

INK SLINGS.

—Anyway we were thankful yesterday that we are living in a land of peace and plenty.

—The writers of war news must imagine that they are competing for a prize as liars.

—Anyway it looks as though the allies will have to eat warmed up Turkey for some time to come.

—If you want to send someone a Christmas present that will be appreciated send the WATCHMAN for a year.

—The football season being over one of the questions that will naturally arise in the rooms of the student husky, temporarily out of work, is: What are we here for?

—The Jordan is the world's most crooked river. It wanders 213 miles to cover 60 and probably it is because it is so crooked that it is so hard for so many people to get over.

—Just to confirm, a little more, the general conviction that 1914 has been a wonderful year, in many ways, there comes the announcement that the Panthers have shot a buck.

—So far as we have been able to discover about the only Democrats in Pennsylvania who are perfectly satisfied with the condition of the party are those who have postmasterhips and those who have hope of getting them.

—J. B. REED, of Ithaca, N. Y., claims to have rabbits that he has trained to dig up and eat all the weeds in his garden, without touching plants of any value. Do you believe that Mr. REED is really a rabbit trainer or somewhat of a

—That new New York and Pennsylvania railroad that strikes Centre county about Dix, runs across to Pine Grove Mills thence east along the foot-hills of the Tussey mountains, is being promoted again but to what purpose nobody knows.

—It cost PENROSE \$9,073.87 to get back to the Senate. This amount covers his primary and election expenses, so he swears. Of course the offices and favors in Pennsylvania, the hope of which really did the trick for him, are not stated as campaign expenses.

—Senator PENROSE declares that he will give his time and attention to the business of his office in Washington and let the Pennsylvania Legislature work out its own destiny. This would indicate that the Senator has learned a lesson in the school of adversity.

—In stating that Mr. CREASY's "party faith is beyond all cavil or question," the Johnstown Democrat leaves us in doubt as to which party it means: the Keystone or Democratic? It surely hasn't forgotten that four years ago Mr. CREASY voluntarily read himself out of the Democratic party and said that he could see no need for its future existence.

—It is to be hoped that winter has not finally set in. If this should be the beginning of a long period of frozen ground there is no estimating the hardships that may befall in consequence. Water is lower, almost everywhere, than it has ever been before and if the rain-falls that are to come cannot soak into the ground streams and springs must needs go dry.

—The withdrawal of Gen. FUNSTON's forces from Vera Cruz took place, as advertised, and the Mexicans came into their own again all cleaned up and made healthier through Uncle SAM's occupation. Incidentally, Gen. FUNSTON brought the strong box containing the customs duties he had taken in along with him. Of course our government having recognized no one as in authority in Mexico there was no one to turn it over to. Now isn't that Yankee thrift.

—While the WATCHMAN appreciates to the fullest the efforts of the women's organizations of the town to keep us abreast of the times and is ever ready to admit that were it not for the women many of our civic accomplishments would not be extant it is a grave question as to whether a community Christmas tree is not an extravagance that we ought not indulge this year. While thousands of little ones are starving abroad will it be right for us to put even \$100 into such a treat. Aye, when we will probably have a lot of little ones right in the vicinity of Bellefonte who will be without Christmas goodies what a hollow mockery it will be to gather them about a great tree that will bear nothing for them but a maize of electric lights. The community Christmas tree is really not designed for a town like ours. It was to meet a call from the tenement quarters of large cities where lived children who had never seen a real Christmas tree. But here, in Bellefonte, no matter how poor anyone may be, the real Christmas tree grows almost at his or her back door, and can be had for the cutting. But what is the tree that bears no goodies to the child? Lights and tinsel gladden the eye for the moment but sugar plums and pop-corn balls are what reach the place where the kiddies have a right to hope to do business on Christmas. Let's sing the carols in the Diamond. That will be beautiful, but let's put the money into something more satisfying than a gorgeously lighted tree, this year at least.

Democratic Watchman

STATE RIGHTS AND FEDERAL UNION.

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Concerning the Democratic Organization.

