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Senator Hill's bill giving fourth-class postmasters a four-year term except when removed for cause appears to be fair. We do not see why fourth-class postmasters should not be put on an equal footing with other postmasters as regards length of term in office.

Pingree in the Saddle. Governor Pingree's recent message bristled with telling points. At the outset he demanded radical reform in primary elections, saying: "If we would inaugurate reforms in our state government we must commence where the governing power originates, in party organizations and conventions. I would recommend that the political party caucus be already upon our statute books be so amended as to abolish party conventions. Under a representative form of government the people should have free choice of their representatives. Any obstruction to such free choice should be removed. The convention has become the medium of trickery, bribery and fraud. The higher criminal is here developed. The direct vote of the ballot-holder for party candidates is the simplest means of expressing preference for representatives. If the people make mistakes they alone are to blame. The direct vote and the Australian ballot system is of less cost to the people than the convention system."

Our readers will remember that Governor Black simply asked the legislature to fit the civil service tests to the duties to be performed and suggested that where several persons are returned as able to perform certain work for the state, the appointing power should have the right of choice among that number. This, to an ordinary mind, would seem to be nothing more than fair, reasonable and on a par with the principles which govern private employment. The private employer, when selecting an employe, takes cognizance of other things than intellectual acuteness. As between one man with an examination grade of 95 and an ugly look and another with a grade of only 90 but with the stamp of honesty on his countenance, it is easy to decide where private preference would fall. The point made by Governor Black is that so long as the public service is assured by law of a certain high standard of efficiency the public will stand some option of personal choice to the officials whom it elevates to executive responsibility, and we submit that he is clearly right.

Intelligent public sentiment everywhere demands a higher standard in the civil service and is ready to smite those who persistently thwart this demand. But the reform which is sought in this direction is not an inflexible vision of lotus-eaters but a plain, matter-of-fact adjustment of business conditions combining efficiency of service with personal adaptation of servants in office. There has in the past been too much dreaming and too little thinking among the professional champions of this reform; hence they must not be surprised if practical men take the issue up and solve it to fit hard facts.

General Weyer confesses that with the Cleveland administration he has no complaint, for it "has kept faith with Spain." It is a pity that it does not keep faith first with its own countrymen.

Concerning Party Primaries. Senator Brown's bill to reform the primaries comprises, we are told, the following main features: He will make it the duty of the officers of the general election to conduct the primaries. They will receive \$1 per day from the county treasurer. At a Republican primary the Democrats will be on a check on that party and at a Democratic primary the tables will be turned. A party that can have a primary under Brown's bill must have polled at least 5 per cent. of the largest vote cast for national officers at the last election. This will bar out every but the Republicans and the Democrats. The bill also forbids the holding of two primaries on the same day. The party having polled the largest vote at the preceding state election will be entitled to hold the first primaries. The minority party, however, will be given time to hold its primaries within fifteen days of the regular time for holding the election. The bill bars an elector from voting at more than one primary. If a person votes more than once under this measure he is guilty of a misdemeanor and is liable to fine of \$500 or three months in jail or both.

This measure embodies some good ideas, particularly the stringent penalty for repeating and for the voting of Democrats at Republican primaries and vice versa; but we are not so sure that the bipartisan board feature is advisable. A Republican primary from inception to finish a Republican affair, and Democrats may well be kept out of it. Before resorting to the expedient of securing Democrats to sit in judgment at a Republican primary, suppose determined effort first be made to cleanse that primary within party lines. We cannot see why Democrats should be expected to have greater concern for the purity of Republican primaries than Republicans themselves. The present primary law, however, would be ample for all probable emergencies. If it could be courageously enforced, if it cannot be or at least is not enforced, what assurance have we that a new law would fare better?

Senator Proctor is right. The presidential term ought to be lengthened to six years, and one term ought to be considered enough. It isn't likely, though, that the change will be made.

A bill is to be introduced at Albany which will provide that "whenever any servant or employe of a steam railroad company shall become wholly or partly disabled while in the discharge of his duty, the corporation in whose employ he was at the time of his being disabled shall provide for his maintenance and support by assessing any and all dividends paid by said corporations, not exceeding 1 per centum per year, or if no dividend is paid they shall assess and deduct from the gross earnings of said corporation a sum not exceeding 1 per centum per year, and should said sum so deducted be insufficient then it shall be lawful for said corporations to deduct from the salaries of its employes an amount not

exceeding one-half of 1 per centum per year." It will be interesting to watch the progress of this bill through the New York legislature.

