

INK SLINGS.

Tuesday was the first really sloppy day we have had this winter.

January is half gone. Do you realize that only sixty-five days intervene before the coming of spring.

The final selection of the site for the new public building at State College will probably add a few hundred to the fancy prices that adjacent properties are commanding.

Thirty men and ten thousand deer are reported as having been killed in the woods of Pennsylvania last fall—and the joy of killing all of the ten thousand deer wouldn't have allayed the sorrow caused by killing one of the thirty men.

When requested by a newspaper photographer to pose for a picture with former President TAFT, one day last week, TEDDY said to the ambitious camera sleuth: "Don't be silly, boy." Is it possible that the great and only trust buster is trying to stifle competition in silliness?

Mayor CURLEY, of Boston, has defined "limbs" as "legs from the ankle up" and has prohibited bare "limbs" dancing in that city. So they do call legs limbs in Boston. How polite! And we presume that these ultra modest folks down there speak of the white meat when they talk of the breasts of the bare "limbed" dancers.

"Farmer" CREASY has another job. He has been elected secretary of the National Dairy Union and will have an office in Washington. The removal of friend CREASY from the Pennsylvania political firmament puts out one of the shining lights of reorganization. Its too bad. We shall miss him, for when he wasn't inconsistent he was amusing.

The Philadelphia Ledger's attempt to bait BILLY SUNDAY into "bawling out" sinners in his tabernacle failed, as it should. BILLY's business is preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ and when the hypocrites of Philadelphia and elsewhere thoroughly assimilate that they will no longer be hypocrites and the Ledger will have no further reason for complaint.

The announcement that the State's revenues have fallen off seventeen million in the past two years has already been pounced upon by the politicians as reasons why the good roads movement and charitable institutions will have to suffer. It is not strange that none of them suggest the doing away with some of the high priced and useless Commissions that are sapping the revenues of the Commonwealth.

So Secretary BRYAN is to be arrested for hunting rabbits on forbidden soil in Fairfax county, Virginia. While it is true that the Premier of the Cabinet only hunted, that is he didn't bag any bunnies, the game warden of the poached territory is obdurate and demands that outraged justice must be appeased. We shall scan the headlines anxiously for the announcement that another one of those history making peace treaties has been consummated.

Col. BILL FAIRMAN, he of the cheap comedy scenery and preposterous pretensions, has been named as post-master for Punxsutawney. While his nomination has been held up in the Senate we hope he goes through, for BILL was a big noise in the re-organization of the party and since Punxy is responsible for him it were better that his influence continue to illumine that benighted town than be wasted on some of the dark tribes that he hoped to hob-nob with as your Uncle SAMUEL's minister plenipotentiary.

It is a fact worth chronicling that when the new Legislature convened there were no two column stories in the dailies recounting the great things McCORMICK, BENSON, MATT and HUMES were going to do with the Democratic Membership to uplift Pennsylvania. None of them were there, and the proceedings progressed as peacefully as a May morning. Now that some of the gentlemen have the jobs they want the welfare of the Democratic party and the uplift of Pennsylvania is not a matter of so much concern to them. It can take care of itself.

Ridgway, last Saturday, would have been no place for the maligners of the late Hon. J. K. P. HALL. Not that any bodily harm might have befallen them; only the terrible lashings their consciences might have had to endure. It was the day his friends and neighbors gave over to an expression of their sorrow at his passing. In all the many and varied industries of that town and St. Mary's, twelve miles distant, not a wheel turned, not a bank opened, scarce a man was seen in his working clothes for full twenty-four hours. It was not a tribute that could have been bought by his millions; it was not the mock sorrow of minions of a domineering leader, nor was it the pharisaical wailings of hypocrites. It was the deep, trembling heart-grief of thousands who knew that a friend had gone whose place could never be filled; that their community had lost its foremost man; that JIM HALL, who had transformed a mountain wilderness into lovely and prosperous towns, who had built hospitals and churches, who had given homes and sustenance to the needy, who had been the intimate friend of each one of them, was gone.

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Factionalism and Patronage.

