

INK SLINGS.

—In four weeks the Great Centre County Fair will be in full blast.

—New York boasts of having 11,463 lawyers, and yet there are people who wonder at the lawlessness reported from that city.

—Bellefonte women are bound to have a "Mother's Club." Other towns are satisfied that a "slipper" is best to accomplish the same end.

—Unprecedented wind-storms are predicted for the neighborhood of Chicago about August 5th. Yes, that's the date that Mr. ROOSEVELT is scheduled to break out again.

—Evidently some army officer has been enjoying beef-steak for breakfast at Fort Harrison. Over \$7,000 have mysteriously disappeared from the government safe at that post.

—Judge ARCHBOLD denies the charges against him in the articles of impeachment. He admits that he did some of the things he is accused of doing but declares he meant no harm.

—And yet there are people who complain because Senatorial baths cost \$6.00 each. Evidently these public economists never think of comparing that price with what a Senatorial white-wash would cost.

—Mr. PENROSE's part of the Republican party, here in Pennsylvania, now purpose holding another convention. And we don't wonder. It's about the only thing the other Republicans seem willing to allow them to hold.

—If we were seriously asked about the kind of a defense the Republicans are making, the decision would have to be that they are making no defense at all. To us it appears like a clean case of "making for the woods."

—That KELLEY automobile from Snow Shoe that killed a mule one week and seriously injured two ladies the next needs a less careless driver soon or the cost of its up-keep will more than counterbalance all the pleasure its owner has gotten out of it.

—Since chairman GUTHRIE has announced the names of the men who compose his new finance committee there are people unkind enough to suggest that a tight lid on the contribution box, when there is a full meeting, might not be an unwelcome precaution.

—A Connecticut Congressman announces the fact that he will quit public service at the close of the present session. There are a number of Pennsylvania Congressmen who have no need to make any such proclamation to convince the people that they will do likewise.

—It is only a suggestion, but possibly if our Republican friends out in Ohio would get a few foot-warmers they might be able to keep some of their nominees on the ticket, for a while at least. From this distance their trouble looks very much like an epidemic of cold-feet among their statesmen.

—The new regime in the Democratic party in Pennsylvania asks us to go too far when it demands that every Representative and Senator pledge himself not to support any appropriations to institutions other than those controlled by the State. We're for the Bellefonte hospital and against the election of any Member or Senator who isn't free to be for it too.

—One of our innocent but curious Democratic exchanges says: "Many Democratic voters are now wondering from what point or at what time the 'voice of the Democratic people' was either sought or heard in the formation of the numerous, and heretofore unheard of, committees that have lately been announced by chairman GUTHRIE as having been formed and selected to manage and conduct things for the Democratic party." Evidently "wondering" Democrats forget that Mr. GUTHRIE really believes himself to be the people and that when he speaks, their voice is heard in every point to which it penetrates.

—The Bull Moose party in Centre county has adopted the name of Washington as the title by which they will be known. Former Recorder BILL BROWN, president of the school board Dr. LOCKE and ROGER BROUSE are the reputed leading Bull Moose of the community and whether "once a Moose always a Moose" will hold good in their case remains for the future to reveal. Their patron Saint ROOSEVELT has had to do with Ananias clubs so much recently that we presume they selected the name "Washington" as a sort of hint to TEDDY that it might strengthen their cause if he were to remember the cherry tree incident and tell no more stories.

—The indictment of a New York police lieutenant for the murder of a notorious gambler has uncovered a system of graft in that city that is almost unbelievable. It is now declared that Lieut. BECKER received no less than \$600,000 a year as his share of the rake off of protected gambling houses and that it was at his order that ROSENTHAL, one of the gamblers who was about to squeal, was murdered to keep his story from coming out. It is to be hoped that the clean-up in the New York police force will be complete enough to insure the world that the men uniformed to protect the public in that city are not worse thugs than those who do not wear the badge of authority.

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The New Excise Bill.

Of course those who are opposed to an income tax will contend that the excise law which passed the House of Representatives some time ago and was concurred in by the Senate, the other day, is unconstitutional. It provides for a graduated tax on incomes in excess of \$5000 and the Supreme court decided that the income tax feature of the WILSON tariff bill was unconstitutional. But Congress has since enacted a law imposing a tax on the incomes of corporations and the constitutionality of it has been affirmed by the court of last resort. Therefore there are no perceptible reasons why it should be assumed in advance that this law is unconstitutional.

