

INK SLINGS.

In twenty-one days Christmas will be here.

—What a glorious rain we have been having and what a God send.

—Secretary BRYAN may lead the Democratic donkey to water, but will he be able to make it drink.

—Courtesy costs nothing and pays the biggest dividends, almost, of anyone of the human characteristics.

—The turkey that survived Thanksgiving doesn't see a very rosy outlook in the approach of Christmas.

—Japanese doctors gave up the practice of vaccinating their patients on the tip of the nose in 1874, but old Doc Booze is at it yet.

—Think of what a fine, care free time the man or woman who does the Christmas shopping now can have when the pre-Christmas holidays come.

—In undertaking to control the production of oil in Oklahoma the authorities at Washington should keep in mind the fact that restraint of trade is against the law.

—With zoline at two cents a gallon it will be cheaper for the automobilist who uses his car in winter to let the engine run than buy an anti-freezing mixture for his radiator.

—Buy yourself a Christmas present you'll enjoy, you fellows who read the WATCHMAN that your neighbor takes. Subscribe for it yourself and help the good cause along.

—So we are to send the food to keep the Belgians alive while they are paying those German indemnities off. Seems to us that, in a round about way, there is a slight infraction of our neutrality in this proposition.

—Anyway Mr. VILLA seems to have seen to it that the city of Mexico has remained orderly for a week and that is more than can be said of the regime of anyone else who has had that job since DIAZ evacuated.

—Americans might save their cancelled war tax stamps and use them several years hence in paying their bills while traveling abroad. That would be one way to get even with Europe for what she is doing to us now.

—Science informs us that, on the average the hairs on an adult's head number about one hundred and forty thousand. At that the average would be very much larger were it not for heads like those we see in a certain Register's office, a certain clothing store, a certain bakery and a certain newspaper office not a thousand miles from Bellefonte.

—After while there will be no soldiers left to fight in France, Belgium, Germany or Poland. Gradually they are all being captured by their opponents, so the reports say, and if these reports be true it will only be a short time until all the soldiers of each of the warring countries will be in the detention camps of the others. Then they'll have to swap and start all over again.

—Thus far the opening of American stock exchanges have disproven the bugaboo that Europe was waiting for the opportunity to flood our markets with American securities and practically bankrupt the country in the settlement therefor. On second thought they have probably come to the conclusion that investments in America are about the safest ones in the world just now.

—Business has been a little quiet about Bellefonte this fall. There's no denying that. But while things have been at a standstill a lot of cream must surely have raised. Don't skim that off and send it to the mail order houses for your Christmas purchases, leaving nothing but the blue milk for your home merchants. Give them the cream of your buying orders. They need it and they are the men you expect to do a good turn for you when opportunity presents.

—There are a lot of people in Bellefonte who are not up on electricity. This probably accounts for the large number of them who have gotten it into their heads that the new alternating current now being furnished means that it just alternates between poorer lights and higher bills than they have ever had before. Funny, isn't it, what little things people will crab about? Now just when the State-Centre Electric Co. is trying its best to put something—for itself—across a lot of people have to start a holler and try to spoil everything. Thank goodness we're not that kind.

—The Johnstown Democrat always has had the courage of its convictions. That is the reason it is not afraid to take a shot at even so high a personage in Democratic affairs as Secretary MCADOO, of the Treasury, and son-in-law of the President. Congressman BAILEY, ex-purveyor of party platform planks and later reorganizer extraordinary, takes a great many liberties in his brilliant paper. Especially so, since he got there and PALMER and McCormick didn't. Possibly he is feeling his oats, just a little. That is only human. And, possibly, he is just now beginning to see the error of his last summer's ways, when he was so sure everybody was wrong who took exception to "personally conducted" platforms and "hand picked" candidates.

—Now that the Colonel has declared that he will not attend the Progressive conference at Chicago the Bull Moose band may as well begin playing the funeral march.

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Four Months of War.

