

INK SLINGS.

—What has become of one, THEODORE ROOSEVELT?
—Anyway we had a white Christmas and that means a lean grave yard.
—New Years day was not New Year's day without the Pleasant Gap Mummies.
—If the new year is as full of sunshine as its first day was won't 1913 be a joy for all mankind.
—There is some country butter that can't be shipped by parcels post. It is the kind that is too strong for the bags to hold.
—Constant use of hard water is said to have a bad effect on the finger nails, but the average girl of sixteen dreads the effect of dish water more.
—Boss FLINN has lost his voice for the time being, but that won't interfere with FLINN's plans. His money does the most of his practical talking anyhow.
—Leap-year has gone and many a girl who would have made a good wife will be a suffragette before another opportunity to speak for herself rolls around.
—The war in the Balkans will assume the character of an opera bouffe affair when compared with the fight that is scheduled for the Legislature at Harrisburg.

—The ex-president of Venezuela, CIPRIANO CASTRO, sailed over from France to visit us then sailed right back again. Truth is that Uncle SAM wasn't real glad to see CIP.
—Only about fourteen weeks more until the trout fishing season opens so that the fellow who quit working when the game season closed won't have so long to loaf, after all.
—The parcels post is now in operation in the United States and it is not unreasonable to suppose that ere long Uncle Sam's mail carriers will be carrying their loads in express wagons.

—Go to it, you fellows who are after office. What have you been voting and working for the party for all these years for if you can't get under the plum tree when WOODROW shakes it.
—President TAFT held his last large official reception on New Year's day. It must have been a sad affair for the distinguished gentleman who such a short while ago had visions of succeeding himself.
—How does it come that church folk have "Watch" meetings to see the old year out and the new year in and then are invariably on their knees praying with their eyes tight shut when the instant of transition arrives?

—This year has the traditional unlucky numerals 13, but keep your head up, your conscience clean, your heart pure and go ahead. If you do there will be more of success in it for you than any past one has been freighted with.
—The partisans of Cold Stream and the Moshannon over at Philipsburg have taken issue with those of the hops and the rye and an anti-license war is on. Among them be it. We have troubles enough of our own with that dam splash board in Spring creek.

—The Republican party in Pennsylvania surely seems to be between the upper and nether millstones. Neither PENROSE nor FLINN have enough strength to organize the Legislature and between them the Democrats hold the balance of power. The Democrats, however, are going to paddle their own canoe and hope, without making embarrassing alliances, to shape legislation to their own liking.
—The west is petitioning the President-elect to give JAMES J. HILL, the country's greatest railroad man, a position in his cabinet and the country generally second the petition, reserving the question as to Mr. HILL's age. The situation is a funny one, to say the least. For the country was so down on railroad and other magnates that that was one of the chief reasons for the election of WILSON.

—Mr. JAMES MCCREA was a great president of the Pennsylvania railroad but so were all his predecessors in office. Selecting great presidents has become a habit with the Pennsylvania railroad and we presume that Mr. MCCREA's successor, Mr. SAMUEL REA, will maintain the high standard which his predecessors, since EDGAR THOMPSON, established. We sincerely hope that Mr. MCCREA will enjoy the leisure he has earned and that Mr. REA will find enjoyment in the labors he has assumed.
—Thirty-eight men, more or less prominent in their respective lines of work, were found guilty of conspiracy in the Los Angeles dynamite case at Indianapolis last week. On Monday all of them but six were sentenced to imprisonment ranging from one to seven years. It is sad to contemplate the distress of the families of the convicted men, but over against that weigh the grief of the twenty-one families in Los Angeles whose heads were cruelly murdered through the campaign of dynamite for which they were primarily responsible. If these sentences end such outrages in America there should be no sorrow, but rather rejoicing that the law has asserted itself in a way to show no compromise with organized murder.

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The President-elect and Mr. Bryan.

