

—These are the times when even the righteous take an occasional tumble in slippery places.

—Medical journals are warning "old folks" of the danger in attending dances. What's the use when we don't have anybody willing to be placed in that class anymore.

—Congressman BEN JOHNSON, of Kentucky, had the wrong number when he got into Congress. The army was the place for him. That's where Uncle SAM keeps his fighters.

—The Democratic leaders in Congress are striving to complete the work of the session by July first and they will probably accomplish the purpose. The Democratic leaders of the present Congress have a habit of doing things.

—The destruction of battleship models in a fire at Cramp's ship-yard, Philadelphia, the other day, is a matter of no great consequence. A battleship model becomes obsolete almost as soon as the ship built from it strikes the water.

—In several Pennsylvania colleges one student in every fifteen owns an automobile. In all probability the fourteen who don't will be fellows who will be first to make good enough to buy a machine of their own after they get out of college.

—Uncle SAM is going to ask the Mexican women who followed those Mexican soldiers over the border into his country to do the cooking for the entire party during their visit. And he will probably ask it in such a way that if they refuse there will be no cooking done.

—A Philadelphia contemporary has discovered, by diligent inquiry, that a majority of the clergy are opposed to the new dances. If our memory serves us right, however, the clergymen of the country never were enthusiastically in favor of any kind of dances.

—We notice that among the distinguished up-State politicians who called on Senator PENROSE, in Philadelphia, on Saturday, was our own HENRY CUTE QUIGLEY. It is so unfashionable among Republicans now-a-days to own that they are on calling terms with the senior Senator that we rather admire the courage of our local candidate for judge.

—If it were worth while to pay serious attention to the utterances of those hot-headed Mexicans the federal soldiers who flew under Uncle SAM's coat tails for protection from their own countrymen last week might be asked what they think of Uncle SAM's reception of them as compared with the kind they boasted so bombastically about giving him should he venture into their country.

—Realizing that if he goes back to Congress he can't beat the Hon. CLAUDE KITCHIN, of North Carolina, for the chairmanship of the Ways and Means committee and thereby secure the Democratic leadership of the House, the Hon. MITCH PALMER is about to notify the Democrats of Pennsylvania that he will permit them to make him their candidate for the Senate. How altogether lovely is this magnanimous man.

—What keeps the Pennsylvania Democrats, who are now occupying seats at the public pie counter, busiest is trying to cipher out what the other patriots in the same class with themselves ever did for the party to entitle them to the honors they think they are holding and the emoluments they are each enjoying. And there are scores of other Democrats in almost every section of the State greatly interested in the solution of the same problem.

—Judge FULLER, of Wilkesbarre, ruled against a young attorney of that place who had sued a client for a fee of \$450 for presenting a license petition for him. The court said: "no such fee would be promised were it not for the client's belief that the attorney possesses some peculiar occult access to the ear of the judge." Of course no such fees are charged in Centre county, but we fancy that prospective clients have occasionally been given a little of that "peculiar occult access" dope.

—The last hope of ROBERT F. HUNTER to be made United States Marshall for the Middle district of Pennsylvania, went a glimmering on Saturday, when JAMES A. MAGGE, of New Bloomfield, was agreed upon for the place. We are sorry that Bob has to be disappointed and while we regret that Centre county has missed this opportunity of getting one into the federal service of whom it could be reasonably proud, it may be some comfort to him to know that Mr. MAGGE is a fine fellow and will make a splendid official.

—The announcement has been made that Senator J. K. P. HALL will not be a candidate to succeed himself in the Elk-Clinton-Cameron district. The Senator has reached his seventieth year and, we presume, cares little for the excitements of politics when the counter attraction of being absolutely free from all public obligations is considered. In all probability the Democrats of that district will look to the Hon. JOHN FLINN to represent them in the upper branch of the Legislature and should they succeed in persuading him to enter the contest the House will lose a sterling Democrat and the ablest man, by far, on the Democratic side.

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Col. Bailey's Dilemma.