The most perfect system of taxation that can be conceived is that which puts the burdens on those most able to bear them. But the opposite policy has been the rule in this country for a half century and the poor have paid the expenses while the rich have enjoyed the benefits of government. It is true that when age and infirmity render men incapable of paying or earning asylums are generously provided under this system of paterfamilias. But if the poor were obliged to pay less when they are earning there would be fewer of them subjects of charity later. In fact if they were only required to pay their share while able to earn most of them would be able to take care of themselves after their capacity to earn had been exhausted.

During the campaign for the Presidency four years ago Mr. TAFT declared that no new legislation would be necessary to validate an income tax law. After his election he inferentially reversed himself by recommending an amendment to the constitution authorizing Congress to levy an income tax. Again he reversed himself two years ago by recommending the excise law which was a feature of the PAYNE-ALDRICH tariff law, for it achieved, so far as corporations are concerned, what the WILSON income tax law contemplated. The new bill simply extends to individuals the tax which the PAYNE-ALDRICH law imposed upon corporations and the people will await with interest the action of the President up on it.

—The decrease in the rate of tariff tax on sugar is so slight as to be scarcely perceptible but the Democrats in Congress will insist on something better on the wool schedule. Sugar is an important food product but clothing and blankets are essential to life and health.

Hilles Squelches Roosevelt.

National chairman HILLES, of the TAFT faction of the Republican party, makes a complete and convincing answer to the ROOSEVELT charge that the nomination was stolen. He says, as the WATCHMAN declared at the time, that the 238 contests instituted in the interest of ROOSEVELT were "not for the purpose of really securing seats in the convention, nor for the purpose of adding evidence which would lead any respectable court to entertain the contests, but for the purpose of deceiving the public into the belief that Mr. ROOSEVELT had more votes than he really had, as the conventions and primaries were in progress for the selection of delegates." This is a very old and shabby political trick.

Having thus exposed the political immorality and personal hypocrisy of Mr. ROOSEVELT, chairman HILLES proceeds to a statement of the facts in detail. Beginning with Arizona he lays bare the circumstances in each case to the last in the Texas list and concludes with the emphatic allegation that "the action of the ROOSEVELT men in bringing 160 contests that they promptly abandoned strongly tended to show the lack of good faith in the prosecution of all of them."

Mr. ROOSEVELT himself admitted that the 160 contests withdrawn had been entered without expectation of favorable consideration. Mr. HILLES shows that the seventy-four which were not withdrawn were equally without just reason. There is absolutely but one reason for ROOSEVELT's candidacy, and that is his lust for power. When he relinquished the office to his self-appointed successor four years ago he believed that there would be no difficulty in getting back this year. The panic of 1907 had made his re-election then an impossibility and he appointed the easy-going and pleasure-loving Mr. TAFT to hold the place for him for a time. When TAFT refused to get out of his way, therefore, he became incensed and determined to run anyway and take chances of success because there was a certainty of defeating TAFT. But the people will not gratify his ambition. They know that if elected this time he never will give up the office.

—The cost of politics is certainly high this year but politics is less a necessity than potatoes.

Wilson's Democratic Idea.

On his return from his voyage of rest, the other day, Governor WILSON was informed that political gossip had it that he was "keenly dissatisfied with the way Congress is acting on the battleship matter." To this the Democratic nominee for President promptly replied: "My attitude on Congress is that I have no right to intervene in the program of the Democratic majority of the House." In other words Governor WILSON believes in the literal construction of the fundamental law which forbids executive encroachment upon the legislative prerogatives of Congress. Each of the co-ordinate branches of the government has its duties and obligations and is responsible to the people.

If there were any doubts in the minds of any men as to the pure Democracy of WOODROW WILSON, that answer should at once and completely remove them. That was the policy rigidly adhered to by all Presidents of the United States previous to the lamentable elevation of THEODORE ROOSEVELT, whose abnormal lust for power influenced him to not only usurp the prerogatives of Congress but to try to brow-beat the Supreme court. President TAFT in his weakness has to some extent followed the malign example of his predecessor but upon the induction of WOODROW WILSON into the office that evil will be eliminated entirely. The old-fashioned ideas will be restored, to remain for all time.

