

INK SLINGS.

-This week last year was exceedingly spring-like in this vicinity.

-Candidates for legislative honors in Centre county are slow getting into the field.

-This is the last week the ground-hog has any calendar right to rule the weather.

-HARRY SCOTT, of Philipsburg, has decided to make a run for the Republican nomination for Senator for this District.

-Paris has decided that the slit skirt is passe. Fashionable girls will, accordingly, close up the peep-hole that they have been kicking through all winter.

-The Siamese twins were cut apart recently and one of them has died as a result. The operation of separating them, of course, was highly successful.

-"Better a rag time gospel than no gospel at all" said Bishop HOBAN, of the Scranton diocese of the Catholic church, while speaking of BILLY SUNDAY's work in that city.

-Where was VANCE McCORMICK when the rest of us were fighting to make BRYAN President of the United States? He was fighting to lick BRYAN. That's the kind of a Democrat he was.

-Senator PENROSE has finally announced that he will be a candidate to succeed himself. How foolish to waste breath on such a statement when the public mind is already made up to give the Senator a rest from his duties in Washington.

-VANCE McCORMICK's Harrisburg Patriot has a great time talking about "decent Democrats." It means, of course, the ones who wear silk stockings, kid gloves and are worth hundreds of thousands of dollars. They are the only kind VANCE has had much to do with up till now, when he wants the other kind to help make him Governor.

-Mr. BRYAN's Commoner announces that "President WILSON wants it made very clear that the administration is NOT TAKING ANY PART IN ANY PRIMARY FIGHT in any State where Senators are to be chosen this year." This makes it look as though someone was lying when it was announced that President WILSON would take a hand for PALMER and McCORMICK in Pennsylvania.

-A reasonably active man walks about 297,200 miles in 84 years, just moving about his house and place of business. This is an average of over nine and a-half miles a day, yet the doctors are always harping: "Take more exercise." More exercise, forsooth! What happens to the fellow who has done his nine and a-half in the day time and then has a colicky baby on his hands at night. Do they expect him to outdo WESTON?

-In two years our splendid board of County Commissioners have reduced the county debt from \$139,505.84 to \$38,540.82. That's going some, isn't it? And every taxpayer is to be benefitted by it. True to the WATCHMAN's promise made when they were candidates for office and true to our predictions made this time last year the next taxes levied against you will be at a lower millage. That's where your profit comes in.

-The term of postmaster PHIL D. FOSTER, at State College, expired on March 1st. Little is known as to who his successor will be, but it is altogether probable that the appointment will not be made until after the May primary. If it is not then those who have charge of the patronage in Pennsylvania may be fairly charged with using the federal offices to further their own interests because it is a cinch that McCORMICK will get more votes there with the result in doubt than he will otherwise.

-No, dear Johnstown Democrat, the WATCHMAN doesn't bolt, nor will it if McCORMICK is nominated. But it knows a number of very respectable Democrats right here in Centre county whose sympathies and co-operation have been with the re-organization movement who believe that Bros. BAILEY, PALMER, McCORMICK, et al are not pursuing the right course to unite our party and are not for Mr. McCORMICK because they are just enough to understand that your re-organization state organization is prostituting its authority and trying to abrogate the principles of a preferential primary. They may be ready to forgive GUTHRIE for refusing to be an elector for BRYAN, to forgive McCORMICK for fighting BRYAN each time he ran for President, to withhold unpleasant inquiry as to why every delegate from Mr. PALMER's district voted for GRIM, at Allentown, if that convention was so rotten; and forget that you used every resource of your splendid paper to compass the defeat of Secretary WILSON when he ran for Congress, but they are men, not pin-heads. They know that your organization can't expect the enthusiastic co-operation of Mr. RYAN's friends if Mr. McCORMICK should be nominated. First because Mr. McCORMICK has threatened to bolt if he is not nominated and second, if your organization is to continue fighting for McCORMICK you can't expect the RYAN people to pull your chestnuts out of the fire if you succeed in nominating him.

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McCormick's Too Zealous Friends Rebuked.

