

INK SLINGS.

The fittings have begun. The vagaries of the weather man are surely beyond the understanding of the ordinary person. Centre county roads are reported as being in worse condition than they have been for many years. A ROOSEVELT campaign is being made in Centre county; thus are the troubles of county chairman QUIGLEY multiplying. Mr. KIMFORT has been our county chairman for two terms. It seems to us that he should be willing to let some else have a chance by this time. If the Democratic party has to be reorganized let us start right in on the ground floor to do it. Let us begin at home and reorganize Centre county first. The season is about over now and he is a poor fellow indeed who hasn't his name tacked to the bottom of a sale note that will be worrying him about this time next year. There seems to be nothing new in the coal strike situation and as the first of April approaches the coal dealer and the consumer are growing more and more concerned. Mr. HENRY PHIPPS is very generous to his children but if he had enjoyed fewer special privileges and less tariff graft in early life he wouldn't have so much money to give away now. Really it begins to look as if ROOSEVELT won't have enough delegates in the Republican National Convention to form a respectable body guard and TEDDY likes a body guard when he gets into crowds. No doubt it is true that Secretary KNOX's valet is paid out of the public treasury in violation of law. KNOX served some time in the cabinet of ROOSEVELT and "evil communications corrupt good manners." Mrs. MARY BAKER EDDY, founder of the Christian Science church, left an estate worth two and a quarter million dollars. Inasmuch as she was once a poor woman here is evidence, indisputable, that she improved her talents. Colonel ROOSEVELT seems to have changed his opinion of Senator PENROSE since the time he gave the Senator a free hand in trading patronage for power in Pennsylvania. Nevertheless he can hardly be too severe in denouncing PENROSE. Those who profess to know say that Mr. KIMFORT personally doesn't care to be county chairman any longer, but that his boss compelled him to stand for it again so that he could continue to own the chairman of the Democratic party in Centre county. That Ferguson township woman who hid her life time savings in her house because she didn't trust the banks is now minus both her savings and her house. They burned up last week. How foolish! A million houses burn down while one bank busts. Dr. WILEY enjoys the good opinion of a vast majority of the people but he should bear in mind that adulterating the public morals is quite as bad as polluting the food of the people. A man can't monkey around the "Coinel" without putting himself under suspicion. Dr. HARVEY W. WILEY will lose some of the popularity that he is now enjoying if he doesn't put a stop to his wife's running around the country telling all the rest of our wives how poorly they are paid. That isn't news to the men and the women to whom it is news are far happier in ignorance. The returns from Indiana and New York were not of the kind to encourage the ambitious ROOSEVELT. It may take a few more States to do it, but TEDDY will surely find out that the American people have had quite enough of turmoil and unrest of the kind he injects into everything he is connected with. Mr. GUTHRIE doesn't want much. Any man who honestly wanted to be fair could have accepted Mr. RITTER's proposition. It is now clear beyond question that all that GUTHRIE and PALMER want are offices and they don't care a hang what becomes of the Democratic party while they are trying to snatch them. The hotel keepers of Baltimore are very much like those of other cities but there is danger of "killing the goose that lays the golden egg." In other words if the Baltimore hotel keepers charge exorbitant rates during the coming Democratic National convention they will plant the seeds of an enmity which will work night and day for many years to come. To vote for ABRAM WEBER, of Howard, as the delegate from Centre county to the forthcoming Democratic State convention means that the party will have one of the most reputable and substantial men it possesses to represent it. The son of that pioneer merchant and Democrat, the late BALSER WEBER, ABRAM is known, at least by reputation, all over the county. He is a candidate for state delegate and he is too big a man to be anybody's tool, consequently you can repose every confidence in his intention to do what he deems best for the party.

Democratic Watchman

The Question of Party Harmony.

