

INK SLINGS.

—Is it, or is it not ground-hog weather. —March came in kind of half lamb and half lion. —Just seventeen days must pass before spring comes. The gentle thing. —The new American army is complete. TEDDY and his four sons have enlisted.

—It has been suggested that a lively scrimmage among the bakers might help to keep down the price of bread. —The farmers who didn't let their wheat go when it reached \$1.50 are comparatively few in number, of course, but wonderfully great in regret.

—We are not exactly ready to take off our hat to the ground hog but there are plenty of weather prophets in whom we have less faith at this blessed moment.

—ROOSEVELT offers himself and his four sons as officers in a reserve force certain to be well paid and always free from danger. The Colonel is a valiant man with his mouth.

—Nothing daunted by the big fire in Ebsenburg that destroyed its plant the Cambria Freeman is being published as usual, though in rather contracted form. We admire the grit of the Freeman in looking at the matter so philosophically and trust that all of its hopes for the future may be fully realized.

—Talking about the pernicious activity of the government in interfering with corporate business the Rock Island company revelations are enough to justify everything the government has done. Think of it. Assets in that company's books listed at a value of \$105,000,000 have been discovered to be worth only \$29,000. And they say the government is interfering with business because it puts the public wise to such rotten enterprises and possibly deters widows and orphans from putting their savings into such rat holes.

—A German professor is reported as having discovered a means of converting straw into food for human beings. Nothing so wonderful about that. For years Centre county farmers have been converting straw into foods by merely passing it through a consumer called a yearling steer. What sticks fast to the steer's ribs makes the food. Then too, we have countless makers of breakfast foods in this country who are suspected of shredding up old lumber and things like that and putting them on the market as the most wholesome of foods.

—Germany has taken a new front with regard to Uncle Sam's representation regarding the rights of his children. We thought, when some of the Jingo papers of the country were trying to shame us into war with some one that President WILSON would sit tight and not permit the boat to be rocked. Developments within the week reveal what that policy is bringing forth. Germany has signified her willingness to comply with practically all of the American proposals to safeguard neutral shipping within the war zone and inasmuch as that is all we are interested in just now it looks as though we ought to be satisfied.

—The Easton Sentinel, always a supporter of the Hon. A. MITCHELL PALMER and one of the papers that insisted most argumentatively that he was destined to become "a conspicuous figure in State and National affairs," has written his obituary, so far as its further interest in him is concerned. In concluding a rather scathing editorial setting forth its revulsion of feeling it says: "We congratulate the people of this Congressional district that after March 4th, next, they will be forever rid of A. MITCHELL PALMER." It remains to be seen whether so good a man as the Sentinel once declared Mr. PALMER to be can be kept down.

—The French poet and novelist, LAVREDEAU, who has professed nothing but sarcastic mockery and scornful hate for all religion, has seen the light and fallen on his knees in prayer. The sight of the soldiers of his beloved France marching "cheerfully on to death" raised the question in his mind as to what sustained them in such an ordeal. When the answer he invariably got was: "I believe in God" he turned and cried: "I have deceived myself and you too, who have read my books and sung my songs. There is a God and LAVREDEAU dares not die as an atheist. This word is the morning-song of humanity. Whoso knows it not, for him it is night."

—Governor BRUMBAUGH has gone further than it was thought he would in support of the proposed local option law. In addition to merely giving it his moral support, as he pledged himself to do, he has employed strategy to save the bill from being rushed to early defeat. At his request the bill has been held in committee "for the present." It had been announced that it would be reported out at once, but the local option advocates discovered that the House had not been rounded up well enough to save it from defeat and in order to avert that fate the Governor has used his influence to hold it back and the presumption is that he intends to use the power of his office to whip recalcitrant Members into line for its support.

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Government Ownership of Ships.

The adjournment of Congress without writing a ship-purchasing law into the statutes, will, we sincerely hope, put an end to that form of federal aggression. At the breaking out of the European war there were reasons to apprehend a scarcity of ships to carry the commerce of the country to foreign markets. But these conditions soon passed away and though outgoing cargoes are as numerous today as ever, there are plenty of ships for the service. The rate is high, of course, for the hazard is great, but as the consumer pays the cost of carriage in that as in other things and the consumers are foreigners, that is unimportant. It took no currency out of our pockets.