The announcement, inferentially made by President WILSON in his Indianapolis speech, the other evening, that he is a candidate for re-election, settles the question so far as the Democrats of Pennsylvania are concerned. In the primary campaign of 1912 there was very little opposition to Mr. WILSON in this State and the WATCHMAN was the first to propose him for the nomination as well as among the most earnest and enthusiastic of his supporters. This year there is no opposition to him within the Commonwealth so far as our observation goes. His splendid administration of the office has commended him to every Democratic mind and enshrined him in every Democratic heart in Pennsylvania.

In view of these facts a movement to make factionalism and patronage under the pretense of promoting the President's ambition is false and fraudulent. According to an esteemed Philadelphia contemporary, however, such a movement has been inaugurated. "Five hundred or six hundred postoffice appointments will be distributed within the next few months," according to this authority, in order that "every last member of the 'old guard' may be 'relegated to the scrap heap.'" These sturdy, unselfish and patient burden-bearers of the party "must be completely annihilated," and "no quarter is to be shown them." This is the slogan of the present leadership, our contemporary continues. The commercialism is open, avowed and energetic. The orders are drastic and irrevocable.

We had hoped that the energies of the present party leaders would be turned in another direction on the eve of a Presidential campaign and that constructive policies would take the place of destructive passions which have been wrecking the party in recent years. As we have hitherto suggested such a change of front might have been achieved without humiliating anybody. There is no necessity for reorganizing committees or removing officials of the party. All that is necessary is to abandon factionalism and distribute equal and exact justice in the party. Annihilation is a ruffian's remedy and "no quarter" is the cruel and inhuman policy of barbarians. Trading in patronage is a grave crime, moreover, and it is hardly conceivable that such outrages are contemplated by men who assume to be leaders.

Our Philadelphia contemporary adds that "President WILSON is working hand in hand" with those involved in this conspiracy to violate the laws of Pennsylvania. This is positively incredible. President WILSON may have friendly feelings toward aspiring political managers who are favored with pleasing personalities and abnormal ambitions. But he will not lend himself to criminal operations to promote their success and gratify their vanity. He knows that party triumph is not achieved by factional quarrels and that his hopes will be harmed rather than helped by trading official patronage for support of selfish men. For these reasons we believe our contemporary is mistaken.

Governor BLEASE has pardoned all the prisoners in the South Carolina penitentiaries and disbanded the state militia. While the latter hair-brained act is quite in line with modern thought as to disarmament it is not beyond the range of possibility that some of the convicts he has turned loose will soon enact crimes far worse than the ones they were being penalized for. Such indiscriminate clemency is certainly the fruit of electing fanatical officials.

The WATCHMAN appreciates the kindness of the ministers throughout the county who send to this office notices of deaths and marriages, but we desire to call attention to the fact that the prompter such items reach this office the more they are appreciated. News is good news when it is fresh and up-to-date, not when it is two or three weeks old.

Of course the German-American Alliance of Elizabeth, New Jersey, reveals a vast nerve in demanding the resignation of Secretary of State BRYAN. But by the same token if Secretary BRYAN should resign "the government at Washington would still live."

Governor COLQUITT, of Texas, is probably wondering why President WILSON didn't resign upon learning that COLQUITT doesn't approve of him.

If there is any crazy notion that Senator GORE, of Oklahoma, has not tried to write into the laws of the country we don't know what it is.

It is gratifying to learn that BILLY SUNDAY is willing to tolerate education. That shows that BILLY is not prejudiced by habit.

Organization of Two Sessions.

There was a striking difference in the conditions attending the organization of the Legislature this year and those of the session two years ago. Then there was a group of selfish office seekers offering their services to the Democratic members and Senators in any capacity from god-father to wet-nurse. On the eve of the inauguration of a Democratic administration in Washington there was much promise in professions of deep-seated devotion to party welfare and ambitious aspirants for ambassadorial and other official honors were very zealous. This year there was little, if anything, to gain by attending the organization and making false pretenses of fidelity.