The friends of Mr. McCORMICK in Philadelphia, were justly rebuked by the Democratic committee of that city on Monday evening. It had been tacitly agreed among the members of the committee that no preference should be officially expressed for the office of Governor. The friends of Mr. RYAN were in the majority but it was properly understood that a party committee had no right to express preferences as between candidates for nomination. At the meeting on Monday night, however, the too zealous friends of Mr. McCORMICK conceived the idea that they might steal a march upon the majority, and moved an endorsement of the Harrisburg candidate. The motion was laid on the table by a vote of 39 to 7.

As we have frequently said no Democratic committee has a right to endorse any candidate for nomination. Committees are organized to promote the interests of the party instead of individuals or factions. But for more than a year all the energies and activities of the Democratic State committee have been spent in the interest of a faction. Money contributed by men who are not in favor of the faction thus benefitted has been misappropriated in that way and wherever the managers of the organization have been able to accomplish the purpose, local committees and clubs have been dragged or bribed into the endorsement of the faction favored by these bosses.

Chairman BROMLEY of the Philadelphia committee deprecated the breach of faith implied in the attempt to misrepresent the committee. Other members expressed indignation and regret in similar terms. But inasmuch as the matter had been brought forward it was determined to rebuke the action by endorsing Mr. RYAN. "His candidacy was spontaneous," said Mr. BROMLEY. "No prearrangement marked its announcement. It was a simple and formal presentation to the Democracy of this Commonwealth asking support. Without aid other than character and public service, his reliance has been upon an unbossed, unterrified and unpurchased Democracy." And he was endorsed by a vote of 39 to 7 by the committee.

In answer to Representative HOBAN's statement that President WILSON is in a quarrel with floor leader UNDERWOOD, the President gave a dinner in honor of the floor leader and said all the nice things of him he could think of, and UNDERWOOD has a marvelous faculty for saying nice things about people he likes.

McCormick Suggests Ballot Frauds.

There are probably two or three old methods of ballot frauds which Mr. VANCE C. McCORMICK has not recommended his followers to adopt, but the campaign for the gubernatorial nomination is young and he may get around to all of them in time. His last suggestion in this direction is that which was adopted by Senator McNichol, a few years ago, to defeat a couple of reform candidates for Magistrates in Philadelphia. A sufficient number of gang voters in sections of the city in which the machine majority was large, were induced to ask for Democratic ballots at the primary election to nominate the machine candidates, thus guaranteeing a machine victory at the general election.

In his Harrisburg paper, now being freely distributed throughout the State Mr. McCORMICK, the other day urged progressives to register as Democrats in order that they might thus be able to help the reorganization Democrats to control the Democratic primary election. There being no contest for nomination in the Progressive party a handful of votes for each of the slated candidates will be ample to ratify the choice of FLINN and VANVALKENBURG and the rest could help McCORMICK and PALMER to commit the Democratic party to the heresies of Populism. "They can vote as they like at the general election," Mr. McCORMICK's newspaper declares, "as the ballot will then be secret."

We defy any ballot box stuffer to suggest a more palpable form of ballot fraud than that, SAM SALTER's method of putting a couple of hundred ballots in the box the night before the election in the crude device of a scurvy rounckneck in comparison. This is an open invitation to voters who are not Democrats to participate in the Democratic primaries and after the nominations are made help to defeat the candidates who have been successful. It is the most flagrant political immorality. It was to prevent precisely that form of fraud that the uniform primary law was enacted and in making such suggestions Mr. VANCE McCORMICK shows that he is capable of any crime to win.

-Subscribe for the WATCHMAN.

An Interesting Controversy.

Our highly esteemed contemporaries, the Allentown Democrat and the Johnstown Democrat have been indulging in an interesting controversy with respect to present political conditions in Pennsylvania. Our Johnstown contemporary accused its Allentown namesake with harboring reactionary proclivities because our Allentown contemporary had mildly protested against "the PENROSE methods adopted by the friends of VANCE C. McCORMICK, one of the Democratic aspirants for the gubernatorial nomination." That is not a just cause of complaint, in the estimation of our esteemed Johnstown contemporary, which advises its antagonist in the wordy warfare to "Fight, but Don't Squal."