Activities of the federal government along lines not specifically authorized by the constitution were the special aversions of THOMAS JEFFERSON. Centralization of power in the government at Washington was abhorrent to him. He combated it at every turn. The followers of JEFFERSON have adhered to his doctrine on these points ever since. No true Democrat has ever favored government ownership, or federal activities in social affairs or any of the fads of the Populists and Socialists. It is true that Mr. BRYAN came back from one of his European trips with the public ownership of railroads in his mind. But the party refused to adopt it and Mr. BRYAN'S defeat in 1908 is ascribable to that fact.

Mr. BRYAN cannot tolerate an Apostle of Democracy other than himself. He cannot calmly contemplate the spectacle of a vast force adhering to principles promulgated before he was born. He believes in paternalism and wants to wean others from the antipathy to that heresy which JEFFERSON felt. The anomalous condition of the ocean carrying trade which the European war created afforded him the opportunity to beguile President WILSON into an endorsement of government ownership of ships and brought him the first defeat of his administration. But happily it has done little harm. The President is a Democrat and before the next Congress meets will have returned to natural reasoning.

—Congress has adjourned after a memorable service of achievement. It has been an industrious and intelligent Legislature but we are glad it's gone and that some of its members who have gone with it will remain out forever.

Bitterness of Feeling Increases.

That the reports, official and otherwise, of the loss of life and the capture of prisoners in the European war, are exaggerated, may be set down as certain. The war has been the most destructive in life and property in the history of the world, beyond doubt. But according to reports the number of killed and wounded on both sides must be in excess of the number of troops engaged and the prisoners taken are almost beyond computation. The probabilities are that the death list has been less than half the number claimed and it is doubtful if the number of prisoners taken will reach one-third of the aggregate alleged in the official reports from Berlin and other capitals within the war zone.

But there is no doubt that the bitterness of feeling between the antagonists is increasing as time advances. In the outset it was the palpable purpose on both sides to conduct the quarrel according to the rules of civilization and in obedience to the provisions of international law. But first one side and then the other has gone beyond the lines laid down by the Hague Congress and now both sides seem ready to resort to any expedient available that will cripple or increase the sufferings of the other. Starvation of civilians and noncombatants appears to be the last resort and both sides are ready to adopt it. Certainly "man's inhumanity to man makes countless thousands mourn."

Starving noncombatants might hasten the end of the strife but it is a cruel process. Yet the indiscriminate destruction of merchant ships by mines and submarine devices of other kinds makes for the starvation of men, women and children, and both sides have resorted to it. The authorities at Washington have endeavored to divert combatants from this cruel intention but thus far there are no indications of success. The German Emperor would, out of necessity, agree to the proposition, no doubt, but Great Britain is not in such extremities and is inclined to take advantage of every condition in her favor. Possibly serious reflection will develop a more amiable spirit but the outlook is not favorable.

—CARRANZA may not be able to subdue the people of Mexico but he can certainly make the bankers down there "eat out of his hand."

Former Secretary Meyer and the Navy.

Former Secretary of the Navy GEORGE VON L. MEYER, of Boston, severely criticizes the President for refusing to publish to the world that this country is utterly unprepared for defense against attack, in a letter to Representative GARDNER, of Massachusetts. Mr. GARDNER undertook to force the administration to some sort of a confession of that kind some time ago, but failed after a rather severe rebuke and Mr. MEYER freely expresses his sympathy with Mr. GARDNER and his purpose. Meantime the administration has been improving both the army and navy establishments, having closed all the leaks and stopped all the grafting operations responsible for what may be a deplorable condition.

Mr. MEYER states accurately that within fifteen years Congress has appropriated more than fifteen hundred million dollars, a greater sum than has been expended for the navy of any other country except England, for equipment of our navy. He adds that in view of that fact our navy "ought to be second only to that of Great Britain," while as a matter of fact, it stands fourth. It is "defective in ships, armament and badly balanced," he declares and asserts that the country would be unable to maintain the MONROE Doctrine, if it were challenged, and incapable of defending the Panama canal, if that expensive luxury were attacked by even the weakest of the weak powers of the world.