No better or more comforting message could be conveyed to the Democratic people of the country than this. It indicates tranquility for the present as well as safety for the future.

With the executive dominating Congress whether by the use of patronage or bribe or threats to coerce, disorder is inevitable and well meaning citizens of all political opinions must be gratified that such danger is past.

WOODROW WILSON will be President, after his inauguration next March, but he will not undertake to legislate or interpret. Those duties will be performed by Congress and the courts and they will be performed the better because there will be no executive interference.

—The Arbuckle says they wanted free sugar five years ago. Most of the sugar refiners, according to court records, have been getting it nearly free ever since 1907, by cheating the government. Meantime it may be said that the people have been hankering after free sugar for thirty years.

Bill Flinn's Early Troubles.

Poor BILL FLINN is already encountering opposition in his own faction. His scheme to steal the Republican organization to use in fighting the Republican ticket is being repudiated on every hand. He was able to convince ROOSEVELT, who is a moral pervert, but the more conscientious ROOSEVELT followers in the State refuse to agree. They reason wisely that ROOSEVELT would be stronger running on a purely ROOSEVELT ticket and FLINN cannot refute the proposition. But if FLINN adopts that plan he will be obliged to relinquish his control of the Republican machinery and that is what he is reluctant to do. The Bull Moose party will not survive defeat and FLINN will then be a dead one.

If FLINN could carry out his perfidious plan, and ROOSEVELT is not averse to it, he might carry both his electoral and State tickets to success and he would certainly defeat TAFT in the State. But TAFT as the nominee of his party and his friends as stalwart Republicans will not allow FLINN to thus betray them. Mr. YOUNG and Mr. POWELL are Republican candidates, not Bull Moose representatives. If they support or even acquiesce in FLINN's perfidy, PENROSE will be literally obliged, in the interest of TAFT, to nominate candidates against them. Everybody knows what the result of that will be. The candidates of both factions will be defeated and W. H. BERRY and ROBERT E. CRESSWELL elected.

This would really be a fortunate solution of the problem for the people. We have no doubt that everything FLINN says of the PENROSE machine is true and are equally confident that what is universally said concerning FLINN's political immorality can be proved. There have been all kinds of corruption in the departments at Harrisburg and the villainy ought to be exposed and cast out. The election of BERRY and CRESSWELL will give the genuine opposition to machine government a majority on the Board of Public Grounds and Buildings and the revelations will certainly follow. For these reasons FLINN's present discomfiture is a cause for popular felicitation.

—The ladies of the United Brethren church will hold a social and sale on Saturday evening, August 3rd, in the room adjoining the church. The public is invited.

The Question of Battleships.

We sincerely hope that the Democrats in Congress will not find it necessary to recede from the position taken in caucus on the subject of battleships. By a considerable majority it was decided to refuse to authorize the construction of any new battleships. The Senate insists on two of these enormously expensive national toys but it is said is willing to compromise on one. A few Democrats in the body whose constituency might be benefited by such an opportunity for graft, favor the compromise upon the ground that the last Democratic National platform declares for an adequate navy. But that fact should not influence the minds of the majority of the House. The navy is amply adequate now.

The only excuse which can be given for additional battleships is that they are a source of graft to those who build them and the maintenance and manning of them keep the people poor. The building and equipment of two modern dreadnaughts will cost in the neighborhood of \$40,000,000. The manning and maintenance will cost well onto \$5,000,000 a year. This burden falls upon the taxpayers, already staggering under the load of taxation, direct and indirect, and the high cost of living. Men thus hampered are not independent citizens. They are simply slaves to conditions and obliged to yield obedience to the masters who control them. A hungry stomach is the most tyrannical taskmaster.

It is the first duty of the Democrats in Congress to lighten the burdens of the government wherever and whenever it is possible. We can imagine no place so available for substantial economies as in the matter of naval construction. At best a battleship is efficient for only a few years. We have enough of these play things of plutocrats for a dozen years to come and by that time the development of marine engineering will have evolved an entirely new type. That being the case why not make our present supply serve the purpose until we really need others? Meantime the development of our resources will make us better able to bear the expense of construction and the cost of maintenance.