Some of our esteemed Democratic contemporaries are urging the reorganization of the Democratic party of Pennsylvania. Various methods of accomplishing this result have been suggested, the resignation of National committeeman A. MITCHELL PALMER, and State chairman ROLAND S. MORRIS, being the favorite expedient. The meagre vote cast for WOODROW WILSON for President in 1912 and the poor showing of the party in the recent election have convinced thoughtful Democrats of the incapacity of the present leaders and admonished the party press that more capable managers must be obtained or hopes for the future of the party be entirely abandoned.

As the WATCHMAN stated in the issue succeeding the election, reorganization is not needed so much as getting together. After the inauguration of President WILSON Mr. PALMER, VANCE C. MCCORMICK and ROLAND S. MORRIS set up an office brokerage business and traded patronage for support so openly that every moral sense was outraged. This method of debauching the electorate must be discontinued; this system of corrupting the politics of the Commonwealth must be stopped. If the spoils of office are to be distributed as rewards for service the favors must go for service to the party rather than as recompense for servility to the bosses. This fact must be understood.

In the history of American politics there is no parallel to the selfishness of the men in control of the party organization since the seizure of the State committee in 1912. The Democratic administration elected without the help of these opportunists has been used as an instrument to put every man concerned in that theft of power into office. The minor offices in the gift of the administration have been used as currency to buy support of the ambitions of PALMER and MCCORMICK instead of being employed to build up the party. This misuse of power and patronage must be abandoned. Paying personal debts with party patronage is immoral and intolerable.

We have no idea, however, that PALMER and MORRIS will resign the offices they have abused. We have little confidence, moreover, in forcing reform by the strife which would attend a reorganization. The plain path to pursue, therefore, is an appeal to the President to cast out of his confidence the political hucksters who are trading on his friendship to promote their selfish ambitions. He must have learned from the returns of the election that these office brokers are not trusted leaders of the party. He must know by this time that they are perfidious incompetents who are sacrificing principles and betraying the party for their personal aggrandizement.

The average Pennsylvania Democrat is not a mercenary but neither is he a poltroon. His political fidelity is not determined by patronage but he will not consent to penalizing party integrity. The office brokers who have been in control since the rape of the organization in 1912 have traduced, condemned and ostracized men for no other reason than that they have been faithful to party obligations. These facts should be laid before the President in a way that will challenge his attention, and that done and the faults corrected it won't make much difference who is the Pennsylvania member of the National committee or chairman of the State committee.

—It wasn't the tariff law that defeated so many Democratic candidates for Congress at the recent election. The war tax, more than anything else, compassed that result, and the war tax might have been avoided by cutting appropriations here and there.

—Of course the stories of atrocities in the war zone are exaggerations and equally sure some of them are pure inventions. But men in battle are different from men in a ball room and some unpleasant incidents are to be expected on battle fields.

—MCCORMICK and the VARES may hold aloof from each other in the inaugural parade at Harrisburg in January but they will be together when the distribution of the spoils of office is on.

—The Bellefonte High school football team took the scalp of the Lewisburg High school team last Saturday when they won a decisive victory on the old Hughes field by the score of 28 to 6. The visitors were the first to score, which they did in the first few minutes of the game on a well executed forward pass. But it was the only time they ever had a chance at Bellefonte's goal line. The latter played a good game and scored four touchdowns, while Hartswick kicked four goals from touchdown.

The Flinn—McCormick Conspiracy.

The Progressive party will be kept alive until 1916 anyway. This was determined upon at a meeting held in Philadelphia a few evenings ago, GEORGE W. PERKINS, BILL FLINN and E. A. VAN VALKENBURG being present. Neither GIFFORD nor AMOS PINCHOT were in attendance. They refuse to fraternize with Mr. PERKINS for reasons satisfactory to themselves. But it may be assumed that they are going to remain on the firing line. GIFFORD has rented an office in Philadelphia and will pay poll tax in Pike county, according to a recently established custom. And all of them will be for ROOSEVELT for President. That is what the party is kept up for. That is why VANCE MCCORMICK was taken into the fold.

