposed to get the money back whether it ever does or not. But if it does not, we can take a mortgage on the island. And that is just what many of the islanders would like to see this government do.

The Department of Agriculture has in hand now a device which if put into general operation this year would, it is thought, net the farmers of the cotton belt \$40,000,000 on the season's crop. It is simply the method of seed selection such as has been successfully applied to tobacco used on a larger scale in connection with cotton. It has been proved by experiment past a doubt that the larger and heavier seed in any crop produce the best results when planted. This was long suspected, and when the Department worked out a simple machine for separating the light from the heavy tobacco seed, it increased the yield of the crop nearly ten per cent at practically no expense. Now a machine has been perfected that will do the same thing for cotton seed that has been done for tobacco.

A Doctor's Medicine

Ayer's Cherry Pectoral is not a simple cough syrup. It is a strong medicine, a doctor's medicine. It cures hard cases, severe and desperate cases, chronic cases of asthma, pleurisy, bronchitis, consumption. Ask your doctor about this.

The best kind of a testimonial—
"Sold for over sixty years."
Made by J. C. Ayer Co., Lowell, Mass.
Also manufacturers of
SARSAPARILLA,
PILLS FOR
HAIR VIGOR.
Ayer's
We have no secrets! We publish
the formula of all our medicines.
You will hasten recovery by taking
one of Ayer's Pills at bedtime.

The Department has a method of cheaply removing the fuzz from the seed, and then the light is separated from the heavy seed with a simple air plant machine. The government has taken out the patent on it, and one firm alone has arranged this season to separate 10,000 pounds of seed. Many of the planters of the south who have been in communication with the department are taking it up this season, and while it will not net a \$1,000,000 increase on the first crop, it will mean enough to the planters to induce them to adopt the system more widely next year.

Legislature's Long Session.

May Last Until July.

An exchange says:—In the opinion of what is regarded as excellent authority the present session of the Legislature will not come to an end before July 1st. All of the conditions favor a long session. There are hundreds of bills in committees already and not a fair fraction of them have been considered, many of the most important being left that argument may be heard on them. Only a few of those demanded by the platforms of the dominant political parties have been considered and at least half a hundred are locked up in the desk of the committee chairmen. Some of these bills will halt the attention of the Legislature for many hours and before they are whipped into shape and passed they will have to be dissected and examined as under a microscope. This all takes time. The new capitol investigation committee cannot possibly, in the opinion of the best authorities, report before June 20th and until its report is made it is folly to say when the Legislature shall adjourn finally. The accountants are busy going over the bills for the new capitol at present, occupying a room in the auditor general's department and until they are well advanced the committee has nothing on which to commence. After the investigation begins it will hardly sit while the Legislature is in session, for the reason that every member of the committee is interested, more or less, in legislation on its way through the various stages.

"A Delusion and A Snare"

is the Corrupt Practices Law, Says Representative Creasy.

Representative William T. Creasy has come to the conclusion that the corrupt practices law is "a delusion and a snare." Mr. Creasy has been going over the result of the fall and spring election, and he has figured it out that the new law is worse than the old one, for it legalizes just what it was designed to prevent—the bribery of voters.

When asked how he would change the law he said:

"I would cut out altogether the clause in the schedule of expenses which permits a candidate to pay for the transportation of voters. A candidate who wants to buy a voter gives the money to a henchman and tells him to transport the voter to the polls. He knows that it means he is to buy that vote, and the expense is put down to 'transportation.' Of course, the candidate can swear that the money was paid out legally."

Mr. Creasy is at present preparing an amendment to the bill, which he will offer to this session of the legislature.

GREAT DEMAND FOR COAL.

The anthracite trade remains in a high state of prosperity. The demand is more than equivalent to production and the weather is such in all parts of the country as to cause an unusually heavy consumption. Very often last week collieries shut down at noon because there were no cars. Coal in cellars has disappeared rapidly and retailers have been taxed to keep within two or three days of their orders. It is believed that the west would have burned 150,000 to 200,000 tons more this winter if there had been cars to carry it. It is assumed that the usual reduction in price will be allowed in April, although the leading producers have given no sign of what they intend to do. The stocks will be less at the beginning of the coal year than for many years. The winter of 1906-07 has made it plain that distribution has grown to such proportion that it cannot be handled in three or four months as it formerly was. The producing companies have made concessions in prices in the spring and summer months for many years without really accomplishing distribution, though it can be urged that in the only recent year in which no spring concession was made, 1906, there was more difficulty in the succeeding fall and winter than at any other period in the history of the trade.

CAPITOL INQUIRY.