It would be a pity to note the recall of the Hon. WARREN WORTH BAILEY at the end of his first term in Congress. There are a great many elements that make for a great and useful career in the make-up of the Johnstown editor, but, unfortunately, there are some others obstructive, rather than constructive, and they are the ones causing the trouble just now. It is not a compliment to say that there is probably not a more profound thinker in Congress than Col. BAILEY. It is the truth. And we have no intention of exalting one and minimizing the other when we say that were his talents to run true to the needs of orthodox Democracy the people of Pennsylvania who do not know it now would soon discover that as compared with Congressman BAILEY our Pennsylvania leader in Congress rattles very like an empty wagon.

Modesty may persuade Col. BAILEY to believe that these are more of the misguided utterances of the WATCHMAN that his esteemed journal so frequently refers to. However that may be we stand by them just as we stand by other statements to which he has taken exception. Being so it is all the more pity that he is threatened with very serious opposition if he is ambitious to return to Congress to represent the Blair-Bedford-Cambria district.

Rumor has it that Representative MATT, of Bedford county, a Reorganizer, will enter the contest against Col. BAILEY; while THOMAS H. GREVY, of Blair, and others of prominence and influence in the district, will put whatever obstacles they can in his path. We can not account for the attitude of the Bedford Assemblyman. He has been part and parcel of the Reorganization movement in which Col. BAILEY has been such a distinguished leader and while the only motive that would seem at all logical is that he is peeved because Reorganization has not brought him more of glory or pap that can certainly not be the one, for Reorganizers have the welfare (?) of their party too much at heart to let a little matter of that sort stir up a war of reprisal in their own ranks. As for the unfriendliness of the opposition from the other sources Col. BAILEY, himself is responsible.

Here is where we find the obstructive elements in the make up of this able man acting as a deterrent to his usefulness, possibly eliminating him at a time when he could be of great service to his party in particular and to society as a whole. As we said before Col. BAILEY was and is a Reorganizer. In all the vagaries he has indulged in his rather vagarious career he has not been more vindictive or arrogant than in the manner he has assumed since the turn of the political wheel in Pennsylvania put his side up and the other side down. His constant attitude has been one of arrogating to the Reorganizers everything of virtue that there can be in politics and charging those who have chanced to disagree with him with being actuated only by motives inimical to the cause of good government. Rather trying to make it appear that some men who have been identified with the party far longer than he has himself, and who have been more constantly devoted to bringing about its supremacy, are millstones about its neck. Such having been the attitude of the Congressman from Johnstown he certainly must realize that those whom he has striven so assiduously to drive away cannot be easily coaxed back now that he may stand in very great need of their support.

Again we say the district has no abler man to send to Congress, but if he fails to succeed himself it will be solely because of that fool tangent, on which all Reorganizers seem to shoot off, that they can kick all Democrats into the polls to vote for them with the same impudent assurance that they kicked them out of the councils of the party.

—The Progressives have been busy in organization work in this State for some time and the Republicans are getting ready to do things. But we hear of no movement in this direction on the part of the Democratic organization. Probably our chairman is too busy working up sentiment in favor of factionists for nomination to give time or attention to the interests of the party.

—The President is all right in inviting public criticism of his policies but he takes long chances when he proposes public hearings on pending legislation. The average fellow who wants to be heard under such circumstances is more anxious to delay action than improve measures.

—The cackling of the geese saved Rome one time, so 'tis said. And then the Hon. JIM BLAKESLIE "lit a cigarette" and saved WOODROW WILSON.

—The best Job Work done here.

The Bull Moose Conference.

The Bull Moose conference in Harrisburg last week was disappointing. Everybody expected it would do something worth while, but as a matter of fact it did nothing that will make even a transient impression on the public mind. Probably there were substantial reasons for this. Maybe it was because Boss FLINN, of Pittsburgh, and Boss VAN VALKENBURG, of Philadelphia, didn't have as complete control of the forces in attendance as they hoped to show and possibly it was for the reason that these enterprising proprietors of the party in Pennsylvania have been too far removed from Mr. ROOSEVELT for a considerable time that they have become afraid to act. In any event nothing was done except the issue of a few platitudes in the form of a platform and the practical guarantee of the Senatorial nomination to Mr. GIFFORD PINCHOTT, of New York.

