

INK SLINGS.

This day last year was Good Friday. At this time last year jonquils and hyacinths were peeping through the ground. Maybe if Spring puts on a hobble skirt she won't have lap enough for winter to linger in. More people are already planning to go fishing than there are planning to dig garden, we'll bet. President WILSON has scored another success. He is in a class of his own as a matrimonial manager. It is a pity for the United States express company, but it just drank itself to death at the expense of the public. We have seen the boys with balls and bats And heard the robins sing But not until the house is cleaned Can we enjoy the spring. Wednesday was the last day for party enrollment. If the assessor didn't have your name on the list then you can't vote at the May primaries. Sunday and Monday were days that were calculated to make us feel that the long, hard winter was only part of the great scheme to make the spring feel the more cheering. In the ten years BILLY SUNDAY has been doing evangelistic work he has evangelized over \$423,000 in voluntary gifts from the people into his own pockets, with all his expenses paid. Is he to be blamed for quitting baseball? It is reported that the reorganizers up in McKean county have only dangled the Congressional bait in front of BENSON'S ambitious eyes in order to switch him off from the postoffice at Mt. Jewett, which plump they want to give to another fellow. There is a certain ambitious to be a political leader young man in our midst who is reported to be dealing in stocks just now. Inasmuch as he is not covering his tracks very well we sound this warning before his Prohibition friend MCCORMICK hears of it. Everybody had his or her own idea of how the great blanket of snow that covered the earth last week could be moved without causing a disastrous flood. Probably no one had an idea that the Supreme Power in all such things had planned to have it go just as it did; apparently just dried up. The MCCORMICK visit to Bellefonte, planned for last Monday, was called off without notice to this paper, consequently we are not to blame for the disappointment any one felt who was led to come here to meet the candidate for Governor through our announcement last week that he would be here. The news bureaus that are sending out columns filled with glowing accounts of Mr. MCCORMICK'S wonderful achievements have forgotten, entirely, to tell of his heroic efforts to beat BRYAN every time he ran for President. Sometimes it is convenient to forget and this is one of the times that BRYAN'S friends are supposed to have a lapse of memory. Candidate PALMER has proposed that PENROSE and PINCHOT join him in a joint Chautauqua campaign should they all be nominated at the May primaries. What a clever scheme that would be. They would all get paid for campaigning for themselves and the public would have to pay to hear candidates who otherwise would be running free trains and free lunches to induce the voters to rally round them at their meetings. Surely politics is progressing. Let us forget just now when many things are being suggested in the minds of the uninformed by daily reference to the so-called "notorious DONNELLY-RYAN gang of Philadelphia" let us call to your memory again the fact that the RYAN part of the gang died eighteen months ago and that except for an income for the care of his wife he left every cent of his vast fortune to establish a fund to buy bread and coal for the poor. Probably he was the "notorious" part of the gang. If he was, it was a kind of notoriety that will cause those in distress to revere his name long after the imposters who would feign traduce it have dropped into their well merited oblivion. The old fellows who take a look at the sky and then venture a prognostication as to what the weather will be do it from experience obtained through frequent observations of atmospheric conditions, the direction of the winds and the character of the clouds. They have many little weather-wise maxims and one of them seems to have held good this spring. When the heavy fall of snow came a few weeks ago there was general and well founded concern lest a disastrous flood would follow its melting. One of the old fellows we have reference to made a snow ball and held it over a candle. The snow absorbed the heat from the candle and did not at once melt down into water. Then he predicted that the sun would just dry the snow in question up and that it would not be carried off by rains. So far as this community is concerned the prediction has nearly come true, for most of the two feet and more of snow has disappeared and the streams are little above low water mark.

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Many Voters Disfranchised in Centre County.

The new primary law has its flaws. As usual, mistakes were made in framing the Act though it is possible that the one referred to occurred purely because no one thought of its effect at the time. Wednesday of this week was the last day on which those desiring to vote at the May primaries could be enrolled. If they were not enrolled then they cannot vote. John Doe lives in Benner Twp. He is a tenant and is going to move into Spring township on April 1st, which is moving day in Centre county. It would have done him no good to get enrolled in Benner on Wednesday because he will be living in Spring on the day the primaries are held. He couldn't have been enrolled in Spring on Wednesday because he was then residing in Benner. How many voters are going to move on April 1st. There will be hundreds of them and everyone will be disfranchised because of this imperfection in the new law. And unless the law is changed the same thing will occur every spring.