Keeping up the Progressive party is purely a financial problem. It involves considerable expense but PERKINS, FLINN and MCCORMICK are liberal spenders. Outside of that, however, it is of little consequence. If MCCORMICK had been elected Governor of Pennsylvania last fall things would have been different. That result would have made ROOSEVELT a formidable figure in the next race for President. When DRAPER LEWIS was "bought out," it was confidently believed by those who paid the freight, BILL FLINN and VANCE MCCORMICK, that such would be the result. It would have made ROOSEVELT the next President. But MCCORMICK wouldn't have cared for that. As Governor of Pennsylvania his ambition would have been satisfied for the time being.

In other words the campaign of 1914 was a conspiracy to plant A. MITCHELL PALMER and VANCE C. MCCORMICK in office, the Democratic party to the contrary, notwithstanding. By some process of legerdemain they beguiled President WILSON into acquiescence. But if they had succeeded he would have lost for the scheme was to make ROOSEVELT omnipotent, politically speaking, in 1916, and create a barrier impossible to overcome against the re-election of WOODROW WILSON. Do not misinterpret the plans of these conspirators. The election of MCCORMICK would have made ROOSEVELT the Republican and Progressive candidate for President in 1916 and defeated WOODROW WILSON for re-election and they knew it.

—Any way the royal family of Germany isn't trying to dodge either the dangers or the responsibility for the war. Every one of the Kaiser's sons is on the line of battle.

Senator Lodge as a Jingo.

After a long period of uncertainty Senator LODGE, of Massachusetts, has joined the jingoes. He would have become a jingo long ago except for the fact that he hoped for a Republican victory this year. That expectation having been disappointed he takes the first opportunity to reveal his purpose to be "agin the government" under all circumstances. The first opportunity presented itself last week when he was invited to address the Middlesex club of Massachusetts. He overworked himself in the matter. He not only proved that he is a jingo of the ROOSEVELT type but demonstrated beyond peradventure that he is an egregious ass of the BEVERIDGE style.

According to the best information attainable the United States warship Tennessee was approaching Turkish waters, which are heavily mined, on account of the European war. To prevent the destruction of the American ship a Turkish fortress fired an alarm gun in the direction of the Tennessee. Naturally the progress of that formidable "war dog" was stopped for purposes of investigation. The subsequent inquiry and investigation has developed the wisdom of the action of the commander of the Tennessee. She could have driven all the Turkish mines and shore defenses out of the sea and into perdition. But she didn't commit any act of hostility. She simply behaved herself.

But Senator LODGE is not satisfied with the conditions. He imagines that our government ought to declare war against Turkey and undertake an armed invasion of the Ottoman Empire. The Kaiser of Germany, the Emperor of Austria and the Sultan of Turkey are probably of the same mind on the subject. They want a "getting off" place and the intervention of the United States would have presented them with such a convenience on a silver platter. LODGE has "fallen" for the absurd proposition but LODGE is an ass anyway. The advantage is that only a few people knew it before and now it is universally understood. Hereafter LODGE will be taken at his true value.

—Probably those Turks fired upon American marines to get even with Germany for forcing Turkey into the war.

Present Conditions in Mexico.

The withdrawal of the United States troops from Vera Cruz will put the constitutional government of Mexico to the test. There are a good many people in this country who would welcome a disturbance of the peace as a result of the evacuation. They are those who opposed President WILSON's policy of watchful waiting and would interpret an outbreak at this time as the failure of that policy. As a matter of fact, however, the wisdom of that policy is not involved. It has been fully determined in the affirmative by the events which have transpired since the landing of the troops some six months ago. There can be no referendum.

It must be admitted even by those most hopeful of tranquility in Mexico that the outlook for orderly government is precarious. The two or more years of strife since the usurpation of power by HUERTA has not developed a single great, unselfish, patriotic citizen within the limits of the Mexican Republic, capable of fulfilling the requirements of the occasion. It would be unjust to say that there are no such men there. The country has an abundance of educated and patriotic men but the selfish and sordid Caranzas and Villas and Obregons have kept them in seclusion. But now that the withdrawal of the United States' troops has put the Mexicans upon their own responsibility, possibly the right man will reveal himself.

