

BY P. GRAY MEEK.

INK SLINGS.

When council met on Monday night It started in with vim To find out why the 'lectric lights Are so flickerin' dim.

—God speed President WILSON'S efforts to arrange for the independence of the Philippines.

—It takes only a few degrees of temperature to change the name of "the beautiful" to mud.

—The spirit of Christmas is what the grown-ups see. The eyes of the kiddies catch only the material things.

—Its getting very close to Christmas. In truth next week's will be the last issue of the WATCHMAN for 1914.

—Of course President WILSON'S latest message will not please those whose personal interests he is not exploiting.

—You haven't ordered the WATCHMAN sent to that friend of yours as a Christmas remembrance yet. It's a suggestion worth considering.

—There are some people silly enough to think that their aplomb would be less disturbed by being knocked over by a Pierce-arrow than by a Ford.

—Monday night was our first real wintry looking one of the season. The rain turned to sleet early in the evening and the ground was quite white Tuesday morning.

—Philadelphia's yearly loss through destruction by rats is reported as being in the neighborhood of a million dollars. That is like pouring it down a rat hole, sure enough.

—The anthracite coal tax has cost the consumers a good deal and hasn't increased the receipts of the State Treasury. But it has been "a padding" for the anthracite coal mine owners.

—Dr. DIXON'S weekly health talk tells of horrible consequences that follow continued selfishness. We recommend the reading of it to everybody and especially the gentlemen who own the Democratic party in Pennsylvania.

—One ball player of the Athletic team has been sold for fifty thousand dollars and Bellefonte will probably have lots of trouble raising less than half that amount to buy an industrial plant that is employing nearly a hundred men.

—A California naturalist is authority for the statement that skunks like to be petted. Here's a chance for some of you curious individuals to find out for yourselves just how much these high boys know about things they are telling us from time to time.

—So its the "exciter" that has gone wrong with our electric light plant, is it? Judging from the way most of the consumers in this place have been carrying on the past two weeks we would infer that the "exciter" is about the only thing about the new plant that really has been delivering the goods.

—An Italian mathematician has figured out that every person in the world could stand up comfortably in an area 500 miles square. Of course no allowance is made for the extra room that would be required for the daddies of new born babies or for the friends who had drunk their health until they couldn't stand up.

—Talking about the new war stamp tax, about the only time the ordinary fellow has to worry about that is after he has found a good friend to go on with him, sounded the bank out as to whether the friend looks good enough to it and then produced the note, he has to pay two cents for each hundred dollars or fraction thereof.

—A little suggestion for Christmas for you is that a twenty-five cent toy or a box of candy given to some poor wail will produce more genuine happiness than a box of Garcias sent to someone who is able to buy his own. A pleasant Christmas note is freighted with as much real significance to the latter friend as anything you might send him.

—The metropolitan papers announce that professional "dips," otherwise pickpockets, are actually looking for work in other lines because business in their own is so poor. What can they expect so near Christmas time? No wise man would carry much money in his jeans just now, especially if his wife has access to them after he has retired.

—How lovely the political atmosphere in Clearfield must be. Within the same week the Republican and the Spirit have both announced their intention of burying the hatchet and working to the end that the Democracy of Pennsylvania be reunited. This sounds so much like the millennium that we are constrained to think "Doc" SROUGH did do them some good, after all, over there.

—Philadelphia has an accurate testing plant, carried in an automobile, and used every night in different places in the city to ascertain whether its various forms of street lights are maintained at contract standard. Say! you overworked councilmen, why don't you find out what a contraption of that kind costs. We'll bet a lolly pop to anything you name that there'll be a candle power or two more in every street light in Bellefonte, as soon as the juice makers hear that you've written for prices.

Democratic Watchman

STATE RIGHTS AND FEDERAL UNION.

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One Irrefutable Fact.

