

INK SLINGS.

-This week last year was rainy and cold.

-Anyway, the new street committee of council can't be accused of not being on the job.

-If Mexico has a few more Torreons there will be no Mexicans left to fight over who shall govern them.

-Anyway our English cousins might expect something warm in an Ulster they seem willing to go to war about.

-We know that March came in like a lion and the balance of the proverb held good because it went out like a lamb.

-Spring hasn't been doing so badly, thus far. The farmers will be plowing next week if weather conditions are all right.

-The fellows who are howling loudest for intervention in Mexico would be the first to personally help intervene, we don't think.

-Candidate McCORMICK has come and gone and he was silent as the Sphinx about his actions when BRYAN was running for President.

-Dr. DIXON will never elongate the American quick lunch until he takes some of the dexterity out of the great American lunch book.

-The President is still in the saddle at Washington and we opine that those who would unhorse him will find that he knows his mount and knows how to alight.

-Really it was a big wonder that one of those nose commerce commissioners didn't step in and tell the Penny that it didn't have a right to issue retrenchment orders.

-Different exigencies require different treatment. Now the President didn't employ the "watchful waiting" remedy to oust the ship subsidy usurper in the canal tolls bill.

-The extremes to which people will go in bidding at public sales was illustrated at a sale in Centre county a few days ago, when the thoughtless buyers ran lard up to twenty cents a pound when it can be purchased in any store in the county at fourteen.

-April 1st found the street cleaners still carting ice and snow off Bellefonte thoroughfares. That's something for your youngsters to remember against the time when you are old folks and will be talking of "the long hard winter [we had away back in 1914."

-Mr. DUDLEY FIELD MALONE, collector of the customs at the port of New York, like most of the pets, gets fresh occasionally. His last excursion into the realms of unsophisticated arrogance has promptly and, very properly, been called down from Washington.

-Up to this writing no Republican has had the temerity to announce for Congress in this District. It will be all the better if a victim is not secured because the Twenty-first must send a Democrat to Congress next fall and it would be pleasanter to do it without the slaughter of some innocent.

-Torreon has been taken by the Mexican rebels. Of the 9000 federal soldiers defending the city it is reported that only 1000 escaped death or wounds. The same fatality has been reported on the other side so that the sanguinary nature of the five day's battle is something terrible to contemplate.

-Ohio's new mother's pension law is not to stand for moving picture shows. In other words, mothers who attend the movies will not be granted pensions. The theory is that if they have the movie habit they neglect their children. But why couldn't Ohio look at it from the other angle and impose the condition that the mothers take the children along, as the movie seems to be becoming an essential part of the American life.

-Our ambitious friend Mr. VANCE C. McCORMICK is greatly interested in having the public know how vigorously he has been fighting the "bi-partisan Machine"-whatever that is-the past three or four years. If he would only turn on a little light on the expensive and bitter fight he made against Mr. BRYAN each time he was the Democratic nominee for President, the public would have a much better idea of the fighting qualities of the would-be Democratic candidate for Governor.

-All good Democrats are with President WILSON in his fight to maintain the honor of the country. If our treaties with foreign countries are being violated by the exemption clause in the Panama canal bill then the only thing we can do, with credit to ourselves, is to repeal the exemption clause. It is unfortunate that some able Democrats in Congress have taken issue with the President on the question, but the preponderance of opinion in all parties is to the effect that his is the high and honorable ground. No matter what the Baltimore convention may have promised in its platform phrasing certainly that great body of Democrats could not have deliberately planned the stultification of the national honor. We are inclined to think the plank was adopted there without considering that it might have been in conflict with the obligations of the HAY-PAUNCEFOTE treaty.

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McCormick Has Not Explained.

Mr. VANCE C. McCORMICK has made a good many campaign speeches in support of his ambition to be Governor of Pennsylvania but he has not, thus far, given a substantial reason for voting and working against WEBSTER GRIM, the Democratic nominee for that office in 1910. We are informed by residents of Harrisburg that Mr. McCORMICK was very earnestly opposed to the nomination of Mr. BERRY at that time. One of the reasons he gave for his activity against that gentleman was that Mr. BERRY, while State Treasurer, allowed his bondsman to hold a large amount of State funds without paying interest. "I don't say that Mr. BERRY was dishonest," he added, "but this incident shows that he is mentally unfit for such an office."