No careful observer of recent political events will be surprised at the reply of GEORGE W. GUTHRIE to the candid and manly proposition of Hon. WALTER E. RITTER, chairman of the Democratic State Central committee, for an adjustment of the factional differences in the party. Mr. GUTHRIE consents to every condition except the vital one. Mr. RITTER proposed that delegates whose election is certified by the County Commissioners of the several counties assemble in one convention and fulfill their obligations. Mr. GUTHRIE had previously suggested that himself and RITTER censor the list which was absurd, in view of the law on the subject. But in accepting this proposition of Mr. RITTER Mr. GUTHRIE claims it as his own. As a matter of fact it is a part of the law of 1906 and if but one convention is held no other method of making up the roll can be considered. Mr. RITTER also proposed that in order to facilitate the harmonizing process Colonel JAMES M. GUFFEY and Congressman A. MITCHELL PALMER, claimants for the seat in the Democratic National Committee, voluntarily eliminate themselves from the contention. He pointed out the fact that the National Committee had already passed upon the question and affirmed the claim of Col. GUFFEY and therefore the withdrawal of Mr. PALMER would be little or no sacrifice. In conjunction with that he also proposed the resignation of both GUTHRIE and himself of the chairmanship of the State Central Committee, to which they lay claim in order to permit and promote the election to that office of a suitable person not affiliated with the factional differences. Mr. GUTHRIE refuses to consent to this proposal both on behalf of Mr. PALMER and himself. He wants to hold on to the modicum of power he has, at any cost. This is precisely what was to have been expected from Mr. GUTHRIE and his associates in the conspiracy to destroy the Democratic party in Pennsylvania. The so-called movement for reorganization, in so far as it had form in the minds of GUTHRIE, PALMER and MCCORMICK, was intended for the sole purpose of putting those political recreants in control of the organization that they might use it for selfish and probably sordid purposes. For years GUTHRIE has been trying to pervert the party to his personal interests. In 1896 he left it absolutely and during three Presidential campaigns gave all his influence and energy to the opposition. When the Democratic leaders of Pittsburgh bought his title to an office he used the power which he had acquired to destroy the party that favored him. VANCE MCCORMICK's political record is equally tarnished. He also betrayed the party when he had an opportunity to build it up. Mr. RITTER's plan is the only one by which an enduring and efficient reorganization of the party can be accomplished. Col. GUFFEY has done nothing which deserves to be penalized and Chairman RITTER has certainly not betrayed any party interest. But they offer to take themselves completely out of the equation in order that harmony may be brought about. On the other hand GUTHRIE, MCCORMICK and PALMER have been constant and conspicuous enemies of party progress and political success but because of their inordinate ambition to dominate the party they refuse to agree to the unselfish proposition of Mr. RITTER. To the non-essentials they assent, because the law might take them by the throat if they refused. But to the real measure of reconciliation which involves some self-abnegation they will not agree because they care more for personal power than for harmony and success. However the Democratic people of Pennsylvania can bring harmony if they set their faces to the task and they will. The Democratic State Convention has been called to meet at the Majestic theatre, Harrisburg, at 12 o'clock noon, on May 7, 1912. It makes little difference who calls it to order and the certificates of election from the several County Commissioners will determine the membership of the body. The Democratic voters can see to it, however, that men of character and courage to do right are elected to compose the convention and they can and will take Mr. GUTHRIE and Mr. PALMER out of the selfish and sinister contention in which they have been engaged for a year. Their ambitions may be vital to themselves. Mr. GUTHRIE's desire to shine in ambassadorial robes in foreign courts may be important to himself and his family. But it is not of sufficient consequence to Democrats generally to stand in the way of harmony. Chairman RITTER's offer was not only fair but magnanimous. Col. GUFFEY's readiness to obliterate himself is generous and characteristic. His management

of the party has been able and effective.