Former Secretary of State P. C. KNOX made a good point in his argument for the release of HARRY K. THAW, the other day. "Under the constitution of the United States," he said, "one cannot be extradited unless charged with crime in the State from which he fled; that by the New York statute the act of an insane person is declared not to be a crime, and that THAW is adjudicated a lunatic, the courts of New York having so decided five times in the last six years, during all of which the State has kept him confined in a madhouse as a dangerous lunatic." Every word of that is true but nevertheless there ought to be a way to return him to the madhouse from which he escaped.

THAW committed one of the most deliberate and cold-blooded murders recorded in the criminal annals of this country. The man he shot had a reputation for evil but had not been tried or convicted of any of the crimes charged against him in the current gossip of his day and community. Besides that THAW, who was morally little better, if any, had not been appointed executioner or invested with the power of regulating the morals of the city in which he operated, criminally and otherwise. He escaped the just penalty of his outrage by pleading insanity. The statutes of New York provide that a murderer who thus escapes shall remain in a madhouse until released by process of law.

By bribing officials, corrupting attendants and other nefarious practices, THAW escaped from the madhouse. If he is innocent of the great crime of murder, for which he was committed, he is guilty of the lesser crime of bribery, or at least he is chargeable with the crimes committed in making his escape and he might justly be extradited for them and put upon trial. If he is not crazy he ought to have been hung. If he is crazy he ought to be returned to the madhouse from which he escaped and kept there until released by the natural process which will take his odious person out of the light of public contempt for all time. No lawyer can refute this fact.

Senator PENROSE declares that he will not give serious consideration to the question of Senator OLIVER'S successor for a year. And between the lines of that notice one may easily discern an admonition to all other Republicans to "keep off the grass."

Get Together is the Order of the Day.

Whatever movements are contemplated by the leaders of either faction of the Democratic party of Pennsylvania to prolong the factional strife or widen the chasm now yawning, may as well be abandoned. The Democratic voters of the State want no more factional strife. They have analyzed the election returns and learned that one gubernatorial seat, one seat in the United States Senate, half a dozen in the House of Representatives in Washington and more than half a hundred in the Senate and House of the Legislature were lost to the party through this factional quarrel, and they want no more of it. What they want is harmony and fidelity to the principles of the party.

It makes mighty little difference to the average Democratic voter who is chairman of the Democratic State committee or whether the headquarters of the party are in Philadelphia or Harrisburg. The voter is influenced by faith in the principles of the party and if the managers of the organization are honest and sincere the individual voter will do his part in hope of victory spurs him to action. Party harmony is the fountain of hope. Exact justice among men is the source of harmony. Therefore instead of bending energies to the triumph of one faction and the defeat of another, the obvious duty of the leaders of both factions is to harmonize. Get together.

Bossism is abhorrent to Democracy. The usurpation of power is obnoxious to the Democratic mind. Rules which stifle the voice of the voters must be repealed and regulations which are subversive of Democratic principles abandoned. The personnel of the ticket is of little consequence. The candidates are chosen by the people under the present primary system. But the platform is the expression of convictions of the party as a whole and its construction should be the work of the aggregate through their representatives. No man is big enough to hold the consciences of nearly half a million individuals in his hand and platform conventions should be held when there are State candidates.

The London stock exchange is still closed but that doesn't matter much. World prices will be made on this side of the Atlantic after "this cruel war is over," and making prices is about all that stock exchanges are good for.

Congress and Its Work.

The session of Congress which began on Monday will have little opportunity to do good or harm. It expires by limitation on the 4th of March and if it takes the usual two week's holiday recess will have only ten weeks for business. In the last session the supply bills occupied more time than that. Under the spur of necessity the movement of these measures may be expedited to some extent. But the careful consideration of the various appropriation bills will leave little time for other legislation. Probably this is fortunate, however. We have had a good deal of legislation in the recent past and if Congress will complete certain legislation pending and pass the supply bills it will do enough.