The Harrisburg Trust Company was Mr. BERRY's bondsman while he was State Treasurer. An officer of that company was Treasurer of the Capitol Building Commission. As treasurer of the Building Commission he drew from the State Treasury a large sum of money which had been appropriated by the Legislature for building purposes and deposited it in his own bank. The law requires custodians of State funds to pay interest at the rate of two per cent. on funds. The custodian of this building fund, who was Mr. BERRY's bondsman, didn't pay any interest while Mr. BERRY remained in office. Mr. BERRY's successor instituted proceedings and collected two per cent., which amounted to a considerable sum.

After the defeat of Mr. BERRY for the nomination and the nomination of Mr. GRIM, VANCE McCORMICK supported BERRY for election. He had revealed no change in mentality or temperamentality during the interval. Pending the primary campaign Mr. McCORMICK had referred disparagingly to Mr. BERRY's habit of borrowing money. He said that he had borrowed considerable sums from his bondsman who held State funds without paying interest, and he had borrowed from Colonel GUFFEY and others. After the nomination BERRY showed no signs of a change in business habits. Yet Mr. McCORMICK supported him against GRIM whose life, as JOHN HARMAN said in his notification speech, "was as clean as a hound's tooth."

Men who aspire to party favor ought to pay respect to party obligations. If the party should nominate an unfit man there would be excuse for bolting. No man has ever had the temerity to even cast the shadow of a doubt upon WEBSTER GRIM's qualifications. Neither Mr. McCORMICK nor any other man has ever heard his integrity or his capacity questioned. Mr. McCORMICK has said something about the manner of his nomination. But he certainly had a majority of the convention and the convention was regular and orderly. If he had been forced upon the party, as McCORMICK is being now, there might have been reason for protest. But nothing like that happened and Democrats who opposed him then have no right to ask for party favors now.

Increased Enrollment in Pennsylvania.

The increase of Democratic voting strength in Pennsylvania, said to be shown by the new enrollment, ought to be most gratifying. If that statement is correct it must indicate a revival of civic spirit among the electors. In 1912, though our candidate for President was most popular, the Democratic vote was lamentably small. There were two reasons for this. The Democratic management was stupid, selfish and insincere. From GUTHRIE to BLAKESLIE the only thought was to promote personal ambition. The election of our candidate for President was inevitable, however Pennsylvania voted, and the State organization spent its time and energies devising schemes to distribute the spoils of office among those who composed it.

Such leadership is neither inspiring nor encouraging and conditions which ought to have brought a full vote to the polls yielded only disappointment. The vote was the smallest in a Presidential year in a quarter of a century. The scramble for office which followed the election converted the disappointment of 1912 to disgust in 1913 and the enrollment revealed a falling off even from the vote of the year before. The hungry hucksters had no personal interest in the contest of 1913 and devoted all their efforts to widening the party breach and promoting factional quarrels. The office brokerage business absorbed all the time of Mr. PALMER and Mr. McCORMICK, GUTHRIE having been eliminated by his appointment to an Ambassadorship.

This year, however, it is different. Many of the would-be leaders have a personal interest in the contest this year. They are running for office and want help at the polls. They have exhausted

every expedient to get voters enrolled and imagine that the increased enrollment means an increased vote for them. But in this they may be sadly mistaken. In proper proportion it is the result of Democratic determination to rebuke their selfish arrogance. The increased enrollment means that the Democratic citizens of the State mean to take the leadership out of hands which have not only betrayed the party but have violated every principle of honor and honesty.

Ship Subsidy Strangled.

The vote of the House of Representatives on the Sims' bill, repealing that clause of the Panama canal legislation which exempted American coasting ships from tolls, guarantees the ultimate passage of the measure. The only surprise in the matter was in that the opposition was able to muster so large a force. Democratic members of the body who had been fighting gag rule for years had some excuse for voting against the rule limiting debate and prohibiting amendments. Consistency is a jewel in the estimation of some men even in this age of emotionalism. But there was no reason why a Democrat should vote against the main proposition, notwithstanding the declaration of the Baltimore platform.

