

INK SLINGS.

—It was about time for a January thaw.
—Are you still sticking to that New Year's resolution.
—The Legislature is in session again. God save the Commonwealth!
—It is a pretty good bet that BIGELOW won't stay in Harrisburg as long as BRUMBAUGH will.
—Of course Gov. COLQUITT, of Texas, can say what he pleases about President WILSON, but nobody has to believe it.
—With wheat at a dollar and a quarter all the farmers are happy but those who sold theirs at a dollar and a dollar ten.
—A bee will take a hundred drinks before it gets a load on. Nobody would want to be a bee because it has to wait too long for results.
—The Japanese soldiers are said to be able to keep warm in shirts made of paper. Possibly it is the paper on which The Fireside Companion is printed.
—BILLY SUNDAY's war on sin in Philadelphia has already chased the war they are having on the other side of the pond to the inside pages of the Quaker city papers.
—German scientists declare that women can talk more than men and with less fatigue because their throats are so much smaller. So that accounts for it, does it?
—Ground-hog day will be here before you know it and when it does come let us hope that the little fellow, himself, will have had a sufficiency of real winter weather.
—Chicago objects to the Christian Endeavorers using a pig's head as their emblem when they rally in that city next June. Chicago is getting too aesthetic. What if they had proposed a big foot, a wind-bag or a bath house.
—The county auditors are at work on the public accounts, and about the middle of March the taxpayers can look for a statement showing another big decrease in the county debt and probably another reduction in the tax millage.
—An Ohio farmer is reported as having successfully tried putting stiffs on his chickens to keep them from picking his garden products. The plan is said to have worked all right, but the hens stopped laying because they couldn't sit down.
—Who can tell? GIP. PINCHOT may be running for something in Pennsylvania again. It has just been announced that his share of his mother's estate is \$537,000 and as long as there is that much of the election "persuader" in sight there will certainly be clamors for GIP.
—With the Pennsylvania Railroad placing the largest order for rails that it has given in ten years and the B. & O. ordering fifteen hundred cars at one crack there are some signs, at least, that 1915 is starting off in a promising manner.
—The sheriff of Cambria county feeds his prisoners at a cost of seven and six-tenths cents a day per capita. If he keeps this up long he had better take the precaution of setting the bars in their cells closer together or they will soon be lean enough to run in and out with between them.
—The rain that set in on Wednesday morning was a God-send to many farmers who have been hauling water since early in the fall. While little of it will find its way into the ground to replenish the wells and springs the man who had taken the precaution to have his spouting in good shape profited wonderfully.
—There wasn't much to the campaign of WILSON, BALDWIN and HAPGOOD for Speaker of the House after the Governor-elect announced for AMBLER. Dr. BRUMBAUGH announced on the stump last fall: "I will know no boss." The start off on the Speakership makes it look very much as if he is not real well acquainted with himself.
—The latest rumor from Harrisburg is to the effect that Governor-elect BRUMBAUGH will ask the Legislature to create a commission to take care of the highway department. In the event of the proposal being enacted into law BIGELOW will be out and three others will be named on the commission. That will put six hands in the bag instead of only two.
—The coasting accident that happened in Bellefonte on Monday night was the worst in the history of a sport that Bellefonte offers unusual opportunities to enjoy. When its cause is thoroughly sifted it will probably be found to have been unavoidable unless the coasters, themselves, are held for not having had a lookout at the intersecting streets. In the old days, when all of the hills were thronged at night with grown-ups as well as young folks, and the cumbersome "doxie" was in its hey day, always there was some one delegated to stand at every intersecting street to warn the coasters or stop approaching vehicles when a load was in flight down the hill. The "cutter" type of sled has eliminated much of the danger because it is so sensitive of control, but on the other hand the advent of the automobile has more than counteracted this because of its rapid movements and frequent use on the streets.

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Providing for Governor's Secretaries.