Under his direction the party has achieved some splendid victories. Against odds of almost incredible proportions, he has held the party together. Under his management minority representatives in both our appellate courts, of the highest character and sturdiest integrity, have been elected. In the face of continued attacks from GUTHRIE and MCCORMICK he has been able to maintain a militant minority in this ring-ridden Commonwealth. But he now offers to immolate himself on the altar of patriotism while GUTHRIE, the recreant and would be dictator, refuses to acquiesce. It is for the Democrats of Pennsylvania to assert themselves now. Let them abandon their factional fight for their own personal aggrandizement, or be scourged from the party as the Pharisees were driven out of the temple. Roosevelt Unnecessarily Alarmed. Colonel ROOSEVELT is unnecessarily excited about the present form of government in the United States. He says that we are living in an oligarchy of political leaders. The people have no voice in affairs, he declares, and are threatened with all sorts of evils. While he was President things were precisely as they are now, but he felt no fear, probably because he was able, in an emergency, to avert the attendant dangers. Now, however, there is no harbor of safety. The politicians, like hungry wolves, are ready to devour everything before them and are certain to do their worst unless the Colonel is returned to the seat of power. It is certainly a sad picture that he paints. As a matter of fact there is no graver danger confronting the people of the United States now than ROOSEVELT. During the seven and a-half years that he occupied the office of President he did more to debase the public life of the country than all his predecessors in office. He was the boldest in using the patronage of the government to bribe Congressmen. He was the first to graft from the public treasury the funds to pay his individual expenses. In fact he is responsible for most of the evils which have increased the cost of living because his official profligacy multiplied the burdens of government and led to the extravagances in individual life which are the sources of evil. Colonel ROOSEVELT may safely calm his perturbed spirits. There is no danger that TAFT will run away with the government. TAFT will be safely retired to private life at the expiration of his present term of office and the people of the United States will resume the management of their own affairs and conduct them just as they did before the assassin catapulted ROOSEVELT into the White House. But ROOSEVELT won't take his place. The people have determined to put Governor WOODROW WILSON into command of public affairs and there will be none of the disasters which ROOSEVELT predicts. The period of peril from misgovernment has passed forever. The demagogues will take their proper place. What dutiful sons are those of HENRY PHIPPS, of Pittsburgh. He had ten million dollars, the care of which was worrying him so he decided to relieve himself of further concern by dividing it up among them. Did they shirk the duty? Not the sons of HENRY PHIPPS. They stood right by the old man ready to share the last burden he had. The Question of a Strike. We are not as apprehensive of a coal strike as some of our esteemed contemporaries. Of course there may be a strike of miners on the first of April or soon afterward. Anything of that kind is liable in view of the suffering of the poor and the profligacy of the rich. But it doesn't look to us as if the present strike agitation is either economic or sociological. It is purely political unless all the signs are misleading. The plan is to lead up by devious ways and measured processes to an industrial climax when the President, who is a candidate for re-election, will come forward and propose terms of settlement acceptable to both sides. As President BAER, of the Reading, once said: "the request of the President of the United States is a command," to the operators. It is an enticement to the politicians who farm the labor vote and thus works the same result at both ends. In 1900 MCKINLEY's re-election was secured by such a scheme, engineered by the late MARK HANNA. The operators who wanted Republican success at any price made a few questionable concessions and the crafty politicians did the rest. It looks now as if this expedient is to be invoked again on behalf of TAFT, and TAFT is now rehearsing for his part in the performance. There may be a strike, but don't be surprised if the threatened trouble turns out to be more of a political comedy than anything else.

Defeat the Party Recreants.