—ROOSEVELT doesn't dispute the evidence presented by National Chairman HILLES in support of the integrity of TAFT's nomination. But he declares that TAFT is a thief and in the minds of Bull Moosers that is a sufficient answer.

Here Are the Platform Pledges.

At the request of a number of our readers, who were interested in an article published in last week's issue of the WATCHMAN, under the head of "Not For It By a Long Shot," we give the resolution of the Democratic State platform referred to, in full, as well as the resolution of the State committee, demanding the pledge that our "progressive" friends purpose having each Democratic candidate for Senate or Legislature subscribe to prior to the election:

PLATFORM PLEDGE.

"With a record of pledges kept and promises redeemed and with an organization freed from all corrupt alliances, and responsive to the will of the voters, the Democratic party again asks the suffrages of the citizens of Pennsylvania. It will enter into no obligation which it cannot meet. It pledges itself as soon as it attains power in the State to pass the necessary measures to make elections free and easily expressive of the popular will, and in particular to repeal those provisions of the law permitting the assistance of voters not physically incapacitated.

"To provide for the effective control of all public utilities, and to amend and reform the corporation laws of the State."

"To abolish the present corrupt and extravagant system of State appropriations for charitable purposes, which has been such a potent agency to coerce the Legislature, and to provide that hereafter no appropriations of State funds shall be made except for purely State controlled charities."

STATE COMMITTEE DEMAND.

"Whereas, the people of Pennsylvania have a right to know the position of any candidate for the State Senate or for Representative in the General Assembly concerning any measures that will be brought before the Legislature to enforce the declarations made in the various party platforms, now therefore,

"Be it resolved, that we call upon each and every Senatorial and Legislative nominee of the Democratic party in this State to file with the chairman of the State Central committee for publication a written declaration of his approval of the various progressive measures advocated by the Democratic party, and his pledge that if elected, he will support the legislation necessary to carry the same into effect."

"And should the candidate fail or refuse to file within thirty days thereafter, such written declaration or pledge, the chairman of the State Central committee is authorized and is hereby directed to publish the fact for the information of the electors."

To Create a Diversion.

From the Johnstown Democrat.

The Republican newspapers, both reactionary and progressive, imagine they are creating political capital by quoting passages from the writings of Woodrow Wilson, of twenty years ago, and comparing them with his utterances today. Their ostensible purpose is to show that Gov. Wilson is inconsistent, and therefore unstable; their real purpose is to divert attention from the real issues of the campaign—the tariff and the trusts. Nothing would suit the predatory interests better than to turn this campaign from a discussion of economic principles to one of personal vilification and slander such as the Taft-Roosevelt primary campaign, for example.

Basely conscious of the fact that their cause is based on industrial injustice and political corruption, they feel their inability to defend it in the political arena. Their fondest hope, therefore, is to divert the issue from the legitimate field of principle to one of mere personalities. The course they have adopted, however, to accomplish this laudable purpose is very foolish, to say the least. In the first place, they will not be permitted to divert the issues; and, in the second place, their inconsistency feature will prove a boomerang. The inconsistencies they charge Gov. Wilson with are the very qualities which have endeared him to the people. He has inspired their confidence and won their respect because he would rather be right than be consistent. Adherence to truth, fidelity to conscience and loyalty to the highest ideals look like inconsistencies to the shallow-minded, but to the sincere and thoughtful they are incontestable evidences of the highest qualities of heart and brain.

During his gubernatorial campaign the progressive Republicans erroneously imagined that they had dug Woodrow Wilson's political grave when they submitted and demanded that he declare himself. They expected that in order to be consistent he would either ignore or repudiate them. No more astonished set of men ever lived than they were, when they assumed them that every one of the propositions met with his unqualified approval.

Woodrow Wilson's sterling integrity, intellectual honesty, great ability and his intimate knowledge of public affairs will be a full and complete answer to the silly charge of inconsistency.

Mr. Taft's Defense.

From the Harrisburg Star-Independent.