Should be More Specific.

If Mr. W. H. BERRY, who is now going up and down the State proclaiming the great things Mr. VANCE CAMERON MCCORMICK did to insure the investigation of the capitol building frauds, and how he offered to "stand behind" him in bearing the expenses of that job, would only be a little more specific in his assertions and take the public into his confidence as to the amount Mr. MCCORMICK put up to secure that investigation, and to whom and for what he, Mr. BERRY, paid that money, it would have a very much greater effect upon the public mind and be infinitely more convincing, of Mr. MCCORMICK'S liberality—for the public good, than all the blather he can get off about the great interest he took in that investigation, and the great influence he exerted in having it started.

There is nothing in the records of that investigation, or in any of the accounts of the trials following, showing that any one, excepting the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, paid any of the expenses of procuring the testimony that was secured. Nor is there any evidence or proof anywhere showing that Mr. BERRY ever spent a penny to procure any of the evidence the committee had to act upon. That was furnished by the books of the different departments at Harrisburg, by the various witnesses subpoenaed and paid for by the State; by the report of the experts of the New York Auditing Co., whose work the State paid for, and by an examination of the materials used in the building, and the furniture bought for it.

In no way and at no time, do any of the minutes, memoranda, records of payment, bills of expenditures, receipts filed, or any other document on file in any of the departments show that either Mr. MCCORMICK or Mr. BERRY ever put up a penny to aid or push this investigation along. They should, if it is true that they did what the ex-Treasurer now claims was done by them.

In this connection we have no desire to do either Mr. MCCORMICK or Mr. BERRY any injustice, but must insist on knowing why, did Mr. BERRY, if Mr. MCCORMICK was standing "behind" him financially to the extent that he now claims credit for doing, go, before proceeding with the expected exposure, to a joint caucus of the Democratic Senators and Members of the House, as they will testify he did, and assert his inability to go ahead with the investigation because he was too poor to meet the small expense required to begin the work, and secure from that body a resolution pledging that it would see that the money would be furnished and that all expenses necessary to secure a most rigid and thorough examination of the alleged wrongs would be guaranteed.

If Mr. BERRY spent any of his own money in that investigation, or if Mr. MCCORMICK put up any money to insure its being prosecuted, it's a matter that can very readily be shown and it's due to Mr. MCCORMICK'S reputation, and to Mr. BERRY'S truthfulness, that more specific evidence, than has yet been furnished, be given a doubting public. If Mr. MCCORMICK did what Mr. BERRY says he did, but which none of the records connected with the matter give any evidence of his having done, it is due him, and due those who are supporting him, to have the facts made known, fully and explicitly, as to the amount he put up, to whom it was paid, and when, and for what purpose it was used. Please, Mr. BERRY, let us have some facts disproving the records, which show your statement to be not only wrong, but without truth.

What a Democratic Board of Commissioners Has Done in Two Years.

It will be recalled that in the fall of 1911 this paper was the only one in Centre county that presented the question as to who should be elected Commissioners of the county as a business proposition. It indulged in neither abuse nor defamation. It took the figures as they appeared on the county statement and showed flagrant mismanagement of the office in such startling amounts that the facts were unanswerable and the opposition press no longer had the effrontery to even try a defense.

At that time, we argued, that Messrs. NOLL and GROVE, both being active, successful business men would carry into the office, if elected, the same methods in handling the county's business, that they had employed in their own. That they would not be the victims of bad advice because they knew something of business themselves. They were elected, we think, more for that reason than anything else, and what has been the result at the expiration of just half their term.

When they went into office there was a balance of only \$2788.10 in the county treasury. Now there is \$14,674.85. When they went into office the total indebtedness of the county was \$139,506.85. Now it is only \$38,540.82. Which means that they have saved for you, in two years, \$100,966.63.

Think of it! By this time next year the county will probably be out of debt. That is, it will and it won't. For while there will probably be a balance on the credit side of the ledger there will remain that bungling bond issue of \$100,000 that can't be paid off for twenty-seven years. With the county practically in the position to pay every cent it owes it can't wipe out its debt until \$192,000.00 in principal and interest have been eaten up to pay off \$100,000 in bonds. But that is one of the mistakes Messrs. NOLL and GROVE inherited from their predecessors in office. And a mistake that we do not think their predecessors would have made had they acted on their own judgment and not listened to the advice that was given them.