Mexico is one of the garden spots of the earth. Its soil is fertile, its climate salubrious and its moisture ample for agricultural prosperity. It is rich in minerals and the people have every reason to be proud of its history and traditions. But it has been kept in poverty and wretchedness for more than a century by the lust, ambition and selfishness of those who ought to have been just guides of the people. Happily President WILSON accurately diagnosed their maladies and pointed the way of escape from the evils which have oppressed them. Let us hope that left to themselves they will profit by his teachings and example.

—CHARLES M. SCHWAB is optimistic again and other Captains of Industry who know him well are wondering what he has up his sleeve.

Foolish Talk of an Old Man.

General WOTHERSPOON, who has just retired from the general staff of the army wants the regular force increased to a million men. He is an amiable "old granny" with about the brain capacity of a rabbit who reached the high rank of Major General through the law of seniority. But he feels that having attained the rank he has a right to tell the people what they need in military matters. That is one of the evils of a system which elevates men without respect to merit. They come to imagine that they are authority and however absurd the assumption, chatter like magpies until public patience is completely exhausted by their garrulity.

An army of a million men would cost the country, for maintenance alone, more than a billion dollars a year, thus more than doubling the expenses of the government. Of course that would make no difference to General WOTHERSPOON, who probably never paid a dollar for taxes in his life. But it would add ten dollars a year to the cost of living of every man, woman and child in the country. Assuming that the average American family is seven the seventy dollars additional to the family expense would fill the jails and poor houses to overflowing before the first year had expired. But it would afford abundant "soft-snaps" for favorites of fortune.

So long as the government of the United States is administered on a just basis there will be no danger of invasion from a hostile enemy and there will be no necessity for any increase in the army. Besides that without the consent of Great Britain no army of invasion, however strong and efficient, could make a lodgment on our shores. A good fire company well supplied with hose and a few submarine boats would prevent the debarkation of any force that might come by water and the only other means of access is through Canada. In view of these facts such talk as that attributed to Major General WOTHERSPOON is simply rubbish.

—Down in York, Pa., a half a dozen men who were conducting raffling matches for turkeys and chickens were arrested and fined by the mayor, who also stated that if any other cases were brought to his notice he would order the arrest of all the rafflers, and fine them, too. In Bellefonte raffling has been carried on within a stone's throw of the court house without a word being said by the borough authorities.

Sane Attitude on Smyrna Incident.

From the Harrisburg Star-Independent.

It is noticed that even the jingo press of this country is not treating too seriously the situation that has arisen between United States and Turkey as the result of the action of the Turkish garrison at Smyrna in firing on a launch from the American cruiser, Tennessee. Even the yellow journals, or most of them, are displaying enough patriotism to restrain themselves from shouting "War" at a time when war with Turkey would bring with it the possibility of the United States being plunged head-long into the whole of the European maelstrom. It is hardly likely that when the Turkish authorities have responded to what is practically a demand of the State Department in Washington for an apology, there will be any grounds remaining for Uncle Sam to declare war on the Ottoman Empire. In the first place it is altogether probable that the shots fired at the Tennessee's launch were meant for anything more than a warning of the possible presence of mines in the harbor. At worst the act could have amounted to nothing save an outrage on the part of a reckless garrison whose attitude will be repudiated by the Turkish government. Turkey has enough trouble on her hands without courting a war with Uncle Sam, and the American people are taking the wise course in determining to wait calmly for Turkey's explanation which is practically certain to remove all basis for controversy between that country and this.

Mr. Roosevelt's Blunder.

From the New York World.

If he were still President, Col. Roosevelt does not know what he would do in regard to the war in Europe, but it is evident from his published writings that he would make a fuss about it. He is positive that several of the provisions of the Hague peace convention have been violated in Belgium. As the United States was one of the signatory powers, he is sure of another thing, and that is, if we cannot send a posse comitatus to round up the offenders, we should at least protest in a loud voice.

If the Colonel had not always been more of a warrior than a statesman, he would perhaps know more about the terms of the Hague conventions, for the second one was signed October 18, 1907, when he was President. In affixing their names to that instrument the American plenipotentiaries made this solemn reservation: "Nothing contained in this convention shall be so construed as to require the United States to depart from its traditional policy of not intruding upon, interfering with or entangling itself in the political questions of policy or internal administration of any foreign state."