The statement which was given to the public from the White House Monday, in which the contests at the Chicago convention were reviewed, and the reasons were given to acquit the President and his supporters in their own eyes, but it will hardly convince others that they were innocent of wrongdoing. The undeniable fact is that the steam roller was used effectively at that convention as it has been used at other. Another fact is that the people have already made up their minds as to the merits of the case, and the President's friends and opponents are not to be swerved in their belief.

The statement in which the President's position is set forth was prepared by native-born Chairman HILLES, and it was bound to be favorable to the candidate. He is counsel for the President and as such is not likely to say anything against the interests of his principal. It must be admitted that he makes a strong and almost convincing plea. But it does not convince everybody. The statement makes much of the fact that the 238 contests were reduced to 74, and says that "the very fact of these 164 frivolous contests itself reflects upon the genuineness and validity of the remainder."

That will not be accepted as a logical conclusion. It was never admitted by the ROOSEVELT people that the 164 contests were abandoned because they were frivolous, but that they were dropped in order that the business of the convention might be expedited and because the seating of the 74 would give the ROOSEVELT people undoubted control of the convention. The entire strength of the ROOSEVELT men was concentrated on the 74, in the hope that these might be seated. The TAFT forces decided against them, but that did not settle the question of their eligibility.

In spite of the White House statement the discussion will go on. It will not shake a single Roosevelt man nor bring to the Taft banner a single Progressive.

Crooked Police Officials.

From the Altoona Times.

The arrest of a New York police lieutenant on the charge of being accessory to the murder of Rosenthal, a gambler who was aiding the district attorney in disclosing the partnership between the authorities and organized vice, gives form and substance to the charge that the police department was at the bottom of this heinous crime. While Lieutenant Becker has been under suspicion from the beginning, it has been a matter of adverse comment that his superiors have permitted him to pursue his duties as a police officer. This defiance of popular sentiment has aroused the most intense hostility against the police of New York, and that they have been compelled to accord belated respect to the demands of the community indicates that eventually those who have maintained illicit relations with crooks must make way for honest men.

—The MIKADO is dead, long live the MIKADO. He was fifty-two years old, became Emperor at the age of fifteen and has done more than any one man for the progress of his country and people. Such examples of imperial life in contrast with the caving at Oyster Bay tend to reconcile one to that form of government. He is succeeded by his son.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

—Centre and Clearfield county Red Men will hold their annual reunion at Houtsdale on August 7.

—Work has been started on the new boiler shop at Avis. It will take nearly a year to complete the job.

—A largely attended farewell reception was tendered Bishop and Mrs. W. P. Eveland at Williamsport last Thursday evening.

—Citizens of Defiance and surrounding country are losing porkers by hog cholera. State authorities are aiding in combating the disease.

—The Cambria Steel company has been sued at Ebensburg by East Taylor township farmers for \$25,000 damages to their farms because of fumes from the dumps belonging to the company.

—The government has suspended mail delivery in York township, York county, on account of bad roads and farmers living along the route are threatening to take the suspension into court.

—Coke ovens are being used by the Latrobe-Connellville company to dry out a large quantity of wheat that was thought to have been ruined by the recent heavy rains falling while the grain was in the shock.

—When J. O. Ikeler's barn, near Bloomsburg, was burned by lightning on Saturday, forty pigs, ninety tons of hay and a large quantity of grain were consumed. Mr. Ikeler was badly burned getting out his horses.

—Justice J. H. Pisel, aged 80 years, heard thirteen suits in one batch a few days ago. They were against people who hadn't paid stock they subscribed in a manufacturing concern. He will think over the matter before deciding.

—Philipsburg pastors have united in open air meetings at South park on Sunday evenings. The first was held last Sunday and they will be continued through August. The band leads the music, old hymns are sung and twenty-minute sermons are the rule.

—Maynard Deal, near Wilcox, is being hunted by police of Clearfield and Jefferson counties. He shot his wife, they say, after a quarrel, with intent to kill. She threw up her hands and dodged so that the bullet, instead of striking her head, went through her thumb.

—There is an epidemic of cholera infantum in the Eighth ward, Johnstown, and blood poison from mosquito bites is also prevalent. One woman is in a serious condition. Another narrowly escaped having an arm amputated from the effects of having her hand cut on a tin can.