But so far as we are able to discover neither the party nor the Legislature lost anything by the absence of the self-appointed bosses and self-constituted guardians. There were fifty-four Democrats in the House two years ago but the outsiders selected the candidate for Speaker and named the floor leader. This year the party strength was reduced to forty-one, owing mainly to the stupidity of the party management, but the smaller number was able to manage its own affairs and select its own leaders. It may be assumed, however, that the selections were wisely made for party service rather than personal servility was the standard of fitness. JOHN M. FLYNN, of Elk county, was unanimously chosen as the candidate for Speaker and floor leader.

The signs of returning sanity revealed themselves, also, in the selection of candidates for officers of the House of Representatives. Hon. JOHN G. HARMAN, of Bloomsburg, was nominated for chief clerk and our own townsman, Hon. JOHN NOLL, for resident clerk. In the high character of these gentlemen the efficiency and fidelity of the membership is expressed and though the force is not strong enough to control legislation it will be sufficiently alert and capable to assert the right in every emergency. In any event the Democratic minority in the House has been rescued from the boss control which selfishly stifled it two years ago. For that we may be thankful at least.

AUGUSTUS P. GARDNER, who is a member of Congress instead of an inmate of an insane asylum, says the appropriation for the army should be \$700,000,000 a year. In other words Mr. GARDNER wants to send the country to the poor house on a toboggan.

Potent Cause of Bad Business.

Within a period of five months nearly \$15,000,000 in cash, clothing and produce has been sent from this country to Europe for the relief of the victims of the pending war. All this money was drawn from the earnings and profits of industry here and yields no material return. So far as practical results go it might as well have been cast into the fire and consumed. It served a good purpose, of course, and revealed a splendid spirit of philanthropy. We make no complaint on account of the loss to the resources of this country. But we take the liberty to suggest that it is not only one of the reasons for but the most potent cause of business stagnation at this time.

The same influences operate upon persons in the aggregate precisely as upon persons individually. If a man disburses large sums of money in business operations it comes back to him with profits added and strengthens his business system. If he withdraws an equal amount of money from the capital of his concern and throws it into the fire he weakens his business system in exactly the same ratio. The capital withdrawn from the business of the people of this country to feed and clothe the sufferers of the European war had precisely that effect upon the commercial and industrial life of the country. It prevented the use of that amount of money in business operations.

Those who allege that the present business paralysis is ascribable to the reduction of tariff tax rates are either ignorant or dishonest. The increased demands for war materials caused by the war mitigates the evil to some extent but the advantages are to the comparatively few who produce such commodities and not to the whole people while all suffer from the withdrawal of capital from business here to avert starvation there. Viewed from any angle war is bad and those who advocate war or even encourage it are lacking in the elements which make for good citizenship. Possibly it is a necessary evil at times but it must have strong reason to justify it.

Great Britain protests that she had no intention to "unduly" exercise the right of search. But according to the record she has been doing so and in such circumstances the matter of intention is unimportant.

Don't Worry About Over-confidence.

We beg leave to assure an esteemed but somewhat absurd Philadelphia contemporary, that the Republican National committee will not "wreck the party again by over-confidence." There is no danger of over-confidence in that or any other Republican committee within the next half dozen years, or any other kind of confidence. Anybody who can muster up even hope for the Republican party in the near future has MARK TAPLEY skinned a mile and in a million ways. Besides nothing can wreck the Republican party again. It is now so completely wrecked that getting enough of it together to make another wreck would be a miracle of constructive genius.

The Republican party was not wrecked by over-confidence, moreover, in 1912. It was wrecked by venality, by moral turpitude and by popular indignation. For years it has been looting the public by vicious tariff taxation and in 1908 made a solemn pledge that if continued in power it would revise the tariff downward. Instead of fulfilling that pledge, however, it enacted a new tariff law which increased the obnoxious rates and multiplied the graft for beneficiaries of privilege. Because of this violation of faith the party was wrecked in 1912, for otherwise ROOSEVELT wouldn't have received enough votes to put him in the "and others" class and TAFT would have had his 1908 strength.

At the last election the Republican party gained some seats in Congress because the war in Europe had paralyzed commerce and a lot of voters stupidly ascribed the business slump to the new tariff law. But commerce has in part at least adjusted itself to existing conditions and before another year there will be such a flourishing prosperity that the word "protection" will be anathema in the mind of every intelligent man in the country. Then the wisdom of Democratic policies will be apparent to all and the Democratic party will be entrenched in power for a century. Our Philadelphia contemporary needn't worry about Republican over-confidence. There never will be such a thing again.