Those enemies of Mr. WILLIAM JENNINGS BRYAN who are admonishing the President-elect against putting the Nebraska in the cabinet for the reason that he is likely to use the power thus acquired to prevent the renomination of Mr. WILSON pay a poor compliment to that gentleman. It is probably true that Mr. BRYAN will exhaust every resource at his command, whether in the cabinet or out of it, to get the Democratic nomination in 1916. If the public expectations of the incoming administration are fulfilled, this is substantially certain. Mr. BRYAN wants to be President and if the signs at that time indicate Democratic success he will hesitate at nothing to secure the nomination. But that will not deter President-elect WILSON from calling him into the cabinet if he believes the doing so will promote the welfare of the people.

In the first place it is not probable that WOODROW WILSON will be a candidate for re-election to the Presidency in 1916 or any other time. The platform adopted by the Baltimore convention declared unequivocally against the re-election of any President and the platform of the Baltimore convention is the political law and gospel of WOODROW WILSON. He may not be able to prevail upon Congress to fulfill every obligation imposed upon the party by that platform but he will easily be able to perform his own part in keeping the faith and may be confidently depended upon to do so. He is precisely that sort of a man. He believes in party obligations just as he believes in legal or other moral obligations and the intimation that he might entertain other thoughts upon his character not justified by anything he has done or said.

We are not among those who imagine that either the President-elect or the Democratic party is under such obligations to Mr. BRYAN as will make his appointment to a seat in the cabinet necessary. Mr. BRYAN has done much good work for the party and the country but he has been very highly honored by the party and the country doesn't seem to have been anxious to reward him in the manner he desired for his services. More-over he has not, of late years, been overly anxious to serve the party with the fidelity of former years. In 1910 he openly opposed and defeated the nominee of the party for Governor of Nebraska and has shown greater desire to punish leading Democrats than to benefit the party or the country. While we have no objections to Mr. BRYAN's elevation to a seat in the cabinet, therefore, we shall not disparage if the tender is not made.

But if Mr. BRYAN is not invited into the cabinet it will not be for the reason that the President-elect is afraid of interference with his future ambitions. The re-election of Presidents is a thing of the past. Even if the constitution is not so amended as to limit the office to one term the Democratic party is committed to that policy and no other party will elect a President of the United States within the next fifty years. The people have given their endorsement to the principles and policies of the Democratic party and the Democratic President and Democratic Congress intend to fulfill every pledge made during the recent campaign and that will guarantee a continuation in power so long as the faith is kept.

This is not official but it is absolutely true.
—Of course Postmaster General HITCHCOCK is speaking in the interest of the express companies rather than those of the people when he suggests that the adoption of parcels posts may make it necessary for the government to take over the express companies. The revenues of those corporations will materially diminish, no doubt, but that is no reason why they should be adopted and nurtured by the government. They have stolen enough from the public already and if they can't do business under the changed conditions there is nothing to prevent them taking up some other trade.

—It would be funny if Mr. GUTHRIE's committee to instruct Democratic Senators and Representatives in the Legislature how to vote would get its too important nose twitched the first time it undertakes to perform its impudent service. And there are Democratic Senators and Representatives with sufficient intelligence to perform their official duties and manhood enough to resent a usurpation of power that involves an aspersion upon their qualifications for office.

—One important advantage of the arrival of the new year lies in the fact that it brings us closer to the time when THEODORE ROOSEVELT "will stand revealed."

New Gospel of Democracy.

There is a good deal to commend in the proceedings of the Democratic State Central committee at its session in Harrisburg on the 19th ultimo. The speech of Chairman GUTHRIE, for example, as reported in the newspapers, was admirable in its tone and temper. Mr. GUTHRIE felicitated the party on its splendid achievement in the recent National election and flattered the vanity of the members of the committee by complimenting them upon their part in the performance. Of course those who indulge in the habit of thinking probably recalled the fact that the Democratic vote in Pennsylvania in 1912 was some 50,000 less than that of four years previously, but it may safely be said that Mr. GUTHRIE was not addressing that element of the Democratic electorate.

The extraordinary outburst of applause which followed the suggestion of Mr. HAGERTY that the platitudes about civil service reform are largely fuss and feustion and that the good old Jacksonian doctrine, "to the victors belong the spoils," still appeals strongly to the Democratic heart, was a discordant note in the sweet song of pretense. But it should be remembered that about ninety per cent. of those present and participating in the proceedings have hearts set upon the spoils and fondly hope for a chance to draw down fat salaries in the near future. It is all well enough for Mr. GUTHRIE and Mr. PALMER, who are practically certain of theirs, to play upon such vibrant strings. But the "smaller fry" know that they have a struggle before them and are anxious "to go to it."

