

INK SLINGS.

The 1914 model of winter can certainly be placed in the Big Six class. Anyway no one will dispute the ground hog's right to say "I told you so." And there are only forty-seven days to wait for the opening of the trout fishing season.

What has become of the fellow who asks "is it cold enough for you?" Really we haven't heard the question for some time. From the way Mr. McCORMICK is blowing his own horn in his Harrisburg Patriot are we to infer that he's fearful lest others may not blow it for him.

The fellow who thinks we haven't had enough snow this winter can start something by airing his opinion within the hearing of the one who has a hundred or more feet of sidewalk about his premises.

Mr. ROCKEFELLER may dodge his Ohio tax bill and save the sum of \$12,000,000 or thereabouts, he is said to owe. But he is making public sentiment that is likely to cost much more to him in the future by his "artful dodging."

So JOHN PRICE JACKSON, dean of the school of engineering at The Pennsylvania State College, and secretary of Commerce and Labor, is being spoken of as the "dark horse" for the Republican nomination for Governor. Well, stranger things than that have happened.

The Senate's splendid action in passing the arbitration treaties advocated by President WILSON keeps the United States in the fore-front of the great powers working to the end that The Hague may ultimately make an end of the need for standing armies and bullying navies.

BILLY SUNDAY has finished his eight weeks campaign in Pittsburgh and they presented him with \$42,569 on the last day of his stay there. That properly represented the thanks of those who were glad he had come, but if the crowd who were glad that he was going had chipped in the contribution would probably have been too big to count.

Judge SINGLETON BELL, of Clearfield county, has just issued drastic orders regulating the licensed places within his jurisdiction. Under the order all bars must close at 9 o'clock at night, there cannot be any side rooms or other drinking places in connection with them, no free lunches and a record must be kept of all liquors sold to be carried away and by whom purchased.

Now the modish young woman must paste a little splotch of black velvet, about the size of a match head, just under the outer corner of her left eye. What she does it, for, is style, of course, but let the poor things keep themselves busy. The more their minds are engaged in such serious (?) operations the oftener they'll forget that other little fad of theirs about wanting to vote.

D. CLARENCE GIBBONEY has a new plan to make Pennsylvania dry. He suggests that the State first vote for State-wide prohibition then appoint a commission to appraise the property values destroyed by the vote, paying this out of the revenues of the State. Of course it is a little premature to discuss what should be done after something has been done that has not yet been done, but we are inclined to the opinion that there would be a great deal of justice in Mr. GIBBONEY'S suggestion.

Col. HAYS GRIER, editor of the Independent, the Democratic organ of Columbia, is of the opinion that VANCE McCORMICK has made a serious mistake in announcing in his platform that if elected Governor, he will recall the Legislature in extra session to compel it to pare down appropriation bills it may pass in excess of the State's revenues. Col. GRIER thinks such a declaration will prove an incentive to Legislators to go the limit in voting appropriations just so they will be called back and have the chance to draw the extra salary provided for such contingencies. There is ground for thought in the suggestion. While it is to be hoped that the personnel of the next Legislature will be very different from that of past bodies it is not probable that it will and it is a safe risk to bet that "log rolling" on appropriation bills will go on quite as extensively as in the past.

The Rev. JOHN HEWITT, of Bellefonte, has formally announced that he is an aspirant for the Democratic nomination for Congress in this district. The WATCHMAN, having previously stated that it does not believe it to be good policy for party papers to take sides for or against candidates before the primaries, will endeavor to give its readers all the information possible that may help them, between now and the 19th of May, in making up their minds as to the fitness of the men who may aspire to this honor. Personally our sympathies are with Rev. HEWITT because of a friendship almost life long. Naturally they should be with him because he is the aspirant from our home county. The WATCHMAN, however, will take no part in whatever contest there may be, further than to impartially set before you the claims of the several aspirants for your suffrage.

Democratic Watchman

STATE RIGHTS AND FEDERAL UNION.

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Mr. Palmer's False Statement.