The Philadelphia Ledger says:— Most important of all the matters before the Legislature is the investigation into the furnishing of the \$13,000,000 Capitol. Not much enthusiasm has been aroused over this matter since the November election, but Governor Stuart has served notice on the members of the committee that he wants the probe to go to the bottom. The Senators are not much interested in going too deep, because they might develop some matters that it had hoped would be buried. And they would have been, but for the election of William H. Berry as State Treasurer and the annoying way he has of peeping into matters that he believes concerns the taxpayers. Right here it should be stated that the State Treasurer cannot succeed himself. Mr. Berry's successor will be elected in November next, and will take his seat May 1, 1908. So the present official will be in office more than a year, and during that time it is expected important legislation will result relative to stopping the leaks by which money can be filched from the State Treasury. It is whispered that the Capitol investigation may disclose that money was diverted from contractors by swelling the bills and that some of the funds thus obtained were used in settling up the Enterprise Bank scandal at Pittsburg. It cannot now and probably never will be proved that certain officials were given a percentage of what contractors received for their work. If the contractors and others should be pushed so closely as to face a Grand Jury, then these facts might be revealed. The suddenly acquired wealth of State officials during the last seven years has caused this inquiry to become common: "Where did he get it?" The legislative committee has the power to subpoena persons, and papers. If the inquiry shall be conducted honestly and forcefully, then there will be an explosion. But every effort will be made to keep the lid on tight unless the Governor takes matters in his own hands again. People want to know why the exorbitant charges were made, why the high prices were paid and who benefited thereby. One of the matters that seems sure to follow the investigation will be the enactment of a law that will prevent the Board of Public Grounds and Buildings from taking money from the Treasury without due authorization of the Legislature. The general opinion is that it is about time to curb a board that can spend \$8,000,000 of the people's money just by drawing an order on the Treasury for anything at all that it wants. At present the auditors are examining the bills and accounts. It will be some days before the investigation begins. John H. Sanderson the principal contractor, who did \$5,000,000 worth of work, is in Europe. He will not return in time for the inquiry.

Trespass Notices.

Card signs "No Trespassing" for sale at this office. They are printed in accordance with the late act of 1903. Price 5 cents each. tf

THE BLACK HAND.

Behind the "Black Hand," or, as the Italians call it, the "Mano Nara," there are in New York city today, according to police statistics, 10,000 criminals from Italy banded together for the purpose of evading and defying law. The Black Hand of New York, like the Mafia of Italy, is a secret organization which guarantees to its members immunity for crime. For this reason authorities there have been able to secure only one conviction out of 1000 Black Handers arrested. The head of the newly created Italian detective bureau adds that during January 600 members of the Black Hand Society were arrested in New York alone, but there were only two convictions. Every one was a genuine Black Hand case, not a card dispute stabbing or a jealousy row. In fact, the system is growing so rapidly that Black Handers now have men at work in every big city in the United States. The authorities figure that in addition to the 10,000 Black Hand men in New York there are 20,000 outside. Within the last two weeks no less than thirty Black Hand outrages were perpetrated in Greater New York, including blackmail, stabbing, kidnapping and murder.

TOWNSEND

A Small Lot of Those

\$3.00 SUITS FOR MEN

STILL LEFT AT

TOWNSEND'S

MOVING

SALE

WE MOVE IN ABOUT A MONTH.

The February Linen Sale!

Our Annual Sale of Linen is now on. We promise you that there's enough linen here to stock a dozen ordinary stores; that we bought the bulk of it before the present high prices (for linens have jumped sky high); that we have not advanced our regular price, and that our regular

Prices Are Slaughtered for This Sale

THE BLEACHED TABLE LINENS.

Our 50 cent Mercerized Damask reduced to	45 cents
Our 89 cent " " " "	69 cents
Our 70 cent " " " "	59 cents
Our \$1 " " " "	85 cents
Regular 25 cent bleached linens reduced to	19 cents
" 50 cent " " " "	39 cents
" 60 cent " " " "	49 cents
" 65 cent " " " "	52 1/2 cents
" 75 cent " " " "	65 cents
" 85 cent " " " "	72 1/2 cents
" 1.00 " " " "	85 cents
" 1.25 " " " "	1.00
" 1.50 " " " "	1.25
" 1.75 " " " "	1.49
" 2.25 " " " "	1.75
" 2.50 " " " "	2.00
" 2.75 " " " "	2.25

The Unbleached Table Linens are all reduced proportionately.

NAPKINS REDUCED.	\$1.50 Napkins for \$1.25
1.75 " " "	1.50
3.00 " " "	2.50

TOWELS and TOWELINGS. There are bargains galore in towels and toweling—be here early. The 25c kind 21c a pair. The 30c kind (extra large) 25c pair. The \$1.00 kind for 78c a pair.

F. P. PURSEL.

BLOOMSBURG, - PENNA.

Jayne's Expectorant Coughs and Colds

For 75 years the favorite family medicine for throat and lungs.