The nomination of WALTER H. GAITHER, Secretary of the Governor, to the important office of member of the Board of Public Utilities, has provoked a good deal of criticism throughout the State. The office is one of vast influence upon the affairs of the Commonwealth. The salary was fixed upon a high basis with the view of alluring the ablest men to the service. Mr. GAITHER is not rated high either in experience or ability. His public life has been limited to eight years in the personal service of Mr. TENER as his Secretary. While in Washington he was paid fifteen hundred dollars a year. Since he has been in Harrisburg his compensation was increased from \$3000 to \$5000 a year. The salary of a commissioner on the Board of Public Utilities will be \$10,000 a year.

It has become a custom of retiring Governors to provide snug places for their Secretaries. The duties of the office of Secretary are onerous and peculiar. A story told by one who served "befo' the war," illustrates the point. "Jim," said a friend who noticed an improvement in his apparel, "what are you doing now?" "I am private Secretary to the Governor," was the reply. "What are the duties of the private Secretary to the Governor?" continued his inquisitive friend. "Well," said JIM, "I write his messages and black his boots." ROOSEVELT while President imposed another duty upon his Secretary. He made him assume responsibility for all the blunders of the administration and do a good deal of the lying. Recent Governors of Pennsylvania have followed that example.

Like most of the bad customs now in vogue in this State with respect to this matter, PENNYPACKER introduced the practice of providing an office for his Secretary. Just before the expiration of his term he nominated BROMLEY WHARTON to be Secretary of the Board of Public Charities and Mr. WHARTON being both popular and fit, was unanimously confirmed. When Governor STUART's term was drawing to a close he nominated his Secretary, ARCHIBALD B. MILLER to be Secretary of the Board of Public Utilities, who was unanimously confirmed for the same sufficient reason. But these were offices of secretarial size and salary. TENER raises his Secretary to the highest plane and puts him in an office intended for the ablest men. But his Secretary must have had an awful job.

—It may be set down as a certainty that Speaker CHAMP CLARK has neither part in nor sympathy with the movement to run him for the Presidential nomination against WOODROW WILSON.

Governor TENER's Last Message.

The last message of Governor TENER was just such a paper as the president of a corporation might submit to the stockholders at the annual meeting. It gives a statement of the assets and obligations in a practical way and recites the operations of each department of the business during the year. That the Governor expresses pride in the achievements of his administration was to be expected. Most men are satisfied with their own work as administrators and some good has been accomplished within the period of four years. But his praise of the Highway Department will not incline public sentiment to confidence in his judgment. Governor TENER will hardly be classed among the illustrious chief magistrates of Pennsylvania. He has allowed things to drift along in the ruts made by his predecessors and the best that can be said of his service is that it was free from scandal. Coming to the office at a time when the public mind was alert to criticism he inaugurated few reforms and permitted no outrages. Considering that his nomination was a reward for personal service rather than a recompense for civic achievement, probably there is no just ground for complaint that little improvement in public life followed his inauguration.

In his last message Governor TENER wisely left the matter of recommendations to his successor. As the first act of the Senate was to "table" all his recess appointments, he may have had a "hunch" that his advice would receive little attention. But BRUMBAUGH is better fitted to discuss such questions anyway and will be compelled to execute the laws whether they be good or bad. But the retiring Governor is entirely correct in his view that there is little present need for new legislation. We have laws in abundance and a movement in the direction of improving some of them and abolishing others would be welcomed by the people of the State.

—One source of comfort lies in the fact that within a short time Governor TENER will be at liberty to devote all his time to base ball.

Brumbaugh's Butting In.

Republican members of the Legislature who favored other candidates for Speaker have just cause of complaint against the Governor elect for taking part in the contest in favor of Mr. AMBLER. Some of the other candidates had expended much time and labor in soliciting support. One of them, Mr. BALDWIN, of Delaware county, had made a canvass of the State and secured the personal pledges of enough, or nearly a sufficient number of members, to nominate him. But the declaration of Dr. BRUMBAUGH in favor of his antagonist, the candidate of the VARES, has upset all his expectations. Promises made in good faith are broken for personal advantage in the distribution of spoils.