One encouraging incident of the opening of the session is the obvious determination to curtail expenditures. Under the directions of the President department estimates have been cut considerably and promise a saving of nearly three and a-half millions. Then the pork barrel has become anathema at the White House and if it makes its appearance upon the floors of Congress at all it will be in so modest a form as to surprise the country. The party in the majority in Congress is pledged to economical administration and the failure of the last session to make good on that promise cost a lot of Congressional seats. It may reasonably be hoped, in view of present feeling in Washington, that that fault will be corrected during this session.

Of course there can be no curtailment of appropriations for the army and navy and slight increases may be looked for in the bills for those departments. But there is no necessity for adopting a military policy or burdening the people with vast expense for multiplying the force of either department. Those who insist upon the opposite course are not influenced by patriotism. It is the selfishness which discerns graft from the beneficiaries of big armies, large navies and redundant war equipment, that is urging toward militarism and the majority of Congress may safely set its face against such criminal profligacy. The earnings of the people may and must be put to better purposes.

Philadelphia is certainly "making a full hand" in the work of relieving the distress in Belgium. But Philadelphia has the entire State of Pennsylvania behind her in this enterprise and Pennsylvania "goes some" when she gets started.

President Wilson Will be Supported.

The decision of the President to withhold support from the movement to investigate and make public the strength of the army and navy will be approved by a vast majority of the patriotic people of the country. Such an action at this time could have no other than a mischievous effect. If the investigation should reveal an unsatisfactory condition there would be no means of providing a remedy until after the harm had been done. If it prove such efficiency as the expenditures during recent years warrant the money spent in the investigation would be wasted. In either event it is better that the administration direct its energies toward raising the standard of the service.

Manifestly there is an organized movement afoot to force the government of the United States into the adoption of a military policy of the most aggressive type. Simultaneously the stand-pat statesmen and the stand-pat press of the entire country have taken up the agitation and all sorts of bugaboos are being trotted out to frighten the public. It is alleged that our army is weak in force, badly disciplined and poorly equipped and that our navy is delinquent in everything. If this were true it would be the duty of patriotism to conceal the fact until the deficiency could be repaired. But as a matter of fact it is not true. Both the army and navy are in a fair state of efficiency.

Of course there is a reason for this propaganda at this time. The excuse for it lies in the present disturbed conditions in Europe, but the cause is vastly different. The armorplate makers, gunsmiths and various ammunition trusts are anxious for a military policy because it would enable them to coin money out of the fears of the people and rob wage-earners of the fruits of their toil. The Republican statesmen and newspapers lend themselves to this nefarious conspiracy, for or without a consideration, in the hope that it will give them a party advantage in the campaign of 1916, but President WILSON will be neither fooled nor coerced into such folly.

Taxing steamship tickets may curtail the travel to Europe but apprehension of troubles in the war zone will have a greater influence in that direction.

The President's Message.

President WILSON'S annual message, read to Congress on Tuesday, reveals the broad mind and careful analysis of a profound student of affairs. His reference to the senseless agitation for an investigation and exposure of the strength or weakness of our army and navy is most admirable. "Let there be no misconception," he said. "The country has been misled, we have not been negligent of national defense, we are not unmindful of the great responsibility resting upon us. We shall learn and profit by the lesson of every experience and every new circumstance; and what is needed will be adequately done." What more could be asked of the government in reason?

In his legislative programme the President is equally wise and conservative. He asks that the unfinished conservation bills be completed; that the legislation providing for the ultimate independence of the Philippines be finished; that the London convention providing for safety at sea be ratified; that a government owned merchant marine be created and that the perilous waters of the Alaskan coast be charted and he gives good reasons for all this legislation. Finally he urges the strictest economy in all branches of the government. In this he simply demands the fulfillment of the Democratic pledge made in the platform of the Baltimore convention.

All Democrats will not concur in his proposition for the creation of a government owned merchant marine, though he supports it with the soundest argument available. It is true that we have subsidized railroads across the continent and that shameful scandals attended the consummation of that policy. But it was not a Democratic policy and that party was not responsible for the consequences. Moreover he shows a confidence in the future which will not be universally shared. Experience teaches that governments rarely, if ever, relinquish power or authority and when the time comes to give over to private enterprise control of the business the plan might be defeated.

