

INK SLINGS.

Talking about a backward spring it isn't keeping the grass from forward jumping.
WOODROW WILSON is in the lead of the Democratic aspirants for the presidential nomination.
"The smile that never comes off" is not being exploited so much from the White House these days.
The flies and the lawn mower are getting ready to remind us that all is not sunshine in the good, old summer time.
With hay selling at thirty dollars the ton all the farmers will be looking with envy on CURT WAGNER'S gasoline engine plow. It doesn't eat hay.
Every time there is another straw vote taken President TAFT probably thinks he would rather have a threshing machine than a steam roller.
The floods along the Mississippi valley are of such frequent occurrence that the world does not appreciate the terrible destitution that they cause.
Governor DIX, of New York, may not be the record voter of the country but it must be admitted he is in the rank of the wholesalers. He vetoed 143 bills the other day in one single message.
The various clergymen who declined to perform a marriage ceremony for Col. ASTOR last fall did so conscientiously, but they have probably come to the conclusion now that he had some stuff in him that they never dreamed was there.
It looks very much as if the worst suspicions with respect to the sinking of the Titanic are to be realized. The incident not only might have been avoided but the great loss of life is ascribable to the cupidity of the owners of the ship.
The fact that we know not at what hour the Son of Man cometh was exemplified aboard the ill fated Titanic. If the men who were playing cards on Sunday night had known that they would probably have been at divine service instead.
We hope that the Court will appoint thoroughly competent men to view the completed High street bridge before it is finally taken off the contractor's hands. Now is the time to see that it is all right, in every detail. Not after it has been paid for.
Welcome to the Fifth's Spanish-American war veterans who hold their reunion here to-day. Fighters, every inch of them, when duty called. This occasion is one of pleasure and reminiscence so that while fighters they are no fighting will they do.
If President TAFT tells all he is given credit with going to tell in his Boston speech Col. ROOSEVELT will be a very busy man for some days explaining things; while the public is likely to hear some inside Republican history that won't inspire much confidence in either ROOSEVELT or TAFT.
Rumors are coming out of Pittsburgh that boss FLYNN, who routed boss PENROSE at the recent Republican primaries relies on more substantial help from boss GUTHRIE, of the reorganized Democracy, than boss GUFFEY of the old order of things was ever accused of giving to boss PENROSE.
Quite like Mr. BRYAN to be giving the Pennsylvania Democrats advice. After he succeeded in having those he didn't like knocked out of the party management he imagines that a mere word from him will be sufficient to put them all scrambling to get under the banner of the new leaders.
The WATCHMAN hopes that council will very seriously consider the proposed gift of a fountain for the public square of Bellefonte before it is accepted. A fountain might be a very great utility for the streets of Bellefonte, but its location in the Diamond would be a doubtful ornament and a probable nuisance.
Have you stopped to consider honestly and conscientiously just what you would have done had you been aboard the Titanic. Of course no one actually knows what he would do in a crisis until he finds himself there, but you can get a very fair line on yourself, if you don't cheat, by figuring out just what you think you would have done had you been on that ill fated ship.
Already, out of respect to public opinion, all the big steamship lines have ordered their steamers to carry enough life boats to accommodate every soul aboard. While all this is very good it must be remembered that it takes more than life boats to save ship wrecked people. It takes seamen capable of launching and manning them rapidly. The last boat on the Titanic was not even loosened from her davits when the great ship went to the bottom.
Having observed that Register FRANK SMITH has essayed the role of "angel" for a base ball team in Bellefonte it is time, right now, for would-be Representatives GRAMLEY and FOSTER to begin framing bills for presentation at the next session increasing the salaries and commissions of County Registers. If this is not done and FRANK holds onto the base ball team as long as some others did here we can see him walking back "over the mountain" when his second term expires.

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Mr. Ritter's Statement.