Having selected the Speaker of the House Dr. BRUMBAUGH is now indulging himself in the pleasing employment of assigning the members to committees. Considering that he hasn't been inaugurated yet that is certainly "going some."

Pretty Party Fight Impending.

The indications point to an interesting scrimmage between Dr. BRUMBAUGH and the managers of his party soon after his induction into office next week. Previous to and during his campaign for election the doctor made some pledges of reform upon his own responsibility. Since the election he has declared that he intends to fulfill every obligation of that sort. It is generally believed that the managers of his party pledged him to the opposite side of such questions. Naturally they would like to make good and the signs are that both sides are "sparring for position" in the impending struggle. The uncertainty of the result lends interest to the quarrel.

The machine has the advantage at the outset, it must be admitted, and wasted none of its opportunities. So far as legislation is concerned the only vital difference between them is on the question of local option. The Governor-elect is committed to local option and the party leaders are against that policy. It will be easy enough for both parties to keep faith, however. Dr. BRUMBAUGH will make his fight, according to promise, and probably win in the House of Representatives. The opponents of the measure will have a majority in the Senate and defeat the bill there. The result will be that temperance folk will praise BRUMBAUGH and the liquor interests will continue their liberal contributions to the Republican campaign fund.

But after all the real issue is the spoils of office. The machine wants to hold its grip upon the patronage and as a precautionary measure so amended the Senate rules as to give it "the whip hand" of that problem. In other words it provided for the appointment of a committee on appointments and if BRUMBAUGH undertakes to make too much of a sweep the committee will put the curb on him. BIGLOW of the Highway Department will probably have to go but if MCAFEE can be kept in the office of Secretary of the Commonwealth, his colleague "never will be missed." In any event there is the promise of "a very pretty fight" and nobody outside of the officials will care much who wins.

Admiral DEWEY is unable to work himself up into a frenzy over the inefficiency of the navy. But Admiral DEWEY hasn't had as much experience with "schooners" as some of the politicians.

Wilson to the Independents.

From the Philadelphia Record. Mr. Wilson is the smartest campaign speaker the country has listened to since Abraham Lincoln. We defy any man to read his Indianapolis speech without recognizing in the President one of the shrewdest and most forceful political leaders this country has ever known. He is very generally right, but the persons who think him wrong will not deny the extraordinary persuasive manner in which he presents his case. He has something to say, and he knows how to say it in the way most likely to disarm criticism and to make a lasting impression upon the hearer or reader.

Rather the most important part of his address in Indianapolis was his statement that it is the independent voters who hold the balance of power. Neither great party has enough of the old hide-bound, dyed-in-the-wool, thick-and-thin partisan followers to give it a chance of wrecking the country. Each party must appeal to the men who are not severely partisan, who are not much imposed on by party names, but who have political ideas and ideals, and will support whichever party at the time gives the greater promise of realizing these. And the man who is entirely right in saying that much the greater part of the independents are now acting with the Democratic party. Roughly speaking, two-thirds of the independents are in the Democratic party and one-third in the Republican.

Two years ago the Democratic party had a splendid record, but the greater part of the independent voters and won; there is every prospect that two years hence it will have the greater part of the independent voters and will win again. For the Progressives are an independent variety of Republicans, and as the President points out, every Progressive must admit that all of his program which is practicable has been undertaken, or is about to be undertaken, by the Democrats. There is a lot in the Roosevelt literature of 1912 that no practical statesman would try to put on the statute book; of the part that is practicable, much has in less than two years been enacted by the Democratic party, and the rest of it is on its program for immediate action, or action at the earliest possible moment.

In the sense in which the phrase is commonly used there is no such thing as a scientific tariff, but so far as a phrase has any practicable meaning, the Underwood tariff comes within the classification, and no Republican tariff since the Civil war does. The Banking and Currency law is admittedly of immense value to the business world. Yet for many years the Republican party in Congress has opposed any rectification of the tariff and any modernization of the national bank system. As the President says, for thirty years the Republicans have shown no capacity except to sit on the lid.