No War Tax on Marriage Licenses in Centre County.

The new United States war revenue tax which went into effect on December first is causing consternation among the marriageable inclined throughout the State. In some counties the marriage license clerk construes the law to mean that a ten cent revenue stamp must be attached to each certificate on the license, which naturally increases the cost twenty cents. In other counties only one cent is attached, and that on the regular license certificate. In Dauphin county during the first three days of December one stamp was attached but this was discontinued on advice from Washington that the revenue Act does not contemplate the taxing of marriage licenses.

In Centre county, however, Register J. Frank Smith construed the law as exempting marriage licenses and has at no time affixed a revenue stamp or required the applicants to put up the price thereof. He believes in encouraging the young people in every way and all who apply will be accommodated at the old price of one dollar, which is fixed by law, and cannot be changed by anybody outside an Act of the Legislature. Therefore if you want to get married don't hesitate on the grounds that you might have to pay a revenue tax on your license, because you will not.

With pleasure the WATCHMAN apologizes to Mr. T. R. HAMILTON. When it referred to the Hon. A. G. MORRIS as one of the youngest old men in the town it intended to excite no competition among gentlemen. It never even thought of Mr. HAMILTON as an older man. He is so remarkable in his activities that few people do.

There is to be no award of the Nobel peace prize this year. This hasn't been the year for peace makers. At that they might hold it out as a prize to the fellow who can stop the fight in the Democratic party in Pennsylvania.

Whatever Mr. BRYAN said to Mr. SCHWAB the other day failed to dull the edge of his energy. A day or two after the conference he went to Europe to book new orders or transact business of some sort.

The one way to insure the delivery of a Christmas package on time is to send it early. Don't wait until a day or two before Christmas, when the mails are likely to be over crowded.

Probably those Bull Moosers who met in Chicago last week want to fool the public into the belief that ROOSEVELT isn't the whole cheese.

War's Check on Enterprise.

From the Philadelphia Record.

Those persons who believe that, because of the present rush of war orders to be filled in this country, we are entering upon an era of great manufacturing activity of indefinite duration, overlook several important adverse factors. One is that the United States will be largely shut off from that source of capital, Europe, where American factories and other concerns are to get needed money for development, unless it shall turn out that the United States is now amply able to do all such financing without outside assistance. This is problematical, because there have been heavy losses here as well as in Europe.

Another consideration is that the relatively high rate of interest paid on foreign loans (that of Germany being over five per cent.) is going to have its influence on the return to be expected from other permanent investments. This will naturally be expected to decline. Industrial issues, especially those of a speculative character, may thus be difficult to market only at exceptionally high rates, and the promotion of new enterprises will be checked.

Possibly it may prove that the United States is equal to all the demands for capital made upon it. Let us hope so. But at the same time it must be remembered that such a vast sum as \$18,000,000,000, and possibly even more, cannot be largely destroyed without it having a vast influence upon the whole world. The consequences will be felt here no less than abroad for many years.

Who Pays for the Parcel Post?

From the Johnstown Leader.

When the war tax was imposed upon a people at peace, no adequate provision was made for its collection. There were precedents. When the parcel post was established two years ago no provision was made for its transportation. The entire parcel post was carried by the railroads for six months without any compensation whatever. You remember that we rushed into the parcel post business head over heels because it promised to reduce the high cost of living. The business grew like a mushroom does in the advertisements intended to sell space. Six months later the mail pay of the railroads was increased to pay for the weight of parcel post then being carried. But the business was still growing at a great rate, and the railroads were certain to be deeper in the hole than ever. Six weeks later the government increased maximum weight of parcels from 11 pounds to 20 pounds and on January 1, 1914, to 50 pounds, while the postage rates were lowered. The middle State railroads are today carrying free to Uncle Sam packages above 11 pounds in weight. Approximately half the parcel post business, after two years is carried without pay. The loss, in this year alone, has been more than \$8,000,000. The statements are given as facts by the railroads and by employees of the railway mail service. The government does not contradict them. There is no excuse. Railroads which are robbed in one department, by a user of their service who cannot be resisted, must get back their money from some other source, or they must go into the paths which lead to bankruptcy. It has taken a long time, but it is now apparent to most men that the railroads have not had and are not now enjoying a square deal. The punishment fits the crime. The people pay.

