

INK SLINGS.

Recent rains have replenished springs, wells and streams until nearly all of them are back to a normal flow.

Notwithstanding most inclement weather the evangelistic services in the armory have started off with most gratifying attendance.

Governor BRUMBAUGH's symptoms of independence are likely to please all but the fellows who were nursing the secret hope that they would be able to control him.

Eighty cents is being offered for corn in Centre county and notwithstanding this high cost of living reports are to the effect that there are more pigs than usual in the county.

The popular impression hereabouts that the Hon. CYRUS WOODS, the new Secretary of the Commonwealth, was born in Centre county is ill-founded. He is a native of Clearfield county.

If Mexico keeps pegging away all of her distinguished citizens will have had a try at playing President. After that is accomplished surely there will come peace, for no one will fight for a job not worth having.

Of course there's many a slip twixt the cup and the lip but basing the statement on the result of the election last fall it would appear that Centre county license holders would have little to fear of the passage of a county local option bill by the new Legislature.

Governor BRUMBAUGH's message has the ring of sincerity, but what it accomplishes will depend entirely upon another kind of a ring, the ring that formed a wonderfully adroit "pickling" committee even before the Governor made known what he would like to have done.

According to their pre-election promises the new Law and Order committee of the House will report favorably almost any local option bill that is presented to it. The committee in the Senate, however, is just the reverse, so the game seems to be gummed before its begun.

The Federal Civil Service Commission is sending out places and dates for the holding of examinations for fourth class post-masterships. In the light of what we know has happened in Centre county the WATCHMAN declines to compound a fake and will not publish the list.

Representative SCOTT, of Centre, has landed on the Appropriations committee; an important place for a new Member, but we think his services on the Mines and Mining committee might have been of more value than those of Members from counties in which mining is not carried on.

MIKE DORIZAS, the much exploited strong man of the University of Pennsylvania, is to meet LEVI LAMB, State's unwhorled wrestler, at State on February 13th. It will be a bout that will attract unusual attention and Centre countians will doubtless join in our hope that it will result in the downfall of Greece.

Highway supervisors should be "licensed road-keepers and not political accidenters," thinks Governor BRUMBAUGH. It is a sentiment in which thousands will join all over Pennsylvania, but it will require an almost impossible elimination of partisan feeling in many townships of the State to accomplish such a result.

A Hammond, Indiana, horse was partially destroyed by fire on Monday. The animal is probably the only one living that has a wooden foot and works as well as a horse with all of its natural pedals. On the fateful day "Molly," for that was the horse's name, stood in some hot ashes and didn't know they were hot until her wooden foot had burned off.

In selecting FRANCIS SHUNK BROWN to be the Attorney General, and former Senator CYRUS WOODS to be the Secretary of the Commonwealth in his cabinet, Dr. BRUMBAUGH may not have pleased the bosses of his party very greatly, but he has made a long stride toward surrounding himself with men of unimpeachable integrity, who will give to the service the best they have.

In his inaugural address which at the same time was his message to the Legislature Governor BRUMBAUGH concluded a strong appeal for a county local option law with these words: "I repeat, I am unequivocally for county local option." This was clear enough to insure a test of strength between the advocates of local option and its opponents at some time during the present session and, judging from expressions already made by individual members of the General Assembly, we will not be surprised if such a law is passed.

The attorney for the western railroads in their arbitration proceedings expressing their attitude toward the demand of their engineers, firemen and hostlers for better wages, stated that the Governors of seven States of the Union could make more money as engineers on their lines than they are making as Governors of great Commonwealths. It is rather a startling statement of fact and would be more so if many people didn't believe it possible that some of the mentioned railroaders might not make better chief magistrates than some Governors they have known of. COLE BLEASE and S. PENNYPACKER, for instance.

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The Schuylkill Valley Investigation.

Some of the manufacturers of the Schuylkill valley appear to be unduly worked up over the proposed investigation of industrial conditions in that neighborhood. Mr. W. W. FINN, secretary of the Montgomery County Manufacturers' Association, commenting upon the subject, says, "the depression from which we suffer is universal throughout the country. Our facts and figures will show too clearly that there is depression here, but probably no greater than anywhere else where large manufacturing interests are centered. If it is Mr. REDFIELD's intention to investigate conditions here, but no where else, then, surely, Montgomery county holds a far more important place in the affairs of the nation than we have been wont to suppose."