Mr. GEORGE VON L. MEYER, of Boston, was Secretary of the Navy during the administration of President TAFT. At no time in the history of the government, except during the period of the Civil war and that of the Spanish-American war have the appropriations for the navy been nearly so liberal as during the time that he occupied that seat in the Cabinet. Yet it was during that period that the navy degenerated and we can imagine no where to put the blame except upon Mr. VON L. MEYER. If his conscience has recently been awakened, and he feels like making restitution of whatever part of the graft may have found its way into his own pockets, however, he's all right.

—The Republican machine bosses having had a week together in Florida the legislative mill will probably be kept in motion until the grist is finished. In other words the work of the Florida conference will now be ratified with as little friction as possible.

Party Bigotry Run Mad.

The Philadelphia Public Ledger is determined to quarrel with President WILSON. Whatever he does, in the prejudiced mind of that bigoted organ of tariff graft, is wrong. For example in commenting upon the newly appointed interstate trade commission the Ledger says "three of the five members are Democrats and the other two are Progressives," and for that reason it "starts under a heavy handicap." As a matter of fact one of the minority members of the commission is a Republican now and the other was before he became a disciple of ROOSEVELT, the most obedient servant of the trusts who has ever occupied a place in the public life of this country.

The point upon which the Ledger hangs its criticism of the commission is its relation to the tariff question. "It has been suggested that this commission shall constitute a permanent tariff board," declares our Philadelphia contemporary, and "that it shall collect data upon which future tariff bills may be built and that it shall become a vast treasury of industrial information." Of course a permanent tariff board may suggest tariff schedules but it can't enact them into law and if there is any great harm in collecting data or acquiring industrial information, we are unable to see it. In fact our esteemed contemporary has great need for such a fountain of knowledge.

If President WILSON had named Mr. SCHWAB, Mr. GARY and the president of the Philadelphia Manufacturers' club, all tariff mongers and tariff pensioners, the Philadelphia Ledger would have thought him wiser than SOLOMON. He couldn't have named five men of intelligence without naming Democrats or Republicans or Progressives and it would be equally impossible to create a board of five without giving a majority on one side or the other of questions to be considered. But this journalistic grouch would denounce the Saviour if He were on earth today unless He openly advocated looting the public for the benefit of tariff grafters.

—Neither employers nor employees are entirely satisfied with the proposed employees' compensation act, but the lion and the lamb don't sleep together habitually as yet.

Penrose Misrepresenting the Facts.

Senator PENROSE made a speech in the Senate, the other day, in which he reiterated his campaign statements that the industrial life of the country has been almost completely destroyed by the tariff legislation of the Congress which has just expired. In every section, he said, industrial paralysis prevails because the products of the pauper labor of Europe have driven our manufactures out of the market. The European war has nothing to do with the matter, he insists, and all the poverty as well as all the idleness are ascribable to the operations of the UNDERWOOD law. In this absurd allegation Senator PENROSE pays scant respect to the intelligence of the American people.

If there were any evidence of excessive importations of foreign made products, the Senator would have some foundation for his assertions. But instead of an increase in importations there has been so great a decrease as to make importation actually negligible. According to the best information available ships coming into our ports from Europe are almost entirely without cargoes and the statistics of the government confirm this view by showing such a difference in the balance of trade in our favor as has never been known before. If foreign products were crowding our markets to such an extent as to paralyze home industry, the records would reveal the fact unquestionably.

According to current reports Mr. SCHWAB is buying all the land adjacent to his Bethlehem works for purposes of expansion. The newspapers tell us that Pittsburgh iron plants are being deluged with orders and similar reports come from other industrial centres. Senator PENROSE ought to know about these things and if he knows them and tries to deceive the people by misrepresenting the facts he is worse than even his enemies paint him. Calamity howling impairs confidence and destroys business and no good citizen will deliberately falsify the facts for the purpose of making party capital. We believed that Senator PENROSE was above such demagoguery.

Consider the Proposition Carefully.

The proposition of the State-Centre Electric company, made to borough council on Monday evening, to install an electric pump at the pumping station and pump the water by electricity instead of using the steam pump, should be very carefully considered. As figured out by the Electric company's own expert it is now costing the borough \$231 a month to operate the steam pump, although the auditor's report shows the expense during 1914 to have been just \$179 per month. The company's expert also figured out just how much water was being pumped into the mains by the steam pump and estimated it at approximately 13,000,000 gallons a month, but the calculation was made on the water used last month (February).

