

RANCIS SPEER'S
Breezy "THAT" Column

THAT the fast young man in Bellefonte seldom wins in the race of life.

THAT the woman in Bellefonte who bleaches her hair, takes advantage of a golden opportunity.

THAT there are some fellows in Bellefonte who become very low spirited when the ghost does not walk.

THAT Bellefonte has lots of people in it who imagine that they are not talked about, simply because they do not hear it.

THAT when you come to think of it the man or woman in Bellefonte with a rattling tongue is usually found to be empty headed.

THAT a certain young man in Bellefonte says that even a dog fight seems tame after living with your mother-in-law for six months.

THAT Bellefonte has in it two women who have the tongue of angels, but hearts of a fiend. This may be rather harsh, but it's true.

THAT they say that there is just one girl in Bellefonte who has never been kissed. Do you know who it is? She is in hard luck any way.

THAT when Frank Crissman, of Bellefonte, refuses a second piece of pumpkin pie, Frank has either a pain or there is something radically wrong with the pie.

THAT some girls in Bellefonte cry for help when a young man tries to kiss them, but the majority of them let him help himself. They would get angry if he didn't.

THAT Father McArdle, one of the ablest ministers in this section of the state, can tell you that it requires great care to handle the ten commandments without breaking them.

THAT there will be a divorce suit started in Bellefonte if a certain woman does not stop getting up at midnight and going through her husband's pockets for small change or pin money.

THAT John Bauer, of Bellefonte, who at one time was in the fish business, says that a red herring on a gravel path would look like a fish out of water. That's all right. There are no flies on "Johnny."

THAT it is certainly very amusing to see "Little Red Ridinghood," of Bellefonte, learning to ride a bicycle. She does it very gracefully, and is getting along better than most of young ladies who try to ride the treacherous wheel.

THAT it is said that Curt Taylor has all the pretty girls in Nittany Valley, from Bellefonte to Mill Hall, "daffy" after him. We always thought that Curt was a heart smasher, and when once they get their eye on the sprightly young brakeman, that settles it.

THAT they say that a certain very fine young lady who resides not five hundred feet from the borough line of Bellefonte is now getting her wedding trousseau made. Her frequent visits to her dressmakers, almost confirms the report. She is not going to die an old maid.

THAT John Olewine, the progressive hardware merchant, of Bellefonte, was passing an article around recently among his friends whereby a man can see himself as others see him. It is also something that the girls of Bellefonte generally stand before it for hours and admire the reflection. If it wasn't for this article the girls couldn't powder or paint.

SHALL THE
GRAFTERS ESCAPE?

Consider These Additional Discoveries Made By Berry.

Creasy's Opponent's Bronze Head Is On Capitol Door, Reminder That Gang Candidates Will Cover Up the Plundering If They Win.

That there was from 30 to 50 per cent. of graft in the \$9,000,000 "extras" for the capitol is charged by State Treasurer Berry. But if the people failed to elect the anti-gang candidates for state offices and the state legislature there would be a poor chance of finding out "who got it" or of bringing deserved punishment upon the guilty. In that case, despite all that Berry has already done in the matter, he would be "up against" the same hard proposition that he collided against the other day when Governor Pennypacker, head of, and Auditor General Snyder, member of the board of public grounds and buildings, of which the State Treasurer also is a member, refused point blank to answer any of Berry's probing questions.

Mr. Berry, therefore, must go around alone, finding out things for himself, just as he discovered the cheat in the cement pavement, or the charge per cubic foot for the air in the telephone booth, making it cost \$3100. This booth, Berry says, looks like mahogany, but it is made of steel, and is about six feet square and eight feet high, and was paid for at \$11 per cubic foot, air and all. Berry has found also that some of the ceilings have gold strips around raised portions, and this strip, a very narrow thing, was paid for "by the foot," so as to count in as gold the enclosed space which has no gilt. All such probing in the future, for one man alone—even a man of Berry's experience as a mechanic and in practical business—would take a

THAT when some lawyers in Bellefonte charge a nominal fee it is really phenomenal.

THAT a few camphor balls properly applied would keep the moth out of Eddy Keichlines whiskers.

THAT when a Bellefonte girl gets hold of a young man's heart strings she proceeds to tie them in a beau-knot.

THAT if some men in Bellefonte were "stabbed in a lonely spot" it would be where their conscience is located.

THAT we have too many men in Bellefonte who can explain the Bible but who can't explain their code of morals.

THAT it is said that a certain woman in Bellefonte goes to church for the purpose of getting a fresh supply of gossip.

THAT Wade Cruse is now trying to solve the problem whether or not those desks at Harrisburg were bought by condensed air.

THAT George Jodon, the Bellefonte policeman, says that you may talk as you please that a jail bird can't always feather his own nest.

