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THE COLUMBIAN, Bloomsburg, Pa.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24, 1908.

He Should Not Be Sacrificed.

The Philadelphia Record, discussing the proposition of making Hon. John G. McHenry the Democratic nominee for Governor at the next election, and commenting upon Mr. McHenry's indisposition to be a gubernatorial candidate, says that he cannot withdraw himself from favorable consideration. "Any way, the office should seek the man and not the man the office."

This is all very well, but Mr. McHenry not unmindful of the honor which the mention of his name in that connection implies, believes that his present obligations to the public require him to give undivided attention to his congressional duties, and that encouraging a movement that might divert some of his energies into another channel would have a recreant appearance. He has found legislative work agreeable and has adapted himself to it and feels that he owes his constituents his best efforts. Besides, it would be treating Mr. McHenry unfairly to take him from a successful congressional career and expose him to almost certain defeat in the contest for Governor, for the election of even the strongest Democratic gubernatorial candidate in Pennsylvania would be a miracle, and miracles are not happening in present day politics.

## Teddy's Temper.

Angry at Girls Who Passed Him on Horseback.

Under the caption "Girls Angered President" the Baltimore Sun printed this Washington dispatch: "You know that you should not go ahead of our party," said President Roosevelt as he rode past myself and three of the seminary girls in Rock Creek Park, near the Forest Glen entrance, on Thanksgiving day. The President rode by fiercely, not stopping, and, as he passed, the boot of one of the girls was knocked from her stirrup, and the President's riding crop fell viciously upon the flank of the horse she was riding. Had she not been an excellent horsewoman serious injury to her might have followed. The President seemed to be in a great rage and his party rode without looking back. I do not know whether the blow was struck intentionally. We were unaccompanied by male escorts."

"The foregoing statement was made by Miss E. I. Sisson, instructor in an exclusive seminary for young ladies located in Maryland, near the District line. She was recounting an experience which she, as chaperon, and the three young women students, two of whom are daughters of wealthy Texas and Chicago men, underwent on Thanksgiving Day in Rock Creek Park.

The old-fashioned cab horse will soon be a thing of the past in the city of Scranton. One automobile company has a line of taxicabs already in operation in the anthracite city, and two other companies are about replacing their horse cabs with electric cabs of the latest design.

## WASHINGTON

From our Regular Correspondent.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 21, 1908

The political situation during the past week has been replete with interesting events and episodes. The Panama Canal deal has been the subject of unfounded charges against the Government and those nearly related to the President, and of indignant and vindictive countercharges coming direct from the President in the shape of a message to Congress and containing threats of libel suits against the chief offender, the editor of the New York World.

Congress is writhing under the stinging lash of the President charging it with an effort to choke off or scotch detective activity with regard to its members. Some members of Congress (like some of the rest of us) would not care to have too strong a searchlight turned on all their outgoings and incomings. The President knows who some of them are and he is perhaps waiting with some impatience for the National legislature to rise in its holy wrath and repudiate the insinuation. Congress, or at least some Congressmen, will not play with fire for fear of an explosion. The President is merciless in his exposures and his denunciations and what they have done in the closet, he is capable of proclaiming from the housetops of their constituencies in a way that all men and their wives will hear and believe him. It is a little short of shameful how some members and Senators make the United States treasury pay their election expenses and even bribe their constituents. The common remark: "They all do it" renders it not one whit more respectable or less dishonest.

There are Navy yards on the New England coast and on other coast that are supported by the United States for no other reason than that a Senator or a member of Congress has use for them to sustain his political fortunes by keeping him in Congress. These navy yards are too small for modern warship construction, therefore useless ships are appropriated for and hundreds of men are employed and millions of dollars are paid in wages (wasted) to the friends and political henchmen of certain Senators and Members.

The lower House of Congress has just passed a bill for the next Census with a provision that the clerks are to be selected independent of the Civil Service competitive examinations. Every member of Congress knows that this is not in the interest of economy or efficiency. Wright and Porter, two capable superintendents of the Census, are on record as regretting that the service under them was not included in the classified civil service examination list. Wright, especially, believed the cost of the last Census had been increased to the extent of two millions of dollars by the neglect of the application of the Civil Service to the selection of clerks. The motives of Congressmen in relieving the Census appointments from the necessity of competitive examination, are open to everyone. They are seeking appointments for their political supporters or their relatives—their sons, their wives, cousins, aunts and mothers-in-law—who are constantly after them for some place at the public crib. They cannot fight publicly against the Civil Service Law. With the country at large it is too popular. It has redeemed a service that was scarcely less rotten than that of Russia or China. But they are desperately hungry for patronage. In putting the large body of Fourth-class Postmasters under Civil Service protection, these congressmen have been robbed of much influence and they are trying to recoup themselves through the Census Office and at the expense of the country at large.

Some few members of Congress are independent of patronage. All of them should be. To well informed, enlightened statesmen, patronage is a curse. It curses him that gives and him that receives. The person who gets the office is an ingrate and the twenty who fail to get it become enemies. But the average congressman is not an en-

lightened statesman; he is a small politician.

There is still time for the Senate to amend the House bill by inserting a clause insisting on competitive examination for the Census Office appointments. Without such examinations, thousands of incompetent persons will be appointed. Moreover, many more persons than are needed will get offices and the cost of the Census will be greatly increased by politicians insisting on having their friends taken care of. The public good demands that the thousands of persons to be employed in taking and publishing the next Census should be appointed for efficiency and independently of political pull. The Senate has an opportunity to further establish itself in the confidence of the country by insisting on amending the bill so that the Census Office, like the other offices of the government, shall be filled with clerks chosen for their efficiency and not because they need places but because the government needs a clerical force chosen on the principle of the survival of the fittest.