Editor WEIZER replies to this in characteristic style. "You, Brother BAILEY," he writes, "were in the fight for WILLIAM JENNINGS BRYAN in 1896. So were we. But where was VANCE McCORMICK, the nephew of Senator DON CAMERON? Where was GEORGE W. GUTHRIE, whose leadership you follow today? In 1896 both McCORMICK and GUTHRIE were part and parcel of the PALMER and BUCKNER Democratic Gold Brick Side-show. They were the secret friends of the MCKINLEY movement, while pretending to be old-line Democrats. They conspired to turn the government over to the forces of special privilege under the leadership of MARCUS A. HANNA. HANNA cared nothing for the gold standard. He used that issue merely as a cloak to win Congress and the Presidency for the cause of special privilege."

It is small wonder that Democratic war horses of the type of the Allentown Democrat should resent aspersions coming from the mouths of such recreants as these. The charge which Mr. BAILEY, on behalf of GUTHRIE and McCORMICK, makes against the old-guard Democrats is that the leaders exercised their influences in favor of the nomination of friends and favorites. As a matter of fact that is not true but it is alleged in order to justify the pretensions of recreants who roughneck the party and steamroll the electorate in a manner never dreamed of until these selfish office seekers forced themselves into control of the party organization.

Of course the MORGAN firm didn't make much money out of the manipulation of New Haven shares but it made more than the shareholders got. Besides the MORGAN firm never did anything except for philanthropic purposes. The late Mr. JOHN PIERPONT was a wonderful altruist.

Fraud Officially Exposed.

Mr. BRYAN's Commoner is known to be the official organ of the WILSON administration. It is edited by the Secretary of State and reflects, not only the sentiments and purposes of that influential member of the President's cabinet, but radiates the atmosphere of the White House. President WILSON takes pride in his intimate relationship with Mr. BRYAN and neglects no opportunity to eulogize his eloquent premier. He consults him frequently and confides in him implicitly. In fact it is understood that President WILSON takes no step in politics without consulting Mr. BRYAN. Mr. BRYAN is politically as well as officially, the President's "guide, philosopher and friend."

In a recent issue of Mr. BRYAN's newspaper, the Commoner, we find this plain but positive statement of a fact: "President WILSON wants it made very clear that the administration is not taking any part in any primary fight in any State where Senators are to be chosen this year. This will rob these contests of the amiable whisperer who confidentially inform each voter that the President is relying for his future success upon having them at his right hand." It also stamps the brand of falsehood upon the statement telegraphed from Washington some weeks ago to the effect that President WILSON had selected VANCE C. McCORMICK and A. MITCHELL PALMER, as the Democratic candidates of the Democrats of Pennsylvania for Governor and Senator, respectively.

WOODROW WILSON is the President of all the people of the United States and the titular head of the Democratic organization of the country. He is concerned in the success of the party and the maintenance of its principles. Under such circumstances it would be absurd for him to select the candidates of the party of any State for any office. That is the prerogative of the Democratic voters of the several States and the State laws provide the processes. The statement that the President had usurped the power was a deliberate falsehood uttered to deceive the voters of Pennsylvania, in order that candidates who are not in popular favor might obtain advantage in a contest.

Penrose Begins Badly.

Senator PENROSE starts his campaign for re-election badly. He predicates his hopes upon opposition to the UNDERWOOD tariff law and the President's policy in Mexico. The tariff law hasn't been in operation long enough to test its merits but so far as it has gone it has commanded popular favor. The President's Mexican policy has the practically unanimous endorsement of the sane citizens of the country. The alternative, armed intervention would have cost thousands of lives and millions in treasure without even the shadow of compensatory advantage. Senator PENROSE appears to have addressed his appeal to wrong impulses of the human heart. He will be sadly disappointed in the response.

In any event the Mexican situation, including the policy of "watchful waiting," was inherited from the TAFT administration with which Senator PENROSE seemed to be on cordial terms. It was one of the saving features of Mr. WILSON's predecessor's government. If ROOSEVELT had been at the head of the government when the Mexican troubles began, war would have been absolutely certain. Thousands of the fittest of America's young manhood would have been "welcomed by bloody hands to hospital graves" within the boundaries of Mexico or left to scorch under the burning Mexican sun. Senator PENROSE would hardly want such a result of "sending American troops to threatened points" in Mexico.