The effect of the exemption upon British commerce had nothing to do with the subject. The obligation imposed upon us by the HAY-PAUNCEFOTE treaty was a matter of secondary importance. The principal reason why the exemption clause should never have been enacted is that it worked the subversion of an honored Democratic tradition and policy against ship subsidies. It achieved by indirection a result for which the late MARK HANNA was paid by the Ship trust in 1896 but was prevented from consummating by Democratic vigilance ever since. It was the fulfillment of one of the most corrupt bargains ever made in the interest of politics in this country. The passage of the repeal bill is a tardy remedy for an evil.

Moreover the exemption was predicated upon a false pretense. Its supporters claimed that it was in the interest of the American people. There could be nothing further from the fact. The exemption would have benefitted the Ship trust and nobody else. The people of the United States paid the cost of constructing the waterway. They will be taxed to meet deficiencies in its operation and there are certain to be deficiencies. The exemption would have cut out the most prolific source of revenue and benefitted the most exacting monopoly in the country. The endorsement of it was a "snake" in the Baltimore Democratic platform and the redemption of it is a token of intelligence and patriotism.

The Situation in Mexico.

There is no longer any uncertainty and confusion concerning Torreon. Last week fighting in or about the town continued several days, and at the end of the period both sides claimed victory. The Federals who had possession declared that they were still in control and that the Constitutionalists were held some miles away. The dispatches from VILLA's army alleged that much of the fighting was in the streets of the city and that his opponents had been driven from one point to another and were exhausted. Out of this confusion has come the real story of the VILLA victory there with its awful cost in human life.

As has already been indicated in these columns HUERTA is impossible. Recent developments indicate that VILLA is no better and may be, possibly, a shade worse. Under the circumstances it was a matter of indifference to the American people which side won at Torreon. If both forces could be extinguished it would be different. The reputable people of Mexico might then proceed to organize and establish a government that meant something to civilization. For there are reputable people in Mexico. There are men and women there who mean well and if opportunity presented itself would fulfill the mission of good government as rational citizens understand the subject both in America and Europe.

Necessarily the public is kept in the dark respecting some of the affairs in Mexico. President WILSON is striving to restore order and establish authority to the end that property on both sides of the border may be secure. But he can make little progress while a usurper of criminal impulses is in control of one force and a bandit of homicidal tendencies is the principal figure on the other side. Only the policy of "watchful waiting" is available and he is adhering to that with a pertinacity that indicates both patience and benevolence. After the smoke of the battle of Torreon blows away there may be an opportunity to read the horizon with some measure of accuracy.

Real Cause of the Quarrel.

The present more or less acrimonious disputes among Democrats in this State are ascribable to a misinterpretation of public opinion upon the part of A. MITCHELL PALMER, VANCE C. McCORMICK and those who follow their factional leadership. For some years before the so-called reorganization movement set in, there were rumblings of dissatisfaction among certain ambitious politicians who were not accepted by the old party leaders at their own estimates. These persons usually bolted the party tickets and then blamed the party leaders for the decrease of party strength, measured by the defection they were able to organize. These tactics ultimately resulted in the revolt which followed the disaster of 1910, when they bolted to the Keystone party.

Easily the greatest menace to party prosperity are the twin evils, hypocrisy and demagoguery. The bolters were abundantly supplied with both. They bolted the nomination of BRYAN because, as they alleged, that party leader and candidate was obsessed with Socialistic and Populistic heresies. Yet the moment they assumed leadership they adopted the heresies and howled BRYANisms from the housetops. They decried political methods as immoral which they now shamelessly practice in aggravated form and denounce those who held up Mr. BRYAN's hands as political recreants. Professing righteousness they imagine the people can be deceived into the belief that that which they formerly denounced is now the sign-manual of party fidelity and political purity.