Mr. FINN begs the question. The Montgomery County Manufacturers' Association has been addressing letters to the President of the United States and others in authority, complaining, not that there is industrial depression, but that the UNDERWOOD tariff law is responsible for the industrial stagnation there. The President and Secretary REDFIELD agree in the opinion that the industrial depression is ascribable to other causes. The closing of foreign markets to commerce, the withdrawal of capital from activity in manufactures, the distress of railroad corporations and other causes have combined to work the result and the UNDERWOOD tariff law had nothing to do with the matter. In fact many of us believe that other things being equal the tariff law betters business.

It is not likely that the investigation which the absurd folly of the Montgomery County Manufacturers' Association set in motion will end with an inquiry into the industrial life of the Schuylkill valley. It may be extended into other sections of the country for the purpose of emphasizing the truth that there was neither justice nor reason in the frequent and insistent complaints of the members of that partisan organization of which Mr. FINN is the secretary. It will be easy enough to prove the fact without going further but there can be no harm in holding up the mischief makers to the ridicule of the country and the world. They are in the habit of perverting everything to their partisan plans and purposes and we may as well finish them up.

Of course it is a safe bet that either Senator MCNICHOLO or Senator VARE will be casting brickbats, figuratively speaking, at Governor BRUMBAUGH before the present session of the Legislature adjourns and we predict a short session at that.

Mr. Bryan's Letter to Mr. Vick.

We are literally compelled to express a word of appreciation of Mr. W. J. BRYAN's letter to Mr. VICK, lately Receiver of Customs in Santo Domingo. It reveals a vast improvement in the mental attitude of Mr. BRYAN with respect to the matter of distributing party patronage and it has reduced a lot of Republican place-holders to a state of frenzy. Party charlatans like Senator LODGE of Massachusetts and Representative MANN of Illinois are simply wild over what they pretend to think is the prostitution of power and there must be something good in what thus disturbs them. Neither of them ever had an impulse above party spoils.

Mr. BRYAN wrote to Mr. VICK "now that you have arrived and have acquainted yourself with the situation, can you let me know what positions you have at your disposal with which to reward deserving Democrats. Whenever you desire a suggestion from me in regard to a man for any place down there, call on me." Of course no interpretation or contortion can make a crime out of that. Mr. BRYAN understands, as well as another, the value of patronage and how to "place it where it will do the most good." Besides that he knows the advantage of having his own friends "on the job." Mr. VICK was his friend and he proposed to get in early so as to "beat others to it."

The greatest source of satisfaction in the affair, however, is his qualifying adjective in his search for and use of patronage. As a rule Mr. BRYAN doesn't pay much attention to the matter of merit from a party standpoint. Hitherto the man who served Mr. BRYAN is the only deserving man and all others defectives. In this State, for example, he favored only those whom he believed he could depend upon to favor him, and that standard he didn't care whether they were deserving or not as Democrats. As a matter of fact most of those whom he supported for office under the administration were men who made a practice of betraying the party whenever it was most in need of help.

The Governor's Cabinet.

In the selection of his official advisers Governor BRUMBAUGH has shown that he is an adept at straddling. FRANCIS SHUNK BROWN, who has been chosen for Attorney General, is one of the principal assets of the VARE political machine. His appointment gave the VARE brothers supreme satisfaction and is justly accepted by them as a discharge in full for all the Governor's obligations to them. Former State Senator CYRUS E. WOODS, of Greensburg, has long been a faithful adherent of the PENROSE machine. He has served that boss in various capacities and always obediently and efficiently. It may be said that his appointment to the office of Secretary of the Commonwealth "balances the books" with PENROSE.