For ourselves we own that we hoped the conference would declare for Boss FLINN for Governor. He has earned that distinction by the liberality of his contributions to the campaign fund in 1912 as well as on account of the vehemence of his opposition to Senator PENROSE and the machine he represents. Some years ago he was willing to serve that machine with all the energy and fidelity he could command. He even organized the Pittsburgh Republican machine on the Philadelphia plan and laid it at the feet of the late Senator QUAY to command. But QUAY was a pretty good judge of men and refused to have anything to do with FLINN. PENROSE has pursued the same course since he succeeded QUAY as the machine leader. For these reasons FLINN has been consistently opposed to the machine since.

But the conference was not disposed to favor FLINN in this way. The majority of those present seem to have reached the conclusion that if the party hopes to endure, it will be obliged to put forward a different type of leaders. If ROOSEVELT had been present things might have been different. ROOSEVELT isn't as particular about character as he is insistent upon liberality and he might have advised the party to take FLINN notwithstanding his record. But ROOSEVELT wasn't present or within reach and the Bosses probably thought it would be as well to post-pone action on candidates until he comes. It won't be hard to hand out the tip upon his arrival. The newspapers are good to ROOSEVELT and they will cheerfully spread his views on that or any other subject. So FLINN may be the candidate in the end.

Proposed National Guard Law.

While neither the Secretary of War nor the President is committed to the proposed legislation providing for the payment of National Guardsmen out of the federal treasury, it is reasonable to expect such a result in the end. The proposed legislation does not contemplate the conversion of our citizen soldiers into sinecurists. It simply provides that they will be paid out of the funds of the National government for services rendered and that the expenses of equipment will be divided between the State governments and the National government. In consideration of these favors the National Guardsmen will be required to swear that they are willing to respond to call to service in or out of the country.

From the beginning the State militia has been the basis of our safety in war. Washington admonished the people to maintain it and all his illustrious successors have shown a friendly inclination toward the inexpensive defensive agency it affords. So long as an efficient militia is maintained by the several States there is neither occasion nor excuse for a large standing army. These always willing and ever ready citizens, as has been proved on several occasions, can be mustered in the field in ample time to repel any invasion or resist any enemy. It is proper, therefore, that every available means of creating and maintaining an efficient State militia be adopted, that every expedient in that direction be invoked.

The bill recently drafted by the Secretary of War, officers of the army and representatives of the National Guard of the several States promises the very best results in this direction. It will add something to the immediate expense of our military equipment, but there will be recompense, in the future, for this expenditure because it will avert the necessity of increasing the strength of the regular army at a vastly greater cost. Besides the National government should bear a part of the expense of defensive equipment and there is greater safety in a well regulated militia than in battle-ships which would cost ten times the amount. Of course the Democratic administration will favor the measure.

—The best Job Work done here.

Efficacy of the Cigarette.

JACK LONDON and others of "them literary fellers," who chop magazine fiction out of the raw material with butcher's cleavers, place high value on the cigarette as an all-around sedative. In one of the stories written by one of these gentlemen there is a startling picture of a hero building a bridge across the Salmon river in the Klondike country, a raging torrent of ice and water which defies control. An immense structure of steel has been brought almost to the point of completion when a deluge sets the icebergs above in motion with such force as to threaten the entire destruction of plans, fortunes and everything else. While hundreds of sturdy workmen were watching in dismay and waiting for the collapse, the hero rushed into the net work of steel and practically into the jaws of death and "lit a cigarette." The storm almost instantly subsided, the hero's best girl followed him and in the teeth of danger they fell into each other's arms and "lived happily ever afterward."

In another story by another of these famous writers an industrial disturbance develops into a bitter war between capital and labor. The hero of this robust romance is a teamster of clean life and exemplary habits who had been operating in the prize ring, as a side line. He had recently married a most charming young woman and furnished a bungalow home on the installment plan. The enforced idleness drove him to desperation and he accepted a place on the force of strikers whose business it was to prevent others from filling their places, by one means or another. One night while trying to persuade a strike-breaker from taking a job by administering a few well directed under cuts, elbow jolts and solar plexus jabs, he was set upon by a bunch of ruffians and literally tramped to pieces. After being left for dead his friends assembled, got him together as well as they could and carried him home. For some time he lay unconscious, between life and death until finally one day he recovered his senses and "lit a cigarette."