The European war has been in progress four months and there has been scarcely a perceptible change in conditions. Many of us thought when the first guns were fired that it would be over and practically forgotten by this time. Scarcely anybody believed that some nations would prolong a struggle which involved such vast expense for a considerable period of time. But there are no signs of cessation discernible at present. The expense probably exceeds the highest estimates but there is no scarcity of funds or indications of weariness. The slaughter goes on with unabating zest and the ranks maintain the enthusiasm which marked the beginning. The gaps are filled as fast as they are made and the fronts are quite as firm.

Of course the ultimate result is inevitable. Germany was ready for the fray and when the war dogs were unleashed they bounded forward with the velocity of hounds at the hunt. Their rush through Belgium and toward Paris was without parallel in the annals of war. But they soon encountered so great a determined foe that their progress was checked. Reinforcements were forwarded but the opposition was invincible and the struggle has developed or degenerated into a wholesale butchery the contemplation of which is forbidding. And the full force of the opposition has not been revealed as yet. Millions of men are yet available in Russia, England and France.

Let us hope that in the near future reason will assert itself and the carnage be brought to a close. Probably Germany deserves the scourge which seems certain and possibly an enduring peace worth the price with follow. But the victims will never know and their families will learn through bitter experience what the militarism that has been fostered for years, not alone in Germany but throughout Europe, and is now striving to gain a foothold in this country has cost. They will have paid the penalty for the sins of others before the result is achieved and as LINCOLN said at Gettysburg, "it is the last full measure of devotion."

General GONZALES has also proclaimed himself, "Provisional President" of Mexico, which gives that unhappy country three Provisionals. What she needs, however, is a real President with courage and brains.

President Wilson Intervenes.

President WILSON has appointed commissioners to compose the differences between the Colorado mine owners and their striking employees, if such a thing is possible. Naturally he was reluctant to take the step. Paternalism is repugnant to a Democrat. But after a calm review of the situation he felt that he is justified in intervening and named CHARLES W. MILLS, of Philadelphia; SETH LOW, of New York, and PATRICK KILDAY, of Clearfield, "as a commission and instrumentality of peace" to adjust the differences. The strike has been on for more than a year and "has been accompanied by many distressing and tragical circumstances. It was time that something should be done.

The Colorado mine owners reside mainly in New York and JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER, Jr., is the chief spirit among them. Like alien landlords everywhere, these New York financial sharks undertook to exploit the mines and miners and operated with relentless cruelty. The State militia were used to fasten the bonds of slavery upon the workmen and when they resisted they were shot down. Some months ago in response to the request of the Senators and Representatives in Congress federal troops were sent to protect the miners. That checked the slaughter but failed to alleviate the suffering. The present movement is to accomplish this result. Let us hope it will not be disappointing.

In the action President WILSON has shown the highest good faith. The gentlemen named as mediators are of the best type. They can be depended upon to give equal and exact justice on both sides of the controversy. The mine owners will get all that is coming to them and the miners will be treated as they deserve. It is a long reach for the Federal arm to the Colorado mines and it is not clear how the President will proceed in the event that the mediators are unable to bring about a compromise. But the President is resourceful and is in the habit of finding a way. In any event he has taken the step and can't move backward.

—Now that the Colonel has declared that he will not attend the Progressive conference at Chicago the Bull Moose band may as well begin playing the funeral march.

Not a Probable Rumor.

The Washington gossip to the effect that President WILSON desires to occupy a seat on the floor of the Senate and get the privileges of the floor of the House for members of his Cabinet, can hardly be taken seriously. President WILSON is not that sort of a Statesman. At the beginning of the government ALEXANDER HAMILTON had such notions in his head. He wanted to model our government after that of Great Britain and make the tenure of the Presidency for life. That, of course, would have involved seats in the Legislative bodies for the ministers of the crown. But THOMAS JEFFERSON set his head against the plan and it was promptly and with some emphasis defeated.

The JEFFERSON idea of a Democratic republic was the preservation of complete and absolute independence of the co-ordinate branches of the government. He could not even tolerate the suggestion of the encroachment one upon the other. Even the authority assumed by the judicial branch under the guidance of Chief Justice JOHN MARSHALL was repugnant to the father of the Democracy. The tangents which the Executive Department have indulged under the administrations of ROOSEVELT and TAFT would have probably set him wild. How absurd it is, therefore, to imagine that one of his greatest political disciples should want to go to the extreme of holding the rod over Congress.