We are unable to see, however, how the Senators and Representatives in the General Assembly, who were present, extracted enjoyment out of the proceedings. The appointment of a committee to not only prepare legislation but actually instruct the Senators and Representatives how to vote upon all questions which will be presented for their consideration, is plainly an aspersion upon their intelligence and a notice to the public that their representatives are incapable of performing their constitutional duties. Probably Mr. PALMER would resent such an aspersion upon his official actions and it is quite certain that Mr. GUTHRIE would regard such a censorship upon him as unnecessary. But it should be remembered that they are the bosses and are immune.

Nevertheless the meeting was interesting and in some respects illuminating. It clearly revealed the alertness of the new bosses of the party and the avidity with which they seek to impress themselves and their purposes upon the rank and file. The old custom was to urge unity of action and singleness of purpose upon the representatives of the party in the General Assembly, leaving to individuals the matter of initiative as well as the duty of determining the policies in legislation. But that is now regarded as reactionary. Senators and Representatives must be literally taken by the nose and forced to do, not what their consciences dictate, but what their bosses demand. This is progressiveness as interpreted by the new "leaders" in politics.

Tener Declares War on Flinn.

In a recent speech before the Terrapin club, a more or less convivial but certainly not political organization, Governor TENER practically declared war against the newly self-created Republican boss, WILLIAM FLINN. The Governor named no names but in denouncing the "buccaneer" whom the President had anathematized as "the worst political boss of the time and who was denounced on the floor of the Senate," he left no doubt in the mind of any man who heard or read his speech, as to whom he had in mind. There is but one individual in the State who could possibly fit the frame.

The incident is significant, however, only as indicating the present temper of the Republican leaders. Of course Mr. FLINN has openly declared that he is no longer a Republican. But through the agency of the chairman of the Republican State committee he is still assuming to direct the policies of the Republican party alike in legislation and everything else. The Governor's speech, therefore, is public notice that FLINN's assumption is resented by those who continue to profess fidelity to the party organization and that whatever legislative programmes FLINN formulates will miscarry.

In this condition of affairs there is abundant reason for the hope that the Democrats may exert an important influence upon the legislation of the coming session. They will not be in the majority in either branch but if FLINN develops anything like the strength he claims, the Democrats will be the strongest element and will easily hold "the balance of power." Wisely directed such a contingent in the Legislature may practically dominate the Legislature and determine the character of every measure sent to the Governor for approval. It is to be feared, however, that FLINN is bluffing.

Mr. Morgan's Impudent Pretensions.

In his testimony before the Pujocommittee Mr. J. PIERPONT MORGAN shows scant respect for public intelligence. As one of the Washington correspondents stated it, he revealed "a new MORGAN." Presumably the old MORGAN was a sort of corporate juggernaut which crushed out the lives of all who ventured in its way. The new MORGAN, on the other hand, is a "benevolent despot" whose mission on earth is to conserve the interests and husband the strength of the weak. In the performance of his benevolent work, however, the new MORGAN must have his own way. He is the judge alike of the malady and the remedy and those who fail to accept his diagnosis and treatment would better never have been born.

Mr. MORGAN inferentially admitted to the committee that through the medium of voting trusts and interlocking directorates he controls approximately \$22,000,000,000, but protests that he has no control over the currency affairs of the country. "All the money in Christendom and all the banks in Christendom," he gravely declared, "could not form a monopoly that would control money." In the name of heaven, then, what is monopoly and what is control? Mr. MORGAN with his \$22,000,000,000 gets whatever he wants in the financial world. Everybody obeys him and all bow to his mandates. Does Mr. MORGAN imagine that the people are all fools enough to swallow such absurdities? If he does he has another guess coming.

When Mr. MORGAN was insisting that he exercises no control in the financial world he was asked about his purchase of the Equitable Insurance company from Mr. THOMAS F. RYAN. The stock only paid about one-ninth of one per cent. a year at the price Mr. MORGAN paid but he wanted it because it had assets of more than half a billion dollars with which to speculate. Mr. RYAN didn't want to sell. He wanted to keep the property for the same reason that MORGAN wanted to acquire it. But MORGAN won without trouble for the reason that RYAN knew that a refusal to sell meant financial antagonisms which would inevitably ruin even as rich a man as RYAN. No man ought to have such power over fellow men.