In an interview published in a Philadelphia contemporary last week Mr. A. MITCHELL PALMER charges that Hon. MICHAEL J. RYAN, a candidate for the Democratic nomination for Governor, "refused to become a member of the Democratic Advisory Committee," for the campaign of 1912. Mr. PALMER alleges some other reasons why the administration at Washington is under no obligation to aid Mr. RYAN in his ambition to secure a nomination for Governor in Pennsylvania, but in view of the fact that the administration at Washington has no moral right to interfere in factional quarrels in this or any other State, that is unimportant. But the charge that Mr. RYAN refused to become a member of the Advisory Committee, is worth considering.

In reply to Mr. PALMER'S statement Mr. RYAN declares that he did not refuse to become a member of the Advisory Committee, that he actually did become a member of that committee and that on September 19th, 1912, "in a letter to A. MITCHELL PALMER, thanked him for suggesting me as a member, as he wrote me he had done." Mr. RYAN also refers to the list of members of the Advisory Committee, as published on page 419 of the "Democratic Text Book" for 1912, the official organ of the National Democratic organization. We have examined the exhibit and find that Mr. RYAN'S statement is confirmed. On the page indicated his name appears at the head of the membership for Pennsylvania. His colleagues on the committee were JAMES J. RYAN, JERE S. BLACK, SAMUEL B. PRICE, JOHN S. RILLING and Captain WILLIAM HASSON, distinguished Democrats of the State.

Mr. RYAN adds that he accepted that appointment to that committee on September 19th, 1912, "in a letter addressed to W. G. MACADOO, Esq., vice chairman of the Democratic National committee at New York city; and on the same date, in a letter to A. MITCHELL PALMER, I thanked him for suggesting me as a member, as he wrote me he had done." Therefore Mr. PALMER has not known that Mr. RYAN had not "refused to become a member of the Democratic Advisory committee," and that his statement to the contrary was a deliberate falsehood, uttered with the malicious purpose of deceiving the Democrats of the State, to the injury of Mr. RYAN. The proverbial infirmity of the public memory was probably depended upon to get away with the trick. But the records are not so easily disposed of. In this case they loom large and prove the facts beyond even the shadow of a doubt.

Since the inauguration of President WILSON A. MITCHELL PALMER is the only Pennsylvania Democrat who has had the ear of the administration. Upon his report the President has bestowed favors and distributed patronage. Very likely the President's alleged interest in another candidate for the Democratic nomination for Governor of the State was influenced by this same false statement of facts. Probably most of the appointments to office, made by the President, have been influenced by misrepresentation of other candidates. In any event it is time that a halt should be called upon Mr. PALMER'S reckless tongue. The good name of the party is involved.

Any deficit in the revenues of the Panama canal must be paid by the people of the United States in taxes. Any ships that pass through the canal without paying toll are enjoying personal favors which make for deficits and are adding to the burdens of the people. It is more a question of arithmetic than sentiment and president WILSON is strong in arithmetic.

Colonel GOETHALS doesn't want to participate in the exercises at the opening of the Isthmian canal for the reason that he detests crowds. Yet as the principal figure in the preparation for those exercises it is his duty to be present and the records show that Colonel GOETHALS never failed to perform his duty.

By the same token it may be said that PENROSE didn't spend much time in Pennsylvania during the period which has intervened since his first election as Senator in Congress. But he didn't have to, for that matter, because the machine he represented was never absent from the State.

Meantime is there no Democrat in Pennsylvania who cares more for party success than for the triumph of a faction or a favorite? If not PENROSE is justified in his expectations.

When ROOSEVELT gets home in the Spring he will find things so different that he won't know which way to turn.

An Awakening Contemporary.

Our esteemed contemporary, the Catawissa News Item, utters this rather plaintive lament:

The Democratic voters of Pennsylvania are beginning to realize that they got out of the clutches of the Guffey-Donnelly bosses only to fall into the hands of the PALMER-McCORMICK holding company. The latter hold in their hands all the Federal offices coming to the State and are after the principal holdings of the Democratic voters of the State. The Guffey-Donnelly crowd used to distribute the few offices that fell to them.