Chairman RITTER, of the Democratic State Central committee, issued a statement, the other day, which ought to commend itself to every Democrat in Pennsylvania. It asserts that more than one hundred of the delegates to the Democratic State convention which assembles in Harrisburg on May 7th, are in favor of a re-organization of the party on lines which will eliminate all the faction breeders. "Colonel GUFFEY will, under no circumstances, accept the position, (member of the National committee) again," Mr. RITTER writes. "He and those associated with him in the regular organization," continues the chairman, "are anxious that the strife now existing within the party shall end, but they fully realize that it will not end if a few ambitious men, seeking to control the re-organized party, shall obtain personal and factional power in the convention."
To avert such an evil chairman RITTER takes himself as well as Colonel GUFFEY out of the reckoning and simply asks that GEORGE W. GUTHRIE and A. MITCHELL PALMER follow their self-sacrificing example. Thus far neither of these trouble breeders has responded to the call to duty. Some days ago Mr. GUTHRIE declared that he will not consider such a proposition. His personal ambition is of greater concern to himself than party harmony or political success. He hopes to be the dispenser of patronage in the event that a Democratic President is elected and he will sacrifice the party rather than relinquish the hope of this selfish desire. But the convention will do for him what he refuses to do for himself. That is to say it will take him out of the consideration and having thus wisely begun its work it will proceed to the completion by a safe and sane re-organization of the State committee.
There has never been any excuse for the rump State committee maintained in Harrisburg under the auspices of Mr. GUTHRIE, VANCE McCORMICK and A. MITCHELL PALMER. A session of the Democratic State Central committee in July embracing both factions would have settled the differences then. It may be that in such a meeting the present capable and efficient chairman, Hon. WALTER E. RITTER, would not have been chosen, though no man was freer from factionalism at the time. But it is certain that GEORGE W. GUTHRIE would not have been even considered for the majority of even his rump committee had to be dragged into supporting him. That is why there was not a joint session then. Mr. GUTHRIE wanted to be chairman and in a session of the committee with factionalism out, he would have had no chance. Nobody who knows him favors him for any public service. Selfishness is the dominant element in his make-up.
At the coming convention, however, he will be compelled to meet the representatives of the party and accept their verdict upon his pretenses. The convention will be composed of delegates chosen by popular vote and the certificates of their election, issued by the County Commissioners, will be their credentials. Mr. GUTHRIE can't side-step the issue. He can't dodge the question. He must face the music and if the Democrats who are present are just to the traditions of the party they will administer him a rebuke which will stand for generations as an admonition against selfish ambition.

Happy Solution of a Problem.

It looks as if there is, or will be, another hat in the Republican ring. During the course of an address delivered in New York, the other day, Mr. WILLIAM JENNINGS BRYAN observed that the quarrel among the aspirants for the Republican nomination may become so bitter that the progressives of that party will "draft" him, Mr. BRYAN, into service as their candidate. And he expressed no alarm or surprise over the situation. In fact he rolled it under his tongue like a sweet morsel. He talked as if he would welcome rather than repel such an incident.
Mr. BRYAN has never concealed his admiration for Colonel ROOSEVELT. He has never masked his sympathy for Mr. LA FOLLETTE. He believed in what they advocated even to the extent of obliterating State lines and centralizing all governmental power in Washington. In fact he was in advance of both of them in these peculiar notions of ALEXANDER HAMILTON and the Federalists of his day. He was also among the first to advocate the government ownership of railroads. ROOSEVELT and LA FOLLETTE stopped at complete regulation but BRYAN was for ownership.
It is true that these heresies were not original with Mr. BRYAN, either. As early as 1892 a national convention held at St. Louis promulgated all these notions and launched the Populist party as the exemplar of them. But Mr. BRYAN wasn't far behind. Within a few years from that time he was on the stump advocating them with all the force and eloquence of which he is capable. In 1900 he would have been elected President if he had permitted the Kansas City convention, which nominated him, to omit some of them from its platform.
And we are inclined to join Mr. BRYAN in the hope that the Republicans will "draft" him, if he really indulges it. It would be a happy solution of a vexed problem in our own party. If the Republicans should nominate him at their convention in Chicago he would hardly have the temerity to "butt in" to our convention in Baltimore, a week later. Mr. BRYAN certainly covets the lime light and has a yearning for nominations. But thus far he has been satisfied with one at a time and if he should get the Republican nomination the Democrats could name another excellent gentleman without much trouble.
The State Game Commission threatens to force a resident hunters license law through the next Legislature but nobody is greatly alarmed. The Game Commission threatened the same thing two years ago and failed so badly that it never found out what hit it.

Proper Place for Conspirators.