A Speakership Contest.

The contest among the Republicans of the Legislature for the Speakership of the House would be amusing if it were less important. The Speakership of the House is really a great office. If the old rules which authorize the Speaker to name the committees are readopted, the Speaker will be as important a factor in the legislation of the session as the Governor. We understand that an effort will be made to change the rules so as to take from the Speaker the great power of naming the committees, but that is now a matter of conjecture. The Democrats favor the change but they are in the minority and can accomplish nothing without the help of one faction or the other of the Republicans.

We purposely refer to the BILL FLINN force in the Legislature as a faction of the Republican party. It pretends to be a party by itself but that being a FLINN pretense is probably false. In any event FLINN as the head and front of that force is trying to run the Republican party and might be willing to join with the Democrats to change the rules in order to get some advantage over the PENROSE faction of the party. If such a condition should develop it would be wise for the Democrats to enter into the agreement. The change of the rules may not materially help the Democrats from a party standpoint. But it is practically certain to improve legislative conditions and that will be an achievement worth while and in line with Democratic purposes.

The contest for the Speakership is between Mr. ALLEN and Mr. ALTER, of Pittsburg, and Mr. SCOTT, of Philadelphia. Mr. ALLEN represents the political aspirations of Mayor MAGEE; Mr. ALTER the ambitious hopes of Mr. FLINN and Mr. SCOTT the expectations of Senator PENROSE to come back. Neither of them cares the worth of a farthing for the public and at this distance from the theatre of operations and the date of the election it looks as if ALLEN and SCOTT will combine at the psychological moment and defeat ALTER. But this is a matter of no public interest or consequence. The Democrats can't afford to help either of these corrupt factions, unless they have assurance of improving conditions.

—Dr. LEONARD WOOD, whom ROOSEVELT catapulted into the command of the army, is to be Chief Marshal of the inauguration parade. Thus this carpet knight reveals anew his facility for getting on the side of politics which promises to "feather his nest."

—Subscribe for the WATCHMAN.

Plotting and Planning.

From the Pittsburgh Post.
It is reported now that one of the Republican factions proposes to hold out inducements to Democrats to aid in the organization of the State Senate. This is in line with the recent attempt to obtain the same factor of strength for controlling the House. It is intimated that an alliance will be sought with certain Democratic Senators as a means of culminating the man in view.

The Post is satisfied that this scheme will meet a fate similar to that which followed the movement to capture the lower body. We take it that the Democratic Senators are wide awake and thoroughly cognizant of their duty to party and the people. They are not likely to lend themselves as cat's paws for the benefit of selfish opposition leaders. The mission of the Democratic legislators is above and beyond these puny machinations of would-be bosses, who, lacking the strength necessary to enable them to attain their purposes, would bribe Democrats by the offer of a little temporary advantage. The Post reiterates that the Democratic Representatives at Harrisburg are not on the market to be used as chattels by either faction of the Republican party. They compose an honorable minority, and their service will be in the interests of the people, whether they succeed or fail. They can gain nothing by bargaining.

The pernicious activity of the disreputable opposition faction is significant. It is not a patriotic impulse that leads to such an extreme. There is a reason for this overwhelming desire to obtain control of both Houses of the Legislature, and it is evident the anxiety is not occasioned by a determination to do something for the public welfare. For that reason there is but one course for the Democrats to pursue, and that is to repel any proffer that may be made. The party reposes full confidence in its representatives, and relies on their integrity.

Stumbling Block for Progress.

From the Altoona Times.
Governor Tener, in an outburst of partisan rancor and nasty vindictiveness, declared recently in a public address that the reformers in the forthcoming General Assembly must reckon with his veto power. He intimated quite strongly that legislation long demanded by the people and essential to the fullest self-government would find little favor in his eyes, and a number of newspapers, taking him at his word, commented in a manner that was not complimentary to the State's executive.