Possibly there was some reason in a demand for a re-organization of the Democratic party following the tragedy of 1910. The old leaders were growing old in years as well as in service and it is expedient to bring new blood into party management at intervals. It was in obedience to this conviction that Mr. BERRY was catapulted into party leadership and financed in his ambitions for a time. It was on this account that Mr. PALMER was aided in his ambitions by the old leaders. It was because of this that Mr. CREASY was nursed on the payroll for many years. But after practically kicking themselves out of the party these gentlemen sneaked into the tent under the ropes and immediately invoked the most atrocious methods to crowd their sponsors out.

The old leaders of the Democratic party in Pennsylvania were singularly unselfish. When the party succeeded they treely and cheerfully distributed the favors and divided the awards among the party workers. In contrast with this custom the new leaders, the self-righteous directors of the organization, grabbed all the important offices for themselves and handed the others to sycophantic and servile followers. This selfishness disgusted thousands of Democrats, not of the hungry and office-seeking breed, but the sturdy, self-respecting believers in the faith. Mr. GUTHRIE, a party recreant, got first choice. Mr. PALMER, Mr. BLAKESLIE and finally Mr. McCORMICK got what they coveted and the Democratic people got disappointment and disgust which is now expressed in revolt.

-The Buffalo of the United States and Canada are slowly, but surely, being exterminated. There are but three thousand of them left. Tabulation of the recent enrollments in this country go to show that the Bull Moose will also be extinct in another year or so.

-So long as the official records show that imports are decreasing it will be hard for the tariff mongers to convince the public that the UNDERWOOD tariff law has made this country the dumping ground for the pauper made products of Europe.

-The Society, recently organized, the mission of which is to discourage the wearing of new and attractive costumes on Easter, will be popular only among those who are shy in funds, or clothes.

-The disintegration of the Bull Moose party in this State, as shown by the party enrollment, isn't bothering the party. In the wilds and wildernesses of South America it hasn't heard the reports as yet.

-If the "watchful waiting" policy shall result in the extermination of both sides in the Mexican imbroglio it is certain to become popular with the people of all civilized countries.

-The quick lunch may be a national menace, as Dr. DIXON, Commissioner of Health, states, but so long as it remains a public convenience, it will endure.

-So long as the British army enjoys the right to do as it likes Great Britain will never be a formidable foe.

Set-Back to Clark's Ambition.

The mistake that Speaker Clark and his following made in attacking the patriotism of President Wilson was forcefully demonstrated Friday, when the House voted by 207 to 176 and 200 to 172, on motions preliminary to the passage of the Panama tolls repealer, which is now practically certain to pass the House next Tuesday or Wednesday. It is significant that there was a defection of only 57 votes from the Democratic strength of 286, and that eight Republicans voted with the majority.

While on the face of things the issue is the question of whether the administration is to be sustained in its contention that the provision exempting the American ships from tolls in the Panama canal should not be permitted to stand, the real issue is between the President and that faction of the Democratic party which under the leadership of Speaker Clark bolted from the administration making the tolls fight an excuse for such action. In the discussion Friday all the speeches had to do with the question of whether President Wilson was acting patriotically when he took the stand that he did with regard to the tolls exemption clause, and the result of the vote shows the confidence that a majority of the House have in him. It is especially significant, perhaps, that Speaker Clark's colleagues from the opposition voted with the followers of the President.

The decisive endorsement that the administration received should be sufficient to convince Speaker Clark of the hopelessness of his attempt to wrest the party leadership from President Wilson, and which would result from handicapping the party in its thus far successful efforts to carry out the platform promises the fulfillment of which the people of the nation demand.

The Trade Commission Bill.

From the Springfield Republican. The revised interstate trade commission bill, reported unanimously by a subcommittee of Democrats and Republicans, at least fulfills the promise made early in the session that the proposed trust legislation would be the product of common sense. Criticism for weeks has been directed against the administration bills and it appears that the criticism has been valued at its real worth and actually made use of in revising the measures. The latest draft of the trade commission bill provides for an administrative bureau of corporations, which at first made it so objectionable to private business interests fearful of trade secrets becoming known to competitors. With its large powers of investigation and recommendation, the commission would be able to perform much useful service to business men desirous of knowing where they stood with reference to the Sherman law. As an agency for providing the courts with information during the prosecution of antitrust suits, the commission could perform another useful function. Its range of activity is limited, perhaps, to corporations having a capitalization of \$5,000,000 or more.