We can imagine nothing more posterous than the recent suggestion of GEORGE W. GUTHRIE that Hon. WALTER E. RITTER, chairman of the Democratic State Central committee, meet him in conference for the purpose of arranging the preliminaries of the coming Democratic State convention. The preliminaries of the coming Democratic State convention will be arranged this year precisely as the preliminaries of previous Democratic State conventions have been arranged. That is to say the Democratic State executive committee will assemble at noon of the day previous to the convention and select the temporary officers in accordance with the rules and Mr. GUTHRIE will have nothing to do about it.
Mr. GUTHRIE, A. MITCHELL PALMER and VANCE C. McCORMICK have entered into a conspiracy to destroy the Democratic organization of Pennsylvania in order that they may establish a political trading post upon the ruins. GUTHRIE'S impudent request for consultation, outside of the rules of the party, in the matter of arranging the preliminaries of the State convention was a feature of this conspiracy. In 1896, 1900 and 1908 these arch traitors attempted to accomplish the same result by a different and more honorable process. But they failed then, though they helped to defeat the Democratic candidate for President, and they will fail again for the reason that the chairman of the Democratic State committee will treat the request with silent contempt.
Those of the conspirators who were elected delegates to the Democratic State convention and those who present properly executed proxies of men who were regularly elected, will be admitted to seats in the convention upon the presentation of proper credentials. But they will comport themselves with proper humility and take the places in the convention to which they are entitled. There will be no parleying with them, no trifling. They are conspirators and entitled to little, if any, consideration at the hands of the veterans who have maintained a party organization under adverse conditions for years and in spite of treachery. These facts should be thoroughly understood.
It appears that after all there was a deficit in the Postoffice Department last year notwithstanding Mr. HITCHCOCK'S report to the contrary. There is a tradition that figures won't lie but it must be admitted that they can be made to misrepresent things.
Expose the Political Pharisees.
The House of Representatives at Washington has passed an act requiring the publication of the sources of revenue and the amounts expended for or by Presidential candidates. This action is the result of an assertion by Representative MCKINLEY, of Illinois, manager of the TAFT campaign, that GEORGE W. PERKINS, head of the Harvester trust, Mr. MUNCY, Director of the Steel trust, and other offensive and notorious trust magnates are financing the ROOSEVELT campaign. The Roosevelt managers were altogether too free with money in New York and Pennsylvania, the story goes, and the TAFT adherents are curious to know where it came from. To our mind it is a proper cause of inquiry.
THEODORE ROOSEVELT belongs to that class of political pharisees who question the integrity of everybody else and are themselves steeped in iniquity. In the campaign of eight years ago when ROOSEVELT was the candidate, every trust and corporation which was vulnerable was literally "held up," for corruption funds while the beneficiary of this outrageous operation was professing political righteousness and personally assisting in the infamous extortion. This year he is pursuing the same course and the friends of TAFT propose to expose him. How far they will succeed depends upon the action of the Senate for if that body concurs in the House bill, publicity is certain to follow.
In this State the Democrats have more than an ordinary interest in this legislation for while it does not contemplate an exposure of the expenses of local candidates it will give an excuse for inquiry upon that subject. In Harrisburg, for example, there is a political pharisee whose expenditures ought to be inquired into. We have reference to VANCE C. McCORMICK, who was elected a delegate to the Democratic State convention, after an orgy of bribery and corruption which has not been equalled since he ran for Mayor of the city and votes were openly bought for him at prices ranging from ten to twenty dollars each. Some method must be discovered to check these millionaire party pirates or popular government will come to an end.

Let Us Have Peace.