Where Some of the Deficit is Created.

The postoffice officials, who have charge of the financial end of that department, are working overtime just now to discover some way by which the rapidly and constantly accumulating deficit in the post office service can be checked. Possibly if they would turn their eagle eyes to the abuses of the general franking privileges enjoyed by Senators and Members of Congress they might find a few leaks, that if stopped, would prevent a portion of the losses complained of.

When the government attempts to carry free the thousands of tons of documents and departmental reports, all the crazy speeches delivered by Senators or Congressmen, and in addition permit Republican committees to stuff franked envelopes with all kinds of political rot and nonsense as it did during the recent campaign, and then pay the railroads exorbitant prices for transporting this trash, it is not to be wondered at that the deficiency increases and that the shortage is becoming frightful.

It is upon the weight basis that railroads are paid for carrying the mails. A single department report with its heavy wrapper, will weigh as much as a thousand letters paying two cents each. The report costs just as much per pound to carry as does the letter. It pays nothing. It is of little use, and less interest to the public generally. The few libraries that treasure them enough to give them shelf room, and the fewer individuals who can interest themselves in the dry and generally unreliable details that most of them contain, could easily afford to pay the thirty-five or forty cent charges that express companies would demand for delivering them.

It is all right that Senators and Congressmen should have the right to frank their letters and all the correspondence they are obliged to maintain with their constituents, but when it comes to having free use of the mails to send out any old thing they can lay hands on, or to distribute broadcast and without limit the pointless, useless, and often untruthful speeches they impose upon the public, there ought to be a halt called.

The sooner this is done the sooner the deficit now troubling the Department will disappear.

Watchman.

Says Posterity Should Help Pay.

Judge Staples, in the Stroudsburg court, created much interest when he stated that he thought it wise that the County Commissioners pay off less of the county debt this year and reduce the taxes instead. "Is it right," asked Judge Staples, "that the people of this decade should pay for the improvements which will be enjoyed by posterity? The county buildings, excellent bridges and other property will be enjoyed by the coming generation, and it is not right that the present generation should be compelled to pay off entirely the county indebtedness."

Judge Staples might have included road improvements. There is no reason why municipalities should not mortgage the future to give the present generation better roads.

## COAL VALUES

How the Anthracite Companies Dodge Taxation.

Property in Lackawanna County Worth Two Hundred Million Assessed at \$200,000.

The Scranton Times, in an editorial on coal values said: "A few months ago, when the county commissioners were inquiring into the values of coal lands in Lackawanna county with a view to compelling the corporations to pay, at least approximately their share of the cost of local government, the great corporations were appraising their properties at an exceedingly low rate. The county commissioners made an assessment of \$200 a foot acre, at which the big coal owners held up their hands in holy horror and by pleading poverty of value had the assessments reduced by the court to \$60 per foot acre. Recently Mr. Clarence D. Simpson went upon the stand in the Coal Trust investigation and testified that the coal sold by the firm of Simpson & Watkins to the Temple Iron Company is worth from \$150,000,000 to \$200,000,000. The Temple Iron Company is possessed of other properties than those sold to it by Simpson & Watkins and all of it is represented by \$2,500,000 of stock issued and a little more than \$1,000,000 of bonds. We have no figures at hand, but we doubt that the assessed valuation on all this property exceeds \$200,000. Clarence D. Simpson is a competent witness as to coal values. He has been in the business all his life. He knows whereof he speaks. All of which goes to prove that the coal corporations are not yet paying anything like their fair proportion of local taxes. Our county and city authorities should get busy again."

## Spring Election.

Will Be Held Tuesday, February 16.

Preparations are now under way in the office of the commissioners for the annual February election at which the borough and township offices, expiring in March next, will be filled. The February election will be held on Tuesday, February 16th, and will be a very important election to the voters. Borough officials, consisting of tax collectors, chief burgess, auditors and councilmen and school directors will be determined at the election, and election officers for the ensuing year. The last day for filing regular party nomination papers, which nominations are determined at political primaries or caucuses of the Republican and Democratic electors, will be Friday, January 29th. The last day for filing independent nominations will be Monday, February 1st. The latter can be filed by any candidate who does not desire to come before the voters of any party, or where no primaries are held, by securing the voters of any party, or where no primaries are held, by securing as petitioners two percent of the total number of electors in the district, and by having the petition or nomination paper sworn to by five of the petitioners.

As Seen from Fairview.

It must be admitted that the language employed by Mr. Roosevelt was uncalled for and unbecoming to a President's message. But, Mr. Roosevelt is not—and we say it in the best of spirit—famous for his good manners. His chief boast is that he is the apostle of the "square deal," and yet on many notable occasions he has been guilty of cruel injustice in dealing with his fellows. He has needlessly and wantonly insulted many individuals, and although the public have borne this shortcoming patiently, it is plain they are now growing weary.

Bryan's Commoner.

## Weak Throat—Weak Lungs

Cold after cold; cough after cough! Troubled with this taking-cold habit? Better break it up. We have great confidence in Ayer's Cherry Pectoral for this work. No medicine like it for weak throats and weak lungs. Ask your doctor for his opinion. He knows all about it. His approval is valuable. Follow his advice at all times. No alcohol in this cough medicine. J. C. Ayer Co., Lowell, Mass.

Always keep a good laxative in the house. Take a dose when your cold first comes on. What is the best laxative for this? Ayer's Pills. Ask your doctor his opinion. Let him decide.

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Maning, Miss Grace Shultz.

Mr. and Mrs. William Leverett  
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An old attorney of the Union  
County Bar recently got off the log-  
ic that a jury is a body of twelve  
men that decide which lawyer is the  
smarter.

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