The Democrats of the communities in which they live can perform no better service to the party than by defeating A. MITCHELL PALMER, VANCE C. MCCORMICK and JAMES I. BLAKESLIE at the primary election in April. Each of these political conspirators is ambitious to control the party. PALMER is a candidate for re-election to Congress, to be delegate-at-large to the National convention and Member of the Democratic National committee. MCCORMICK aspires to a seat in the State convention and to be a delegate-at-large in the National convention and BLAKESLIE wants to be a district delegate in the National convention. Incidentally they desire to elect GEORGE W. GUTHRIE a delegate-at-large to Baltimore. These gentlemen have been, for a year, engaged in a conspiracy to destroy the Democratic party of Pennsylvania. GUTHRIE and MCCORMICK are so closely related to the protected industries and special interests of the country, that they are probably influenced solely by selfish considerations. PALMER and BLAKESLIE are obsessed with political ambition and the lust for power is likely the influencing cause of their recent actions. But whatever the cause of their party recreancy the best interests of the Democratic party of Pennsylvania will be conserved by defeating all of them at the coming primaries. Neither one of them should be allowed to misrepresent the Democracy of Pennsylvania longer. The gratifying information comes from the communities in which they live, that each of these gentlemen will be overwhelmingly defeated next month. Six years ago Mr. PALMER entered into an agreement to retire at the expiration of his present term. He is now trying to repudiate that agreement but the voters of the district have taken the matter in hand and will compel him to be fair. BLAKESLIE was retired by an overwhelming vote of the people of Carbon county four years ago and VANCE MCCORMICK satisfied the people of Harrisburg, during one term as mayor, that his proper place is private life. But all of them are candidates, and they should go down to defeat together. But One Convention. There will be but one Democratic convention at Harrisburg this year. Democrats can depend upon that, no matter whether Mr. GUTHRIE accepts all of Mr. RITTER's propositions or not. The convention that will be held will be the one called over the SIGNATURE of chairman RITTER, to meet on the 7th day of May at 12 o'clock, in the Majestic theatre. There will be but one convention because there is but one legal and regular organization, and Mr. GUTHRIE is lawyer enough to know one that is. And it is not his. For that reason, while his followers may meet at ten o'clock as he has requested them to do, at the place he has indicated, they will not attempt to organize a convention. And they will not attempt to do so, because they know that nothing they would do, as such would be recognized, either by the courts or by the National Convention. No delegates that they would nominate would be recognized in the National Convention. No ticket that they would nominate would be sustained by the courts. No action they would take on any question would be recognized as legal or binding on the party. AND MR. GUTHRIE IS AWARE OF THIS FACT. And because he knows it is the reason that he is now willing and intends to abandon the bluff he has been putting up. A Plain Showing of What it is For. "If GUTHRIE and PALMER step down and out, what will there be left for us to fight for?" That's the basic question underlying all the trouble and all the turmoil the Democracy has been having here in Pennsylvania for the past two years. It's the question that contains all the milk that is in the disorganizer's cocoanut. It's the sum total of all there is in the Reorganized movement.—The one thing they are fighting for—the one thing they would divide the party for—The one and ONLY PURPOSE they have in view. It simply means that in place of trying to better the condition of the party in the State this fight for re-organization is solely and alone to get GUTHRIE and PALMER the positions they want. Really we thank the Patriot and its correspondent for the honest acknowledgment given in the foregoing query,—for opening the eyes of hundreds of Democrats to the real and only purpose for which that movement is being pushed. Read it Democrats and then answer by your actions if you are willing to get into a fight among yourselves simply to satisfy the ambition of Mr. GUTHRIE and Mr. PALMER.

Party Peace in Sight.

