

INK SLINGS.

—It is fortunate that all our one-time heroes don't degenerate into every day fools like HOBSON.

—The Cucaracha slide is what is keeping most of the engineers on the Canal Zone dancing just now.

—Since the battle with the Athletics it would look as though the Giants should change their name to Pigmies.

—The Bull Moose party is going to pieces in Illinois and it begins to look like a collection of bargain counter remnants everywhere.

—OSCAR W. UNDERWOOD is too big and able a man to be hurt by such attacks as HOBSON made on him on the floor of Congress a few days ago.

—A Scranton newspaper man has sued one of the nominees for mayor of that city for libel. This is unusual because it is usually a case of the candidate suing the newspaper.

—Vice President MARSHALL is not depressed because Congress refused to buy him an automobile. In the first place he didn't ask Congress for an automobile and besides, the walking in Washington is good.

—Democratic papers that are opposing the road loan because they fear the money will not be properly spent are either admitting that our party does not expect to win the next election in Pennsylvania or, if it does, will be incompetent to look after this work honestly.

—Quite naturally the world is being told that the Volturno did not carry sufficient fire-fighting apparatus after the ship is burned up and a hundred or more have perished. You will recall that it was discovered that the Titanic didn't carry half enough life boats only after she had gone down.

—What is the borough council doing with the franchise for lighting our streets and pumping the water? Inasmuch as the lease on the Phoenix pumping station must soon be cancelled or renewed it seems to us that the time to get busy is now and not wait until the last moment, and then rush something through without proper consideration.

—The final count in the non-partisan ballot for Superior court nominees has been made and it is most gratifying to note that the Hon. WEBSTER GRIM was third in the race. His name will appear on the ballot, along with ALCOBN, HENDERSON and KEPHART, and he should receive a large vote at the election because he is an able jurist and a fine man.

—Brother BAILEY, of Johnstown, is grooming PALMER for the position of Democratic floor-leader of Congress in the event that OSCAR W. UNDERWOOD is elected to the Senate. Of course there are those who will be mean enough to say that the Cambria-Bedford Congressman is only flattering PALMER's vanity in order to keep him from running for Governor so that he can, himself, attain that distinction, but we don't believe any such thing.

—Dr. DONALD MCCASKEY, of Lancaster, speaks ill advisedly when he states that "there is no one connected with the State Highway Department who knows how to put the dirt roads of the State in proper condition." Let the gentleman take a drive over the dirt roads over the mountain from Port Matilda to Philipsburg, Snow Shoe Interchange to Snow Shoe, or Pottery Bank to Milroy. A ride over any of these inexpensively constructed dirt roads would certainly convince any one that great advancement has been made in road building and while the WATCHMAN is not in sympathy with many things the State Highway Department does it is of the opinion that Dr. MCCASKEY doesn't know what he is talking about when he says there is no one connected with it who knows how to build dirt roads.

—The Harrisburg Star Independent has the idea that they have a financial wizard in that city because someone on their sinking fund commission has proposed that they borrow \$110,000 from the water department at 4% interest. The great wisdom in the proposition appears to be double acting. The city would get the loan at one or two per cent. lower than would have to be paid for it elsewhere while at the same time the water department would get two per cent. more interest on its surplus than the banks that hold it are paying. This is all very pretty in theory, but in practice it might work out like the same scheme worked in Bellefonte some years ago. This borough had a sinking fund that looked tempting to just such financial wizards so they proceeded to borrow from it for current needs. The practice ran on until thousands of dollars that were supposed to be in the sinking fund were in reality only I O U's and the borough had no money to pay them. Then more bonds had to be issued to make the sinking fund solid and in the end the borough was worse off than ever. No, dear Independent, it is not good business for a municipality to play debtor and creditor within itself for the reason that it won't make the same effort to save and pay back to itself that it would be compelled to make were an outsider the lender. Better invest your water funds in some other 4% bonds and let your sinking fund commission borrow its money on the outside at 4%.