The constitution of the United States is a pretty fine specimen of political philosophy. The country has grown amazingly under its wise provisions and it is not likely to be radically changed during the period of Democratic control. At least we have no idea that the British system of executive espionage over the legislative proceedings will be adopted or even favored by those in authority. It is true that there is a good deal of sycophancy in the Senate and House of Representatives and the lust for spoils might induce some of the "cheap skates" who have broken in to consent to any form of servility. But President WILSON will not encourage it unless he changes his nature materially.

—Now that Congress is about to assemble the work of clipping the pork barrel should receive prompt as well as constant attention. The pork barrel cost the Democratic party a good many seats in Congress at the recent election and it didn't in any way near exhaust its possibilities in that direction.

Concerning Tariff Legislation.

The agitation for a tariff commission, now in progress, is inexplicable. The present tariff law has not had a trial. So far as it can be estimated it is accomplishing its purpose admirably. While there are no reports there can be no customs revenues. Almost simultaneously with the approval of the UNDERWOOD bill the European war began and imports ceased instantly. Foreign trade is now reviving and revenues will soon be restored. Our exports are growing in immense proportions and imports will develop in equal ratio. No country sells everything and buys nothing and we will draw profit from both outgoing and incoming business. That is a fundamental law of commerce.

No domestic industry has been impaired by the decreased tariff tax expressed in the UNDERWOOD law. The commercial paralysis incident to the war damaged industrial life temporarily but the effect would have been the same if the DINGLEY law or the PAYNE-ALDRICH law had been in operation. The war came as a shock to all parts of the world. It caused industrial stagnation everywhere. But there is no sense in condemning the UNDERWOOD tariff law because of an industrial convulsion for which it was in no way responsible. It would be silly to say that the passage of the currency law forced Turkey into declaring war against France. The other proposition is just as silly.

Nobody has ever claimed that the UNDERWOOD law is a perfect piece of legislation. But it is infinitely better than any tariff law that has been enacted within half a century. For that reason it is entitled to a fair trial. If experience reveals defects they can be corrected one at a time and one after another. But we won't need a tariff commission to make the improvements. There will be no occasion to call high-priced party pensioners into the service of the government to make the needed changes, if changes are needed. Send intelligent men to Congress and the result can be accomplished within the constitution and as the founders of the government intended.

—Every seventh family in Kansas has an automobile and there is an average of about two skeletons in the closet of each house in Missouri.

Foot and Mouth Disease Quarantine Lifted.

This week the quarantine for the foot and mouth disease was lifted on twenty-four counties in the State, Centre county being among the number. Of course there has at no time been any cases of the disease in this county, and it was only included in the general quarantine of the State. However, the most rigid precautions are being taken in the shipment of live stock. Every fat hog that is shipped alive to the eastern slaughter pens must be examined and passed by a veterinary surgeon, while the cars they are shipped in must be thoroughly disinfected and liberally sprinkled with lime. Hogs that have been killed for shipment to even such nearby markets as Altoona and Philipsburg, must also be examined, and the hoofs removed before shipment. The same precaution must also be taken with shipments of cattle. From present indications, however, the quarantine in the entire State will be lifted within a few days, as the disease has practically abated.

Candidates Expenses.

Today is the last day for the filing of campaign expense accounts by candidates at the recent election but up to yesterday noon not half the candidates had been heard from. The accounts so far filed in the prothonotary's office are as follows:

Charles H. Rowland, for Congress. Expenses, \$6,147.28. As no contributions were given it is presumed it was all his own money.

J. L. Montgomery, treasurer of the Centre county Republican committee. Receipts, \$1,956.69; expenditures, \$1,974.12; balance due treasurer, \$17.43.

S. D. Gettig, treasurer of the Centre county Democratic committee. Receipts, \$887.04; expenses, \$793.20; balance in hands of treasurer, \$93.84.

Charles C. Johnson, for State Senator, declared his expenses as less than fifty dollars.

For the Legislature Harry B. Scott, Republican, spent \$441.30; D. W. Miller, Democrat, \$276.95, and Herbert H. Ashman, Washington party, \$462.02.

