

INK SLINGS.

-And this is the first day of spring. -We know if our old friend GOTLIEB HAAG were living he'd have a garden made by this time.

-This is Good Friday. Make a resolution to be just a little better henceforth than you have ever been before.

-A few more days like Wednesday and yesterday and that "all gone" feeling will be stealing over the multitudes.

-You can't come, Write! Is Secretary McADOO's latest message to office seekers. He says he hasn't time to see them personally and must insist upon their applying by letter.

-Jonquils and hyacinths are peeping through the ground already. Being the first flowers of spring let us hope that their beauty and fragrance is not to be arrested by freezing weather.

-President WILSON has called the extra session of Congress to convene on April 7th. His call does not state that its deliberations shall be confined purely to the consideration of tariff measures.

-The assassination of King GEORGE of Greece, on Tuesday, was a lamentable affair. Doubly so because of the brilliant part the victim has played in the Balkan war for the extermination of the unspeakable Turk.

-Probably not one per cent of the people of Pennsylvania knew who their Lieutenant Governor was until it was discovered that Mr. REYNOLDS had had a twenty-two thousand dollar state road built through his farm in Bedford county.

-WOODROW WILSON has been our President for seventeen days and on each one of them some fresh assurance has come out of Washington to the effect that, he is going to give us a better country to live in than it has ever been before.

-After forty years of public service "Uncle" JOE CANNON, kicked the dust of Washington from his heels and started back to Danville, Ill., on Sunday. A quaint public character, a sort of combination of bad politician and good private citizen.

-Pictures of amateur boxers, shaking hands before their bout, always show the amiable, friendly disposition of the contestants. We fear that after they have gone several rounds and one has given the other a few good wallops on the jaw a photograph would not reveal the same good natured physiognomies.

-If all the States in the Union and the federal government were to combine and put every penny they propose spending on celebrations, naval maneuvers, military encampments etc., into a pool for one year we believe that a great national highway from the Atlantic to the Pacific could be built out of the proceeds.

-We notice that the Senate has passed a bill prohibiting unaturalized foreigners from fishing or killing fish within the State. Now what do you suppose a poor Dago is going to do about it if he should be forced to ford a stream and a vicious eel or sucker attacks him. Such a law won't allow him to defend himself by killing his assailant.

-Banker MORSE, who was pardoned from the federal prison at Atlanta because he was supposed to be on his death bed, has recovered so rapidly since his release that he thinks he will live for years yet. Pardons of that sort should have the recall attachment so that when the pardoned fails to make good, as MORSE is doing, he could be sent back to serve out his term.

-One of the very happiest outcomes of the recent Methodist conference at Altoona was the reassignment of Dr. EZRA H. YOCUM to the Bellefonte charge. His profound theology and rare diction are a combination not so often found in ministers of the gospel; while his personality is a daily inspiration of deep spirituality and his manner that of a gentleman, by the grace of God.

-Mrs. PHILIP VAN VALKENBURG, of New York, is suing her husband for her keeping during the past two years, during which they were separated. Her bill of expenses amount to \$100,000, and, they say, PHIL is kicking. How much does a man expect a woman to live on? Of course we have our own ideas on the subject, but then we didn't start Mrs. VAN going at the fifty thousand per year pace, so we feel that the fellow who did should either throttle her down a little or keep paying for the gasoline without a murmur.

-Someone stole Chancellor McCORMICK's automobile on Monday evening. The Chancellor has the job of chancelling the University of Pittsburgh and he was to have been host at a chicken dinner to a lot of preachers that night. The theft almost caused the dinner to be called off, so the papers say, but why the disappearance of his auto should interfere with the serving of a chicken dinner few people can understand. The only connection we can see is that possibly the Chancellor intended to make a few chance calls at neighborhood hen roosts in the machine in order to be well prepared for his preacher guests. But then such a thing isn't probable.

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President Wilson's Wise Course.