Under our system of government the legislative and executive departments are separate and distinct and the encroachment of one upon the prerogatives of the other is forbidden. It has been alleged, and we believe accurately, that no Governor or Governor-elect has hitherto participated, directly or indirectly, in a contest for the speakership of the House of Representatives. As the dispenser of the patronage of his office his preference operates as a command upon the members and his power of control becomes absolute. This is an encroachment upon the prerogatives of the House of Representatives. It is asserting and exercising control of the Legislature by the executive.

That Mr. AMBLER will make a capable Speaker may be admitted. His legislative experience is ample and his capability unquestioned. But the same can be said of those who competed with him for the honor. Mr. BALDWIN has had the same length of service and has been much more active in legislation. The only reason Dr. BRUMBAUGH can give for declaring his preference for AMBLER, therefore, is that BALDWIN is not fit and such an aspersion is likely to be resented by the friends of the gentleman from Delaware county. Aside from this matter, however, the interference by the Governor in the contest for the Speakership of the House is a dangerous innovation which may work evil.

—An esteemed contemporary has discovered a movement in Mexico to extend the term of the Presidency to six weeks. It is to be hoped that the change will not be made until a fitter man than either of those recently elected has been discovered.

Friendly but Firm Warning.

Having passed the scrutiny of President WILSON, the most accomplished phrase maker in public life it is not surprising that the protest of the American government against British interference with commerce among neutral nations should be "firm but friendly." This country wants war with nobody and is especially averse to armed conflict with Great Britain. But the people of the United States will endure no unwarranted and mischievous interference with the commerce of the country and it was eminently proper that the government of Great Britain should be admonished of the fact, through the proper sources, in a protest couched in firm but friendly terms.

Since the beginning of the European war American ships have been frequently overhauled and searched on the high seas and in some cases taken into British ports and detained to the injury of perishable cargoes. Under the provisions of international law this practice is allowable where there are ample grounds for suspicion that the cargoes are contraband or are destined to belligerent ports. But in some cases the liberty was usurped where such grounds for suspicion were entirely absent and the protest was against such incidents. It is gratifying to learn that the British government is likely to accept the warning in the spirit expressed by its language and correct the evil of which it complains.

For more than a century the relations between the United States and Great Britain have been not only amicable but friendly. It would be a calamity to disturb this prolonged era of peace at a time when so large a part of the world is involved in war. But Great Britain is inclined to arrogance and the people of the United States will not patiently submit to wanton injury no matter whence it comes or who is responsible for it. Our friends can be as funny as they like and enjoy themselves to the full measure of their inclinations but they must not get gay or rough house matters too strong. The President's warning was simply a wholesome admonition along these lines.

—As a matter of fact there is no more reason why the government should guarantee a profit to one man than to another.

Tariff Legislation in Future.

The UNDERWOOD law may not be perfect, scientifically, and between the enacting clause and the end there may be imperfections of other kinds. But it is easily the best piece of tariff legislation ever enacted by the Congress of the United States and is entitled to a fair test of its merits. Thus far it has not had that test. Within a few days of its approval the European war, which Duff's Review declares was the most "overwhelming convulsion of the market" which has occurred "since the beginning of the modern system of credits in the middle of the seventeenth century," begun, and tariff laws and all other commercial systems were literally smashed into fragments.

When commercial conditions have adjusted themselves and the provisions of the UNDERWOOD law are put in operation whatever defects there are in the measure will reveal themselves and may be corrected. Possibly the tax rate upon some common article of commerce may not be exactly right or entirely just to the buyer or seller. More likely the schedule on articles of little use and infrequent purchase will not be just what it ought to be. But one after another of these defects in the law can be corrected in separate bills without materially disturbing the frame work of the law and certainly without destroying public confidence and wrecking industrial prosperity.

But the agitators, the beneficiaries of special privilege and the rampant roystering tariff-probists are not satisfied with this palpalably plain policy. They want a tariff commission made up of pretended tariff experts who are out of jobs and need money. Such a commission would spend a million dollars or more every year and report to Congress a lot of absurdities which nobody except themselves could understand and which even they could not explain. These scientists have been pensioners upon the industry of the country for years and their habits and vices are expensive. Now that they are no longer of use to the "captains of industry" the plan is to shift them upon the public.