But the steam is forming all the time in the national boiler, and the Democratic party has applied this power to useful ends. The Republicans aimed only at suppressing it.

"Protracting" the War.

From the Springfield Republican. It is possible to draw a clear moral distinction between the sale of arms and the sale of other utilities which belligerents need? The legal distinction between absolute and conditional contraband is clear enough in theory, if but the application of the one is, and the other might be useful to combatants. But that is not a moral distinction; it is rather an effort to save noncombatants from unnecessary hardship by permitting them to receive, under certain conditions, even articles which might be useful to an army. There is no moral distinction between the sale of arms and the sale of other utilities which belligerents need, and the effort to draw such a distinction at once lands us into difficulties.

It is contended, for example, by advocates of an embargo on arms, that the sale of neutrals of weapons protractis war, but this is directly opposed to the teaching of military experts, who say that an abundant supply of arms hastens a decisive result, and is therefore in the interest of humanity. But it is more important to note that to a belligerent gunpowder is not a white more essential article than food; if protraction of the war is the moral test, then the wrong lies in supplying whatever a belligerent most needs, whether it be cartridges, shoes, copper or victuals. The truth is that no neutral can undertake the terrible responsibility of starving out a war, perhaps the ugliest task which confronts a belligerent in a deadly struggle.

To produce any effect upon a war by merely putting an embargo on arms is only possible when it means disarming one side and letting the other conquer. If armies are on equal terms they can keep on fighting while they have bayonets left, or knives, or sticks and stones. The vital thing is food, food for soldiers, food, if any is left, for women and children. When the food gives out the war must stop, but who in the name of humanity could want to stop a war in that fashion? And who in the name of neutrality could want to stop a war by disarming one side and helping the other to win? Whatever our responsibilities, the protraction of the war is not one of them; the responsibility for that lies with those who are waging it, and our duty stops with standing ready for friendly mediation.

Mediating the Heathen Neutral.

From the Boston Transcript. Christian missionaries are afraid now-a-days to teach the heathen to read the Bible for fear one of them might pick up a war extra.

Sometimes They Sleep On.

From the Florida Times-Union. The only knocker that men do not object to is Opportunity.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

The Presbyterian church of Phillipsburg received 78 new members last Sunday.

Barnesboro coal operators and business men profess to feel greatly encouraged over the business outlook.

At Williamsport a fast express train smashed into kindling wood a taxicab containing two men both of whom were badly hurt.

During the past year the Cambria Steel company at Johnstown has sold 125 houses to its employees, ranging in price from \$1,000 to \$5,000.

While 10-year-old James Belnostru, of Spangler, was stirring the kitchen fire an explosion occurred which blew off the tops of three fingers.

The Red Men and Daughters of Pocahontas, of Williamsport, will distribute 400 pairs of shoes among the poor children of that city next Saturday.

Tramps are said to be more numerous in Indiana just now than for years. They are also more importunate, going to homes in the town late at night and demanding food supplies.

Andrew Byers, aged 70 years, a well known citizen of Greensburg, committed suicide last Saturday morning by putting a bullet through the right temple. He has been troubled lately by insomnia.

Forty employees of the American Car and Foundry company, in its Berwick district, have been discharged for having acted as vouchers for applicants for license to sell liquor in Columbia county.

Wild west incidents continue to occur in Williamsport. Michael Younkis was the last citizen to be held up on the streets and robbed of about \$40. The muzzle of a revolver persuaded him to disgorge.

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Spangler, of Buffalo township, Union county, have been married fifty-six years and have resided on the same farm for half a century. Both are approaching the close of their 73rd year.

Families living on the stretch of the state road below the village of Powys, Lyscoming county, were ice bound some days last week by huge blocks of ice which had been thrown on the road when Lyscoming creek broke up.

Determination of a Clarion county man to begin the New Year right increased the treasury of the B. & O. railroad to the extent of \$3. The man was from Shippenville and the letter explaining he said the money was for rides he had bummed.