We congratulate our esteemed Catawissa contemporary upon this sign of awakening, for editor RANDALL, though usually keen and alert, seemed, for a time, to have fallen under the somnolent influence of the GUTHRIE-PALMER-McCORMICK dope. The reorganization of the party, in so far as those gentlemen were concerned, had no other purpose than to put them in control of the organization that they might serve their selfish ends. They felt that Democratic victory was impending and wanted to be in position to turn it to their own advantage. In the pursuit of this ambition they traduced faithful Democrats and vilified honest citizens.

The leaders in this movement were GEORGE W. GUTHRIE, WILLIAM B. WILSON, A. MITCHELL PALMER, VANCE C. McCORMICK and JAMES I. BLAKESLEE. GUTHRIE, PALMER and BLAKESLEE insinuated themselves into the control of the organization and resisted every effort to put their title to office to judicial review. Upon the inauguration of the Democratic President all of them, except McCORMICK, applied for office. GUTHRIE secured an Embassy, WILSON got into the Cabinet, BLAKESLEE an important position in Washington, and the smaller offices were divided among their obedient tools, abject servility being the only test of fitness required.

Finally, the opportunities of an office brokerage having been exhausted, PALMER and McCORMICK have undertaken to seize the "principal holdings" of the Democratic voters of the State," as our esteemed contemporary indicates. At a practically secret meeting held in Washington the office of Senator in Congress was bestowed upon one and that of Governor of the State on the other, while the machinery of the party organization has been prostituted to the service of dragging the rank and file of the party into acquiescence. The old organization didn't pervade power in that way. The old leaders were less greedy. As the News Item says "they distributed the few offices that fell to them"

President Wilson Doesn't Interfere.

The enemies of United States Senator CLARKE, of Arkansas, who is a candidate for re-election, circulated a report that President WILSON is averse to the ambition of the Senator whereupon the question was put up to the President, the other day. His reply was characteristic and significant. He said it was his duty to refrain from expressions of support of the candidacy of one Democrat against another Democrat in a State of which he was not a resident. "But," he added, "it is permissible for me to say that Senator CLARKE has always been a valued friend and capable supporter of the administration and that his friendship is and has been appreciated."

In other words the calumniators of Senator CLARKE, of Arkansas, have been "hoist upon their own petard." They hoped to injure the Senator by sneakingly circulating the report that his influence in the Senate had been against the policies of the Democratic administration at Washington and that President WILSON would be glad to have him defeated for re-election. The response of the President will contribute materially to his support in so far as outside influence may work that result among Democrats who are committed to the principle of home rule. President WILSON understands that he has no right to interfere in local party contests, but he has a right to rebuke those who drag his name into them.

In this State there have been a lot of assertions of President WILSON'S preference for certain candidates who selfishly aspire to office and a good deal of insinuation as to his opposition to other Democrats who indulge in laudable ambitions to serve the party and the country. It is safe to say that President WILSON has interfered in behalf of certain candidates in Pennsylvania no more than he has interfered against Senator CLARKE in Arkansas. No doubt when McCORMICK and PALMER told him they were candidates he assented just as he would if any other Democrat had conveyed the same information to him. But to say that he picked one man or another for any office is absurd.

Have your Job Work done here.

Mr. McCormick's Platform.

In announcing his candidacy for Governor of Pennsylvania, Mr. VANCE McCORMICK states that he is "a thorough believer in local self-government." Does he imagine that the principle of self-government was expressed when A. MITCHELL PALMER, ROLAND S. MORRIS and himself met in Washington, appointed him candidate of the party for Governor and directed the organization to set its machinery in motion to ratify their action? Wouldn't the principle of self-government require that the Democratic voters of the State, unflinching by bribery in patronage, uncoerced by the force of party organization and unbosomed by office brokers, select their own candidates for nomination for all offices?

Does Mr. VANCE C. McCORMICK imagine that he was exemplifying the grand principles of local self-government when he declared to representative Democrats of Clearfield county that no name would be considered for appointment to local federal offices in that county unless it was endorsed by a certain party recreant who has been serving the re-organizers in the work of traducing honest and faithful Democrats? Does he believe that he was conserving those principles when he made a similar statement with respect to this county? Can he even delude himself with the notion that he was promoting home rule when he replied to a protest representing ninety per cent of the Democrats of Mercer, against the appointment of a recent carpet-bagger to the office of postmaster of that town, for the reason that "he has been attending our meetings here and we regard him as our representative?"