This wonderful showing after only two years of good management has not been made at the expense of the dignity of the county or at the public service rendered. It has been accomplished through prudent, watchful business methods and it is a showing that the WATCHMAN is especially pleased in calling to your attention because we felt that you would get exactly what you have gotten when we advocated the election of Messrs. NOLL and GROVE.

But individuals are slow to be concerned about the public's business until the individual pocket-book is touched. Then they are aroused. That is what got the taxpayers of Centre county interested in the election of Messrs. NOLL and GROVE. Everything has been going so swimmingly since that many of you have practically lost further interest in these men who are managing your business. But your pocket-book will be touched again in 1914 and you will waken up to find your new Commissioners dropping money into it, instead of taking it out; FOR THEY HAVE REDUCED YOUR TAXES THIS YEAR, just as this paper told you they would in it's last week's issue.

Outside Influence Not Effective.

It will probably make little or no difference to Senator PENROSE whether Senator BORAH, of Idaho, and Senator CUMMINS, of Iowa, butts into the primary campaign in Pennsylvania, or not. They are good talkers and influential Senators and BORAH has a reputation for regularity. But the natural prejudice against outside interference in local contests would probably counteract any good which they might do. Besides CUMMINS is somewhat of a heretic upon the tariff question. It was he who conceived "the Iowa idea," more or less a disturbing element in the Republican party a few years ago, and still a source of trouble to the leaders of the high tariff element.

Under existing conditions no outside influence can prevent the nomination of Senator PENROSE. He is the favorite of eighty per cent. of the voters who still adhere to the Republican organization and no others have a voice in the matter. If the so-called Bull Moosers could participate in the Republican primaries, as they did in 1912, the result would be different. Either PINCHOT or DIMMICK could easily command sufficient support to beat PENROSE and possibly in a three-cornered fight one or the other of them might be able to get a plurality. But practically all the Republicans who are opposed to PENROSE have enrolled themselves as Washington party men and are not eligible to vote for Republican candidates at the primary.

Besides, the "game is not worth the candle." Neither PENROSE, DIMMICK nor PINCHOT can be elected Senator for this State, this year. Political conditions are against them. The Republican party is practically split in the middle. In 1912 two-thirds of the voters of that political faith supported ROOSEVELT and because of incompetent management one-third of the Democrats refrained from voting, with the result that ROOSEVELT carried the State. But the magnetism of ROOSEVELT will be absent this year and the PENROSE vote will be increased over that of TAFT sufficiently to about equalize the strength of the factions. This will guarantee the election of a Democratic Senator unless those now at the head of the organization drive one-half of the party away by their attempt to use its organization to advance their own selfish ambitions, at the expense of other Democrats.

Mr. LEWIS NIXON, shipbuilder, believes in ship subsidies, the armor plate makers are unanimously in favor of building battleships and the powder makers want war. Every selfish interest hopes for government aid in one form or another and the tax payers have no hobby. Thus the expenses of government are multiplied and we wonder why the cost of living keeps up.

Inroads on the Express Business.

From the Harrisburg Star-Independent. When William Adams, more than half a century ago, began the carrying of express packages for his neighbors to and from Boston on his daily trips and there-by conceived the idea of establishing an express business, he little thought that his humble venture would in time reach worldwide proportions. He did not foresee that it would take charge of the quick dispatch of freights in all countries, be backed by many millions of dollars and have in its employ many thousands of men, transacting a business that has enriched many to the extent of millions. And if in the contemplation of the far-reaching magnitude of his humble beginning, Mr. Adams had been suddenly confronted with conditions now, he would be just as much astonished.

We read to-day of the decision of a great express company,—the United States,—to liquidate its affairs and dissolve in the shortest possible time, and it may follow that other companies will either follow its example and dissolve or else do a decreased amount of business. What hath wrought this great change? There is only one answer: The parcels post. For years the public knocked at the doors of Congress for relief from the exorbitant cost of carrying small parcels so that the rates would be a real convenience, but the public found no relief so long as the men at the head of the express companies ruled in the halls of Congress.