From the Harrisburg Star-Independent.
It is sincerely hoped that there will not be a strike of railroad men or mine workers this year—or any other year. If both classes of workers strike at the same time the ordinary consumer, the man without a long bank roll, might as well tie a stone about his neck and jump into forty fathoms of water.
If the railroad men and the miners win their demands for increased wages, the prices of coal and certain other commodities will be increased. That is an assured fact, from which there is no escape. The mine operators and the railroad companies will not pay the wage advances out of their own pockets, nor out of the dividends of stockholders, but will add them to the cost of operation and the consumers will pay all. If the granting of the demands of the workers be preceded by a strike, the condition will be much worse, and it will be deplorable if both classes strike at the same time and railroads and anthracite mines be forced to suspend operations simultaneously. The effect of such a suspension would be staggering. And the consumers would probably be obliged to pay more for necessities after the strike, no matter which side won.
Prices of commodities and necessities are still going up. The meat barons are making the meek and helpless public pay the cost—and more of their long fight against the Sherman law. Agricultural products are unbelievably high. For instance, a head of ordinary cabbage which one could buy for a nickel a few years ago now costs twenty cents. But it is unnecessary to harp on this subject, and the Star-Independent doesn't want to seem a pessimist. But it hopes that there will be nothing but peace in the industries and that modest salaries may keep souls and bodies together for a while longer.
Blocked by Senate Standpatters.
From the Johnstown Democrat.
The Democratic House of Representatives started out, in this session of Congress, to cut down the expenses of government. Many slashes were made into government extravagance, but in each case the cut was made without the most careful study. The effort to save money was thoroughly honest.
The economy plan of the Democrats, however, is being fought at every turn by the Senate standpatters, who have promptly put back into the appropriation bills either all or a large part of the amounts left out of them as they left the House.
The Democrats cut eight millions from the army bill and three millions from the bill of Columbia bill, cutting out the public buildings bill altogether. This latter bill, in past sessions, has been the source of an expense of millions of dollars annually and the Democrats proposed to put a stop to the practice, long prevalent, of building magnificent postoffices in villages.
The Senate old guard, which regards the right to dip into the treasury at will as a God-given prerogative, promptly placed the items back in the bills, unless the Democrats take drastic action, will carry the old amounts.
The Democratic leaders have threatened to take that drastic action; and unless the Senate yields in conference the Democrats may stir up a fuss that will arouse the whole country.
One of the reasons, if not the main reason, the Senate standpatters desire to spend government money so lavishly, is that they hope, by pointing to the large expense of running the government, to justify the alleged necessity for a high tariff, on the ground that only a high tariff will bring in sufficient revenue.
The "Why" of Mr. Perkins.
From the New York World.
Why should George W. Perkins contribute \$150,000 to help Mr. Roosevelt carry the Republican primaries in New York State?
Is it because Mr. Perkins is an ardent believer in the initiative and referendum?
Is it because his confidence in "a pure Democracy" is such that he is willing to make any financial sacrifice in order that the nation may achieve this goal?
Is it because he believes that Theodore Roosevelt is the only statesman who is wise enough and patriotic enough to be President?
Or is it because Mr. Perkins finds in Mr. Roosevelt the most serviceable weapon for destroying the Sherman anti-trust law?
Mr. Perkins is chairman of the finance committee of the Harvester Trust. He is a director of the Steel Trust. He is a director of the Standard Oil bank. He was formerly a partner of J. P. Morgan and Co. Mr. Perkins helped collect the life insurance money for the Roosevelt campaign fund in 1904, and he is a very practical man.
If he gave \$150,000 to the Roosevelt campaign fund in New York, how much has he given to the Roosevelt campaign fund in other States, and why?
Strike Will be a Calamity.
From the Altoona Times.
A grave responsibility rests upon the officials of the eastern railroads and the representatives of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers. A general strike of engineers on these lines, if carried through with sufficient thoroughness to tie up the traffic, would create a condition of business paralysis throughout the eastern States.
The simple question of securing adequate food supplies in the larger cities might produce a situation of the utmost danger to the public. But, back of this, there is the threat of a possible shutdown in countless manufacturing enterprises through inability to handle their output or to secure supplies.
In a few weeks' time, if the strike should be prolonged, the 35,000 engineers who were idle would be joined by thousands of other idle workers, while hundreds of thousands of dollars would be lost.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