As a matter of fact VANCE C. McCORMICK doesn't want the principles of local self-government to prevail. If he had his way the functions of government would be limited to his own class and the offices which were not desired by men of wealth would be distributed as backdoor "hand-outs," to those who would grovel at his feet. Ever since he entered upon the senate of manhood he has been an arrogant, purse-proud boss. When he was Mayor of Harrisburg he made the patronage of the office a matter of personal favor and rebuked the suggestion that faithful party service was a recommendation. He is a purely selfish luster after power and would wreck the party to achieve his purposes.

HARRY THAW has converted a New England United States court into a moving picture show and that achievement will probably hold him awhile even if he doesn't get away from the police.

The Mexican Situation.

The killing of an Englishman named BENTON at Jaurez, Mexico, the other day, at the instance or by the consent of General VILLA, has somewhat complicated the Mexican situation. That is to say it has aroused British indignation at the methods of the constitutionals, or rebels, as they are variously designated, and stimulated the opposition to President WILSON'S policy of "watching and waiting," in this country. But we can see nothing in the new developments to cause alarm. The London government has determined to submit its grievance to the government at Washington and abide by the result of an investigation into the affair by our Department of State.

The stories of the killing of BENTON are conflicting. Those which were hastened to London described the affair as a most brutal murder perpetrated by the bloody hands of General VILLA. Those which have come to Washington, corroborated by the official records, indicate a rather commonplace military execution under judicial sanction. Of course one story is magnified and the other colored to suit the purposes of the parties in interest, but the preponderance of evidence is in favor of the comparative accuracy of the account which has come to the official knowledge of the authorities in Washington. The investigation will settle the matter finally.

But the incident shows how important it is to exercise care in the management of such affairs under like circumstances. No doubt General VILLA is as atrocious a figure as he has been painted and there would be little advantage to civilization in dethroning HUERTA and entreching VILLA in power. But that has nothing to do with the matter. The only question which the President of the United States has to consider is our moral obligation and respect for that requires that the policy thus far pursued be continued. HUERTA is a moral monster who acquired the Presidency by murder and the government of the United States can give neither moral nor material support to such an establishment.

For high class Job Work come to the WATCHMAN Office.

A Stealthy Move.

From the Johnstown Democrat. Congressman Clyde A. Tavenner calls attention to a very stealthy attack made upon the integrity of the parcel post law by the senate postoffice committee. The statesmen of the upper house would take away from the postmaster general the power to make the changes in weight limits, zones or charges. As Congressman Tavenner points out the very life of the parcel post system lies in the power given the postmaster as an executive. That official may, as occasion arises, make such readjustments in rates, zones and charges as may be necessary in order to meet express company competition. At the present time it is complained that the parcel post rates naturally attract the short hauls leaving the long hauls to the express companies. There is money in the long hauls and unless the express companies skim the cream of the business some adjustments are necessary.

The senate provision would take away from the postmaster general all power of initiative. It would bind an executive of a great business enterprise for a year in advance and make it impossible to meet business conditions as they might arise. The board of directors would tie their business manager the way the senate proposes trying the postmaster general.

Congressman Tavenner hesitates to impute any ulterior motives to the members of the senate postoffice committee. But it must be remembered that the upper house has stood for years as the bulwark of the Express companies. It is worth while considering just how Boies Penrose would be likely to vote if a proposition that involved the life of the parcel post was at stake. Would Big Boies be found with the express companies or with the people? In the past he has been the friend of the express company parcel carriers—the carriers that declared their rates would never be changed, but which made sweeping changes the moment the government entered the field as a competitor.

There will be some mighty big questions to be solved during the next year or so. Progressive legislation will be attacked from every possible angle. The miners and sappers of privilege will be busy digging. In such times a reactionary senate becomes? Every day that comes brings with it a new reason why Boies Penrose should be elected to stay at home for the next few years. The senate will be able to get along very well without him.

Giving the President Credit.