This attitude reveals the real purpose of Governor Tener's selection by the crooked political gang that had this State as their base of operations. The bosses made no mistake when they named a pliable puppet to stand between them and an uprising of the people, which was apprehended, but came sooner than anticipated. The whinnings of sycophantic gang organs to the contrary notwithstanding, we believe Governor Tener will be a stumbling block in the way of progressive legislation.

Grouches in Politics.

From the Springfield Republican.
Personal grouches in politics never benefited anybody, least of all the man nursing one. Champ Clark's grouch against Mr. Bryan is at present the best advertised thing of the sort now before the public, and it is not strengthening the Hon. Champ. He should bottle up his grievance because he failed to be nominated at Baltimore and place it on the highest shelf in the museum of political antiquities. There is good service left in the Speaker. Let's have the service instead of a sore toe.

May Come to This.

From the Springfield Republican.
The doctors are protesting against barefaced sneezing in street cars as the chief cause of epidemics of colds and influenza. But no one yet has devised a plan by which a strap-hanger with an armful of handkerchiefs can get at his handkerchiefs in time to be of sanitary service. Will boards of health require a muzzle?

How War Pays.

From the Winnipeg Grain Growers' Guide.
The annual report of the Krupp gun works of Germany shows a surplus for the year just ended of \$12,500,000. A 12 per cent dividend was declared and 5 per cent was added to the reserve fund. Verily, war is a paying business—for the armor manufacturers.

A Pleasure in Store.

From the Indianapolis News.
After tasting one of those "sweated" oranges, Judge Landis, of Chicago, ordered eight carloads of the fruit confiscated. All of which makes one wish that the judge would taste an artificially ripened storage egg some time.

Adding to the Scrap Heap.

From the Washington Post.
When President Taft takes his trip around the world he will probably refrain from restating England's policy in Egypt and telling Kaiser Bill how to run his army, and so another of "my policies" will be sent to the scrap heap.

Some More Jobless Men in Sight.

From the Cincinnati Enquirer.
As soon as President-elect Wilson definitely announces his cabinet appointments many patriotic gentlemen who have been worrying 10 hours a day over what is to happen to W. J. Bryan will find themselves out of a job.

—For high class Job Work come to the WATCHMAN Office.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

—While opening oysters for the Christmas dinner a Reading woman found two pearls which were valued by a jeweler of that city at \$50 and \$20 respectively.

—Held up, robbed of \$30, beaten to insensibility and left to freeze, was the story told at the Latrobe hospital by Theodore Bloom, when sufficiently thawed out.

—An outbreak of rabies at Nanty-Glo is being investigated by the State Department of Health. It is said that a mad dog bit a number of other animals there some time ago.

—Donald Stineby, who shot and killed Gus Up, despair of his chicken coop last week, was given a formal hearing at Williamsport and gave \$1,000 bail for his appearance at court.

—The large furniture store and residence of Jacob Strunk, at Mifflinburg, were destroyed by fire recently, entailing a loss of \$30,000. Lewisburg fire ladders went to the rescue.

—Within the next three weeks Jersey Shore is to have a cigar factory for the manufacture of "Pittsburgh stogies." When it is in full blast it will employ 200 hands, mostly women and girls.

—Ray Powers, aged 18, of Salona, has been arrested for stealing \$4 from a blind man who had a confectionery store at Lock Haven by telling him that a \$1 bill was a \$5, and taking change accordingly.

—Mrs. John Killinger, aged 52, left her home in Johnstown and jumped into the Conemaugh river. She had thirteen children of whom only six survive. Ill health is thought to have been the cause of her deed.

—Thieves entered the home of Captain James Peters, of Latrobe, in broad day light and stole a lot of silverware from the kitchen. Two hours later the police had two suspects but the silver was not recovered.

—Mrs. Allen Brown, of Jersey Shore, awakened from a sound sleep to see two burglars in her bedroom. She was about to reach over to awaken her husband when her baby cried and the burglars fled, taking with them valuable jewelry.

—After a courtship lasting forty-seven years, Samuel Clear, of California, and Miss Kate Canning, of Brownsville, were happily wedded last week. Each is 62 years old. Nobody but themselves know why they were not married years ago.