We have seen on several occasions that Col. Roosevelt had little regard for law and treaties, but he ought not to be too severe in his criticism of a successor who respects such things and who is not inclined to make war on his own responsibility.

Coming Out of the Tall Timber.

From the Philadelphia Record.

Another grand member of the Old Guard bobs up, seeking vindication. It is our distinguished friend, J. Lee Plummer, of Blair, who aspired to be State Treasurer in 1905 and who was buried under an avalanche of votes. Having witnessed the return of Uncle Joe Cannon and other reactionaries, he is reported as thinking that he would like to run for State Treasurer again and that 1916 would be about the right time. Mr. Plummer is an ardent advocate of Pennsylvania and all it implies. We shall be glad to see more of his ilk venture out of the woods. Nothing could more forcibly impress upon Progressives and Independents the fact that in 1916 the G. O. P. will stand exactly where it did in 1912.

Cavalry Charges.

From the Boston News Bureau.

Profits of \$650,000 were realized on one consignment of 10,000 horses recently shipped to Europe for army purposes. The profit per head for purchasing and rounding up the animals was \$15. The contract for delivering the horses at their European destination called for the payment of \$100 per head, but actual delivery was effected, including ocean transportation, at a cost of \$50 a head. This contract, therefore, netted its holder \$500,000, which in conjunction with the purchaser's commission, showed a total profit of \$650,000 and was made by two persons who engineered the trade.

In Those Good Old Days.

From the New York Telegram.

While firmly believing "this is the life," and that the good old times were nothing like these, it makes one thoughtful to reflect that in the days of William Penn turkeys, weighing 30 pounds sold for a shilling each.

How Much Has He Collected?

From the Pittsburgh Dispatch.

Carranza is reported planning flight. This is a stage all Mexican Presidents pass through now-a-days.

Did He Get Any Kisses?

From the St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

England's Hobson, when he sank a collier to bottle up the harbor where the Koenigsburg is imprisoned, really bottled it.

Be Anything But Civil.

From the St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

Villa and Carranza may have a war, but it would be misleading to style it civil.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

—There is a strong probability that the Pennsylvania State Industrial Home for Women, soon to be established by the State, will be located either at Muncy or Jersey Shore.

—Max Renner, a well-known resident of Latrobe, employed as a cooper in the Loyalhanna brewery, lost the sight of his right eye when a bottle which he was filling broke, a piece of the glass shattering his eyeball.

—Mrs. John Burley, of Confluence, Somerset county, used coal oil to accelerate a kitchen fire. There was an explosion and the woman was terribly burned about the face and head, dying a few hours after the accident.

—The Memorial hospital, of Johnstown, will ask the State for an appropriation of \$100,000 at the coming legislative session. The Johnstown city hospital wants \$25,000, Mercy hospital \$35,000 and the Christian home, \$5,000.

—William Kenely, of Bald Eagle township, Clinton county, is under arrest under the white slave act for having induced a young girl named Lottie Fredericks to leave her home in Victor, N. Y., and accompany him to this State. The girl has been sent home.

—Justice Fry, of Westover, fined Marshal Eckenrade \$150 for killing a deer that had been run by dogs and Dudley Houck \$50 because he owned the dogs. The deer, which was a five-prong buck weighing 150 pounds, was sent to the Miners' hospital at Spangler.

—The store of the Mahoning Supply company, at Helvetia, Clearfield county, and the post office, which is in the same building, were entered by burglars one night last week. The safe was blown open and stamps, money and other articles taken, to the value of about \$600.

—The large general store of the Shawmut Commercial company, at Byrnedale, Clearfield county, was destroyed by fire one night last week, together with the butcher shop, post office and station of the Pittsburgh, Shawmut and Northern railroad, involving a loss of \$25,000.

—The foot and mouth disease caused the holding up of three car loads of brick at Latrobe the other day. They were packed in straw and were not permitted to leave the yard until the farmer from whom the straw was procured made an affidavit that it had been baled prior to August 25.

—James Hilly, a farmer residing in Salem township, Westmoreland county, put a goose with his chickens in order to protect the fowls from robbers, but the experiment didn't work for one morning Mr. Hilly discovered that a dozen chickens, six six-weeks-old pigs and the goose had all been stolen.