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Sulzer and Other False Reformers.

Governor SULZER, of New York, didn't testify in his own behalf in the court of impeachment in which he was tried for "high crimes and misdemeanors." He was anxious to testify, it was said, but his legal advisers protested that his narrative would not stand under cross examination. Other witnesses gave most damaging testimony against him and one of them swore that the Governor had offered to make terms with MURPHY if that political manipulator would call off the impeachment proceedings. Overtures were made to the Republican machine, according to the evidence and this testimony was not contradicted or disputed. It is part of the record and must be taken into account in framing the verdict.

The nomination of SULZER by the Democrats of New York was a most unfortunate incident. It came at a time when any decent Democratic candidate could have been elected and likewise at a time when the election of a decent Democrat to the office of Governor of New York would have meant much to the Democracy and the country. But the country was under the influence of what might be called "reform hysteria," and SULZER, a yellow-streaked machine servitor, professed reform so ardently that the party managers were deceived and he was nominated. That the exposure of his delinquencies didn't come before the election and bring with it party defeat is the only surprising thing in the matter.

The Democrats of New York are not the only victims of confidence in reform misplaced. In Pennsylvania Democrats have rushed headlong into support of a leadership of precisely the same type though a trifle more advanced in finesse. A MITCHELL PALMER had always been a servile follower of the party leaders whom he now denounces as corrupt bosses. As late as 1909 he impudently influential Democrats whom he now denounces to help him in his ambitions to advance toward control. In 1910 he was with and one of them at Allentown. Like SULZER, however, he turned upon them the moment that his own interests might be subserved by recency. He is in no danger of impeachment but he is more than likely to cause a blush before his aims are fulfilled.

—Acting President HUERTA, of Mexico, is certainly a strenuous executive. Having put the entire body of Congress under arrest he is now considering the propriety of hanging the members severally. How ROOSEVELT would like to conduct business in that way?

Weakening of the Washington Party.

That a considerable number of the supporters of ROOSEVELT in the election of 1912 have returned to their old party allegiance, is unquestionably true. Some of them were Democrats and many of them Republicans and they were influenced to their party alignment that year by admiration for the former President. As a matter of fact the standard of public morals is not high in Pennsylvania and many people are attracted to Mr. ROOSEVELT because of his animal propensity. His desire to kill things, his almost incredible ambition to rule or ruin, is misinterpreted into a spirit of heroism and thousands of people voted for him who had no sympathy with the policies which his candidacy represented.

It is safe to say that practically all the Democrats who were misled in that way are already back among their old political associates and such Republicans as are not ROOSEVELT worshippers may or may not vote with the Republican machine until the opportunity to vote for ROOSEVELT recurs. Another element which added to the Washington party strength in 1912 was a group of political malcontents who couldn't get offices in either of the old parties and affiliated with the ROOSEVELT force as "a last hope." Their expectations have been disappointed and it may be said that they have gone back to the Republican machine. These desertions will materially weaken the Washington party this year.

But there are no signs that this weakening of the Washington party will correspondingly strengthen the PENROSE machine. The one certain consequence of the political revolt of 1912 is that the Republican machine has been irreparably broken. Only a comparatively few of the deserters from the Washington party will resume their old allegiance to the PENROSE machine. The selfish and sordid element represented by ex-Chairman HICKS will probably be beguiled by promises of plunder but none of the self-respecting Democrats or Republicans who voted for ROOSEVELT in 1912 will join the PENROSE gang now. The desertions from the Washington party mean accessions to the Democratic party.

—The best Job Work done here.

A Few Plain Words With the Tax-Payer.

Do you favor making the corporations help make and keep in repair the public high-ways of the State, which as local tax-payers, you have always had to maintain?