A good many persons feared and some hoped that in the naming of these officials Governor BRUMBAUGH would cause an open break between these divergent forces in the Republican party. If he had taken both from the same faction an internecine and irrepressible war would have been inevitable. It may be said that the leaders of both factions courted such a conflict. But Governor BRUMBAUGH is not willing to assume the responsibility for precipitating it and he evaded that burden by straddling. He shifted to the shoulders of the factionists themselves the beginning of hostilities. Possibly he has averted the overt act for a number of years, but most likely the armistice will be only for months.

In any event, however, Governor BRUMBAUGH has proved that he is a skillful politician. Less masterful than QUAY or PENROSE or MCAFEE he may be but neither of those gentlemen could have managed better under the circumstances. Of course he will have many difficult situations to encounter in the future and how he will solve the problems as they come before him remains to be seen. There are other important offices to fill and the factionists will be insistent with respect to them. But he may reason that there is no hurry and as Highway Commissioner BIGELOW's term doesn't expire until near the close of his tenure, he may conclude that "it's time enough to cross that bridge when he comes to it."

That "politics make strange bed fellows" is proverbial but the Democratic voters of Pennsylvania will not stand for faction breeding. That is as certain as fate.

Governor Brumbaugh's Inaugural.

Governor BRUMBAUGH's first official utterance, his inaugural address, will make a favorable impression upon an enlightened public mind. It is a clear and lucid expression of an honest purpose to serve the people well. It not only reiterates his pre-election pledges but emphasizes his promises of reforms. His appeal for local option is candid and forceful. His plans for highway improvements are practical and progressive and his deep interest in education is clearly revealed and happily expressed. He is frank in support of civil service and women suffrage and shows a clear understanding of the faults of our charitable system. Even those who disagree with him will recognize his earnestness.

Governor BRUMBAUGH's conviction that we have too many laws and too frequently of a bad kind will command approbation among thoughtful citizens. "We have gone too far," he declares, "upon the theory that legislation is the cure of all social, economic and political ills." This grave misconception is an inheritance of the brief era of Populist frenzy which has been accepted by Mr. ROOSEVELT, Mr. BRYAN and others who mistake demagoguery for statesmanship. JEFFERSON believed that "that government is best which governs least." The Populist theory, on the other hand, is that every conceivable act should be regulated by legislation and that the absence of intelligence in making laws gives them merit.

Of course Governor BRUMBAUGH will encounter obstacles in putting his administrative and legislative programs into operation but we sincerely hope that he may be able to overcome them. ED and BILL VARE, who so proudly marched in the inaugural procession at Harrisburg on Tuesday and so plainly manifested a proprietary interest in the proceedings, are not moved by the civic impulses he expressed. JIM MCNICHOLO and DAVE LANE, who showed equal confidence in ownership as they paraded the capital city highways on that occasion, will hardly share in his altruistic ideas. And these gentlemen will have to be reckoned with in shaping the political future of the Commonwealth.

Every time the President opens his mouth the average Republican statesman is sure to have a conniption fit.

President Hibben and Professional Coaches for Colleges.

President HIBBEN, of Princeton, is entirely right in his stand, recently taken, that college athletics should be more the result of the brain and brawn of the men in the colleges they represent than of professional coaches. His is no new theory either, for at one institution we know of the very plan that he so recently proposes was advocated five years ago. The objection raised to it at that time and the one that prevailed against its adoption was, singularly enough, a condition brought about by Princeton and the other larger and richer colleges of America. If there is an element of professionalism injected into college athletic activities through the employment of high salaried coaches the pace was set by the institutions we have referred to.

There is every reason to believe, for instance, that the brain and brawn of the average student at The Pennsylvania State College is equal to if not superior, in combination, to that of the average student at Princeton, because of the more healthy and less distracting environment of the institution itself. Granting this premise, then there could be no other reason for teams of athletes representing Princeton consistently defeating teams representing The Pennsylvania State College than that of superior coaching?

When the smaller colleges made this discovery they began following the lead of the larger ones with the result that today it is not at all unusual thing to see one of them defeating a larger University football team that eight or ten years ago would have played with it as a cat does a mouse.

To our mind the mere element of professionalism injected through paid coaching is not the serious objection to the system prevalent everywhere now. There are two others paramount.