It was only a matter of time, however. The American public is patient and long-suffering, but it knows that in the end fair play must triumph, and it has triumphed in its deliverance of the public from the express companies. The companies recognize that the parcels post has come to stay, that its ramifications will grow with time and that, perhaps, it will eventually reduce the express business to a negligible quantity. The parcels post will be reduced to such an extent that one company will be enabled to do it all.

Idle Men and Farm Work.

From the Johnstown Democrat. Speaking of the plan favored by the Governor of New York whereby unemployed men from the cities would be shipped to rural regions where they might get work on farms, the New York Tribune says one difficulty is that few of the idle men know how to do farm work.

Too often is heard the remark that Smith, or Brown, or Jones "is a farmer," because he does bungling work! "He should be back on the farm!" is frequently heard. And yet today the successful farmer is a man who if he applied himself as diligently in other lines of endeavor as he applies himself on the farm would meet with just as great if not greater success. The haphazard manner of farming has gone out of style. Time was, perhaps, when a man could grub a living from the ground were he to employ such tactics, but that day is past.

So that the idle men from the cities would be quite useless on a modern farm, for a time at least. Farming successfully means farming modernly. The man who made two blades of grass where one grew before was once regarded as a benefactor, but today the progressive farmer makes six or eight blades grow where grew the one; and when the season for that crop is over he grows another of some kind before snow flies.

A Matter of Honor.

From the New York World. Abject subservience to Great Britain is the charge leveled at the Wilson administration by ship subsidyists who insist upon using the Panama canal free of tolls in violation of a treaty.

It happens that the Hay-Pauncefote treaty was something more than an arrangement between the United States and Great Britain. By the terms of that instrument the rights of all nations were recognized in the Panama canal. It was a recognition of the right of all nations. It is the strict observance of a pledge. "Bad faith in that quarter will involve us as wretchedly at Paris and Berlin as at London."

Oscar Underwood's Blunder.

From the Louisville Courier-Journal. It is no less essential that political parties shall correct their mistakes than it is that individuals shall do so. The Democratic party realizes its mistake in this instance and is going to correct it. It is unfortunate that Mr. Underwood, instead of taking the lead in this correction, is to make a very serious mistake of his own by opposing it.

Serious, undoubtedly it will be, though, because of his achievements and character, we do not believe it will be fatal. But it will be sorrowful as well as serious to hear our Oscar Underwood defend so mischievous and undemocratic a policy as that of ship subsidies.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

The commissioners of Cambria county have also agreed to pay bounties on the scalp of noxious animals and birds, thus introducing to some of their neighbors a prolific source of revenue.

A Jefferson county man recently drove a deer into his barn, after the animal had been almost run down by a pair of dogs. Later the animal was crated and shipped to Brookville where it was released.

DuBois has adopted a fine method of dealing with the "mashers" who perform in that community. Several were arrested last week and sentenced by the burgess to labor on the streets. That is likely to work a cure.

The Harrison-Walker Refractories company, which has plants in various nearby counties, has issued orders to all superintendents of plants that any employee discovered with intoxicating drink in his possession or under its influence on the company's property, shall be discharged.

J. W. Lewis, who has been employed as a cook in a lumber camp at Moorehead, Ky., since early last fall, arrived at his home in Lock Haven Thursday, and will remain in the north. While dozing on the train between Pittsburgh and Tyronne, Mr. Lewis was relieved of \$50 which he had placed in his hip pocket.

While mining coal in a private mine on a farm near Boswell, Somerset county, William Speicher, 33 years old, was killed by a fall of coal on Tuesday evening of last week. His body was found by his wife on Wednesday morning, his protracted absence having excited her fear and led her to go in search of him.

James Dunn, superintendent of the Loyalhanna brewery, Latrobe, was found guilty of a violation of the liquor laws, in the Indiana county court, Judge Telford ruling that it is unlawful for a brewery to sell in any county in which it does not have a license. It is rumored that the case will be taken to the Supreme court.

At Jenneette one evening last week a young girl sustained a broken leg, a young man suffered a similar misfortune and two others were badly hurt, all in a coasting accident. On the same day George Battey, of Mount Pleasant was terribly injured. One of his kidneys having been practically destroyed. It is believed he will die.