From the Lowell Courier-Citizen. There is, we observe, some caviling over the claim of the Democratic National committee of credit for the currency bill as an achievement of the present administration—because, as the objection points out, it was passed with Republican aid and indeed was in a considerable degree redrafted by Republican Senators. Never mind if it was. We still regard it as very properly credited to the Wilson administration as an achievement, and perhaps the most notable of the list. The tariff measure, the other leading accomplishment, is far less a matter of permanent importance, and its virtues—even if presently great, which is yet to be demonstrated—will vary with future time. The currency bill, if it is really sound, will probably endure for a much longer time without tinkering. The fact that Republicans also largely united in the passage of the bill and to some extent divested it of its character as a purely party measure does not entirely remove it from the realm of Wilsonian achievements, any more than did the general concurrence of both parties in the matter of railroad rate regulation make that a thing improper to number in the list of things done by Mr. Roosevelt. Whatever assistance may have been given by the Republicans, it was certainly not universal, and Mr. Root has not ceased to predict calamity as the certain sequel of the currency law. Over and above everything else, Congress was kept on the job until the thing was put through—largely by the dogged insistence of the President. We incline to ascribe the achievement to him; and, if it is proved a good achievement, to give him the credit for it, also, without quibbling over the participation of others in a thing which he, at least, compelled into being.

Mexican Situation Aggravated.

From the Altoona Times. The Wanton murder of a British subject by the reckless and bloodthirsty Villa puts a new face on the Mexican situation and increases the perplexities of the American government. This crime was in direct violation of guarantees given by both federal and rebel commanders that the inviolability of foreigners' lives would be respected. It is one of the most brazen and defiant of numerous instances of disregard of the rules of civilized nations, since it puts the administration to the necessity of demanding reparation, as the British government probably will not be content to permit the incident to pass unnoticed. Great Britain has a vigorous method of safeguarding the rights of its citizens, wherever they may reside. It is recorded that while little respect has been accorded Americans resident in Mexico, more than 150 having been killed during the revolution, neither faction has been disposed to test British patience. Since the United States has assumed responsibility for the safety of foreign residents of Mexico, it may be apprehended for reparation as well as the punishment of those who are responsible for this indefensible outrage.

Are Monkeying with Buzz Saw.

From the Pittsburgh Dispatch. The Democratic statesmen planning to evade the President's leadership should pause long enough, however, to consider whether they can go it alone and how far without him.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

Mrs. Rachel Smithgall, aged 56, of Upper Fairfield township, Lycoming county, is stricken with paralysis while milking in the barn and died twenty-four hours later.

Of the fifty-nine aldermen and justices of the peace elected in Lycoming county last November, one alderman and thirty-one justices have neglected to lift their commissions.

Judge L. W. Doty, president judge of the courts of Westmoreland county, has entered a Baltimore hospital for the purpose of undergoing an operation. It is not thought it will be a serious one.

A demented citizen of Williamsport wrote a message to President Woodrow Wilson the other day, ordering him to suspend all business. The telegram was not sent but the man was hunted up and conveyed to the hospital.

Many people in Latrobe are afraid to be seen under the "influence" lest they be blamed for having disposed of the ten gallons of wine, or a portion thereof, that is missing from Harry Topolsky's cellar since the recent fire at his home.

Neighbors, attracted by cries of distress on Tuesday, found William Garner, aged 71, a wealthy farmer, lying on the floor in the home he occupied alone near Echo, Armstrong county, suffering from a probably fatal bullet wound in the head.

While returning to Lock Haven from attending a district institute, Superintendent McCloskey, of Clinton county, saw two deer on the public highway, in the vicinity of Lamar. Both animals appeared to be in a starving condition and were as tame as sheep.

The deep well being drilled at Derrick City, McKean county, with the hope of finding a prolific oil sand, has reached a depth of more than 5,800 feet. It is the intention to drill down 6,000 feet. At the present time there are no indications of oil or gas and there is little hope that the test will be successful.

Mrs. Thad. Shaw, an aged and feeble resident of Clearfield, while walking about one of the rooms of her house last Saturday fell against a grate in which there was a coal fire. When found she was unconscious and had been terribly burned on the back and the side of the head. Her recovery is very doubtful.

Stray dogs are chasing deer in various sections of the State. Near Williamsport a doe pursued by dogs ran into the barn yard of a truck farmer who drove the dogs away and kept the animal imprisoned, feeding it carefully, until he had brought the matter to the Game Commission which ordered it turned loose.