—Colonel ROOSEVELT may lecture if he likes, of course, but if he sets the example of giving the proceeds of his work to charity he will get himself disliked by certain Chautauqua gentlemen who make other uses of the "gate receipts."

—President TAFT may accept the presidency of a Western college but if he does it will be with a reservation. If he should be called to the Presidency of the United States it would be just impossible for him to decline.

—The Kaiser sent New Year greetings to the President and the President reciprocated. But as it was a strictly personal exchange of courtesies even Secretary Daniels wasn't shocked.

—Among the evils which are disappearing at this time is COLE BLEASE, who has been bobbing about in the chair of the Governor of South Carolina for three or four years.

—Under the present ruling of the State Livestock Sanitary Board a permit must be taken out for public sales of cattle, sheep or swine; and also for the removal of hay, straw or fodder into or within any quarantined area in the State. Under an order dated January 4th, the quarantine has been partially lifted in many of the counties of the State. Centre county has never been under quarantine but shipments of stock or feed from this county to within a quarantined district can be made only on a permit.

—The annual meeting of the Threshermen and Farmers' Protective Association of Centre county will be held in the court house in Bellefonte on Thursday, January 14th, 1915, at 10 o'clock a. m. The State Legislature meets this month and business vital to every thresherman and every farmer who turns his feed mill and washing machine with power will be considered at this session. It is therefore important that every farmer and thresherman attend this meeting.

—Flocks of wild turkeys have recently been seen in several places in Centre county coming down off the mountains to farm lands in quest of something to eat. The deep and hard frozen snow on the mountains prevents them from getting an ample supply of feed and the birds are compelled to seek some place where they can get something to eat. Wherever possible feed should be put out for the turkeys.

—There was a general influx of State College students Monday and Tuesday for the opening of the College at noon on Tuesday.

—Surely this has been some winter.

Buying Postoffices.

From the Altoona Times. It has been repeatedly charged that postoffices in Pennsylvania have been placed upon the patronage counter and sold to the highest bidders by covetous leaders, and there has been no satisfactory attempt to disprove these serious allegations.

Senator Penrose charges that he has affidavits to the effect that certain appointments as postmasters were sought by Democrats who were willing to pay good round sums for the honor. In one case, according to an affidavit, an aspirant for an upstate postmastership offered to pay to a rival aspirant two thousand dollars if he would withdraw, leaving the coast clear.

President Wilson, we may be certain, has no knowledge of such transactions, and he would sternly rebuke an effort on the part of faithless leaders to bring his administration into disrepute. But his friendship for the individuals whose integrity has been impugned should not restrain him from demanding the most strict investigation of charges which have been bruited about for several months.

If any man or set of men have been illegally trafficking in public office, they should be exposed to the public, that they may suffer the just contempt of honest Democrats as well as men of all parties. The Democracy does not condone such offenses, and it is unfortunate that there are a few grasping, greedy leaders who are willing to sacrifice the party's interests to their own cupidity.

Congressman Palmer loudly protests that such charges are inspired by partisanship, but this is not sufficient answer. If they are untrue, an investigation would establish the fact, to the advantage of the Democracy and the discomfiture of its detractors. On the other hand, if they were proven true, the guilty persons could be removed from the party councils and every honest man would rejoice in the Democracy for purging its ranks of the unfit and unclean.

If Senator Penrose is playing politics—mean, dirty politics—he should be exposed. It is not enough that he is accused of engaging in the same business that he now attributes to Democratic leaders. What concerns Democrats is that he has made his charges in the Senate, and they should not pass unnoticed.

Britain's Sane Attitude Toward Note.

From the Harrisburg Star-Independent. The attitude assumed not only by the press of Great Britain and the people of that nation, but also by the British government toward the protest of the United States concerning delays to American commerce due to search of vessels by the British fleet, removes all cause for uneasiness lest any permanent misunderstanding can result from the situation brought about by President Wilson's firm and well-timed action.