First, the salaries, abnormal and out of all proportion to the earning power of the coach in any other field, would bring far more lasting benefit if expended in so equipping college playgrounds that these would be some attractive, recreational outdoor sport for every student in it.

Second, the college man who becomes a professional coach does so at the sacrifice of the profession he entered college to equip himself for. The position is in no sense permanent and the success of the average coach, as a coach, nearly always lasts just long enough to leave him down and out when it is too late to start the practice of the profession for which he was educated. In other words too many college men, who might be destined to great and useful careers, are lured by the fancy salaries paid for coaching into abandoning their real objective until their ambition to follow it and the opportunity are both gone.

If paid coaching and scouting for players were done away with at all institutions of learning such sports as football, basketball, track, basketball, soccer, lacrosse, and tennis might not be developed as scientifically as they are now but the contests would represent more perfectly the athletic activity of the institution itself and they would be contested on more even terms.

Happy Future of the Machine.

There is not likely to be a great deal of friction during the operation of the Republican machine at Harrisburg. Senator PENROSE has declared that all the platform pledges will be fulfilled and Governor BRUMBAUGH will be given all the liberty possible, consistent with the safety of the machine. No local option law will be passed and legislation upon the subject of employers' liability will be without teeth. But BRUMBAUGH will do all he can for local option and "angels could do no more," while the bosses will "point with pride" to their fidelity to reform. There will be no fight about it, however. The reformers will be satisfied with the step in the right direction.

Taking one consideration with another Senator PENROSE has many reasons for a contented frame of mind. He has shifted BILL FLINN from the shoulders of the party and thus removed one of the greatest dangers from his path. ROOSEVELT is no longer a menace for nobody pays any attention to him. DRAPER LEWIS is "a dead cock in the pit" and GIFFORD PINCHOT no longer passes as a good joke. The horde of office seekers who formed the progressive party are scamping back in the hope of a seat on the Supreme bench. Under the hypnotic influence of that promise the machine might have carried off the capitol without hindrance from him. The promise of the Presidency will work the same result on BRUMBAUGH and the machine will have a "halcyon and vociferous" season at Harrisburg unless all signs fail, which is not at all likely.

Cheer Up!

Business never did thrive on pessimism and fear. It has invariably expanded with optimism and courage. The chief note in the world of American trade today is the spirit of hope and progress.

For two years our enormous plant has been working only part time. History shows that after such a prolonged depression the chance of a revival is far greater than a continuance of bad times. So the new spirit of optimism is not founded upon psychology so much as it is upon the hardest economic facts. Europe's unprecedented orders for supplies of manufactured articles as well as foodstuffs are a powerful stimulant. These orders tend to consume our accumulated surplus in a vast number of ways and so encourage a general restocking on the part of American manufacturers.

One thing is certain beyond point of contradiction. The tide of business is running one way. A most helpful factor is the comparative ease in the money market. This is certain to stimulate greatly the absorption of bonds by the public. That of itself would surely result in starting many wheels in motion again.

It is firmly the notion that business will improve and then give the corporations a chance to finance their infinite number of purchases and very soon this gradual betterment in trade will be speeded up into a real rush. We have turned the corner and the man who still persists in walking straight ahead in the old direction will find himself out of step with the next great industrial boom.

Andrew Jackson and Wilson.

From the Chicago Herald. In President Wilson's speech at Indianapolis on "Jackson day" he stood to his guns as staunchly as the old Democratic leader ever did. There was neither excuse, apology nor evasion. Everything that had been done in his administration had been well done. Not more set in his resolution to have those historical and ungracious references expunged from the senate record was "Old Hickory" than is President Wilson in his opinion that the "new charter of freedom" is everything it pretends to be.

Not more determined was Gen. Jackson to resist the South Carolina nullification idea—and to "hang John C. Calhoun" if necessary—than is President Wilson in his insistence on the ship subsidy bill. Not more fixed in his views on the eternal wickedness of the United States bank was "Old Hickory" than is President Wilson in his views on the proper way to deal with the Mexican situation. Not more fully did old Andrew commit himself to the idea that all good and all democracy dwelt in the Democratic party than did President Wilson to the opinion that all hope for the country at present lies in the same organization. It was a typically Jacksonian speech, infused with the true Jacksonian spirit; with that mixture of unhesitating conviction and straightforward aggressiveness—that willingness to make and meet an issue—that even an opponent must respect. There are essential points of difference between the college president in politics and the old lawyer and warrior who played such a part in the same great arena. Each is the product of his age.