THAT the more a young man of Bellefonte makes himself an idiot in making love to some young ladies in Bellefonte the more they seem to enjoy it.

THAT it must be very humiliating to some egotistic people in Bellefonte to think that they finally will have to be down and die, the same as a hobo or a pauper.

THAT the next time the Misses McClellan and Hamilton get on the P. R. R. to ride to the fair ground and have to walk from Milesburg, they will get on the Central train.

THAT the trouble with some of the fellows in Bellefonte who are striving to get rich is that they are apt to have a pate-de-fois grass appetite and one of those milk toast stomachs.

THAT Henry Brown, the Bellefonte musician, thinks that good music should be written on note paper. M. C. Gehart, the energetic music dealer, will tell you about the same thing.

THAT the reason general John I. Curtin, of Bellefonte, is getting so good is because he is running with a "Bible" a good bit of his time. Now General, don't put us in the lock-up for this.

THAT it is stated that a young man of Bellefonte walked into a certain store the other day for a collar button and the indications are that he got a bride. Moral, don't lose your collar button.

THAT there wouldn't be so many empty chairs in the Wednesday evening prayer meeting at most of the churches in Bellefonte if the people struggled as much to get into Heaven, as they do to get into society and sit at a card table.

THAT the next thing you know Clayton Brown, of Bellefonte, will have a lawn mower and a washing machine in his establishment in which you can drop a nickel in the slot to see them go. He has quite a curiosity shop there and you ought to drop in and see it.

THAT Saturday a young lady of Bellefonte with rather a puffy pompadour went down High street when a pedes trian coming up, wanted to know whether it was all her own hair. The reply of the friend was that it was entirely her own as she had just made her last payment.

weary long time, and could not result in the people's knowing all about what grafters have been beneficiaries of the great steal.

Whole Graft Must Be Uncovered.

But the whole story will come out if the people defeat every machine candidate from Stuart down to the bottom of the state legislative list on November 6. As to Pennypacker's attempt to throw dust into the people's eyes by having railroad excursions to see what a fine building the capitol is, the anti-machine candidate for Lieutenant Governor, Jeremiah S. Black, makes the pertinent suggestion that the excursion trains run to the insane asylums in which the unfortunates have been deprived of the commonest necessities and forced to huddle on the corridor floors at night, because the machine wanted the state's millions for the capitol graft. Another object lesson for the excursionists would be in the charitable institutions other than the state insane hospitals, and out of whose appropriations Pennypacker, last year, cut \$2,500,000 upon the plea that the state could not spare the money.

"A fine building," says Pennypacker. "But," Berry retorts, "the state did not get what it paid for." Even if the graft expenditures had been legal and the people had got what they paid for, it was unreasonable extravagance in view of the fact that at the same time when those \$9,000,000 were being squandered, the appropriations for the needy hospitals were being vetoed. The case is now going to trial. The people are engaged in selecting a court and jury. The question is: "Shall we have a court and jury made up of members of the gang which did this thing, to investigate themselves, or shall we choose them from the ranks of honest men?"

Other Uses For the Millions.

Taking only the one bunch of instances in Berry's Bellefonte speech, he charges, "without fear of contradiction," that in the infamous \$2,000,000 chandelier job, where there was an overcharge of at least \$1,000,000, which would build a good road through a large part of the state, or would provide sleeping cots for the insane, and by giving them room, light and air enough, would lessen the abnormal death rate among them. Berry declares also that in the \$1,500,000 for

metallic furniture there was more than another \$1,000,000 of graft, and this stolen million, with the amounts of other robberies yet to be specified, would go far toward equalizing the amount of personal property tax, license fees and other moneys which "Farmer" Creasy's grange tax-reform bills would have returned to the counties. It is now understood why the machine leaders smothered those bills, which would have greatly lightened the local taxation burdens.

Berry picks out of the Pennypacker-Snyder official report items amounting to \$3,236,121, of which all were in the original building contract specifications, and were for work or supplies required to be done or furnished by the the builder of the "shell," and yet all of that money was taken by Pennypacker's board out of the general fund without special appropriation, to pay for what the board has treated as "furnishings." Berry, quoting from the board members' own report, specifies among those items modeling and sculpture, marble and wood wainscoting, mosaic glass, fireplaces, tile and wood floors, mantels, vaults and safes, drinking water plant, complete lighting system, duplex telegraph system, thermometers, etc., etc., together with \$303,693 for fitting up the eighth floor.

Despite the testimony of ex-Governor Stone, of United States Architect Green, and even of the final official report of Architect Huston, that the capitol was finished by the building commission in accordance with the specifications, and needed only the illuminating fixtures to be ready for occupancy, all of the foregoing work and supplies, aggregating three and a quarter million dollars, were afterward paid for by Pennypacker's board under the pretence of "furnishing." According to the testimony, it seems that this vast amount was paid twice—first in the building payments of the \$4,000,000, and afterwards in the "furnishings" payments, out of the \$9,000,000. Who got it? Would Bob Young, if Auditor General, tell us? He remained mum as a clam while he was solicitor of the capitol commission for four years up to a few weeks ago. Would a legislature composed of Penrose's renominated vice-den and Ripper voters give the people the particulars of this \$3,226,121 graft?