These two incidents ought to be amply sufficient to prove the efficacy of the cigarette even if they fail to justify the habit. But happily we are now able to supplement this evidence with stronger testimony. According to the Hon. JIM BLAKESLIE when the Hon. MITCH PALMER told him, during the deliberations of the Baltimore convention that "hyenas," from New York, Indiana and Illinois had "dead-locked" the convention against WOODROW WILSON and offered the nomination to Mr. PALMER, what did Hon. JIM do? Precisely what the other two heroes under equally trying circumstances did. He "lit a cigarette" and after his soothing influence had composed his perturbed spirits, he told the Hon. MITCH what was what. It is true that he took a drink of water first, but that was probably a matter of habit. Some men take a swallow of water before they hit the real thing and others reveal their eccentricities in other ways. The main thing, however, is that he "lit a cigarette," and this fact cannot be disputed for the Hon. JIM has himself said it.

—It is beginning to look as if we won't have to watch and wait much longer for the elimination of HUERTA.

Should Hurry Up the Job.

Our friends, Mr. F. PIERCE MUSSER, of Millheim, and Mr. PAT GHERITY, of this place, both of whom are expecting and we understand have been promised, positions in the revenue service will probably need to exercise considerable patience yet before enjoying the fulfillment of their expectations. In the first place it is the general understanding that both these two deserving Democrats have the promise of and reason to expect the same position, the realization of which is exceedingly doubtful, and in the second place, Mr. McCORMICK's Harrisburg paper, the official organ of the patronage dispensers in the State, tells us that Mr. FRED C. KIRKENDALL, of Wilkesbarre, the newly appointed collector of internal revenue for this district, was in Lancaster to be sworn into office, and assume the duties of the place on Monday last, and that it is Mr. KIRKENDALL's purpose to thoroughly familiarize himself with the different duties of the place before making any changes in his force. In fact that he does "not expect to announce any changes" for some time, and it may be a long "some time" if that wait is to continue until the boss becomes thoroughly familiar with the many difficulties arising in the collection of the government revenues. The WATCHMAN however hopes that he may make short work of his preparatory schooling and may find himself able at least to put these good Democrats into two of the many Democratic offices under him in a few days.

Speculators in Sex.

From Collier's Weekly. In looking on at the great present day spectacle of the emancipation of women, one is struck by a certain rashness of impulse that characterizes some of the performance. Young women of decent character accept invitations freely, make acquaintances easily, embark on undefined motor excursions with complete assurance. As the phrase goes, "they get by with it." One cannot help thinking that to many girls the American doctrine of consideration for women has become not so much an obligation governing conduct as an opportunity for pleasure. These young fellows are to be "managed." Under proper supervision (that female prerogative), investment in their acquaintance will yield perfectly safe dividends of "good times." They will buy theater tickets, confectios, motor rides, entertainments, merely for the abstract pleasure of the girl's company. If they begin to "get foolish" severe looks will quell the insubordination. This view is set forth daily in papers and magazines that strike the popular note. So the girl becomes a speculator in sex attraction, an amateur in the most fundamental human passions. The results are in the paper every day—these tragedies of the roadhouse, the shady hotel, the ambiguous flat. These self-sufficient young persons discover bitterly and often too late that there is sound sense and real purpose in the convention. Speculators sometimes win, but economic and other laws are not alterable at will, and the end of speculation is nearly always the same—bankruptcy. We are going to end the commercialization of sex by taking whatever repressive measures are necessary, but speculation in it will always be a matter for the wisdom of those immediately concerned. Girls and boys and parents will be responsible to the end of the chapter.

From 1897 to 1913.

From the New York Sun. The law under which Arthur A. McLean pleaded guilty yesterday to a misdemeanor, he as treasurer of the Democratic state committee having accepted a contribution from a corporation, was enacted after the insurance investigation, at which the extent to which party canvasses were financed by corporations was revealed. How far the country has traveled toward a new standard in this matter is shown by the fact that in 1896 such contributions were openly made and their givers were applauded for their patriotism by those of their political faith. In 10 years such gifts were prohibited; in 17 years the man who accepts such a gift is before the court for sentence.