A Fresh European Horror.

From the Harrisburg Star-Independent. As though enough suffering and loss of human life has not been visited upon Europe through the deliberate plans of men's mind, a horrible earth-quake disaster in the making of which men had no part has fallen upon a wide area of Italy and taken a toll of thousands of lives.

Italy thus far has remained neutral in the great European war but even so seems to have failed to escape from horrors which in many forms have been visited upon the European continent in the last six months. Even Italy, though she has taken no sides in the great war, has suffered from its effects as have other neutral nations—even the United States—and is thus made less able to relieve the distress that has fallen on her people as the result of the disaster of last week.

Truly these are times that try men's souls. Human endurance is put to the test as seldom before in the history of the world. Yet under the stress of calamity following close upon calamity those who survive are showing wonderful fortitude and a marvelous ability to rise above the distressing circumstances that surround them on all sides, and to lend aid to those who suffer most.

Despite the heavy drain that has been made on the resources of charitable persons of America who have done and still are doing so much for the aid of the distressed in the European war, we believe we can say with assurance that if Italy finds it necessary to look to this country for relief from the results of yesterday's disaster she will not look in vain.

A New Terror for Immigrants.

From the Boston Globe. The Senate amendment excluding aliens suffering from "constitutional psychopathic inferiority" has been reached, and Representative O'Shaughnessy, of Rhode Island, who seemed bewildered, wanted to know what the term meant. "I'm sure I don't know," replied Speaker Clark.

Representative Brown, of New York, declared that the term means "feeble-minded." Similar language in a Legislative measure once tempted Victor Berger, formerly a Congressman, to tell his colleagues that bills would be much more understandable if they were drawn by bricklayers instead of lawyers.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

S. Kauffman, a Philadelphia salesman, dropped dead the other evening while displaying his samples in a Clearfield store. Apoplexy did it.

The body of Scacci, the Italian shoemaker who committed suicide in Williamsport by jumping into the river two weeks ago, has just been recovered.

The Johnstown camp of United Sportsmen will presently receive a consignment of about 250 deer which will be placed in Cambria, Somerset and Jefferson counties.

Half a dozen Brookville merchants have been swindled by a check forger who purchased small bills of goods and presented checks on the Snow Construction company which were promptly cashed.

Poundmaster Nash, of Johnstown, has resigned, declaring that being poundmaster is no job for any man, white or black, and if the city wants a poundmaster it should hire some slant-eyed oriental.

Victor Everett, of Cambria county, is spending a month or so in the county jail in lieu of paying a fine of \$25 and costs for having shot at a pheasant. He admits he tried to shoot the bird but claims he missed it.

Frank Stauffer, a well known resident of Mount Pleasant, has been missing since last Friday night. He was in bad health and melancholy and since all his street clothing appeared to be in his room, it is feared he left the house clad only in his night garments.

Mrs. John Hinkle, of Mechanicsburg, convicted in the United States court at Sunbury of having sent scurrilous letters to a neighbor, was sentenced to pay a fine of \$500 without costs. This should warn other writers of abusive letters that they are playing a dangerous game.

Declaring that his only assets are two suits of clothes, a watch, chain and charm, and one overcoat, total value \$55, Max Brown, of Williamsport, has filed a voluntary petition in bankruptcy. His liabilities are given as \$88,843.60. He was president of the Standard Wood Pipe company.

Choking on a set of false teeth which became lodged in her windpipe when she bent over to pick up her purse from the floor of a street car, Mrs. Thomas J. Middleton, of Scanton, died Friday night before she could be removed to a hospital and the obstruction removed.

Judge Baldrige, of Blair county, has ruled that Mrs. Laura Coffee, of Salem, Ohio, sister-in-law of Frank Hohl, the bandit killed in Cincinnati, recently, should become a claimant with chief of police Cook, of Salem, for the \$500 reward offered for the capture of Hohl for robbing a bank in Altoona.