If so, you will vote "yes" on constitutional amendment No. 1. That is the amendment the corporations of the State are scheming to defeat, because the bonds to be issued and sold to secure the money to improve our roads, are to be based on and paid by an increase of the tax on the capital stock of these combinations of wealth. Its adoption by the people will be the beginning of a system to require them to pay a proportionate share of local taxation, but which proportion will go to helping make and keep in repair the high-ways that corporations as well as the people use, the expense of which has always fallen, exclusively and alone, upon the shoulders of the tax-payers.

You, Mr. Tax-payer, can readily see where your benefit would come in by the endorsement of this system—the adoption of this amendment. It would be to your road taxes just what the State appropriation to public schools is to your school taxes, only that this money would all come from taxation imposed on corporate stock, while the school appropriation comes out of all the moneys paid into the State treasury from all sources.

Of the \$50,000,000 proposed to be secured to help us make or have good roads, not a single penny of it is to be raised from any other source than that we have named—the tax on the capital stock of corporations—NOT A PENNY of it from your treasury or any money in which you have any interest whatever. If this amendment is defeated and the additional tax that would be required to pay the interest on these bonds and the amount that would eventually have to come from the same source to redeem and pay them, this money will simply remain in the coffers of the corporations, while you continue keeping up the public roads yourselves in addition to all the other local taxes that are so unjustly imposed upon you, while these corporations are exonerated from the payment of any local taxes for any purpose.

How much graft there may be in the disbursement and expenditure of any money the State may have to put to the betterment of our public roads; what kind of material is used in building them; how long they may last; how much it may cost to keep them in repair; by whom or how soon this work is to be done, are, of course, all matters of importance to the people, just as every other public matter should be. But at this time they are mere side issues put forward by corporations to cloud the issue and defeat, if possible, the possibility of an increase on the capital stock tax, they are now paying, or the adoption of a method that will require them to do a share in giving the State good roads. These questions will come up for attention, and will be determined by the Legislature after the amendment has been adopted, and you as voters will choose the men who will determine them. So that you have this matter in your own hands.

If you defeat this Amendment it will relieve corporations from any obligations, but it won't prevent Republican Legislatures and Republican bosses going on and building public roads at your expense and requiring YOU to PAY ALL THE tax necessary for any improvements, any expenditures, or any graft they may have in doing so. By voting "no" on Amendment No. 1, you are leaving the road question just where it is today, with notice to the public, that you would rather pay all the expense of keeping up all our public high-ways yourselves than give the State the authority to increase the tax on the capital stock of corporations to help bear these burdens.

You now have it in your own hands to help yourselves by making corporations help bear part of the taxation necessary to make and maintain our public high-ways. Will you have the good sense to do it, or will you decide to let our road matters as they now are and give coming Legislatures and State administrations power to make you bear ALL the expense of building any kind of roads they may determine the State shall have? The question is up to you, Mr. Tax-payer.

President and Political Activity.

It is rather unusual for a President to mix up in local political contests in his own party and not exactly commendable. President WILSON realized this fact when he declined to meddle in the gubernatorial campaign in New Jersey, though his residence in that State would afford some justification while his friendliness toward Governor FREDLER, the Democratic nominee, was certainly an ample enticement. But he declared that the Governor is the head of the party in the State and it would be improper for even the President to interfere. It was the Democratic conception of the relations of a Democratic President to the people of a State.

For these reasons we do not believe that President WILSON has directly or indirectly interfered with the Senatorial contest in Alabama. That he asked Representative CLAYTON to withdraw from the contention is, no doubt, true, and that the withdrawal of Judge CLAYTON may incidentally promote the success of Representative UNDERWOOD is altogether probable. But the request to Judge CLAYTON was not for the purpose of helping UNDERWOOD. It was to promote the cause of good government throughout the country. President WILSON wants Judge CLAYTON as chairman of the House committee on the Judiciary to lead in the impending fight against the trusts which have been despoiling the country.