The district attorney joined in the request for a suspension of sentence, which seems reasonable and proper in the circumstances. McLean followed a custom as old as his party; the prohibitory section of the law was a dead letter for seven years; nobody will quarrel with the disposition of the accused. But the law has been made to live by its enforcement and it will hereafter be ignored by political collectors at their peril.

Scapgoat Long Enough.

From the Boston Globe. Napoleon said once that all his troubles dated from the time he divorced Josephine. The New Haven railroad might well say that all its troubles dated from the day it married the Boston & Maine. The alliance is about to be dissolved. The families-in-law never could agree.

The New Haven road has also made peace with the Department of Justice. The agreement reflects nothing but credit on Mr. McReynolds and the New Haven management. If the government and the railroad have sheathed their swords the public ought to agree to the agreement, or show controlling reasons to the contrary.

Most of the New Haven road now needs what all, is peace and quiet. Progress and, we hope, prosperity will follow. The New Haven has been the scapgoat railroad of the country long enough.

Emulating the Ostrich.

From the Altoona Times. The old party leaders who profess to deprecate the importance of the Progressive movement and take pleasure in denouncing it in violent terms have their prototype in the ostrich who buries its head in the sand and thus hopes to escape threatened danger. When the storm comes and blows the ostrich's tail feathers away, it discovers that its expedient was very futile as well as very foolish. When the Progressive storm blows the old-line politicians into oblivion, they will have realized, albeit too late for repentance, that their judgment must be reckoned with, as the events of the present year will demonstrate in the most convincing manner.

A Fine Example.

From the Boston Globe. President Wilson made no speeches to the station crowds on his way north to Washington, saying, with a smile to all who begged him to talk, "I am not in the habit of talking when I haven't anything to say." What a great thing it would be if we were all like the President in this respect.

—Burgess Blanchard has done a good thing in opening a police headquarters in Temple Court where an officer can be reached any night after eleven o'clock. Heretofore the only places a call could be made for a policeman at night were the hotels and sometimes it took quite a while to locate one. Under the new order a policeman can be reached immediately, if it is after eleven o'clock at night.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

—Drilling for oil is going on at Blairsville, Ind. having been leased on both sides of the Conemaugh river.

—A catamount weighing twenty-eight pounds was shot after a long chase over the mountains by Walter Ellison, of Hughesville, near Eaglesmere.

—Asbury W. Lee has agreed to give the Clearfield hospital \$25,000 if the general public contributes the balance of \$22,397.84 to clear it of indebtedness.

—For the tenth time within a few years the cigar store of W. C. Bowser, at Lock Haven, has been robbed. This time the thieves got \$100 worth of goods.

—The Gleasonite fire brick works, closed for a few weeks, will resume operations this week and the tannery at North Bend, which has been running on half time, will go on full time.

—William H. Clawson, of Indiana, will stand trial at the next term of court in that county on a charge of arson, in connection with the fire that recently destroyed his hotel building in Indiana.

—Fenton's burgess, Isadore Long, is a victim of smallpox, as well as several others in places nearby. A spread of the disease is greatly feared and every one who came in contact with the victims has been vaccinated.

—Wearing a glove while working at a corn shredder cost Clay Seltzer, near Williamsport, his left hand and part of the arm. The member was drawn into the machine, which was stopped in time to save it above the elbow.

—Cambria county commissioners have fixed the 1914 millage at one and one-half mills, the same as in 1913, which means no improvements at court house, no insane hospital and little for road improvement, unless bonds are issued for the building.

—A pair of small boys, finding a purse in the square at Williamsport, decided to take a tour and chase the city trolleys for their joy ride. Their display of wealth brought them to grief, however, and they had spent \$1.50 before their career was halted.

—The assignment of the New York Glass company, of Falls Creek, is unworkable, news at DuBois, where the company had just equipped an old plant for the manufacture of bottles. Many workmen were employed and the plant was supposed to be flourishing.

—A small bucket of formaldehyde, in the place where a bucket of water was usually kept in the band hall at Barnesboro, may cost the life of Ernest High, a member of the band, who took a drink of the mixture when he wanted a drink of water. His condition is critical.

—Two prominent citizens of Hughesville have offered to contribute \$1,000 each toward paving the main street of the town, which is a state highway. Others have offered to pay the entire cost in front of their properties and the borough will surely be able to stand the balance.