Covered with snow, with seven bullet holes in the body, and with the pockets cut from the trousers, the remains of an Italian, identified as Charles Ross, were found near Latrobe. It was evidently another murder and robbery. No less than four mysterious murders have occurred in that vicinity.

William Hart, aged 39, a well known merchant of Clarkburg, Indiana county, committed suicide by hanging himself in the second story of his establishment. Life was extinct when the body was found by his brother. He was engaged to marry Miss Mary Speedy and the date of the wedding had been fixed for January 27th.

While a coal car of the hopper type was being unloaded at the Franklin open hearth mills, Peter Drovinsky fell into the car and was taken through the hopper into the coal, his lifeless body being found a short time later by fellow workmen. No one saw the accident. Drovinsky was 35 years old and leaves a widow in Poland.

Jumping from the Market street bridge, Williamsport, into the river threatens to become epidemic. Katharine Murray, aged 23, performed that spectacular feat last Sunday afternoon. Strangely enough she was not injured a particle and was rescued and removed to the Williamsport hospital pending an inquiry into her sanity.

Mrs. Joseph Kendall and John Pierce, the former the widow and the latter a friend of the man murdered in a mysterious manner at Garrett, Somerset county, ten or twelve days ago, have been discharged from custody. No incriminating evidence was found against them and the authorities are bending their efforts in other directions, it is said.

Declaring that bacilli in the drinking water was responsible for the recent epidemic of typhoid fever that swept Kittanning, more than fifteen citizens who lost relatives have filed suit for various amounts totalling \$100,000 against the Armstrong Water company. Notkin has yet been officially blamed for the outbreak, but it is generally charged to impure water.

Rev. Adolph Guttenmacher, aged forty-five, weighing more than 300 pounds, a prominent Jewish rabbi of Baltimore, died from a stroke of apoplexy on a Pennsylvania railroad passenger train west of Harrisburg late Sunday while en route to Chicago. The body was removed from the train at Huntingdon where it was prepared for shipment to Baltimore on Monday.

The Highland colliery of the G. B. Markle company, near Hazelton, was destroyed by fire Saturday morning, entailing a loss of \$200,000, partly insured. Nine hundred men and boys are idle. Howard Howell, chief clerk of the company, who assisted at the work of saving adjoining property, was killed outright by timber falling upon him from the burning building.

While on her way to church Miss Ruby Shaffer, of Falls Creek, Clearfield county, was attacked by a stranger, who seems to have mistaken her for another. She managed to get away, leaving her coat in the fellow's hands. He has not been discovered. The girl took refuge in the first house she reached and promptly fainted. She was all right next day, however.

The largest single inheritance tax fee ever received by the State, has been paid into the treasury department by attorneys for the estate of Robert H. Crosier, of Delaware county, amounting to \$175,000 on personal property alone. When additional sums are received covering real estate now owned by heirs of the deceased, it is expected that \$300,000 in all will accrue to the State.

Lock Haven has been the scene of the adventure of a swindler who claimed to be a farmer. He secured a \$5 bill from one lady who was told that he had been sent by her son-in-law to sell her some fresh eggs and had his wagon on another street, "just around the corner." The lady entrusted him with the money and he was to return the change with the eggs. He didn't return. In several other homes he failed to get any money.

"Unable to attend school because the rats eat up our shoes," was the excuse offered by children of John R. Hearn, of Yocumtown, Mifflin county, when they returned to school after a week's absence. An investigation proved the old rookery in which they reside overrun by rats that took refuge there during the high water incident to the ice gorge on the Juniata one week ago. Being unable to find other food the rodents literally chewed the children's shoes to pieces.

Emanuel T. Leib, aged 70 years, a veteran of the Civil war, was shot and fatally wounded by Charles Phillips, a resident of Williamsport, in Leib's home a mile south of Muncy, about eight o'clock Friday morning during an argument over the payment of money Phillips is said to have borrowed from the aged man. In a pistol battle Phillips was shot by Leib's son, Wm., who escaped but was later captured and is now confined in the Lycoming county jail to await trial for murder.