The company's proposition is to install a pump with a capacity of 1,296,000 gallons every twenty-four hours, estimating that it will only be necessary to operate the pump from eight to nine hours a day to keep up the supply of water. Their price is given as \$18.00 per million gallons, and on an estimate of a thirteen million gallons a month consumption this would mean a cost of \$234.00, three dollars more a month than their own estimate of what it is now costing the borough to operate the steam pump, and fifty-five dollars a month more than appears in the auditor's statement.

As is well known, more water is used in summer than in winter, and suppose the consumption should be such that it would be necessary to pump twenty or twenty-five millions of gallons a month with the electric pump, then what would the cost be? Surely the proposition is one that cannot be considered too carefully; especially as the proposition provides for a ten-year contract, at the end of which time the machinery is to become the property of the borough.

—Mr. HENRY C. FRICK is satisfied that "business will never be at its best until we get a Republican administration." As Mr. FRICK has made many millions of dollars by looting the public through government agencies, he is justified in his predictions. Tariff grafting is ended forever and the chances are there will never be another Republican administration and Mr. FRICK'S business will never prosper as it did.

—Just think! It is only forty-one days until the opening of the trout fishing season, and Mr. Izaak Walton's disciples will soon be looking up their rod and tackle in anticipation of the event.

—The U. S. Senate last Friday confirmed the appointment of Allen S. Garman as postmaster at Tyrone.

TWO PARATELAS.

From the Kreslow News. Little girl, you look so small, Don't you wear no clothes at all? Don't you wear no shimmy shirt? Don't you wear no petticoat? Just your corset and your hose, Are these all your underclothes?

Little girl, when on the street, You appear to be all feet, With your dress so very tight, Surely, you're an awful sight. Nothing on to keep you warm— Crazy, just to show your form.

Little girl you won't live long, Just because you dress all wrong, Can't you wear more underclothes? Than your corset and your hose? After while I do believe, You will dress like Mother Eve.

You've a very narrow skirt, Little girl, Are you sure it doesn't hurt, Little girl? That's a mincing little stride, Where the street is wild and wide, Are you sure there's room inside, Little girl?

What would happen if you slip, Little girl? Aren't you afraid 'twill rip, Little girl? You had better take a sack, So if anything should crack, It would serve you coming back, Little girl.

Let the bottom out a bit, Little girl, It is much too tight a fit, Little girl, As the matter sadly stands, You'll be walking on my hands, And in that event—MY LANDS!! Little girl.

A Compliment to the U. S.

From the Philadelphia Record. The New York Tribune prints a curious story, the authority for which is not revealed, that in the event of the break-up of Turkey the United States may be given supervision of the Holy Land. The news is in Palestine, and especially Jerusalem, the racial and religious antagonisms of the Christian European nations are so fierce, and the interests of the Jews and Mohammedans are so great, that it is felt that exact justice could be done to all sides only by a country so tolerant and so disinterested as our own.

There may be no foundation for the tale, but none the less it is significant as a tribute to the reputation that Uncle Sam has established for fairness in his international dealings. We set a high standard when we freed Cuba and gave her independence, without any string attached to it, and President Wilson has adopted the same principle in his efforts to bring peace to distracted Mexico. From the standpoint of European diplomacy we would have been justified long ago in intervening and even taking possession of that country, but instead we have made altruistic efforts to restore harmony and prosperity, without grabbing off anything for ourselves.

It is not at all probable that the United States will be either asked, or inclined, to take supervision of the Holy Land, for we have quite enough extraterritorial jobs on hand now, but it must be regarded as a compliment that our country should be considered as the one best qualified for such a delicate task.

Italy Near the Brink.

From the Johnstown Democrat. The situation in Italy serves to illustrate the troubles kings have now-a-days in holding down their jobs. There is not the slightest doubt that the sovereign who rules in Rome is exerting every effort to restrain his subjects from so embroiling the situation that the nation will be plunged into war. Italy smartens because of forgotten wrongs. The triple alliance was, as far as Italy was concerned, an unnatural compact. It bound her to Austria, the nation that Italians believe despoiled their land.