Senator PENROSE has had wide experience in public affairs and ample education to qualify him for service in public life. But the text of his announcement as a candidate for Senator fails to indicate the full measure of the expectation of his friends. In other words instead of the profound wisdom which might be looked for from a man so prepared we get the vapors of a demagogue appealing to the cupidity of one class of citizens and to the passions of another. He will be nominated, no doubt, and the tariff mongers and war screamers will give him hearty support in his campaign for re-election.

But he has already convinced thoughtful men of his unfitness and invited defeat rather than victory.

Centre county had another snow storm last Friday and Friday night when about six inches was added to the already deep snow. Had it not been for the fact that a large part of it melted as it fell on Friday it would have been much deeper. Sunday night it grew considerably colder and has remained quite cool during the week, though generally fair. We are now within one week of the beginning of spring and over two feet of snow still covers the ground in most sections of the county. Verily this has been one of the real old-fashioned winters that the older inhabitants tell about.

Of course Socialism is a protest against the church, as Dr. ERDMAN, of Princeton, told the Presbyterian ministers, the other day. But for that matter Socialism is a protest against all forms of law, order and morality. In other words Socialism is nearly as bad as ROOSEVELTISM.

Only thirty-three more days until trout fishing time will be here, but by the time all the snow that now covers the ground melts and fills up the streams they will be so high that when the opening day does come it will probably be impossible to see a trout, let alone catch one.

Those opponents of the WILSON administration who are citing cases of atrocities in Mexico are arraigning the TAFT administration rather than that of WILSON. Thus far ninety per cent. those enumerated occurred while TAFT was in office.

An apologist for PINCHOT says "he is a man of simple habits." That accounts for his [charge for making campaign speeches before he became a candidate. Those simple habit folk always take care of the main chance.

VANCE McCORMICK will start his automobile campaign just about the time the average farmer will start the plow. And when the farmer starts the plow he has no time to listen to "bushwa."

ULSTER appears to be opposed to home rule in Ireland on any terms and from this distance from the scene it looks as if ULSTER is "flectioneerin' for a lickin'" in any event.

The Bellefonte High school girls basketball team can play some, as was evidenced last Saturday when they defeated the Lock Haven girls by the score of 63 to 13. The Bellefonte girls, by the way, have not been defeated this season.

Common Sense and the Canal Tolls.

From the Harrisburg Star-Independent.

The President, in his message to Congress urging the repeal of the clause of the Panama Canal act which exempts vessels in the coast-wise trade of the United States from the payment of canal tolls, set forth the common sense method of avoiding international controversies as to whether such exemption is in violation of our treaties with other nations.

Prolonged quibbling between this country and Great Britain, for instance, concerning the interpretation of the terms of the Hay-Pauncefote treaty, with regard to that treaty's bearing on the toll exemption clause, might perhaps ultimately result in a technical construction of that contract which would permit the clause to stand, but on the other hand it might be interpreted in the other way. At any rate, there would be grave danger of ill feeling existing between the two nations whatever way the President's provisions might be construed, for as the President pointed out, the exemption clause is misunderstood and questioned by all other nations affected by it.

The common sense feature of the President's view of the matter, therefore, lies in the fact that it will be far more beneficial to United States to waive whatever questionable right we may have to exempt our ships from the tolls, under the terms of our treaties with other nations, despite the fact that it would mean the loss of an economic benefit to our shipping interests. It is doubtful if the economic benefit that would accrue to our vessels under the clause as it now stands would be in any way commensurate with the advantages that would accrue to the nation through adopting the broad-minded policy of the President which would have the effect of eliminating all misunderstanding and ill feeling with regard to possible interpretations or misinterpretations of provisions of the foreign treaties with relation to the subject.

President Wilson frankly stated that he "will not know how to deal with other matters of even greater delicacy" in treating with foreign nations unless his recommendation is adopted. He thus intimated that there is far more to be gained, even from the economical point of view, in coming to an immediate understanding with the nations regarding the tolls, than would come to the American shipping interests were the exemption clause to be retained.

End of California's "Army."

From the Altoona Times.