Small-pox or typhoid fever patients. They claim that when this is done, in addition to intelligent treatment, recovery is rendered approximately certain, and the statistics of deaths and recoveries among isolated patients bears them out. It is only a question of time when every city, Scranton among the number, will have to maintain separate hospitals or at least separate wards for consumptives. It would be economy to do so at once.

Has It the Nerve? A manifesto lately issued by the Cuban Society of Judicial and Economic Studies sheds light on the financial aspects of Spain's war to subjugate Cuba. It says: "At the beginning of the war a debt of \$300,000,000 weighed upon Cuba, for which an annual interest of \$12,885,500 was paid. Immediately upon the beginning of the war the Spanish government ordered a special issue of bonds, that were held in reserve for the conversion of previous obligations. Thus the Cuban treasury was overburdened with a new debt of \$122,500,000 at 5 per cent. interest, representing \$12,250,000 annually to be paid. In this manner, supposing that the expenses of the war may be kept within the limits of official declarations, the first normal budget of Spanish Cuba will have to meet an annual payment of \$23,000,000 solely for charges of this overwhelming debt, which will be held entirely outside of the island. In order to appreciate at a glance the significance of this important fact, it is sufficient to remember that in 1887 the clear income of the island of Cuba was only \$39,950,000."

It is likely that the Cuban insurgents after sustaining successfully two years of costly war, will now agree to a compromise with Spain which would necessitate the burdening of their stricken island with an annual war indemnity exceeding one-half of the island's utmost annual revenue in time of peace? Can the senior American republic ask them to do this? Has it the nerve? We advise all persons interested in historical study to read Hon. Theodore Roosevelt's review in the January Forum of Brooks Adams' book on "The Law of Civilization and Decay." It is not only a model criticism, but also a wholesome refutation of the fallacy which seems to be spreading among top-heavy students, that mankind is fast going to the bow-wow. Healthy Americanism owes to Mr. Roosevelt a vote of thanks.

In 1896 the number of suicides in this country increased nearly 20 per cent, as compared with the year previous, or from 5,759 to 6,926. This is a frightful legacy of Democratic hard times.

The new governor of Kansas seems to be determined to earn his pay.

Just a Word or Two of Casual Mention

Announcement is again made that an unnamed syndicate of Pennsylvania capitalists is about to establish an immense plant in an unmentioned place for the manufacture of a new kind of coal briquettes. Under the new process, it is claimed, the briquettes will be far superior to coal as a fuel, and can be manufactured to sell much more cheaply. The coal dust is treated with certain chemicals, without the use of pitch or resin, which made the old process so objectionable. The new product will develop heating qualities from 20 to 25 per cent. greater than anthracite coal, while selling at from 50 to 20 cents a ton less. It will be safe to await developments before becoming unduly agitated.

Julius Mallou, well known in this city for several years as an advertisement solicitor, figured in a novel episode at Williamsport according to the following which appeared in Tuesday's Philadelphia Inquirer: "The Great Bet. Feast of a Williamsport Man Who Voted the Wrong Way. Williamsport, Pa., Jan. 11.—In payment of an election bet made with Julius Mallou, of Scranton, the shooter, proprietor of the City hotel, tonight sat down in public to a feast of crow. The bet was the result of the 'Crawford' Ashbridge contest in Philadelphia last fall."

The resignation is announced of Mr. William M. Butler, who for two years has been the editor of the Commercial Traveler's Home Magazine, published at Binghamton, N. Y. In that short time Mr. Butler exhibited editorial skill of a high order and lifted the publication from obscurity into favorable prominence. His successor is Arthur T. Vance, heretofore associate editor. The price of the magazine has been reduced from \$2 to \$1 a year.

The marriage license docket does not indicate hard times. There were 194 marriage licenses granted during the year just closed than during the preceding year. In 1895 the number was 1250, in 1896 it ran up to 1544.

The mistaken notion seems to prevail in one or two Wilkes-Barre newspaper offices that Scranton is jealous of Wilkes-Barre's possible new hotel. Scranton is never jealous of a contingency.