In 1879 Frank Hipple, of Marietta, bought at a public sale a cultivator—a new one at that—for 50 cents. The auctioneer told him to get it down from where it was hanging, and Frank said he would take it when he was ready for it. He did not go after it until a few days ago, when he found it hanging where it hung 35 years ago.

George Sniko, aged three years, received injuries from which he died, his mother was badly burned and the rear part of the Sniko home at Sagamore, Jefferson county, was totally wrecked when the boy placed a red hot poker in a keg of powder. The accident happened on Saturday. The boy was left alone in the kitchen where two kegs of powder also were kept.

The Butler police department sends out warning against a crew of canvassers who have been working Butler for several days, taking orders for various magazines at 49 cents for the year, which is a heavy reduction from the regular price. It is said that quite a number of Butlers have paid over their 49 cents and from reports from up country towns the solicitors have been driven out of a number of towns in which they had been working.

One of the biggest gas-producing wells ever completed in Elk county is located on the Van-Orsdal farm, about three miles from Ridgway. Gas was struck one day last week, and it is reported to be a regular bonanza for the owners. According to the gauge the first day there was a flow of 4,500,000 feet. It is said that Mr. Van-Orsdal, the owner of the land, will receive about \$45 per day royalties when the gas is connected up. The well is 2,540 feet deep.

Hugo Mayer, a prominent citizen of Huntingdon, will bring suit against the Pullman company to recover damages in the amount of \$10,000 for injuries sustained while alighting from a train at the local Pennsy station. The porter of the car failed to set out the portable stool when he alighted, and Mr. Mayer sustained a serious sprain of the right ankle. He has been unable to walk without the use of crutches since the accident two weeks ago, and for a time he was forced to keep the injured member in a plaster cast.

At a recent meeting of the Bradford Nurses' association it was decided to hereafter charge \$25 per week for attending patients at home, a raise of \$4 a week. When the nurse attends a patient at the hospital a rate of \$21 will be charged, but the employer pays the nurses' board while at the institution. A number of years ago when there were only two or three professional nurses in Bradford, \$10 per week was charged for services. This rate lasted a number of years, until it was raised to \$15 which later was raised to \$20 per week. About three years ago the nurses decided to charge \$21 per week and it so remained until this last change.

The sale of the Summerville Telephone company, one of the largest independent companies in Pennsylvania, to the Huntingdon & Clearfield Telephone company, has practically been completed. The majority of the stock is being transferred and the H. & C. company will assume active charge in a few days. The Summerville company has exchanges throughout Jefferson, Indiana and Clearfield counties, with about 3,000 telephones in use. The H. & C. company has exchanges in Altoona, Clearfield, Huntingdon, Patton, Indiana and several other large towns. They are not affiliated with the American Telegraph and Printing company.

Harry O. Hess, the "promoter" who went to Altoona two weeks ago and on the pretense of desiring to locate a large manufacturing plant, hoodwinked a number of prominent business men, was given an indeterminate term of not less than two nor more than three years in the penitentiary, by Judge Baldridge on Tuesday. Hess went to Altoona a week ago Friday and by taking advantage of the enthusiasm recently aroused over the Chamber of Commerce movement collected \$22 in cash on bogus checks before his duplicity was discovered and his arrest made. Hess is wanted in Reading, where he pulled off some jobs that will not stand the test of law or expediency. A retainer will likely greet him at the door of the penitentiary at the conclusion of his term.

When Wilson D. Kistler, of Lock Haven, was fatally stricken with apoplexy while on his way to the railroad station in that city a few weeks ago, he left in the hands of his lawyer the notes for a will which he had drawn a few days before and from which the attorney was to write and submit a will. After Mr. Kistler's death, the attorney took these notes to the family and it is now announced that they will carry out his wishes although the will was not completed. The Lock Haven hospital will receive \$30,000 and the Anna H. Foss library will receive \$20,000. Besides these two, a number of other institutions throughout the county will benefit but the names of these have not yet been made public. It is understood, however, that the Tuskegee institute, Booker T. Washington's school, will receive a substantial sum. Mr. Kistler's estate is estimated at six million dollars.