Soon repentant of the easy but rather expensive method of dealing with the "army" of unemployed which consisted of packing its members into railroad cars and transporting them, at public cost, to the next city, which in turn lost no time in getting rid of its undesirable visitors, the officials of California have resorted to the expedient of sending the marchers back to the city from whence the pilgrimage originally started. This will probably mark the end of a very foolish and futile effort to gain remedial action from Congress for conditions with which California has no more ability to deal than the California municipalities have manifested in dealing with its idle population.

From a humanitarian standpoint, the very best thing that could be done with "General Kelly's" army was to send it back to the salubrious climate of Los Angeles, where the condition of its members will be less desperate than it would be were they permitted to travel to more northern States. Long before this body of men reached its destination, the nation would have ceased to have interest in its mission, and they would have become subjects of public charity, unless, perchance, which is more probable, they had degenerated into confirmed vagrants, with decided criminal instincts that would find vent in depredations when the public was not quick to meet their demands for food and shelter.

The condition of workers will not be helped by sending armies of unemployed men to the national capital. If there is any remedy it is in the ballot box—sending representatives to Washington who have the intelligence and the disposition to enact legislation which will correct many of the inequalities which are responsible for the chronic idleness existing even in the most prosperous of times.

Making Men Moral by Law.

From Life.

The notion of a lot of machinery, legislative, legal, inquisitorial, corrective, reformatory, communitarian, that will keep folks in order, and limit everybody to three drinks a week, and keep the men moral and all the girls decorous, and get everybody what should be coming to them on Saturday night (or noon it is now), and make the fatherless envious and the husbandless contented, and all the greedy people just and fair—there just a little delusion in that idea? Are those old reliable, Destiny and Divinity and Humanity and Fate, to be put quite out of business? Probably there will still be overreachers after the New Freedom has passed all its bills, and we shall see them overreached and have to find our comfort where Job found his: "Though he heap up silver as the dust and prepare it, but the just shall divide it the silver."

Must Serve Their Sentences.

From the Harrisburg Patriot.

As the United States Supreme Court, on Monday, denied to issue a writ of certiorari in the case of Frank M. Ryan, president of the International Association of Bridge and Structural Ironworkers, and followed him over several battlefields and convicted of conspiracy to transport dynamite for criminal purposes, will be compelled to serve the long sentences imposed upon them, unless they receive executive clemency from the President of the United States. They have exhausted all their resources in the court.

SPAULS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

-Johnstown is making extensive preparations for the State meeting of the Knights of Columbus, which will be held in that city May 10-13, inclusive.

-The Women's club, of Clearfield, has decided to ask the authorities of the town to aid in the prosecution of those tobacco dealers who violate the cigarette law by selling to boys.

-One deserted wife who, asks the Westmoreland county court to give her a divorce avers that her husband lived with her eight days after marriage and then deserted her. She has not seen him since.

-Lawrence Conally, aged 26, a resident of Renovo, ate his breakfast Saturday morning as usual and sat down to read, when he became ill and breathed his last in a few minutes. Paralysis of the brain caused his death.

-An epidemic of scarlet fever threatens the Seraphic home, near Derry. There are fifty-nine boys in the institution and fourteen cases of the disease have developed there within three days, all but one making their appearance on Monday.

-The State police are on the trail of a mysterious individual who is said to have attacked nearly a dozen women and girls in the vicinity of Ehrenfeld and Summerhill during the last fifteen months. The names of four women are given as having been attacked by the same person.

-The borough of Clearfield is thinking of purchasing the plant of the Clearfield Water company, but as the corporation values the plant at \$384,352, and the borrowing capacity of the borough now is but \$141,855.65, the purchase does not seem to be a likelihood of the near future.

-Archie B. Herman, employed at Hipple's planing mill, Lock Haven, ruptured a blood vessel while at his home on Friday evening and nearly bled to death. The flow was stopped finally, but on Saturday morning another serious hemorrhage occurred and Herman is confined to his bed.

-George Rospatink, a butcher of Martindale, near Portage, has caused the arrest of Leslie Lenhart, aged 13 years, and Theresa Mitchell, aged 14 years, on the charge of robbing his meat market. He declares that the girls have stolen between \$300 and \$400 from him during the last year or so.

-The Republicans and Washington party men of Clearfield county held a conference at Clearfield last Saturday in the hope, on one side at least, that a plan might be adopted that would result in union. The representatives of the Washington party, however, declined to accept the plan proposed by the Republicans or to offer one of their own.