Then the Huge Overcharges.

Setting all that aside, Berry shows that of the \$4,562,252 spent for "furnishings" under the "furniture" act of 1895, at least \$2,000,000 is overcharge. This is in the chandeliers and brackets, Baccarat cut-glass panels, bronze decorations, filing cases, etc. He considers probable "a proportionate overcharge in the other \$4,000,000 of expenditures," but declares that nothing short of a rigid investigation by experts, empowered to subpoena witnesses, will reveal the whole truth.

How the "Pennsylvania Construction Company," which had no plant or visible means of doing any work at all, got the metallic contract which gave it a clean profit of half a million dollars, is partly revealed by the fact that nearly everything was by "the foot" or by "the pound." Berry illustrated:

A special design was made for a chandelier; the bidder would estimate what he could make it for at a profit, as such things are ordinarily made, and, suppose his figure was \$200. He would then estimate the weight of it as such things are ordinarily made, only to find that it would weigh, say 30 pounds; but the maximum price is \$5 per pound, and, of course, he cannot bid, but the contractor who is wise to the scheme can take it, because he knows that instead of the usual 1-16 or 1/8 of thickness of metal, he can make it 1/2-inch or 1-inch, or a foot thick, if necessary, and make it weigh 200 pounds, and thus get \$1000 for it. This is the way this contract was let, and some of the chandeliers were made to weigh as high as 4000 pounds and costing more than \$20,000 each!

More than 300,000 pounds of bronze was put into these chandeliers, costing the maker 30 cents per pound, or \$90,000. The work upon them cost, say twice as much more, making \$270,000 and sold to the state for \$1,600,000, showing an overcharge of at least a million dollars in this one item. The glass globes and panels were "extra," and cost \$138,757.09.

Every item on this schedule is open to the same criticism, and the estimate I have made of the total overcharge is extremely conservative.

Berry is a mechanic, and knows a good job when he sees it. Let it be assumed that the capitol is a good job—despite the showing already that parts of it are the contrary—let it be assumed that the expenditures have been legally made, and that overcharges cannot be proved, yet the erection of such a gorgeous, sumptuous palace for the use of a few men and the gratification of a larger number, is without excuse, having been secretly and surreptitiously done, while many worthy charities and necessary public works were denied, as they are today, the support they need. The helpless wards of the state are suffering for common necessities, and the indigent insane are sleeping and dying in the corridors of the overcrowded asylums owned and ostensibly cared for by the state. The appropriations for these have been denied and vetoed to keep the money in the treasury so that the grafting capitol scheme and the farming out of the surplus could continue.

The people are about to choose the men to investigate this whole shocking disgrace. Will the people choose the candidates whose political or personal interest lies in exonerating the politicians who have done the plundering or made it possible? The bronze head of Candidate Young is on the capitol door. He drew \$2000 a year from the state for keeping the capitol transactions "straight." He is not seeking the Auditor General's office with the aim of exposing and condemning himself and the grafters. But that is the object of "Farmer" Creasy. Mr.

Emery and their colleagues, including the anti-gang nominees for the state legislature.

SOLDIERS SCALING A WALL.

Uncle Sam's Warriors Are Equal to Some Difficult Feats.

Newport News, Va., has been a center of interest recently, for it is from here that most of the troops selected for duty in Cuba have embarked on their voyage to the Pearl of the An-



REGULARS SCALING A WALL.

While awaiting the departure of the transports the soldiers have practiced some of the feats which they might be called on to perform in case they had to make a campaign against bands of outlaws or irreconcilables. The picture shows a detachment of Infantry at Fort Monroe, near Newport News, practicing wall scaling and making living pyramids by which to climb over a high bridge of solid masonry.

Few Dead Delinquents.

Out west no man dies content unless he has paid his newspaper subscription, for the editors have a way of squaring things in their obituary accounts. For instance, an Indian Territory editor recently took the occasion of the death of a reader to write this: "Deceased was a mild-mannered man with a mouth full of whiskey. He came here at night with another man's wife and joined the church at the first opportunity. He owed us 10 on the paper."

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Baker's Chocolate	.15
Pure Baking Molasses	.13 a qt. .18
Tea	.30 .40
Soup Beans	.08 .10
Large Prunes, per lb.	.05 .10
Canned Corn	.08 .12
Bottle Indigo Blueing	.04 .05
5 lbs Oat Flake with china	.21 .25
Banner Lye, 3 boxes for	.25
Oyster Crackers	.05 .08
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