—The police of Jefferson and adjoining counties are looking for Dominick Testa, wanted in connection with the shooting of William Hoffman at Sykesville, Jefferson county, late last Thursday night. The latter is an inmate of the DuBois hospital with a bullet in his neck and slight chance for recovery.

—Henry Stiver, of Punxsutawney, who was badly injured six weeks ago by the fall of a scaffolding containing a large quantity of tiling, and which covered the man as it fell with him, is dead from his injuries. He was 58 years of age and is survived by two children and a second wife to whom he was married last June.

—James Hammand McCormick, a member of the council of Watsonstown, went to the council chamber the other morning to attend to some business. While there he was stricken by apoplexy and it was several hours before he managed to get to the telephone and make his condition known. He was evidently removed to his home, where he died some hours later.

—Negotiations were concluded in Lock Haven on Wednesday whereby a tract of 300 acres of virgin timber land near Marklesburg, in Huntingdon county, was sold by J. E. Houck, of Watsonstown, and T. R. Harter, of Loganton, to the Leisenring & Vought Lumber company, of Shamokin, for a consideration of \$10,000. The purchasers will begin lumbering operations at once.

—Union township Fulton county, had a shoot-off affray recently. William Feoff ordered a party of hunters off his farm and when they refused to go he fired a shot at them, striking Tolbert Shank about the legs and feet. Then the latter discharged both barrels of his gun at Feoff, piercing his flesh from the knees to the small of the back with shot. Both are likely to recover, according to the story of the attending physician.

—The Hughes Coal company has begun the installation of an electric haulage system at its mine at Benscreek and will make other improvements that will increase the capacity of the plant from 400 to 1,200 tons daily. The company's business is declared to be normal at this time and it is anticipated that there will be a heavy demand for Benscreek coal in the not-distant future. The improvements contemplated are expected to cost \$100,000.

—Evidence is rapidly accumulating to show that Harvey M. Berkeley, who disappeared from Somerset in August 1913, played the biggest "high finance game" ever played in Somerset county. With a nucleus of less than 100 shares of stock in the Somerset Telephone company, which was owned by him and his wife, he issued fictitious certificates aggregating \$85,000 by depositing the inflated securities with banks and individuals as collateral.

—Shikellamy Bluff, on the crown of Blue Hill, across the river from Sunbury, is now being suggested as one of the probable sites for the new home for inebriates, which it is believed will be placed in Snyder county. Blue Hill is in Snyder county and the high, commanding position, such as an excellent location, would be an ideal site. Investigations it is said, are being made with a view of ascertaining the amount of money wanted for the land in question.

—Three thousand quarts of nitro-glycerine exploded on Monday in a magazine belonging to the Culper Torpedo company in Crawford county, killing Ralph Tubbs, aged 39 an employee of the company. The building, the team driven by Tubbs and the man himself were reduced to atoms. Nothing was found of Tubbs or the wagon he had driven to the magazine. Windows were broken in Titusville three miles away, and the shock was felt for miles around.

—All five of the young men concerned in the murder of Arthur Wedge, a Westmoreland county farmer, have now made confession. John Showalter, Thomas Shaffer, Edward Blusky and Walter Scott have signed a paper in which they say Wedge was held up for the purpose of robbery and that Earnest Reeping fired two shots at him, the second killing him. Reeping made a confession some days ago in which he acknowledged that he shot Wedge, but he declared it was an accident as he merely fired the shot to frighten the farmer. Nor did he say anything about the proposed robbery.

—Miss Sara H. Walton, of 402 Grove avenue, Johnstown, recently received a check for \$2,000, a diamond necklace and a diamond ring as a reward for her heroic action of a year ago when she protected the life of Mrs. William H. Randolph, formerly of Westmont, who died last March in Philadelphia. Mrs. Randolph fell on Main street in Johnstown directly in front of a moving trolley car and fractured an ankle. Miss Walton was the only person nearby and she sprang to the aid of Mrs. Randolph, pulling her from harm's way just as the trolley car was brought to a sudden stop. Mrs. Randolph was taken to a Philadelphia hospital, where death occurred.