ONLY A QUAB. From the Philadelphia Record. The first day of the present session of the legislature was signalized by the introduction of a bill in the senate to create a department of mining, with commissary, a deputy commissary, forty mine inspectors and a retinue of clerks. The ostensibly benevolent object of this job is to afford greater protection to the mine, who are assumed to be too ignorant and too stupid to take care of themselves. It seems that the authors and advocates of the bill are in the habit of speaking of the frightful increase in the loss of life by mining casualties, all occurring under the inspection and supervision of the state.

In the face of all experience, the bill before the legislature proposes to increase the eighteen mining inspectors to the number of forty. It is considered that the inspectors do not inspect, and it is designed to help the matter by putting over them a chief inspector of mines, with headquarters at Harrisburg, and with a salary of \$5,000 a year. But who is to inspect the chief inspector? Why, the state; and thus the vicious circle will again have been completed. Instead of seeing in any way to protect the miners, his bill is a palpable job for the purpose of making twenty-two places for party dependents, at a salary of \$3,000 a year each, besides the chief commissaryship and the deputy commissaryship, with their train of clerks. The mining department is to be a new branch of the circumlocution office to show once more how NOT TO DO IT.

Begin the New Year By Buying Your Books of Beidleman, the Bookman. 437 Spruce Street. Opposite the Court House.

As if the lot of the miners be not hard enough, they are to be made the victims of another cold-blooded and cynical scheme-mongering job. We earnestly warn the miners of Pennsylvania that this mining department is not intended for their interest. The walking delegates who are promoting the job expect to share in its spoils as a reward for betraying them.

THAT ARBITRATION TREATY. Profoundly Interesting.

Philadelphia Ledger: Regarded from the view points of Christianity, humanity, civilization, common sense, reason and justice, the signing of the general arbitration treaty between the United States and Great Britain is the most important and profoundly interesting international incident of the century now drawing to its close. It is impossible to magnify the influence of this convention not only upon the destinies of the two nations directly concerned, but upon the cause of peace and international concord and comity throughout the civilized and uncivilized world. The signing of this treaty is a sample of these two nations in thus attempting, by a solemnly ratified contract, to submit international differences and disputes to arbitration, thus settling the menace of war, can hardly fail, sooner or later, to impress other nations with its wisdom, its equity and its brotherly spirit. We deem it highly probable that eventually when the governing sentiment of enlightened nations will recognize the folly, the wastefulness, the destructive, retarding influence of war, the settlement of controversies which would yield to arbitration. Of fourteen leading countries only two spent more per capita for public education than for the support of their armies, and the excepted countries are Switzerland and the United States. England spends nearly \$1 per capita upon her army against 70 cents upon education. France makes a nearly similar exhibit. If the vast sums lavished upon armaments deemed necessary to protect national honor and prestige could be turned into beneficent channels, in furtherance of charity, the arts, the instruction and improvement of the people, and for the establishment of law, it would be no secret to say what transformation would take place in the world.

HAPPY PEACEMAKERS. Rochester Post-Express: This is a great day for the peace societies of the two countries. For many years they have labored in what apparently was a fruitless field. They held meetings, at which many resolutions were passed, many strong resolutions passed. Then they adjourned without apparently having accomplished anything of a substantial nature. The statesmen of the United States and Great Britain either never read the proceedings of the peace societies, or read them only to shrug their shoulders and remark: "You people are well, but really the times are not ripe for the beating of the drum for peace. But all unmetamorphosed into plowshares." But all unmetamorphosed into plowshares, these organizations continued to file their protests against war, holding that if the times were not ripe for international arbitration, they would be ripe at last after many days and a full measure of discouragement, the peace societies have come into their own; this is their year of jubilee.

Praise for Mr. Olney. Philadelphia Press: In the application of the principle of arbitration Secretary Olney has scored all along the line. He has won nearly all the substantial issues raised in the preliminary negotiations by Lord Salisbury. By the treaty Secretary Olney will be remembered, and the memory is a monument any statesman would be glad to have after a lifetime devoted to the service of his country. It is won by Secretary Olney as a lawyer beginning, past middle-age, a new career, and in his second year as secretary of state. The triumph is his. No man will grudge him his full credit, and history will not deny him a high place among the benefactors of mankind.

Uncle Sam in the Lead. Philadelphia Press: The United States, which in the last century led in the world's liberty, in this leads in the world's justice.

TOLD BY THE STARS. Daily Horoscope Drawn by Ajaxchus The Tribune Astrologer. Astrological cast: 3:15 A. M., for Thursday, Jan. 14, 1897.