President WILSON has done nothing, before or since his inauguration, more deserving of popular commendation than his statement upon the Chinese loan. As a matter of fact we recall no state paper of any period in the history of the country which expresses more clearly the true spirit of Americanism. It completely divorces the government at Washington from the unholy alliance with big business which was established under the ROOSEVELT administration and fostered during the period covered by TAFT's term in the office of President. It is precisely what was needed to set the managers of the Money trust right before the world of finance and politics.

In pursuance of the policy of enticing American bankers into schemes for exploiting foreign enterprises the TAFT administration had invited J. P. MORGAN & Co., the First National and the City National banks of New York and KUHN LOEB & Co., to participate in a loan of \$125,000,000 to the Chinese government upon conditions which practically gave the money lenders a mortgage upon the property and liberties of the people of China; our government substantially guaranteeing the payment of the loan.

The other day a committee representing these bankers called upon President WILSON and served notice that unless his administration would renew the invitation upon the same conditions, they would not engage in the enterprise. President WILSON's answer was good and plenty. "The conditions of the loan," writes President WILSON, "seem to us to touch very nearly the administrative independence of China itself; and this administration does not feel that it ought, even by implication, to be a party to those conditions. The responsibilities on its part which would be implied in requesting the bankers to undertake the loan might conceivably go to the length, in some unhappy contingency, of forcible interference in the financial and even the political affairs of that great Oriental State, just now awakening to a consciousness of its power and of its obligations to its people."

How refreshing this admirable Democratic policy sounds in ears attuned to mercenary expedients of Dollar Diplomacy. It inspires hope and faith and confidence. Nothing more acceptable to the thoughtful American people could have been done by the President. American bankers have the full right to invest their money in foreign enterprises and make the best of their ventures in exploitation. But the administration at Washington has no right to enter into partnership to share the risk without claim on the proceeds and to bind the American people to pay losses even if the only currency available be human lives.

Therefore President WILSON has flitly answered Mr. MORGAN's emissaries and inferentially dissolved the partnership between the government and Big Business. It was of all things the action that was needed at the outset of the administration.

-We notice that some esteemed Republican contemporaries are figuring up probable deficiencies in the treasury at Washington in 1914 and the exercise appears to give them a good deal of satisfaction. But they are welcome to all the enjoyment they get out of it. In recent years we have not had to contemplate probably deficiencies. The real thing has been ever present.

-According to the Harrisburg newspapers there is a reasonable probability of a first class hotel in that town. It will hardly escape notice, however, that most of the capital for construction and equipment will come from the outside.

-There are men involved in the Balkin scuffle who might have been spared better than King GEORGE, of Greece, who wasn't a bad fellow as Kings go. But assassins are always too cowardly to be discriminating.

-The WATCHMAN this week publishes the first installment of that wonderfully interesting serial story, "Shenandoah," and we feel sure if you read the opening chapter you will want to continue it to the end.

-Dr. SIMON FLEKNER has no doubt performed a valuable service in discovering the germ of infantile paralysis. But what is really needed is something that will kill the germ the moment it gets busy.

-It may have been noticed that the enthusiasm of a legislative appropriation committee is largely influenced by the quality of the entertainment given by the local institution.

Work of the Extra Session.

President WILSON has not undertaken to limit the action of Congress in his proclamation calling an extra session on April 7, but it is now considered to be reasonably certain that nothing other than tariff revision will be considered. The leaders of the party are confident that the tariff bills will be ready by that time and in that event there will be no trouble in putting on the necessary restraints. When the tariff bills are passed a motion to adjourn without delay will be in order, and no doubt it will prevail. The Senators and Representatives will not enjoy the midsummer temperature of the capital city and it is practically certain that they will take advantage of the first opportunity to get home. That will be presented when the tariff legislation is completed.

No doubt President WILSON would have put a restriction upon the legislation to be considered if he had had authority to do so. But as a matter of fact he has no such authority and the best he can do is to advise, in his message to the new Congress, against any general legislation. This can be appropriately and certainly done when the tariff regulations are made, and the President can point out the facts as to what legislation is required. The message to Congress will afford a vehicle for the expression of the President's views on the subject, if there are any doubts. But it is not likely that there are any for President WILSON has already expressed himself as favoring the limited policy and he generally understands himself.