—Latrobe had a fire a few days ago in which Alex Range lost his life and \$40,000 worth of property was destroyed. An overheated furnace in a pool room basement is blamed for the costliest conflagration there in years. Three horses had narrow escapes.

—Somerset county farmers want to be paid for trees cut down by the chestnut blight commission. One man had 40 trees cut and others a less number. A petition is being circulated asking the State to provide a fund to reimburse owners for their loss.

—N. D. Lyson, of Greenburr, was in Lock Haven a few days ago. He is trying to arrange to sell his six-legged calf to a circus as a freak. The animal is now 5 weeks old and growing finely. In addition to the extra legs it has a horn growing out of one shoulder.

—L. Loudon, manager of the D. Shelly Kloss farms, near Tyrone, while hunting foxes on Christmas, tripped and fell. Both barrels of his gun exploded, the shot striking him in the abdomen and killed him instantly. He was well known throughout this section.

—Charles Yetter, of Altoona, one of the best known freight conductors on the middle division of the Pennsylvania railroad, while looking after his train at Inroquois, seeing that proper cars were being unloaded Friday, stepped in front of train No. 47, and was instantly killed.

—I. N. Messenger and son Karl, near Watsonstown a few nights ago, discovered that their chicken house was being robbed. They attempted to shut them in, but one drew a revolver and shot the young man through the wrist. In the confusion that ensued the thieves escaped, but not before they were recognized.

—A year ago Patrick Brady, of Danville, left a suit case in a Shamokin hotel. He was a traveling salesman and didn't call for it until a few days ago. After his mother's funeral, when search was being made for her will, he happened to remember that it was in that suit case. He inherited most of her large estate.

—The Martin Coal company has been having trouble with its 200 miners at Dunlo. A majority of the men joined the union and wanted the others discharged. A strike ensued and when the men patched up their differences and were ready to return to work they found that the company was operating a lockout. They are hoping that it will not last long.

—The Grange Trust company, of Huntingdon, is said to have escaped being involved in the reverses of W. F. Hill, of Huntingdon, now adjudged bankrupt, and J. G. McHenry, of Benton, who died a few days ago. Mr. Hill and Mr. McHenry had organized the Grange bank. The former resigned as president and sold his stock a year ago and the latter ceased to be a director less than a week before his death.

—The Young Men's Democratic club of Williamsport is planning a big Jackson day banquet at the Park Hotel in that city on the night of January 28th. Congressman James J. Heflin, of Alabama, is to be the chief orator on the occasion, and among the other prominent speakers on the program is Congressman William B. Wilson, of the Fifteenth district. The feast is to be the twenty-first annual Jackson day banquet of the club.

—A number of merchants in Lock Haven have been fooled with some of the best imitation of halves, quarters and dimes that have made their appearance in this part of the State in some years. The dime is probably the best counterfeit and can only be detected upon close examination and comparison with the ring of the real thing. The quarter, however, is very poor, and does not ring at all, the sound being hollow. The half is the 1912 date and very new in appearance.

—William H. Miller, a brakeman on the local at Oerocla, was painfully injured while at work on Saturday evening about six o'clock. Mr. Miller was assisting in the placing of cars at the Orient colliery, operated by the Blair Brothers, of Tyrone, when in some manner he slipped under the wheels of a car and had his feet badly mangled. He was taken to the Phillipsburg hospital where parts of both feet were amputated. Brakeman Miller is a married man and has six children. He is aged about 34 years.

—Mrs. George Scherrer, aged 24, of Mahanoy City, committed suicide Friday night after an altercation with her husband. Mr. Scherrer upbraided her for being too extravagant in the purchasing of Christmas presents. The quarrel followed and Mr. Scherrer left the house. When he came home, later in the evening, his wife was standing in the doorway and with the words, "Thank heavens I'll never have any more Christmas presents to buy," she shot herself with a revolver, dying a few minutes later.

—In Mar. 1911, Peter Deibler was electrocuted in Williamsport, while putting up electric decorations for the Masonic convalee. The Locomotive-Edison company, by which he was employed, is now defendant in a suit to recover insurance. The company in which all the linemen of the Locomotive-Edison were insured paid the claim to his widow and now another woman comes from Kansas City, stating that she is the rightful widow and that no one else had any claim. The insurance company will probably defend, although the electric company was sued.