But no right thinking man North or South will complain because President WILSON's action in the matter will incidentally help Mr. OSCAR W. UNDERWOOD in his race for the vacant Senatorial seat. He could hardly do a better thing for the Democratic party and the country, since Mr. UNDERWOOD has determined to leave the House of Representatives anyway. The loss of UNDERWOOD from Congress would be almost irreparable. His wisdom, experience and fidelity to principles are invaluable assets to the country and it is comforting to feel that though he quits the House he will still have part in legislation. Besides the election of HOBSON to the Senate would be a calamity.

Danger of War With Mexico.

President WILSON has properly served notice on Mr. HUERTA that an oligarchy in Mexico won't go. HUERTA has invoked every expedient to fool the public. After having procured the murder of his predecessor in order to get into office, he has made all kinds of false promises for the purpose of retaining power. But he has not deceived the American people or the President of the United States. At every stage of the game his schemes have been understood and discounted. His effort to make himself a dictator is the limit of an outrageous presumption. The refusal of President WILSON to acquiesce in the plans of HUERTA may result in hostile operations between the countries. But it must be said that the government of the United States has made every possible effort to avoid such a result. The administration of President WILSON has gone beyond the limit of reason to avoid the duty of chastising not Mexico, because we have no quarrel with that country, but a usurper who has attained a position of power in the government of our sister Republic by murder and other forms of crime.

The President of the United States has notified this usurper that no election can be held under the conditions which he has established. The people of the United States will cordially concur in this decision and if it produces war that result will be accepted as the alternative to injustice upon the American continent. We are a peace-loving people but we demand at least the forms of justice and HUERTA has made it impossible to even hope for this if he is permitted to have his evil way in the conduct of the government which he has betrayed.

—When the people come to understand that Senators CUMMINS and LA-FOLLETTE are only different types of the same demagogue, it will be easier to understand their various attitudes on public questions.

—Have your Job Work done here.

Wilson and Pardons.

From the Johnstown Democrat. Being rich and having powerful friends is not a qualification for a pardon with President Woodrow Wilson. The times have changed for the wealthy malefactors who skate too close to the thin edge of the law and fall into its clutches. This is exemplified by the recent action of the President in refusing pardons for Charles A. Houston and John H. Bullock, who were convicted for defrauding the government in Alaska.

During the Taft administration the qualification of wealth usually made it easy for a criminal to escape the federal penitentiary. The Standard Oil officials indicted in Texas were pardoned. Heike and Gerbracht, the Sugar Trust officials, received pardons and never saw the penitentiary after conviction on criminal charges. Charles M. Hyde, convicted of land frauds in south Dakota, was pardoned, and Banker Charles Morse received the Taft clemency that allowed him to get back into the Wall street game.

But Houston and Bullock seem to be headed straight for a federal prison unless the upper courts reverse their conviction. Their highly organized campaign which was expected to result in a pardon from President Wilson has failed in spite of the efforts of powerful politicians in Washington to put it through. For a time success seemed to be on the way, for the influences behind the men succeeded in getting consideration of the application for a pardon by the Department of Justice while their cases were still pending in court, a procedure which is forbidden by the rules of the Department of Justice. The case went up to President Wilson for action, and he promptly vetoed any recommendations for clemency, giving the convicted men to understand that their cases must take their course through the courts.

Houston and Bullock were indicted for conspiring with others to act in collusion when bidding to supply coal to government stations in Alaska. As a result of this alleged collusion, the government paid \$27 per ton for coal, while it was selling in the Nome, Alaska, market for \$16 a ton. The men are alleged to have made fortunes out of these contracts. Yet, after conviction in the lower courts, they pleaded poverty for inability to carry their cases higher, and on this plea submitted their applications for pardon. As a matter of fact, their cases were appealed, and the expensive part of perfecting the appeals was concluded before President Wilson got the cases. He refused to interfere with the progress of justice.

Contrasted Views from Ex-Presidents.

From the New York World. Addressing the Boston City Club, ex-President Taft said: "We are Republicans or we are Democrats, we are for possibilities or impossibilities, but I trust there is no one here who doesn't wish the success of the present administration of the United States for the benefit of all the people."