Two armed men on Monday night locked Joseph Klimar, a butcher, of University, Allegheny county, in the ice box of his shop and, after rifling the cash drawer of \$450, disappeared. Klimar was released after several hours, when passersby heard his cries.

A mule's kick cost the Philadelphia & Reading Coal and Iron company \$4,000 on Sunday Monday, when a jury awarded that amount to Stanley Robel, of Shamokin, who lost a leg when a recalcitrant beast, owned by the defendant, kicked him under a mine car.

Several Lyscoming county farmers say that since the close of the hunting season and the continuance of cold and snowy weather, many herds of deer have been seen about their farms. One man says he counted fourteen deer in one herd on his farm. The animals visited his orchard for food.

One of the largest deer seen in the Pine Creek region this year was found frozen stiff in the ice near the head of Little Pine creek. It had been wounded in a hind leg by a stray bullet and had crawled into the stream for water, and becoming exhausted, was unable to escape from the water as it hardened into ice.

While seated at a table in his home at Superior No. 2, Westmoreland county, enjoying a game of cards with a number of friends, Charles Canchieri, an Italian miner, was shot twice by an unknown person who fired through the window out of the darkness. One ball entered Canchieri's abdomen, the other his shoulder.

Miss Helen Flanagan, the recently appointed postmistress at Mill Hall, has received notice that M. J. Hall has been elevated from a fourth to a third class post office, and she has received her commission for the same. This would indicate a healthy growth on the part of Mill Hall which must be very gratifying to its citizens.

The other evening shortly after dark two hoboes entered the residence of William Lang in Lock Haven, and while one of them covered Mrs. Lang with a revolver the other ransacked the house. They were after money but found none.

Mr. Lang is fireman at the Lock Haven hospital and was on duty when the descent was made upon his house. The scoundrels got away.

Jesse W. Bair, formerly of Phillipsburg, while doing some mining work in the plant at Finleyville, Washington county, on Friday last came in contact with a live electric wire and twice within five minutes received 550 volts. He was knocked down and greatly weakened as a result of the shock, but that he was not killed is the marvel of many. He is to be congratulated upon his escape.

The borough council of South Connelville on Saturday night cut down its expenses \$10 monthly by electing a one-armed policeman in place of an officer who had previously been chosen. R. C. Hartman was elected at a salary of \$40 a month. Six others, including Norval Morgan, the retiring policeman, were applicants for the job. South Connelville council is made up of Socialists.

The Conewago Club, Warren's famous millionaire's clubhouse, was damaged by fire to the extent of \$30,000 at 4:00 o'clock Sunday afternoon.

The fire started in the quarters of the caretaker and spread to the ballroom. The interior of the ballroom was gutted and among the articles of value destroyed were many valuable oil paintings. The building was insured and work of rebuilding will be undertaken at once.

Excited barking of their dog caused members of the John Kick household, at Summerhill, to make an investigation, when they found Wilbert Reynolds lying just outside their door. Both his feet had been ground off above the ankles by a train on the Pennsylvania railroad. He had crawled a distance of fully 100 yards and soon after lapsed into unconsciousness. His feet were found on the track. Later he was removed to the Memorial Hospital, Johnstown, and has a chance for recovery.

While watching the ice move down the Susquehanna river, at Sunbury, Saturday, the residents were surprised to see a big black bear riding down stream on a huge log. It went through a big break in the dam, rolled over but bobbed up a hundred feet below. The interior of the log was gutted and some debris was seen sticking out of the log. The bear had some difficulty staying on the log. When a big cake of ice would shove up from the water and threaten to dislodge it, it would strike at it viciously with its paw. Several shots were fired at the animal regardless of the fact that the bear season is closed, but fortunately none of them took effect.

Adam Snyder, the reformatory boy, arrested for the murder of Mrs. Plummer Post at her home in Shavers Creek valley last Wednesday afternoon, has made a full confession of the crime. He told of how he had fashed her throat, hacked her body with a saw and then jammed her under an apple bin in the cellar of the Port home while her husband was away. He then procured a gun, he said, and laid in wait for the victim's husband, his plan being to shoot him, carry him into the home and then burn the farmhouse to obliterate the crime. When Post returned to the farm the murderer's nerve failed him and he fled to the mountains.