If no other trust legislation is passed at this session, this bill would mark progress. Such a commission is approved already by all parties, according to their national platforms and other declarations of policy, and it is sure to be established at no distant day. All trust legislation is still experimental. The Sherman law itself, in its present form, is experimental. The sure thing is that the interstate trade commission will be needed in the future under any system of regulation or regulated monopoly.

The Lessen of the Parcel Post.

From the Johnstown Democrat. Trust defenders who have so much to say about the benefit of monopoly should be asked to take a look at the express business. Less than two years ago the sender of a package of more than four pounds paid a heavy rate, had his questions frequently answered in a surly manner and had to show signs of contemplating a lawsuit before a just claim against the express company would usually receive serious consideration. Today express rates furnish the one exception to almost universal advancing prices. In the matter of express transportation there has been an unmistakable decrease in the cost of living. Express companies are even resorting to advertisements to inform the public of that fact. It is well known what has done it-the parcel post, the establishment of competition where a monopolistic combination had prevailed before. It was not necessary to send express magnates to jail or to bring expensive anti-trust suits against them to accomplish that result. The parcel post once established, express companies simply had to do something to attract shippers to them.

While competition of the parcel post with the express companies has given the public better service than was ever before obtained from the old monopolies, competition of these companies with the parcel post will also tend to insure better service from the government than we would be likely to get without competition.

-Those who hoped that differences of opinion among Democrats in Congress concerning the Panama canal toll question would create a fissure in the party ranks are likely to be disappointed. President WILSON isn't built that way. The wish was father to the thought.

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SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

-The steward of the Saxton branch of the Mystic Order of the Sphinx has been placed under arrest on the charge of selling liquor without license.

-A liberal-minded citizen of Williamsport has offered a reward of \$5 for the killing of each and every dog caught running deer in Lycoming county.

-According to the Newton Hamilton Herald, General John P. Taylor, of Reedsville, is in fine health and not likely to need his \$1,000 mausoleum soon.

-Mrs. Anna Gross Schriver, of Trout Run, has been lodged in jail at Williamsport to answer the charge of attempting to poison her husband. The accusation was made by the man.

-The Rev. Samuel Cranston Benson, pastor of the Patton Presbyterian church, has challenged Matthew B. Nairn, anti-local option aspirant for Legislative honors from Cambria county, to a joint debate in which the merits or demerits of local option are to be discussed.

-L. A. Fischel, of DuBois, is the owner of a volume of recipes for the cure of all manner of ills, said to have been written by Martin Luther, the great reformer. It contains 133 pages and is written with ink that has faded some, although the owner is able to read much of it.

-The Harrisburg-Walker Refractories company, Mr. Union's largest brick plant, has received an order for twenty-four million bricks, which, with other orders, will mean two years' employment at good wages for seven hundred men. This order aggregates in value about five hundred thousand dollars.

-Peter, the 19-year-old son of James P. Bra t, of Brothersvalley township, Somerset county, was in the act of felling a tree when it suddenly toppled and fell in an unexpected direction. One of the limbs struck the young man on the head and another fractured his left leg. He died in a short time.

-Ralph, the 10-year-old son of Edward Welsh, of Orviston, Centre county, fell into the swollen Bald Eagle creek the other day and would have drowned had it not been for the presence of mind and courage of Charles Bowes, who plunged into the rushing waters and succeeded in dragging the lad to firm ground.

-Charles H. Wurster, an invalid residing with a daughter in Newberry, Lycoming county, while temporarily alone, set fire to a newspaper he was reading, the fire having been kindled either by a spark from his pipe or by a lighted match, and was badly but not fatally burned before he could be rescued from his perilous position.