—Wheat thieves seem to be rampant in Centre county this fall. Several weeks ago the granary of James Waddell, above Fillmore, was broken into and fifty bushels of wheat hauled away and last Friday night the granary on the Capt. John A. Hunter farm at Stormstown, was also entered and about seventy-five bushels stolen. The thieves cut down a wire fence and drove through a field to the rear of the barn. A trail of wheat was followed from the Hunter barn down Buffalo Run to Maternville, where it turned onto the road across the mountain to mound Julian, but the trail was lost on the mountain.

—The regular December term of court will begin next week and it will be the smallest and most insignificant term of criminal court ever held in Centre county. The list of cases to be heard is not only small but the most serious charge to be heard is an assault and battery case. If this is any criterion the moral condition of Centre county has been pretty good the past few months. Of course, there are a number of cases on the civil list for trial, both the first and second week, so that there is no telling how many days court will last.

—A boom has been started for MYRON T. HERRICK, of Ohio, for the Republican nomination for President in 1916. Mr. HERRICK has just returned from France, where he did some excellent work as American Ambassador, but we can easily prove by a certain gentleman who resides at Oyster Bay that he has neither claims nor fitness for the Presidency.

—John Hayes, an Austrian, of Cato, was burned to death on Sunday morning when the house in which he lived was destroyed by fire. How the fire originated is not known, but it is supposed that Hayes was asleep at the time and was overcome by smoke before he could escape.

—England can break all records in raising war funds but in enrolling men she is a trifle tardy. The average Englishman has great consideration for health and comfort.

—The short course in agriculture began at State College on Wednesday and up to that evening two hundred students had enrolled. The course runs for twelve weeks.

—Of course Christmas shoppers should attend to the matter as early as possible but something depends upon when you get the money.

Incompetent Leadership.

From the Philadelphia Record. We now have before us the official vote cast in Pennsylvania at the recent election. The figures are eloquent additions to the testimony long available that Senator Penrose election to the Senate is the stupidly arrogant and selfish management of the Democratic party in the State. Almost as much might be said of the election of Mr. Brumbaugh to the Governorship, but it is possible that he might have been successful even had there been a well-directed effort to influence all of the Pennsylvania Democrats to support their party nominees.

The total vote of Penrose for Senator was 513,021; that of Pinchot, who ran second was 269,086, and that of Palmer, who ran third, was 266,495. Taking as a basis for comparison the vote cast for Bryan for President in Pennsylvania in 1908, which was 448,882 (and that is a reasonable estimate of the number of Democrats in Pennsylvania, the figures show that there were 182,287 Pennsylvania Democrats who did not vote for Palmer. The vote of President Wilson in Pennsylvania in 1912 was 395,637. The falling off from the Bryan vote being due to the fact that his campaign here was about as stupidly managed from a Democratic standpoint as it was this year. The certainty of the election of Mr. Wilson by the voters of other States induced our new party "leaders" here even at that early date to inaugurate their plan of driving life-long Democrats out of the party as the best means to insure the control of the party machinery within their own little circle.

The official figures of the late election show that had the Democratic candidate for Senator been one of any number of Pennsylvania Democrats who might have been named in an open, free and un-bought primary Penrose would have been defeated and such a Democratic candidate would have been elected. It is not necessary to take the Bryan vote of 1908 for comparison to prove this. The vote of President Wilson in 1912, which was 53,145 less than cast for Bryan in 1908, suffices. Had the Democratic candidate for Senator in Pennsylvania this year received as many votes as were cast here for President Wilson in 1912 he would have been elected, and Senator Penrose would have been defeated.

Surely the result as it stands ought not to encourage the Democrats of Pennsylvania to rest content with the policy and management responsible for it. If there is not virility enough left in the membership of the party to change it the chances are that some use can be made of Mr. Roosevelt's Progressive party in Pennsylvania by employing it to elect the minority members of the Boards of County Commissioners throughout the State and taking over the other minority jobs in Philadelphia, Allegheny and the other counties of the State.

War at \$14,000,000,000 a Year.