The financial laws now in force are faulty beyond question but no material harm will result from postponing action upon them until the regular session. In any event it might not be wise to alter the financial laws until the effect of the proposed tariff legislation is felt. Possibly much of the evil now attributed to bad currency and banking laws really belongs to the bad tariff laws and when the greater evil is removed the lesser may disappear of its own accord. It is certain that the State Legislatures will be able to correct many of the faults of the banking systems and with the improved fiscal conditions certain to follow the proper revision of the tariff it may be that there will be no necessity for tampering with the currency question.

-If we are to have a commission to study the question of mothers' pensions it will not be necessary to go outside of the Legislature to find grandmothers to make up the commission.

Constitution Convention Project.

The forty Democrats who voted against the constitutional convention bill, in the House of Representatives at Harrisburg, last week, expressed the sentiment of a vast majority of the Democrats of the State on the subject. The thoughtful people of the Commonwealth are of the opinion that the popular mind is not, at this time, in proper frame to direct fundamental legislation. The cranks who have axes to grind and the demagogues who have selfish ambitions to serve are too much in control now. Men who opposed Mr. BRYAN for the Presidency in 1896, 1900 and 1908 because of supposed heresies are now supporting the same heresies, not because of a change of heart but on account of personal ambitions.

The present constitution may be antiquated in some respects and inadequate in others but it is a pretty useful and efficient instrument yet. It was prepared by the most distinguished body of men which has ever assembled in this State since the convention which framed the constitution of the United States. Those gentlemen were honest as well as capable and if a convention were called now it is not certain that those to compose it would be either. The lust for office has become epidemic in Pennsylvania and we would contemplate with fear the assembling of a convention clothed with the power of creating an organic law for the State. We hope the measure will fail in the Senate.

The Democratic Representatives in the Legislature were under no legal or moral obligation to support such legislation at this time. The State platform of last year made no such promise. The real party leaders had no thought of such an enterprise during the campaign. But after the election some gentlemen who imagined they had acquired the right to direct the official action of Democratic Senators and Representatives in the Legislature saw fit to join with BILL FLINN in the movement. They succeeded in carrying the measure through the House, but happily more than two-thirds of the Democrats in the body voted against it and we hope all the Democrats in the Senate will follow their wholesome example.

It will make for civic safety and rebuke false leaders.

The British Ambassadorship.

The declination of RICHARD OLNEY, of Massachusetts, to accept the office of Ambassador to the Court of St. James, will be widely, though not universally regretted. The ambassadorial office has come to be regarded as somewhat of an ornamental position. So far as the records indicate the main duties are to attend functions and make phrases in after-dinner speeches. In that respect our recent Ambassador, Mr. WHITELAW REID was a model. He was immensely rich and a good deal of a toady, as we understand that term. But he was a scholarly gentleman and whenever he came in contact with British or other royalty, he acquitted himself with distinction. But most any American millionaire could do that.

In the earlier periods of our diplomatic history the Ambassadorship at the Court of St. James meant something else. As a matter of fact we had no Ambassadors then, our representatives at the several foreign courts being styled Ministers Plenipotentiary, with an occasional Minister Extraordinary when there was some question of unusual importance to be considered. But since we have had Ambassadors, instead of ministers, diplomatic matters have been considered by the Secretary of State on one side and the corresponding office in other countries, on the other. Under the circumstances the Ambassador became simply a gentleman of social distinction and a good figure and long purse could be depended upon to shine.

It looks, from this distance from the seat of government, as if there is a change impending in this as in other administrative affairs. Of course the Ambassador at the Court of St. James, under the present administration must be an accomplished gentleman, entirely capable of meeting all social obligations as well as attending to the diplomatic business of the country. For that reason the gentleman chosen for the office ought to be one of high attainments and Mr. RICHARD OLNEY is certainly amply equipped for the service. But his declination takes him out of the reckoning and therefore if the rumor that DAVID R. FRANCIS, of Missouri, is the second choice of the President proves true, the public may rest assured that little has been lost.