-Relatives of Keith Dalrymple, of Port Allegheny, are searching for him throughout the country to inform him that \$265,000 is awaiting him on his return home to Port Allegheny. Dalrymple, who is 23 years old, disappeared from his home seven years ago. Since that time no trace of him ever has been found. The fortune was left him by his father.

-James Dunn, superintendent of the Loyalhanna Brewing company, of Latrobe, was sentenced a few days ago by Judge Telford, of Indiana county, to pay a fine of \$1,500 and serve three months in the Allegheny county workhouse. George Coshey, agent for the same firm, was sentenced to pay a fine of \$1,000 and serve a similar term. They will appeal the case.

-Charles William Stoner, of Fermanagh township, Juniata county, who has already served two terms in the penitentiary, one for forgery and one for horse stealing, is on the road to a third term. He is now in jail for forging a check and securing the money on it at the First National bank of Mifflintown. The man admits his guilt and says he needed the money to keep his family from starving.

-The will of the late Alfred D. Hearnance provides that, after the death of his wife and the payment of a few bequests, the income from the residue of his estate shall be applied to the education at Cornell University of boys who have graduated from the Williamsport high school and who could not go to college unless aided. The sum of \$500 a year is to be given each student. It is believed the fund will educate forty pupils annually.

-A masked bandit on Sunday stole \$45 from the till of a grocery store in the northern section of Philadelphia, after holding the proprietor and his wife at bay with a revolver. An hour later, 20 blocks away, a pedestrian was shot in the leg when he hesitated to comply with a demand to hold up his hands. The police believe that the same man was responsible for both hold-ups. He is described as being about 24 years old, 5 feet, 6 inches tall and weighing about 160 pounds.

-George Homer Johnston, a Senior at State College, has been detailed to take charge of the spring surgery in Capitol park, Harrisburg. This arrangement has been made with the college by Superintendent S. B. Rames, of the Department of Public Grounds and Buildings, and the State receiving the services of Mr. Johnston free. Only expenses are paid, the college furnishing expert advice free to the State in return for the State support.

-The Windber Moose has decided by an almost unanimous vote to abolish their sideboard, this action being taken at a meeting last week in which nearly the entire membership was represented. The members of the order have also decided to organize a ladies' circle and a Junior department. The members of the Beneficial Union and other organizations of Windber have also taken up the question of sideboards and they are expected to take action at meetings in the near future.

-In a wager of \$10 George Konterline performed a brand new beer feat at Beaver Falls Saturday midnight in a clubroom. Just as the hour of 12 began to strike from the big clock in the tower of a bank building nearby, Konterline downed a glass of beer in a couple of gulps. He followed this with another glass at each stroke of the clock until he had emptied twelve glasses. Then he swallowed his watch, holding the chain in his teeth. The amazed spectators were invited to place ears against Konterline's breast and hear the watch tick. When Konterline held the end of the chain between his fingers and jiggled it the submerged timepiece could be heard splashing in the beer.

-Howard Straw, aged a little over 11 years, who made his home with his grandfather, Uriah Straw, at Blue Ball, and Carl Stonebraker, aged 12 years, son of William Stonebraker, of the same place, went out to the woods near town on Monday evening about five o'clock to gather tea-berry leaves. By mistake they ate some laurel, and about one hour later young Straw was a corpse, dying in agony. His companion was not taken ill until in the night, when he worked in violent convulsions. He has very materially improved and hopes of his recovery are entertained. The death of the Straw boy, who was so generally liked, has cast a gloom over the community. His funeral occurred on Wednesday.

-The Fire Marshal's department, at Harrisburg has received information that P. W. Coggin, who represents himself as an assistant State fire marshal and secures advertising for a fire alarm card, operated in Steelton on March 20 and took away \$2 from people of the town. The department admits that the man's methods are in the interest of safety, but objects to him using the name of the department to get advertising and to his posing as an assistant fire marshal. He carries a regular card from the department, but he must have obtained it surreptitiously, as it was not issued by any authorized official. About 3,000 notices warning people to beware of him have been sent all over the State, and his business has evidently been nipped in the bud, as he has not been heard of lately.