Our Obligations to Great Britain.

From the Johnstown Democrat.

A whole lot of people were given a round turn when they read that Lloyd George had said the United States owed Great Britain about five billion dollars. The chancellor of the British exchequer may be a bit high in his figures, but his statement brings the fact forcibly to mind that the people of Great Britain are in a powerful lot of money. The debt is in the form of money loaned us for our railroads, and our traction lines. English money has helped to build our railroads, and our traction lines. English money has been invested in our mines and in a thousand and one industries. Very little of the money advanced us is in the form of notes that are due. We have the utilities, the mines or the industries and the Englishman has the stock that represents his interest therein. The only way it would be possible for England to realize on the sum we "owe" would be for her people to attempt to sell to us the stock they own. In other words, having loaned us five billion dollars, they might decide that it would be worth while closing the deal by getting four billion back and allowing us to keep the other billion. That is practically what a general selling campaign would amount to if England were to start one. But as a rule, the English do not do business that way.

CHAMP CLARK says that ROOSEVELT is half crazy. But then CHAMP CLARK always was exceedingly conservative.

If those Pittsburgh councilmen would cut their salaries in half they would still get more than they are worth.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

T. A. Mayes, sheriff of Jefferson county, is also a fruit grower and has gathered from his orchard this season about 1,000 bushels of apples.

It is predicted that the hamlet of Buelah, two miles from Ebensburg, will soon become one of the largest mining towns in Cambria county.

A female imposter has been traveling about Johnstown soliciting contributions for various benevolent organizations, all of which repudiate her.

Indiana's new postoffice is to be located on the Wilson property, corner of Church and Seventh street, and the government will pay \$18,000 for the site.

Robbers invaded the office of the Postal Telegraph company, Williamsport, the other morning but secured nothing except a small amount of tobacco.

During the first seven days of this month the commissioners of Indiana county have paid over \$2,000 in bounties on weasels, and it is expected the total for the month will be \$3,000.

Punxsutawney must have some city lockup. We learn from the Spirit that the improvements are almost completed as "the cement floor is down and the painters and decorators are at work."

Mrs. Irma Guver, teacher in the primary grade of the Millintown public schools until a few weeks ago, when sickness compelled her to relinquish her work, died last week at her home, near East Salem.

Three-year-old Annie Semin, of Johnstown, fell into a tub of scalding water in the kitchen of her home and died four hours later in the Memorial hospital. The entire back of the child's body was terribly scalded.

Many citizens of Westmoreland county, including the farmers, are in favor of the erection of a workhouse on a farm owned by the county. It is said that it costs \$10,000 annually to send prisoners to Allegheny county.

The large general merchandise store conducted by J. H. Steele & Co., at Eriton, Clearfield county, was destroyed by fire one afternoon last week, involving a loss of about \$38,000. Crossed electric wires are believed to have caused the damage.

Danville has twenty cases of typhoid fever and the health board is becoming alarmed, fearing a repetition of the outbreak of a year ago, when there were twenty-six cases and several deaths. There has been one death, while a number are seriously ill.

Roy Colless, aged twenty years, who lives on a farm near Ursina, was terribly injured when the glove of his left hand became entangled in the mechanism of a new corn shredder. The entire arm was mangled up to the elbow and had to be amputated above the joint.

Admitting that he beat her "with his fists," but without intent to kill her, Samuel Lewis, aged 49, of Haydensville, Westmoreland county, is in jail charged with the murder of his wife, Emma Lewis. The woman's skull was crushed and it is evident a club was used.