A child born on this day will marvel at the justice of Lazarus, which sends men to jail for profanity and at the same time allows Sam Boyd to write poetry.

The "Woman in White" who has been frightening the superstitious at Taylor may be the ghost of the West Side viaduct ordinance that has wandered from its uneasy resting place on the table.

It is to be hoped that the artist who made the Wilkes-Barre Times portrait of the missing jail bird Shaffer, also escaped.

Politically speaking "Old Hickory's" anniversary seems to have been celebrated by a good deal of basswood about the country.

Ajaxchus' Advice. No money lend. No money lend. Who payeth all "tomorrow." For when that "tomorrow" comes, that's far away—And for the cash you'll sorrow.

There is Something Lacking. In the feast that provide for the inner man alone—the eye should be pleased, too. Dainty glassware, beautiful china are half the dinner, a cracked plate or chipped or muddy glass has a depressing effect. Our stock of China and Glassware give unlimited scope for the exercise of good taste. The quality is of the most superior order and the cost is very low.

THE GLEMONS, FERBER, O'MALLEY CO., 434 Lackawanna Av.

Begin the New Year By Buying Your Books of Beidleman, the Bookman. 437 Spruce Street. Opposite the Court House.

GOLDSMITH'S BAZAAR. Annual Clearing Sale Bargain Bulletin No. 4, Thursday, January 14.

CARPET DEPARTMENT. 65-cent Tapestry Brussels Carpets, Sale Price, 45c. 75-cent Tapestry Brussels Carpets, Sale Price, 50c. \$1.25 Best Body Brussels Carpets, Sale Price, 75c. 50-cent Wool Filled Ingrain Carpets, Sale Price, 35c. 65-cent Best All Wool Ingrain Carpets, Sale Price, 49c. Oil Cloth, Mattings, Rugs and our entire stock correspondingly cheap. This Great sale will last but 7 days longer.



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YOU CAN SAVE MONEY BY BUYING NEW AND SECOND-HAND * CLOTHING. Ladies' and Children's Wear. Seal and Plush Sacques, Carpets and Feather Beds. From L. POSNER, 21 Lackawanna Av.

HILL & CONNELL'S NOVELTIES FOR THE HOLIDAYS. Our Holiday Display of useful and ornamental articles was never so large as this season's exhibit. The advantage of having so large and varied an assortment to select from will be apparent to all who contemplate giving presents of a substantial and artistic character, or buying for their own use.

Writing Desks, Dressing Tables, Cheval Glasses, Couches, Rockers, Reclining and Easy Chairs, Music Cabinets, Parlor Cabinets and Tables, Work Tables, Curio Cases, Tea Tables, Vernis-Martin Cabinets, Parlor and Fancy Inlaid Chairs, Gilt Reception Chairs, Parlor Suits in Gilt, Pedestals, Jardinieres, Book Cases, Shaving Stands.

HILL & CONNELL, 131 & 133 Washington Av.

ONE WATCH FOR ONE DOLLAR. An absolutely reliable TIME GIVER. Guaranteed for one year. Second Gross just in.

FOOTE & SHEAR CO, 119 Washington Avenue.

MERCEREAU & CONNELL. At Our New and Elegant Storeroom, 130 WYOMING AVENUE. Coal Exchange, Opp. Hotel Jermyon.

Rubber * Stamps. Stamp Works.

CHASE & FARRAR, PROP'S, 515 Linden Street.

YOU CAN SAVE MONEY BY BUYING NEW AND SECOND-HAND * CLOTHING. Ladies' and Children's Wear. Seal and Plush Sacques, Carpets and Feather Beds. From L. POSNER, 21 Lackawanna Av.

A. E. ROGERS' Jewelry Store, 213 Lackawanna Ave. Look at our \$10 Gold Watches, Warranted 15 Years. 213 Lackawanna Avenue.

SKATES. 1/2 PRICE for one week, beginning Saturday Morning, January 9. We will sell our Skates at about one-half price.

Good, All Steel Skates, at 25c. Nickel-Plated, at 70c. Other Grades in Proportion.

Florey's, Wyoming Avenue, Y. M. C. A. BUILDING.

E. ROBINSON'S SONS' Lager Beer Brewery. Manufacturers of the Celebrated Pilsener Lager Beer. CAPACITY: 100,000 Barrels per Annum.

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