—The big tabernacle at Shamokin was sold at public auction at that place Monday of this week. There were several bidders. It was knocked down to L. C. Myers, wagon builder and painter, for the sum of \$800. He will move the building as soon as the religious campaign at that place closes.

—About six weeks ago Dr. E. Bruce Earhart, of Saltsburg, and Dr. C. B. Cramer, of Iselin, performed an operation on a woman at Elders Ridge. Dr. Cramer, who was in ill health at the time, died from a nervous breakdown about two weeks ago and Dr. Earhart died of blood poison last week.

—The Mt. Carmel Methodist Episcopal church, of which Rev. Dr. C. T. Dunlap, formerly pastor of the Juniata Methodist Episcopal church, is pastor, was destroyed by fire last week. About fifty ladies, who were quilting in the church parlors, were driven out in a panic. The origin of the fire is unknown.

—The plant of the Barber Car company, located at Rolling Green, about two miles from Sunbury, has been leveled on by the sheriff and many people who bought stock are fearful that they will receive no return for the money which they invested. About \$60,000 was raised in Sunbury as an inducement to the company to build a plant at Rolling Green.

—It will no doubt be of interest to our readers, who are not already familiar with the facts, to know that the City hotel at Sunbury, recently destroyed by fire, was the first electrically lighted hotel in the world. It was in Sunbury that Thomas A. Edison developed the electric light. He was telegraph operator at that place and boarded at the famous hostelry.

—Steoping in his wagon to evade a slash from a knife in the hands of a highwayman and at the same time muttering because he could not find his gun, Harry Barnhart, driver for a Mt. Pleasant bakery, was surprised to see the man jump and start away, his companion following. They had evidently misunderstood about the gun. Mr. Barnhart was carrying over \$200 in cash.

—Lewis Breiting, former member of the Legislature from Philadelphia, Tuesday was appointed chief moving picture censor for Pennsylvania with Mrs. E. C. Neyer, of Charleroi, as assistant. Steps for inspecting and passing upon films and views will be taken immediately in the capitol, where all pictures to be shown must be approved by the censors before being shown.

—The body of a man with his throat cut and several stab wounds in his back was found on the road near Latrobe on Monday morning. Nothing about him gave clue to his identity except that he likely was employed at Jamison No. 2 mine. People from the mine identified him as Andy Holovansken, who had started for Bradenville, to attend a lodge meeting and had not returned.

—A few minutes after eating a piece of candy he found in his pocket, Frank Zinkerich, twenty-four years old, unmarried, employed in the local American Car and Foundry plant at Berwick, died in agony Wednesday, a victim of poisoning. That it was placed there for the purpose of causing his death is the belief of the police, who are working on this theory. The man was of powerful build, and had never been known to be ill.

—Two suits for damages totalling \$82,000 were brought by J. P. Hackenberg and the Milton Weaving company against Northumberland Co. Gas and Electric company in the Common Pleas court at Sunbury on Thursday. They grew out of the burning of the plaintiffs' queensware warehouse and lamp work knitting plants, at Milton, last January. Negligence is alleged, the plaintiffs asserting that the wiring was defective.

—Less than thirty minutes after President Judge Albert W. Johnston made known that bail in the sum of \$21,000 or \$7,000 each, would be accepted for the appearance of Luther and Henry Kratzer and Harvey Willow, of Snyder county, charged with murder, the bonds were furnished by friends of the accused men. The trio are charged with the murder of George Spade during a drunken riot at Selingsgrove on New Year's day. The Kratzers are well-to-do farmers in the vicinity of Kratzerville and a large delegation of neighbors attended the hearing, prepared to furnish bail in any amount.

—Fire which was discovered in the main lobby of the City hotel at Sunbury, shortly after 2.30 o'clock Wednesday afternoon completely destroyed the three story building and resulted in a loss of approximately \$150,000. The building was valued at \$130,000 and insurance amounting to \$40,000 was carried on it, while furniture, valued at \$20,000, was insured for \$4,000. The building which stood at the corner of Fourth and Market streets, in the heart of the business section, was owned by Francis E. Drummheller, a major in the Third brigade, N. G. P., and was occupied by Charles E. Rothbarn.