It is gratifying to know the sentiment was greeted, as the report says, "with a storm of applause." It is easy to believe it was a much more sincere as well as a much more patriotic applause than that which followed in these two speeches delivered under conditions so near alike. Mr. Taft has no desire to make a leadership for himself by factious opposition. Mr. Roosevelt has hardly any other desire so far as politics is concerned. "Until he has again an opportunity to discuss the issues," says Mr. Taft, "I am for the administration." Mr. Roosevelt's speech was a virtual declaration that "I am opposed to every administration that is not my own."

News From Greensburg.

From the Greensburg Press. So Warren Worth Bailey wants to be Governor of this glorious State. Well, so does A. Mitchell Palmer and all the other Democrats who have come into prominence through the reorganization of that party. Another reorganization with another crop of patriots will be absolutely necessary.

Belong to "Let Us Alone" Society.

From the New York World. Vice President Marshall insists that the "American business man should stop expecting Congress to open his store every morning and close it every evening." The most that the American business man asks of Congress is not to close up his place of business permanently.

They Vote the Pigs.

From the Connelleville News. Philadelphia makes the proud boast that she has 90,000 hog pens, and the statement will be accepted in view of the fact that Philadelphia is the natural abiding place of the leaders of the Penrose machine in Pennsylvania.

What's the Matter With Socialism.

From the Columbia State. Gov. Foss, of Massachusetts, had a sound Republican sleep last night, but it is believed that his dreams are still Democratic. His nightmares however, are positively Progressive.

—Our friends, the bankers, would make more progress in altering the pending currency bill if they showed less disposition to force their opinions on Congress and the President.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

—Judge W. N. Seibert, of the Juniata-Perry district, has been ill for the last two weeks at his home in New Bloomfield.

—The small-pox scare in Clinton county has sensibly abated and the schools of Flemington reopened on Monday. No new cases have appeared for several days.

—Mrs. Amelia C. Fisher, Sunbury's oldest resident, was 100 years old last Friday. She is vigorous and active, full of energy and her faculties are remarkably keen for her age.

—The extension of the Pittsburgh, Shawmut and Northern railroad, from Brookville to Kittanning, was opened for passenger traffic on Sunday. There will be a train each way twice a day.

—The bald iniquity of the scalp act is forcibly illustrated by the fact that Huntington county paid out from May 6 to October 6, the sum of \$6,893 for the scalps of predatory birds and animals.

—Children who were playing with matches set fire to the barn of Jerry Neal, at Oakmont, near Morristown. The structure was entirely destroyed and with it five tons of hay and other contents.

—Some bold thief entered the home of Anderson Steele, of Latrobe, in broad daylight the other day and when he left carried with him a gold watch and chain and eighteen silver knives and forks.

—A Northumberland county individual who did a little hunting last week without taking the trouble to take out a license, and who likewise disregarded the season, a little later paid \$85 for three little birds he had shot.

—A new mining operation is about to start within two miles of Ebensburg and the conservative citizens of Cambria's capital are afraid they will be overwhelmed by the ruffraff of humanity. Perhaps their fears are exaggerated.

—Lloyd Rupert, of Oliver township, Mifflin county, recently fell twenty-five feet from an apple tree. He had three pecks of apples on his shoulder when he fell and sustained serious injuries. Both legs were paralyzed, but he is now slowly recovering.

—Howard Walter Francis and his father, Jacob Francis, have entered suit in the Somerset county court against the Baltimore & Ohio railroad, claiming damages in the sum of \$12,000 for injuries sustained by the lad on a grade crossing, involving the loss of a leg.

—The Monroe Coal company has closed the bargain whereby they become the owners of the David Jones farm that lies about one mile west of Ebensburg on the Clay pike. The tract consists of 146 acres and the price paid for surface and coal was \$150 per acre.