A strike at the Patton silk mill has been settled by the non-union employees joining the union. Wage differences had been adjusted.
If Clearfield wants to own the water plant it will have to pay the company \$300,644.51 for it, according to the statement furnished the Clearfield council by the water company.
Small cottages are being erected at the Creson sanatorium and it is expected that the big institution will be ready within two months. Many victims of tuberculosis have already applied for admission.
Lewisburg is without a burgess, W. W. Wolfe having refused to accept the appointment at a salary of \$50. Council has voted to increase the stipend to \$200, but the increase will not take effect until after the next election.
Twenty large excursions will be run to Gettysburg on Memorial day by the four railroads that reach that historic town. These trains will carry more than 10,000 people, and Gettysburg is looking to one of the biggest crowds of any Memorial day.
Several DuBois boys a few days ago made a cannon of a pipe of lead. They were having a fine time until the cannon went off, burning Gaylord Stage, aged 12 years, terribly about the head and face and blowing a hole nearly through the palm of one hand.
Uriah Kitchen, of Beech Creek, who paid his first visit to Philadelphia seventy-two years ago, traveling by a canal boat, recently paid a visit to his grandchildren in that city. He is now 88 years old, but is able to enjoy the marvelous changes since his first visit.
James Meyer, aged 24, fell down stairs at Oklahona, near DuBois, fracturing his skull and breaking his back. He is paralyzed from his waist down, but regained his senses. The young man, who was crippled before the accident, was a barber and had many friends.
Wilkes-Barre police are trying to fathom the mystery of the death of Alex. Kacronoske, who was found in a park with a bullet in his head. He was to have been married that day and, as no weapon was found near him, his friends think that a jealous rival killed him.
To prevent boys and girls from carrying on clandestine correspondence, Postmaster A. E. Kurtz, of Conneville, has prohibited the delivery of letters at the general delivery to minors whose parents are local residents, unless on a written order from the parents.
The Johnstown Leader says that the next school year will witness the installation of a male high school principal in that city. The present incumbent is Miss Gertrude W. Wray, whose home is at Bellwood. The Leader does not in any way reflect upon her administration.
Two days after landing in this country from Italy with his wife and child, Regulo Giviano told the Wilkes-Barre police that his wife had disappeared along with his gold watch and \$60. The woman had been in America before and was acquainted with the man who disappeared at the same time.
Four Homer City homes were entered by burglars a few nights ago. At Constable Griffiths, a gold watch and \$25 were taken. At Steve Kunkles, his pocketbook, containing two cents, was the booty. At another home they passed by silverware and at the fourth they were frightened away.
C. H. Davis, of Phillipsburg, recently received a summons to appear before a Philadelphia magistrate to answer a charge of auto speeding in that city. As he had never been more than fifty miles away from home with his car and as he could prove an alibi for that particular day, he didn't journey to the Quaker city. Another Phillipsburg autist had a similar experience last year.
The nude body of a week old girl baby was found in the river near the shore at Sunbury, Monday evening by two boys. The coroner and chief of police are investigating the case. At present there is no clue to the parents of the child. A post mortem examination showed the babe was born healthy and had evidently been smothered as it was decided it was dead when thrown into the river.
A McKeesport young man some time ago advertised for a wife and, after some correspondence, the lady who answered the advertisement went to that town to be married. Arriving at night she didn't like the quarters provided for her and said so. The young man took her to a hotel, then disappeared. She paid her own way back to New York and both were glad to call off the bargain.
After slaying his aged wife, Sarah, supposedly while insane, because of unfounded jealousy, Stephen Wellmon, a wealthy farmer, descended from an upper room of his home near Lincolnville, Crawford county, Sunday afternoon, and forced his terrified young grandson, Grisdon Wellmon, to execute him by blowing off his head with a shot gun. The dead grandparents were aged 65 each; the child nine.
Within the next month or so the National Guard of Pennsylvania will be equipped with new olive drab service uniforms, patterned after the coats worn by the men of the United States army in all respects, except the trimming used to designate their membership in the state militia. The regulations are to be made by the commanders of organizations without delay, as the uniforms will not be issued after June 1.
It is almost a year since George Lauer, of Fryburg, Clarion county, reported that his horse had been stolen and since that time the search has been maintained by an association of which he is a member. The nag has been located at Johnstown, and had changed hands many times before being found. The last owner was an innocent purchaser and has compromised with Lauer by giving him a reduced but fair price for the animal.
George C. Bayless, president, and Frederick N. Hamlin, superintendent, of the Bayless Pulp and Paper Co., of Austin, who were indicted at Coudersport, for voluntary manslaughter after the Bayless dam at Austin broke last September with great loss of life and property, has petitioned the Supreme court of Pennsylvania to grant a change of venue for their trial, alleging that they cannot secure a fair trial in Potter county, because of the popular prejudice which there exists against them.
The rebuilding of the bridge of the Lewisburg Bridge company that spans the river at Lewisburg and is extensively used by the Lewisburg and Tyrone branch of the Pennsylvania railroad and trolley companies, will be a unique piece of engineering as the present old wood structure that has seen service for many years is to be replaced by one of steel and that too with little or no interruption of the railway or trolley service. The Pennsylvania Steel company, of Steelton, has the erection of the new bridge, at a cost of about \$85,000.
Through Sprout & Cupp, their attorneys, Mrs. Mary A. Duggan and Timothy F. Duggan, her husband, brought suit against the city of Williamsport Friday afternoon, for damages in the sum of \$10,000 each, alleged to have been sustained as the result of a fall by Mrs. Duggan on August 9th, 1911, at which time the plaintiffs alleged that Mrs. Duggan tripped and fell over a board when she was passing another pedestrian on the sidewalk. The board was loose and one end was elevated when the other passerby trod upon it. It is asserted that Mrs. Duggan was badly injured and that it became necessary to expend \$1,000 for surgical and medical relief and that she still suffers.