From the Pittsburgh Post. The Post believes that it is justified in predicting peace for the Democrats of Pennsylvania by the coming together of the factional leaders who have been contending for supremacy in organization control. Messrs. Guthrie and Ritter, rival claimants for the chairmanship, are disposed to do what this newspaper has urged them to do, as is shown by their exchange and acceptance of propositions calculated to bring them together, thereby avoiding the suicidal policy of holding two conventions, and thus dividing a party that is pleading for a chance to unify. This dispute that has kept these leaders apart is not the dispute of the party itself, for Democrats almost without exception have been decriing a condition that could mean disaster and nothing else. Last week Mr. Ritter submitted a plan to Mr. Guthrie for the healing of the differences, and declared that its acceptance would remove all difficulty in the way of a mutual understanding. This proposition Mr. Guthrie has accepted in substance, excepting only that part which suggests who shall not be candidates for National committeeman. Inasmuch as that is a matter for the party, and not individuals, to pass on, Mr. Ritter, in justice to himself and the Democracy cannot press it, and if his proposition was made in good faith, of which there can be no doubt, he is now in duty bound to meet the man he challenged and proceed with the work as he himself outlined it. This means that Mr. Ritter will call the convention to order and turn it over to the presiding officer to be chosen from the list of three names submitted by him. Mr. Guthrie will be privileged to call the State committee to order, after which he and Mr. Ritter will both retire and permit the election of a new chairman. Democrats of the State will hail this arrangement as the happy culmination of a trouble that threatened dire consequences to the hopes of the party. It shows that the spirit of compromise is not dead, and the result is in line with what the Post has iterated and reiterated for weeks. Promising and Delivering. From the Baltimore American. There is now a strong foundation for the belief that not one of the seven Governors who got behind the Roosevelt boom and promoted the third-term proposition to the extent of inducing the Colonel to declare himself will be able to deliver a solid delegation for Roosevelt at the Chicago convention assembly. Ex-Congressman Sturgis, of West Virginia declares that Governor Glasscock and the six other Governors who encouraged the Colonel to announce his candidacy grossly deceived him as to the prevalence of sentiment favoring his renomination. Representative Sturgis expresses the belief that within the next sixty days Colonel Roosevelt will experience the greatest humiliation that he has ever known in his political history. Incidentally, Mr. Sturgis declares that there will be a solid delegation for Taft from Virginia. There will be a diversity of opinion over the question whether the Governors fooled the Colonel or the Colonel himself sized the situation up wrongly. But, as in the charge of the Light Brigade, "somebody blundered." The most enthusiastic third-term propagandist in the entire aggregation must by this time have waked up to the fact that somebody—the seven Governors or somebody else—made an error of judgment in bringing the Colonel out. The State convention in West Virginia doesn't meet until the 16th of May, but the signs that the delegation from that State will not be for the Colonel grow more convincing every day. Bryan on Candidates. From the Harrisburg Star Independent. William Jennings Bryan hit the mark squarely when he said at Milwaukee that the third term candidacy of Theodore Roosevelt was a menace to the Republican form of Government, and that he was an eleventh hour convert to Progressive principles. He also criticized President Taft's record of achievement, praised LaFollette's advocacy of political reforms, said the Senator was entitled to the Republican Presidential nomination, and that the Democrats can elect the next President if they nominate a real Progressive. It is the opinion of a great majority of the American people that Roosevelt should not have another term, and unless all signs fail he will not get the nomination, Taft has been a much better President, but his vetoes of tariff reform bill and his attempts to drive through the Congress bills prepared in the Executive Department have done much to destroy his popularity. Roosevelt and his friends betrayed LaFollette who, as the real leader of the Progressives, might have won his party's nomination. As to the Democratic nomination, it need only be said that there are several good men in the party who will receive votes at the Baltimore convention. Any one of them would run well. Hats in Politics. From the Newark News. Mr. Wilson wanted to knock Mr. Bryan into a cocked hat. Mr. Roosevelt's hat is in the ring. Not his Panama one, however. Mr. Bryan's hat is lying innocently in the middle of the road to Baltimore, filled with bricks. Mr. Clark's hat is being spoken of by admirers of the picturesque. Mr. Taft's hat is being spoken through, it seems to us. Mr. LaFollette will eat his hat if he has withdrawn. Mr. Harmon has a bee in his bonnet. For high class Job Work come to the WATCHMAN Office.