Twelve-year-old Mary Smith is under arrest in Johnstown for stealing a small doll from M. Nathan's store. She said she wasn't sure she was going to get any Christmas gifts and the store contained so many dolls she didn't think one little one would be missed.

Kimber Cleaver, editor of the Meyersdale Commercial, admits in the current number of his valuable weekly that he assisted a thief who had stolen his raincoat to wrap it up and permitted thief and coat to depart, not knowing of his loss until next morning. He offers a reward for the coat.

As the result of a violent physical controversy between Polanders John Pedolock is confined to the DuBois hospital suffering from a depressed fracture of the skull, four scalp wounds and a broken and lacerated finger. Andy Soponack has been locked up to await the result of Pedolock's injuries.

One Stiney Sinkavisk, said to be a desperado, has been arrested in DuBois. He was an inmate of the Clearfield county jail three years ago and was released by mistake. The arrest, however, was for assault on a Clearfield county man, although the fellow is wanted in Indiana county for assault and battery and resisting an officer.

George Jackson, a young machinist, stood on a crowded street corner in Latrobe last Saturday night and sent a 38-caliber bullet through his left lung, two inches below the heart. The ball passed through his body and struck a young girl on the forehead, doing her no serious injury. The young man ascribed his misfortunes to "women and booze."

Merle Rudge, a Johnstown lad aged seven years, failed to return to his home last Tuesday evening at the close of school. Parents and friends made an all night search and next morning his dead body was found at the building operations of the Park Avenue United Brethren church. A steel beam weighing 100 pounds had fallen on him and broken his neck.

More than 2,000 names have been signed in Shamokin, Mt. Carmel, Northumberland and Milton, to petition asking for the parole of W. M. Lloyd, ex-county treasurer, who is now serving three years in jail at Sunbury, for embezzling \$19,427.38 of county funds while he was in office. These will be presented to Judge Moser. Under the law, the court may parole him, if his conduct is good. Lloyd has served five and a half months.

Youngwood, Westmoreland county, turns out a pathetic tragedy. Worn out by her exertions in trying to support her six little children, through doing washings and other work, Mrs. Eleanor G. Shannon, aged thirty years, of that town, is dead. Her husband, John G. Shannon, was serving a term of six months in jail for stealing chickens and whiskey. Under the circumstances the court paroled him. Let us hope he will take care of his motherless children.

What is believed to be a pirate treasure chest, with more than \$17,000 in it, was discovered by Frank Lewis and Isaac Gearhart, of Danville, who were digging up fern roots on an island three miles below the borough. It was rust-covered and showed signs of great age. Calling Isaac Korke, who was plowing nearby, they broke it open and were surprised when they saw the fortune inside. Sixteen thousand dollars in Mexican silver, thirty dollars in Spanish gold and one thousand dollars in smaller Spanish coins of an early mintage were counted before the bottom was reached.

Charged with being short \$2,397.85 in his accounts, A. N. Yost, secretary of the Industrial Building and Loan Association and a Bloomsburg lawyer, was arrested upon information of Albert Wagner, a bank examiner. He was held in \$1,000 bail for his appearance at the December term of the Columbia county court. After he had a hearing he resigned, and Harry S. Barton, of Bloomsburg, was elected his successor. Yost is also secretary of the Columbia County Agricultural association. He has also been prominent in politics having twice been defeated for registrar and recorder of Columbia county.

John P. Seis, of Horton township, Elk county, who has a contract for cutting wood in the vicinity of the Hyde club house, ten miles from Ridgway, encountered a large bear last week and was forced to kill it with an axe to protect himself. The bear rose on its hind feet and made a rush for the woodsman, who struck it a blow over the ear with a sharp axe. The bear got up again and attempted to fight but was finally overcome. Seis returned home and secured the aid of some neighbors, went back to the woods and brought the animal in. The bear weighed 275 pounds and was of the black variety.