All the British appear to be giving that serious consideration to America's demand which it merits. They are not belittling the importance of the protest either from the British or the American point of view. They, both officially and privately, are exhibiting a disposition to give due and fair consideration to the representations of this government and, what is best of all, are manifesting no resentment at the stand taken by this country in its candid yet friendly note.

One of the most encouraging things about the attitude being manifested by Great Britain is that the British government shows no disposition to quibble over technicalities. It has been contended that under the terms of The Hague agreement Great Britain would be entitled to take one year in determining her course with regard to the protest, but it is evident that the British War Office, recognizing that such a delay would result in prolonging the conditions complained of to the continued detriment of American shipping interests, has no intention of exercising its technical right under international law to postpone adjustment of America's grievance for such an unnecessarily long period.

On the Job.

From the Philadelphia Evening Ledger. The American protest to Great Britain is honey dripping from the honeycomb. It is saturated with the milk of human kindness. There is the scent of Nebraska prairies about it. One can almost see the peaceful cows chewing the cud under the blooming trees by the side of the irrigation ditch. If Lloyds could get 15 shillings per cent. as a premium for insurance against war on the basis of that kind of document, it is apparent that taking candy from children is not a lost art. Hail, triumphant Bryanism! Every neutral merchantman on the high seas will dip its colors and fire a Presidential salute with the jib booms.

Covered Ground in First Statement.

From the Washington Post. Although nothing has been heard from the German crown prince for some time, he probably has nothing to add to his earlier views on the essential stupidity of the whole affair.

Yes, But Does T. R. Know It.

From the St. Louis Globe-Democrat. "I know that Col. Roosevelt will not be a candidate for President in 1916," says the chairman of the New York Progressive party. That belief appears to be quite widespread.

Should Change His Brand of Dope.

From the New York World. Gov. Colquitt of Texas prefaces his trade with the remark, "If I were President." That is too severe a tax on human imagination.

—Subscribe for the WATCHMAN.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

—Less than 100 cattle were killed in Lycoming county as a result of the foot and mouth disease.
—Somerset's new motor fire truck has been tested out to the satisfaction of the town council and the fire department and has been formally accepted. It cost \$5,000.

—A young woman who was arrested for shop lifting in Punxsutawney confessed that she had stolen goods from three stores. Upon the return of the stolen articles the woman was allowed to go free.

—Joseph Johnson, aged 36 years, a resident of DuBois, fell on an icy sidewalk and fractured a leg. Less than three hours later he died. Physicians pronounced his unexpected death the result of shock.

—Archibald McCurdy, aged 70 years, an inmate of the Indiana county home, ate a hearty breakfast last Saturday morning, turned around, gasped and fell dead. The doctors said it was heart disease.

—According to the Spirit, Punxsutawney has a little Syrian woman who has been begging from door to door for the purpose of supporting in idleness four or five hasty males. There are similar instances in other towns.

—William Shannon, aged 65 years, night foreman of the Williamsport Gas company, was found dead in bed when his wife went to rouse him at the usual hour. It is believed that apoplexy caused his death.

—The Galeton State and Heading company's mill at Galeton, was set on fire while workmen were thawing frozen pipes and destroyed, involving a loss of about \$25,000 and throwing nearly 100 men out of employment.

—Luigi Sciacca, an Italian shoemaker of Williamsport, aged 47 years, bade his wife and five children good bye Saturday morning and walking out on the Market street bridge jumped from a pier into an open space in the river and was drowned.

—After perpetrating a couple of robberies in DuBois the other night, seventeen-year-old Joseph Capasi, was shot in the back and seriously wounded by patrolman George Stahl, when he refused to stop as ordered. He is in the hospital in a critical condition.

—The authorities of Renovo really meant it when they said that all gambling must end and all gambling devices be put away. They picked up a sled load of the implements and have the owners under bail for a determination of their cases by the proper authorities.

—The big barn owned by George Spencer at Indiana, were totally destroyed by fire the night before they were to have been sold. All their contents, including two calves went with them. The horses and cattle were rescued. An incendiary is believed to have done the evil deed.