—Mrs. Elizabeth B. Stroh, who died at her home in Lucknow following an operation for appendicitis at Harrisburg weighed 318 pounds, and the casket was so large that funeral services could not be held until the door jambs and much of the surrounding woodwork had been removed by carpenters.

—The State pure food division has ordered prosecutions in sixty cases of men in Philadelphia caught selling soft drinks that were adulterated with saccharine and flavored with coal tar dyes and other deleterious matters that are considered unfit for food. The penalty is \$50 fine or three months in prison.

—After having predicted Wednesday evening of last week that he would be dead before the week was past, Ezra Kyle, a veteran of the Civil war and a recluse, was found dead about 8 o'clock Friday evening at his home a short distance north of Duncansville, Blair county. From all indications death came to the aged man under natural conditions.

—Charles Mack is in jail at Brookville, with two bullet wounds in his right shoulder, under charge of murdering Frank Cellata. The man had made the trip across the sea together and had been in this country only a week when the drunken quarrel occurred that had a fatal termination. According to witnesses the dead man fired the first shot.

—Northumberland council recently asked \$15,000 of the trolley company for a certain crossing franchise. The company said "no" and the council died. Then the company put a lot of men to work. A fire alarm was sounded and the firemen turned on the water. They kept it on until the borough authorities got back from Sunbury with an injunction.

—A one dollar bill was the reward which Clayton, son of Henry Kaseman of Shamokin, received for his honesty in returning to its owner \$2,500, which he had found on the road between Fisher's Ferry and Herndon last Friday. The money was in a coat that had been picked up by the young man and was the property of George R. Phillips, of Fisher's Ferry.

—Farm labor is so scarce in Lawrence county that farmers are calling on Sheriff Whaley to ascertain if there are any prisoners to be discharged soon who might likely be induced to take a job at \$2 a day and board. Several such applications have been received by the Sheriff within the past few days, but as there have been few prisoners in jail no help has been secured.

—Byron C. Barclay, aged 26 years, accidentally touched a heavily charged wire while working at the top of a pole at Barnesboro and was electrocuted. He would have graduated next term from a Philadelphia electrical engineering institution and was betrothed to a Clearfield girl. He was to have been relieved that very day and gone to his home at Clearfield for the balance of the vacation.

—T. S. Bratton, of Huntingdon, while taking an evening stroll on the hill back of the town, was hit on the back of the head and knocked unconscious. After three and a half hours he revived and found himself lying in a small stream with his pockets rifled. He had left his gold watch at home and had but 50 cents in his pocket-book. The illness brought about by the shock and chill was more expensive than the robbery.

—Meadville is priding itself upon the fact that there is no tainted money in that city. In conformity to a suggestion from the State Board of Health all money passed out by the banks in Meadville is chemically treated before being given out on checks or for change. The process is simple, the banks being provided with a large tin box, which is filled with an antiseptic germ-killing fluid that has no bad effect upon either the ink or the paper and when the note leaves the bank it is entirely free from contagion.

—Carrolltown has an epidemic of measles that is causing the health authorities of that place considerable work to get the disease stamped out. There are some fifty cases in the town but now that a quarantine is being enforced the physicians are successfully combating the disease. Measles got a good start because of the failure of the people to report their cases and children, ailing with them, were permitted to roam about the streets and mingle with other children. The situation is now well in hand and the physicians hope to soon stamp out the epidemic.

—Thomas Urell, aged 45, a business man of Tioga, is in the Blossburg hospital with both arms and both legs broken and may die from injuries received in an automobile accident. In a runaway owned and driven by Clarence Davis, of Middlebury, were Mr. Urell and another Tiogan named Hoyt. It is only a two-seated car and Mr. Urell was sitting on Mr. Hoyt's lap. They were going towards Mansfield and as they sped down the steep hill just before reaching the railroad crossing did not hear the New York Central coal train approaching. When they did realize the danger, Mr. Davis set the brakes so quickly and the car stopped so short that Mr. Urell was thrown out directly in front of the locomotive which struck him and threw him to one side of the track. The other occupants of the automobile were unhurt.