SPAWNS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

A cavein at the Sand Patch tunnel will necessitate three months' work to repair the damage. One man was seriously hurt. Bids are being asked on Johnstown's new federal building and it is thought work will be ordered started in the near future. A check forger has been visiting DuBois. He specializes in small amounts, about \$5, and buys a few goods, getting the change in cash. Williamsport is to have a new industry in the near future, a wooden water pipe and steam pipe covering factory, employing 75 to 100 men. Williamsport has lost another prominent citizen by sudden death—J. A. Beeber, president of the First National bank. He died of paralysis. Robert Thompson, an Indiana county farmer, has one rib broken loose from his backbone and his lungs injured, the result of being kicked by a colt. All but two of the twenty-one deer placed in the state game preserve at Latrobe escaped through the wire fence. Their recapture is expected. Among two gangs of yegmen captured at Elmira recently were found two men wanted for the recent robbery of the New York Central station at Jersey Shore. Clinton county's commissioners have increased the county tax levy for this year from 4 to 6 mills, to meet an increase in expenses and to provide for a new bond issue. Two little girls, bare foot and hungry, on a Nanticoke side walk, told a neighbor that their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Adam Apostki, had been "asleep all day." They were found to be dead. An entire saw mill outfit was blown up with dynamite recently in Hopewell township, Huntingdon county. Its location on disputed territory is supposed to have had something to do with the outrage. The York Valley Lime company in the midst of its busiest season, suffered the loss by fire of unknown origin of its plant near Stony Brook. Loss is more than \$25,000 with practically no insurance. In the border land of Huntingdon and Fulton counties has been discovered an immense deposit of red hematite iron ore. The location so near the Broad Top coal region is highly favorable to development. At one of the Decatur township, Clearfield county, schools it is said that when some of the directors called they found three pupils playing and the teacher taking a nap. A trustee officer was put to work. An old trunk about to be sold at the McAllister sale at Gettysburg was opened by one of the crowd and a tin box containing \$140 in gold was discovered. Other money was found in books and other unexpected places. According to an estimate of one of the leading furriers of Allentown, the farmers and trappers of Lehigh county during the season just closing realized about \$300,000 for the skins of various fur-bearing animals they trapped. Judge Albert W. Johnson, of Union county, Friday morning named Wesley W. Wolfe to be burgess of Lewisburg, to succeed Captain John A. Owens, who died. Burgess Wolfe served a term as burgess about twenty years ago. H. D. Walbridge, of New York, connected with the corporation that recently took over the trolley and Philipsburg electric light and steam plants, personally subscribed \$1,000 toward the new \$150,000 Johnstown Y. M. C. A. building. Recently a second attempt was made to burn the Methodist Episcopal church at Templeton. Combustibles had been placed under a stairway and set afire. The church door was left open and a passing operator discovered the incipient blaze. Elk county will not have an April session of court. All defendants in criminal cases have pleaded guilty and will be sentenced on April 1. Two or three civil cases will go over to July and the vacation will allow the remodeling of the court house. It is now nearly two weeks since there has been a new case of scarlet fever in Huntingdon. The Fourth ward school building has been thoroughly disinfected and it is thought that the pupils who have been staying away through fear of it may now return without danger. The Greene City, Butler county, school board gave a lease of the school lot to a company that drilled a well that was finished last week and is in the gusher class. The royalty will amount to \$10 daily, and the board is at a loss to know what to do with the money, as there is no law governing the case. A Pennsylvania railroad train arrived at Northumberland a few evenings ago with one car minus its steps. The peculiar accident was unexplained until Ralph Metz, of Northumberland, told how his horse ran away and was wedged into a culvert as the train passed. It knocked the steps off and received some ugly cuts and bruises, but no serious injuries. Fire at Lewisburg Thursday destroyed the municipal gas works and the old electric light plant. Before the fire was exhausted men were at work erecting a temporary building in which to operate the machinery, which was not badly damaged. Fortunately, the gas tank was filled and families using gas for domestic purposes were not left without fuel. In the Fulton county court last week Judge W. Rush Gillan of Chambersburg sentenced Russell Sipes, convicted of barn burning, to not more than 6 years or less than 2 years in the Western penitentiary at Pittsburgh. Sipes was convicted of having burned a number of barns in and around McConnellsburg and he is the youth over whose escape from jail Sheriff Harris got into trouble. Fifty years of active railroad service without a black mark against his name is the record of William R. Wherry, a Pennsylvania railroad conductor, who retired on Friday at the age of 67. He had been a conductor for nearly 46 years and during that time a passenger had never been seriously injured or killed on his train. Mr. Wherry is a native of Cambria county, Pa., and served on the Pittsburgh division. The New York Central passenger station at Jersey Shore, which also contains the office of the American Express Co., was entered by robbers last Thursday night sometime between the hours of 10:30 and 7 Friday morning, the safe blown open and the baggage and express packages, that were allowed to remain the station over night, thoroughly gone through. A package of jewelry valued at \$250 is missing. Edgar R. Weimer, who has been named as the engineer member of the state commission to codify building construction laws, was formerly mayor of Lebanon. He is a man of considerable means and a trained scientist, author, fisherman, hunter of big game, forester and student, to say nothing of being a farmer on the most approved plan. He has also experimented in iron-making, and will be one of the valuable members of the commission. Gardner & Miller, one of the leading firms of coal dealers of Tyrone sustained a loss of approximately \$5,000 by the destruction of their large barn by fire Monday night. Seven of the eight head of horses housed in the building were burned to death and a large supply of feed and hay also went up in smoke. A two story frame dwelling house adjoining was gutted and the occupant, A. Robanski, sustained damage to the amount of \$1,000 by having his furniture and household effects damaged by fire and water.