-The Mercantile and Realty Co., back of the new glass factory project, at Philipsburg, on Monday received from New Castle over one ton of dynamite, one case of blasting caps and 2000 feet of fuse to be used in furthering the work of clearing the ground for the plant and the new town site. All this looks as though the company means business, according to the Philipsburg Journal.

-Seven worthless scoundrels who have declined to support their families are now enjoying the comforts of home in the Clearfield jail while their wives are supporting their families by hard work. It is intimated that the judge and the county commissioners are about to evolve a stone pile upon which it is their intention these seven and others like them shall presently labor from dark to dawn.

-The Lock Haven Democrat recently had a visit from Jared Barner, a veteran hunter of Greene township, Clinton county. He is almost 76 years old and has now to his credit 209 deer and 34 bears which he has killed with his trusty rifle. He sent one of the finest bear skins to a Chicago firm and had it converted into an overcoat and when asked in that he can brave the severest weather.

-Secretary Kalbfus, of the State Game Commission, has asked the Attorney General, Lehigh Department for an opinion on the liability of counties to pay the bounties on noxious animals killed in the State. It is held that even though the State makes no appropriation to pay the bounties the State must pay them, and look to a future appropriation for reimbursement. The Attorney General will give an opinion this week.

-In the Cambria county court Monday, one Henry H. Bowden, a resident of Lower Yoder township, was found guilty of larceny. He took \$300 from a widow whom he had promised to marry. After getting the money, however, he concluded that he wanted to marry a younger woman, but he made no effort to return the money. Out of \$890 secured by the widow by mortgaging her house for \$1,000 Bowden got \$850.

-Mrs. Margaret Gettings, who lived alone at Leisenring, No. 1, Westmoreland county, was found burned to death last Friday evening by her grand-daughter, who had gone to spend the evening with the old lady, as her custom was. It is supposed Mrs. Gettings fainted or sustained a stroke of paralysis and fell forward into an open grate. The house was on fire but the girl was able to extinguish the flames before much damage was done.

-The members of the Moose lodge at Blairsville who were charged with violating the liquor laws appeared before Judge Telford and submitted. They were paroled on condition that they pay all the costs, agree to do away with the distribution of liquor in any manner, shape or form, and not permit any members of the lodge to carry liquor into the building for their own use. The court is also to be furnished with an official resolution of the lodge confirming this action.

-With a \$1,000 bill in his pocket, which he declared he had tried to get changed in twenty towns, but was refused or laughed at, John C. Johnson, who said he was the son of a Philadelphia merchant, applied at the Susquehanna House in Sunbury, last Friday, for aid. Warren Weaver listened to the man's story but was not convinced that it was the truth and not being in the habit of handling \$1,000 bills, he was not certain that it was genuine. At the request of the young man he got into communication with his father in Philadelphia, and after he had established the identification of his guest to his satisfaction he had the bill cashed for him.

-Mrs. Amanda Woomer, aged 75 years, an eccentric widow, of Myerstown, Lebanon county, died Friday as a result of a ruptured blood vessel sustained shoveling snow at her home. Her first husband, John Ritzshaw, enlisted in the Union army shortly after their marriage, and she followed him over several battlefields and acted as a nurse. Upon his death Mrs. Ritzshaw married Orlando Woomer, whose name, according to a will left by the widow, will appear on the family tombstone, but whose body is to be separated from hers by a brick wall. She had her grave dug a year ago to make sure the wall would be built. Cruel treatment was alleged by Mrs. Woomer for her strange act.

-A shooting affair, which is likely to prove fatal in the case of a young Italian girl, occurred at Clearfield Sunday morning at the home of Frank Cimo, who conducts a wholesale fruit store in that place. The latter's brother Philip induced Marie Burzatto, a pretty Italian girl, to come to this country and marry him. She came but declined to enter into a matrimonial alliance. Sunday Cimo again asked the girl to marry him and when she positively refused drew a revolver and shot her in the left breast, the ball passing close to the heart and coursing down into the stomach. Cimo then shot himself under the chin, the ball coming out near the temple. Both were taken to the Clearfield hospital where the girl died on Monday, but Cimo will likely recover.