-Of course Speaker CANNON will always be interested in politics. Politics has made him a rich man and if he had given it half a chance it might have made a statesman of him.

Penrose Understands the Question.

Senator PENROSE, according to a statement contained in one of our esteemed Philadelphia contemporaries of last Sunday, is in complete agreement with the views expressed by the WATCHMAN, with respect to Governor TENNER's bad break in censuring the House of Representatives for investigating the charge that public money is being wasted through dual official service and double pay to employees of the State government. In other words the Senator intimates that the Governor put himself "in wrong" when he accused the committee of the Legislature with impertinence. There is no excuse for dual office holding, the Senator says, and the Governor has no excuse for refusing the information asked.

There is a vast difference between executive business and executive maladministration. If the Governor were involved in some delicate administrative work of a nature with which the public has no concern, a demand for information concerning it might be appropriately refused. But the looting of the treasury in order to provide generous recompense for party "lame ducks" or political favorites, is not in that class and refusing the needed information to a legislative committee is a very extraordinary step, to say the least. Therefore, instead of instructing subordinates to show contempt for the legislative committee the Governor should have instructed his subordinates to help the committee in every possible way.

The officers who have been apparently drawing the maximum salaries for performing the minimum services are amenable to the Legislature and the House of Representatives, whose committee has been flouted by the Governor, would be justified in cutting out all appropriations for the maintenance of the executive department of the so-called government, or at least of such officers as have been drawing double salaries, until the desired information had been supplied in the way that the legislative committee desired it and is and wisely warns the Governor to get himself out of the untenable position into which he has permitted himself to fall.

Should Include All.

From the Harrisburg Star-Independent. The motion to exempt farmers from the operation of an employers' liability act failed when the Sern bill was before the Pennsylvania House of Representatives on second reading the other day. Needless to say, the motion was made by persons who own farms.

An act that does not apply to all persons would probably be declared unconstitutional. At any rate it should be. There was not one good plea for exempting farmers. The spirit of one plea was that "the farmer feeds the people." But he doesn't do that in a spirit of philanthropy. He does no more than exchange commodities, as everybody else does. He gives a bushel of wheat in exchange for what he fixes as its value in some other commodity.

The true relations of the several classes of labor should not be forgotten. The farmer raises the crops from which come all food supplies. But he is enabled to do this only with the labor of other men. He cannot get along without the products of the labor of workers in mills and factories and mines and forests and stores and banking houses and of those on railroads and ships. He needs them as bad as they need him. In modern life all classes of men depend on each other for necessities and comforts. If they didn't the loss of community of interest would surely lead wholly or partly to a disintegration of the society.

So, when the farmers are willing that railroad companies and manufacturing corporations should be bound by the provisions of an employers' liability law they should not plead for exemption for themselves.

The Fourth Class Offices.

From the Johnstown Democrat. It is not yet clear what plan Postmaster General Burleson will work out in connection with the 35,000 fourth class postmasterships which were covered into the civil service by Presidents Roosevelt and Taft. It is known only that Mr. Burleson is considering some plan and that it will be announced at an early day.

That it was unfair to cover these postmasterships into the civil service without subjecting the postmasters to the civil service rules we think most candid persons will agree. The executive order was obviously inspired by a selfish partisan purpose insofar as the order could be taken to serve the purpose of retaining faithful Republicans in office.

It seems to us that President Wilson would be justified in revoking the Taft executive order and following its revocation with an order vacating every fourth class office in the country, this order to be implemented by another covering all such offices into the civil service and requiring candidates therefor to submit to civil service rules. This would open these offices to merit and Republicans and Democrats would find themselves on an even keel in seeking them.