From the Harrisburg Star-Independent. The loss of lives and property and the crippling of industry and commerce are the big items in the present war, and the cost in actual cash is by no means small. Within the last week official estimates of the daily expenditure of money necessary to maintain the armies have come from several of the belligerent nations. Persons who are wont to deal with figures are now in a position to speak authoritatively on the extravagance of war. The French Minister of Finance puts the cost of the war to France at an average of \$7,000,000 a day, up to the present month during which it has approximated \$6,000,000 each twenty-four hours.

Premier Asquith declares that the expenditures of Great Britain have been about \$5,000,000 a day, and Lloyd George, Chancellor of the Exchequer, forecasts a rapid increase in that amount. Statistics are not quite so definite for Germany, Austria and Russia, but estimates place the expenses of the Kaiser's armies at \$7,000,000, with Austria and Russia each averaging \$5,000,000 a day.

Taking into consideration the lesser expenses of Belgium, Japan, Serbia and Turkey, the estimated total cost of the whole war for one year of \$14,000,000,000 should not be too high.

The immensity of this symbol of billions would challenge our credulity, perhaps, if we could comprehend it. But it is only a figure to us, a symbol of something beyond our conception.

Gen. Wotherspoon's Million.

From the Boston Traveler. In declaring that the United States needs an army of a million men in order to maintain itself among the powers, Gen. Wotherspoon hints that we would do well to draw lessons from Germany's military training system. In some respects the plight of Germany today does not make that nation a happy example for emulation.

Her material and military efficiency no one can gainsay. She is amply prepared with men and means for fighting. But to what has it all brought her? We must judge the tree by the fruit it bears. Let us first see if Germany is to be "crushed" as a reward for her wonderful military efficiency.

The Word "Panic" Erased.

From the New York World. It was said by high financial authority on the passage of the federal reserve bank act that it made future panics like those of 1873, 1893 and 1907 impossible. It is now said by the governor of the New York Federal Reserve bank that the new system has already erased the word "panic" from our financial lexicon. This happy assurance was not lost on the remarkable gathering of nearly 1,700 members of the merchants' association who came together a few days ago to express their feeling that the business tide is turning, and their confidence that a "new day" is veritably at hand.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

—Wah Sing, a Chinese restaurant keeper who does business in Johnstown, has paid a fine of \$10 and the cost of prosecution for working a boy after midnight.

—Renovo has two cases of small-pox, Charles and W. A. Joloff, brothers. Both attacks are light. One of the men was vaccinated six years ago; the other twenty.

—None of the mines operating in or about Lilly are working more than two or three days a week. Orders are scarce and the operators have little or no work for the men to do.

—A Clearfield hunter discovered the dead body of an elk on the Clearfield mountains. The animal had been shot about ten days before it was found, the ball entering the heart.

—Cora Lambert and Dora Tilberg, sisters, who have caused the Williamsport police much trouble, have been declared insane and committed to the Danville State hospital for the insane.

—Andrew Bloom, a Patton merchant, will be confined to his home for several days nursing some broken ribs which he received by a fall through a trap door into the cellar of his store.

—Somebody mistook a five-months-old baby in Johnstown the night before Thanksgiving day and the infant is now an inmate of the Memorial hospital where it is likely to remain until some person adopts it. It is a bright little girl.

—Samuel E. Kramer a native of Centre county, but a resident of Clearfield county for the last fifty-eight years, died in the Clearfield hospital one day last week of acute inflammation of the kidneys and bladder. He was in the 75th year of his age.

—John Burkhardt, an employee of the Pennsylvania Railroad company's blacksmith shop at Renovo, was fatally hurt when he was accidentally struck by a heavy sled. He was taken to the hospital but died a few minutes after being admitted.

—The water situation in Somerset county is now as serious as it was at any time last summer. Water is so scarce that the problem of caring for cattle has become a very embarrassing one. In many cases water must be hauled for many miles.

—Floyd Boone, a Loganton hunter, while standing on a crossing watching for what might come along, was run down and knocked over by a buck which got out of range before the young man could regain his feet and discharge his weapon. That buck was something of a practical joker.

—In the Clearfield county court last week Mrs. Daisy Burr was awarded \$1154 and her husband \$521 in a suit brought against L. W. Robinson to recover damages for injuries sustained by the lady when her horse was frightened by Robinson's automobile and she was thrown out, suffering permanent injuries.