—Indiana county's murder mystery resolves itself into the tale of a lad who, with a brother, was caught stealing apples from a farmer. The frightened boy got away but the farmer caught and held his brother. Eventually the latter was permitted to go and no harm was done any one.

—While shooting at a sparrow, John S. Bradley, of Gallitzin accidentally shot his wife. The bullet passed through the kitchen wall and struck the woman below the right eye, smashing her into the nose. The glass was removed from the eye but the bullet was not located.

—Returning from the Bloomsburg fair Thursday night a Milton letter carrier was missed after the train had pulled out from Rupert. Word was telegraphed back and his mangled body was found on the track. When the train reached Milton his cap was found on the pilot of the engine. The train crew did not know they had hit anything.

—What lawyers at Sunbury say is the most novel damage suit they ever heard of was brought in the Northumberland county court by N. D. Messinger, of Point township. He seeks \$25,000 damages from the Germania Brewing Co., of Danville, which he alleges, sold him a guaranteed non-alcoholic drink, when, in truth, it was intoxicating. He resold it, and as a result served six months in jail for selling liquor illegally.

—Burglars entered the post office at Blandburg last Saturday morning and blew open the safe securing a large supply of postage stamps and some money. An epidemic of post office and store robberies seems to have set in again in that region, various robberies having occurred recently at McGees Mills, Bells Landing, Clymer, Sligo and Blandburg. Four of these were post office burglaries and in every case it is said the robbers made big hauls.

—The will of the late S. B. Haupt, of Milton, president and general manager of the Susquehanna, Bloomsburg and Berwick Railroad company, leaves the whole of his estate in trust, the income or any part of the estate needed to support his widow, to be devoted to such use as long as she remains single. In case of her death or remarriage the estate is to be divided among his brothers and sisters, their heirs or assigns. There are a number of relatives of deceased living in Bellefonte.

—Francisco Imbisi, who killed Charles Hayes and wounded and robbed paymaster Patrick Campbell at Portage, Pa., in 1904, surrendered himself to the authorities at Measlin, Sicily, on Wednesday, Oct. 8. He was immediately sentenced to thirty years imprisonment. Largely through Mr. Campbell's efforts, in a trip he made to Sicily, Imbisi was captured several years ago, but during the great earthquake at Measlin he managed to escape. Fillorano Guseppo, who is also wanted in connection with the crime, is still at liberty.

—The State Live Stock Sanitary Board is fighting hard to stamp out cholera among hogs of swine in Northumberland and Montour counties. Over 500 cases have been reported. Many hogs have been vaccinated by the State's veterinarians, and many farms have been quarantined against the disease. Hogs valued at several thousand dollars have been slaughtered. In places where the disease exists, all hogs are isolated and put under strict quarantine. Doctor McNeal, of the State Live Stock Sanitary Board, vaccinated more than 100 hogs last week. He reports that everything possible is being done to stamp out the disease.

—The vote for Judge of Superior Court, the last to be computed, was finished on Saturday, but the official returns have not yet been received at the State Department. Unofficial returns from the entire State show that the following was the vote for the four highest candidates, and they will go on the ballot: John J. Henderson, 96,057; James Alcorn, 76,498; Webster Grim, 58,129; John W. Kephart, 53,479. The names of these four candidates will be on the official ballot, and but two are to be elected, and the voter can vote for but one. The two receiving the highest number of votes in November will be declared elected to the Superior Court.

—The chicken coop of George Ocelus, at Cum-bola, Schuylkill county, was robbed of 26 chickens and 6 ducks Tuesday night. While investigating, Ocelus found a pocketbook in the chicken coop containing \$250 and a tax receipt, which was dropped by the man who took the chickens. The owner of the tax receipt was notified of the find and he at once claimed the money and returned the chickens, declaring he took them only as a joke. Ocelus refuses to give the name of his neighbor, whose identity he discovered in this odd manner, but he declined to return the money, declaring he will hold the amount also for fun. It is said that both men will bring law suits, Ocelus charging his neighbor with theft, and the neighbor suing his money.