That it is probable that Mr. Burleson has some such plan in contemplation and it is believed that it would meet with the approval of the public. It could hardly fail to meet that of all except the most hardened spoilsmen. These will never be satisfied with anything less than a return to the old sordid way which debauched the postal service for personal and party ends.

Use the Tools at Hand.

From the Altoona Times. There has been introduced in the General Assembly a bill for the creation of a State Department for the suppression of vice. Isn't it peculiar that every time the reformers start out to improve conditions they ask for new laws and new officers and more red tape and more salaries?

If Pennsylvania wants to suppress vice, there are surely laws enough on the statute books to accomplish it. Why not enforce them? If the leaders of the Legislature do not exert a strong hand, the record of the session will not be an improvement over sessions which were dominated by political interests which were presumed to be selfish and dishonest. There is an impression that the so-called reformers are more interested in creating sinecures than they are in effecting any radical change.

A Sensible Move.

From the New York Sun.

The first important announcement of Woodrow Wilson as President of the United States speaking to the people of the United States declares that it is not his purpose to expend time and energy in personal interviews, unsolicited by himself with office seekers. This is a proclamation which rings with courage and common sense. It commands the instant approval of everybody not already enrolled or intending to enlist in the Grand Army of Hungry Applicants. Let us record it to the credit of the chief magistrate who begins by refusing to fritter himself away.

-Ex-sheriff W. E. Hurley was up a tree last fall and he tried his best to auto up one of the trees on Spring street on Tuesday but his machine was only equipped with ordinary tires and proved a poor climber. The result was it struck the tree head-on and the sheriff is now in the market for a nice line of repairs. A friend of the sheriff has kindly suggested that when his machine is ready for the road again he equip it with pole climbers, which might prove a good thing in another such emergency.

-It is encouraging to know that the President goes to church even if he has to be as agile as an athlete to get there.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

-Farmers of Boyerstown bought a new kind of watering trough when a lot of steel was too heavy for use, were sold at 35 cents apiece.

-Gallatin is getting anxious over its water supply for next summer. A stream condemned some time ago is to be inspected with a view to establishing a municipal plant.

-Forty-one of his sixty-one years having been spent behind prison bars, Abe Buzzard, the notorious outlaw evangelist, was released from the Eastern penitentiary on Wednesday.

-The petition of Huntingdon liquor sellers for a writ of mandamus to compel Judge Woods to call in another law judge and hold license court over again has been refused by the Supreme court.

-Jonas Fisher has offered to present to the city of Williamsport 100 squirrels and two swans. He also offers to cement the cellar of the Fisher house, to make an artificial lake on the plot which will soon be the Way's garden, the new recreation park recently presented to the city.

-The body of Michael Dayton, an aged resident of Renovo, who disappeared from home on January 18, was found on Wednesday about three miles down the river at North Bend. It was supposed at the time that he had fallen into the river, but careful search failed to discover the body.

-Recently C. A. Stuck, of Port Matilda, sold a dog to James Kline, of McClure. The dog made the trip to his Snyder county home by rail, staying a few days, then disappeared. A few days later, with bleeding feet and sunken sides, he made his appearance at his old home, a distance of more than forty miles, as the crow flies.

-Albert L. Scholl, J. H. Spencer and Dr. F. L. Mover, former officials of the National Protective association, are in the Lycoming county jail awaiting transportation to the penitentiary. They paid their fines and sent their attorneys to Philadelphia with an appeal to the Supreme court and had money enough left to have their meals sent from a restaurant. An eighteen month's sentence is ahead of them.

-Lock Haven has a sensation in the arrest of Paul Harter, a druggist's clerk, on the charge of being a hair snipper. For some time young girls have been mysteriously losing their tresses at theatres and not until this week was anyone able to detect the perpetrator. The young man was caught in the act by Miss Amy Diem, and two pairs of scissors were taken from him. Police still believe others are implicated in this peculiar "amusement mania."