—Miss Catharine Jane Hinkle, aged 74 years, of Williamsport, was found dead on a couch in the apartment of William A. Kahle, steward of the Williamsport Wheel club, by her niece, Mrs. Kahle. On October 13 last, Charles Carr, an insurance agent, was fatally stricken with heart trouble while lying on the same couch.

—More than 1,000 men will return to work next Monday morning with the resumption of the hot mills of the Shenango tin plant. Every department of the tin plant will resume in full. Announcement to that effect was made by Supt. D. S. Pyle. Only 20 of the 30 mills of this plant have been operating for several months.

—Lawrence Fitch, of West Johnsbury, undoubtedly holds the record as a successful one-armed hunter, in that section if not the State. In ten days' hunting, during which he fired 62 shots, he brought down the following: Two wild ducks, one bear, two wild cats, twenty-four pheasants, one woodcock, nineteen rabbits, two mink, one coon and one weasel.

—Mrs. Nellie Daring, a widow with two small children, has been living in a room on the second floor of a Johnstown tenement. While she was down stairs with another woman washing, the older child got hold of an oil can and poured the oil into the stove. Burning oil fell on the floor setting fire to the clothing of Josephine, the younger child, aged seven months. She died the next day.

—Mrs. Margaret McNeerney, widow of the late Martin McNeerney, of Lock Haven, has sued E. J. Bailey, contractor of the new Lock Haven High school for damages as a result of her husband being killed. Mr. McNeerney was employed on the third story of that structure last summer and fell to the basement, his death resulting therefrom. The case is scheduled for the January term of court.

—B. F. Shontz, for fifteen years the Huntingdon county agent of the Prudential Life Insurance company, deserted his family and left for the west, according to a letter mailed from Petersburg on Tuesday to his family in Huntingdon. Shontz, it is said, had met with adversity. He was several hundred dollars short in his accounts with the Prudential company, which are now being audited.

—Hunter P. Foulkrod, sergeant in the regular army, and his brother, William B. Foulkrod, of Sunbury, were attacked by thugs Saturday night. Their faces beaten to pulp and their skulls possibly fractured. Their story was that there was a commotion near their homes and that they went out to see who it was that caused the trouble. When they went to the place they were set upon without cause and kicked around.

—Sunday was a memorable day in the home of John B. Dial, of Jacobs Creek, Westmoreland county. On that day Mr. Dial's venerable mother reached the age of 100 years. She was born January 3, 1815, was the mother of seven children, all of whom but two are dead, and has been a widow for 65 years. She is the oldest resident of Westmoreland county and attributes her long life to a strong constitution and temperate living.

—Hearing some one working at their chicken coop early Sunday morning, A. A. Johnson and his son, C. E. Johnson, of Irwin, looked out and saw a man at the door of the coop. The son fired and killed the intruder who proved to be Stanley Bereskey, of near Hahnstown. The man was married less than two months ago to a sixteen-year-old girl. Young Johnson was greatly shocked, it is said, but no such as Bereskey's widow.

—George Hegedus, a driver, of Sharon, is on a still hunt for the person who spread a report that Hegedus was about to be executed for the murder of his wife and three children. The first known of the report was when inquires were received recently from Johnstown about a woman and her three children having been murdered by her husband. The inquiry was a puzzle in Sharon, as nothing had been known of such a tragedy.

—The deal by which the Boynton Coal company attains ownership of the Christner farm near Meyersdale has been closed and possession will be given April 1, 1916. The greater portion of the coal in that section has been mined, but the company will take at least a million tons from its latest purchase, which involves an investment of \$10,000. The coal will be worked from the present operations of the Boynton company, no new openings being necessary.

—The Presbyterian church at Mill Hall was completely destroyed by fire at six o'clock Sunday morning. When discovered the edifice was enveloped in flames, but the prompt and efficient work of the recently organized fire company saved the manse, which adjoins the burned building. The church of this congregation was swept away by the flood of 1890 and the burned church was erected two years later at a cost of \$7,000. There is an insurance of \$2,500.