—Fire originating in an unexplained manner in the popcorn confection branch of the F. S. Love Manufacturing company's plant, Johnstown, gutted the fifth floor of the building while smoke and water damaged practically the entire stock of Christmas candy and confections, involving a loss of from \$2,000 to \$2,500.

—Mrs. Lewis Rapp, of Johnstown, was run down by an automobile delivery truck of the Emmerling Brewing company and so badly injured that she died at the Memorial hospital an hour later. The woman became confused, it is said, and walked directly in the path of the flying machine. The victim was about 25 years of age.

—Mr. and Mrs. Elias Fisher, of East Newport, celebrated last Friday the sixty-fifth anniversary of their marriage. Mrs. Fisher was the first woman to ride on the eastern section of the Pennsylvania railroad, having ridden on an engine from Marietta to her home at Shucks Mills before the line was open for passenger traffic.

—James C. Marks, a prominent Altoona contractor, has purchased from Edward O'Brien, of Cresson, a large planing mill and stock of lumber. The consideration is said to have been in the neighborhood of \$50,000. Mr. Marks has formed the Cresson Lumber company and will operate the mill in connection with his building business.

—Ralph Frank and Harry Wood, two Williamsport lads, who were arrested last week on charges of threats and of hunting without a license, were fined \$20 each and required to pay the costs of prosecution, which will amount to about \$8. As the lads bagged one rabbit between them, this is thought to be somewhat high for wild meat.

—A mule which kicked 12-year-old Joseph Kierkowsky in the face will cost the Kasika William Supply Company, of Schuylkill Co., \$3500. A jury gave a verdict for this amount of damages. After enjoying a ride on one of the wagons belonging to the firm, the boy helped to take the harness off the mule, when the animal kicked him, smashing his jawbone and breaking his nose.

—The business section of Marienville, near Tionesta, was wiped out by fire on Sunday. Eleven buildings, with their contents, were destroyed, entailing an estimated loss of \$150,000. Nearly 100 persons were made homeless. The flames spread rapidly, despite the efforts of bucket brigades, and in three hours the business section was in ruins. A spark from a railroad engine is believed to have started the blaze.

—By virtue of a special Pennsylvania law, and because of the submission to him of Max Morgenthau's confession of having killed John M. Rupp, a prominent Cumberland county farmer, on May 21st, Judge Saylor, who in September heard the evidence without a jury, at Carlisle on Saturday adjudged Morgenthau's offense as first degree murder, sentencing the prisoner to electrocution. Morgenthau had nothing to say.

—Within the last six days virtually every available piece of land in Ridgway has been leased by gas men who are now anxiously awaiting the result of the Hyde Murphree well which is being drilled in the heart of the town. Excitement is at a high pitch, caused by the large number of great gushers struck in the rich Elk county fields, and leases within a radius of five miles of Ridgway demand big prices. The drill of the Hyde Murphree well reached a depth of 1,900 feet Saturday, but no sign of gas has been found, although the Speechey sand has been reached.

—More than 3,000 persons visited the new plant of the Sunbury Baking company on south Second street, Sunbury, Saturday evening and inspected the latest devices used in the manufacture of bread on a large scale. So great was the crowd that they had to be formed in a line and admitted at the front door of the building and in passing out of the building had to use the regular driveway. The plant is a fire proof structure 90x120 feet. The output of the plant will be an average of 8,000 five-cent loaves of bread each day. At present 15 men are employed, but the force will be increased to 35 men as soon as the plant is in full operation.

—St. Mary's is to have a new industry for the manufacture of acetone, the basic of all high explosives. St. Mary's already manufactures acetate of lime, from which acetone is derived, and will therefore be able to supply the raw material at first hand. Fifty or sixty men will be given employment, and it is expected that the factory will be in operation in a short time. The company will be capitalized at \$250,000 and aside from the shares held by M. J. Corbett, a Binghamton business man who owns and operates a large chemical plant in St. Mary's, practically all of the stock will be in the hands of Elk county capitalists, including Dr. William Kaul, F. A. Kaul, G. C. Simons and Senator J. K. P. Hall.