-Corry has started a crusade against tramps, who have been making their headquarters near the outskirts of town. Since it has become known that the railroad company is putting all the men it can find to work on track improvements along the Allegheny Division, the professional hoboes are giving Oil City the go-by. Many homeless men have been given lodging during the winter, and many have secured employment at railroad construction.

-Joe Shank, a well known character of Sankertown, near Cresson, disappeared some six months ago and since then nothing had been heard of him until last Thursday, when his dead and decomposed body was found near Cresson in a cove of elderberry bushes. It is supposed that he crawled into the bushes while intoxicated last fall and died of exposure. He was aged 45 years and single. The remains were given over to Undertaker Buck, of Cresson, for interment.

-The Lycoming Foundry and Machine company, which a little more than a week ago was awarded a contract for \$500,000 worth of motors, to be manufactured for the Veile Motor company, of Moline, Ill., has received a message from Thomas H. Lynn, the company's general sales agent, to the effect that he has closed a second contract for a half million dollar's worth of motors. With contracts on hand for \$1,000,000 worth of motors, the Lycoming plant will be one of the busiest places in Williamsport during the year of 1913.

-The fifth shooting affray that has occurred in Williamsport during the last few months took place in that city Sunday night about 10 o'clock, when Burguers Ricco, an Italian living at No. 136 State street, was fatally shot by a 20-year-old Italian youth giving his name as Joe Dene, who had been in Williamsport only about three days, and is said to hail from Cross Fork. The shooting has all the elements of a dark Sicilian mystery, the fatally wounded man refusing to identify his assailant and declaring that he would die rather than offer any explanation.

-A warning that several school buildings are to be dynamited and others destroyed by fire, the report being from an unknown party, has caused many desertions from the public schools of DuBois. The alleged catastrophe set for a time, between March 23 and 26 has caused alarm among the children and their parents. The schools are being attended by one-third the regular quota and the enrollment is dropping rapidly. School officials visited the various schools in an effort to allay the fears of the children but without success. A "fortune teller" is said to have made the predictions.

-The people of Loretto are to have gas at last. Recently the town was excited over the drilling of two wells which were thought to be in good oil or gas producing territory. The wells were shot and turned out dry. The verdict of the drillers was that the whole territory was dry. But the town is to have its gas anyhow. The trunk line from Johnstown to Altoona is to be tapped at Cresson and a branch run into Loretto. There is no coal near Loretto, which has some difficulty in obtaining fuel at times, and the introduction of the gas will probably lead to the piping of every house in town.

-Shortly before noon Monday, the body of James Kyle, familiarly known as "Jerry," was found in the woods back of the reformatory at Huntingdon, by his three sons, Andrew, James and Davis. The man had been missing for two weeks and an empty three ounce bottle that had contained laudanum told the story of the tragedy. On February 27, the Kyle family moved to Huntingdon from Warrior Ridge and on the following day Kyle left home saying he was going to look for work. He had been in the habit of going away for two or three days at a time and nothing was thought of his absence for several days.

Louis Pellagi, charged with the killing of Justice of the Peace George Curfman, of Arcadia, July 9, 1912, was found guilty of murder in the first degree in criminal court at Indiana on Tuesday. The verdict followed a vigorous contest between the attorneys for the Commonwealth and the legal representatives of the accused, the latter trying to prove their client insane at the time of the shooting. Experts testified, however, that he was shamming insanity. The murder of Mr. Curfman occurred on the main street of the town of Arcadia when the justice of the peace was acting as peacemaker between Pellagi and his wife, who was being abused by her husband.

-The system of the Huntingdon & Clearfield Telephone company is to be completely rebuilt, it is announced. At the recent sale of the holdings of the American Union company, of which the H. & C. was a part, the former owners of the latter concern purchased their stock. The confirmation of the sale a short time ago enables the stockholders to go ahead with the improvement program which they have been contemplating. Thousands of dollars, it is said, will be spent in rebuilding the company's lines and everything possible for better service will be done. New exchanges are to be installed and extension of the lines and an expansion of the company's business in other ways is being planned.