Game Warden Berrier went to the Caledonia forestry reserve last week, found six dogs that had been killing deer in that section, promptly killed them, as provided by law, and brought their ears back as proof of their death. The dogs had been running, and killing deer in Franklin and Adams counties all winter, and there was much complaint.

The Rev. and Mrs. W. A. Carver, of Morrisdale, celebrated the thirty-ninth anniversary of their marriage one day last week. Unconscious of this fact several of the ladies of the Methodist Episcopal church, of which Mr. Carver has been pastor for the last six years, invaded the parsonage and spread a fine dinner. It was a very pleasant coincidence.

James Afsen, the little 5-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Aaron Afsen, of Ludlow, was killed Monday morning while riding on top of a load of logs, which his father was hauling from Wetmore to Ludlow on sleds. The sleds, which were heavily loaded, skidded into the ditch and toppled over, the little lad who was seated on top, being buried beneath the heavy logs.

A young man calling himself C. M. Spangler and claiming Altoona as his home, hired a horse and buggy from a Lock Haven liverman, saying he wished to drive to Avis. He did not return at the stipulated time and the owner of the rig, having located it in Williamsport, sent after it while a constable picked up Spangler because he had left an unpaid board bill in Lock Haven.

Charles H. Ament, a resident of Latrobe, has been complaining for some months past of a pain in his right lung. The other day he was seized with a severe spell of coughing and bleeding at the nose during which he coughed up a great clot of blood. In this was found a wire nail somewhat resembling the kind with which cigar boxes are put together. He suspects he swallowed it several months ago when he had several in his mouth.

The Mill Hill brick works are making preparations to increase the output of their plant in order to be able to fill the many orders they are receiving for their product. A new pan and other up-to-date machinery will be installed soon and a new steel overhead bridge put in across the New York Central railroad, over which their clay comes from the mines to the plant. In the mean time, the plant will be kept running to its full capacity.

Charles Russell Muir, the man who disappeared from his home in Juniata on the day before Christmas, has been located, or, more accurately speaking, his body has been found. Mrs. Muir on Saturday was notified by a messenger from her parental home in Wallace, Clearfield county, that her husband died on Friday at Niagara Falls, details, however, being entirely omitted. The remains of the wanderer were shipped to Wallace.

A gas well which was drilled on the P. R. Smith farm, three miles from Ridgway, attained a capacity of 1,000,000 feet. The depth of the well is 3,414 feet. Drilling will be continued until the bottom of the sand is reached, which is about 100 feet. The well is about two miles from one on the Van-Orsdale farm which produces 4,500,000 feet. Ten wells are being sunk in the territory and when the weather opens sufficiently at least that many more will go down.

Charged with importing diseased cattle from Maryland into Pennsylvania, Henry E. Brown, a cattle dealer, of Lyles, Lancaster county, has been indicted by the federal grand jury at Philadelphia. It is alleged that Mr. Brown purchased eight tuberculosis cows in Maryland and shipped them to a farm near Lyles, Lancaster county, where they were located and quarantined by agents of the State livestock sanitary board. The cattle were killed later and found to be infected.

Prof. J. P. Stewart, experimental pomologist of the Pennsylvania State College, will deliver an address before the Cambria county Pomona grange in Patton Monday, April 6th. His subject will be "Cultural Methods, Clover Crops and Fertilization in Apple Orchards." Professor Stewart conducted the experiments of the college in orchards in different parts of the State for the past six years and prepared an account of these experiments in bulletin No. 121, published by State College.

An epidemic of scarlet fever has settled upon the Seraphic Home in New Derry, and ten new cases were reported Tuesday. The first case was reported last Saturday, two boys, who had just been admitted to the home from Pittsburgh, being the first to become sick. Ten cases developed that day, and at present there are twenty-four children in bed with the malady. A specialist has been summoned from Pittsburgh. The home was known formerly as the Toner Institute, and is supported by a Catholic society of Pittsburgh.

Following the arrest of eight persons in Altoona on charges of having engaged in the handling of heroin and other drugs, the officers of the Mountain city started a vigorous sweating process to compel the dope fiends to divulge the source from which they obtained their supplies. Word from Altoona is to the effect that the officers had secured several confessions and that these implicated one of the most prominent druggists in Johnstown. A plan of action against the local dealer had not been mapped out, according to a statement of the Altoona police. An Altoona druggist is also implicated.