There is about as much real sympathy between Italy and Austria as there is between Germany and Great Britain. The dual monarchy holds provinces that the Latins believe should be a part of their national inheritance. For this reason the jingoes and the imperialists find it easy to create sentiment in favor of striking at Austria now while that power is sorely beset. If Italy plunges into the pending conflict it will be because intense nationalists have stirred the people to the fighting point rather than because the king and his cabinet have intrigued to bring a war about. In short, if Italy fights she will be fighting what will be in all its essential elements a war of conquest.

So strained has the situation become that it is currently reported the German Ambassador at Rome threatens to resign unless Austria makes some very decided concessions to Italy.

Farr and Palmer.

From the Lock Haven Express. Representative FARR bearded the Democratic Congressional lion in his den Thursday and dared to voice on the floor of the House some of the things that heretofore have been but idle rumors in the corridors referring to alleged affiliations between the aforesaid lion, one A. Mitchell Palmer, and some of the trusts that the defeated senatorial candidate has been expressing so keen a desire to "bust."

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

—Brookville is to have a handsome new Y. M. C. A. building. In a short canvas \$27,000 has been pledged. Mr. and Mrs. Charles Corbett making a donation of \$10,000.

—George Fox, postmaster of Altoona for eight years during the administrations of President Roosevelt and Taft, died in the University hospital, Philadelphia, Tuesday morning, of cancer.

—The voters of Johnstown will decide at a special election, to be held on Tuesday, April 20, whether or not additional bonds shall be issued to the amount of \$1,100,000 to pay for the new sanitary sewer system.

—A mysterious fire, the origin of which is not known, totally destroyed the lath and shingle mill owned and operated by J. A. Coppes at Muncy. All the machinery was destroyed but the stored lumber was saved.

—Closing up the Hyde City hotel the other day Sheriff McCloskey, of Clearfield county, was obliged to haul the "wet goods" of the establishment to the court house in Clearfield in an undertaker's dead wagon. Not so inappropriate, after all.

—The school authorities of Mifflintown have had some trouble with members of the senior and junior classes in the high school. Four members of the junior class were suspended for thirty days and others in both classes were reprimanded.

—George Miller, of Jersey Shore, who struck a woman with whom his relations were decidedly irregular was sentenced to spend four months in jail and to pay a fine of \$5 and the costs. Judge Whitehead regretted that the whipping post is not in use in Lycoming county.

—The Russian Orthodox church at Jeannette was totally destroyed by fire a few evenings ago. This is the third Greek Catholic church burned to the ground in Westmoreland county during the past two months. An over heated stove or a falling candle is blamed for the last fire.

—George Botts, aged 71, and his nephew, George Botts, Jr., were thrown over a precipice about eighty feet high while riding in a wagon, not far from Williamsport. The old man was badly hurt but the younger one escaped without any noticeable injury. The horse was killed.

—The Jefferson Electric company, of Punxsutawney, has presented to James Stapleton, who had both hands blown off by dynamite last fall, \$11,000 in cash. The money was paid Mr. Stapleton without litigation of any kind. That company has a big heart and fine sense of justice.

—Two young persons from Lloydsville, said to be Gertie Eaglehouse and Peter Lincovsky, were walking near the Beauty works, in Westmoreland county, a few days ago when the girl broke away from the young man and plunged into the reservoir, nearby. She was rescued but gave no explanation of her conduct.

—Thomas Vallejo, an Italian resident of Lock Haven, while on his way home a few evenings ago, was attacked by an unknown assailant, presumably a fellow Italian, who slashed him on the side of the face and neck with a knife, evidently meaning to cut his throat. Seven stitches were required to close the gaping wound.

—When a cat serenaded him from the back fence of his home at midnight, Wednesday night, Andrew Werniz, 30 years old, of near Kline's Grove became angry. He took his gun and went downstairs in search of the feline entertainer. In the back lot he slipped and fell and the gun was discharged, the charge tearing off part of his hand. The cat escaped.

—While walking along the city with a lady friend, Mrs. J. Conrad Griesing, of Williamsport, was suddenly taken very ill and though given medical attention, died five minutes later, death being due to acute dilation of the heart. She had been a sufferer from heart trouble for some time. She was in her 51st year and is survived by her husband and two children.

—The Park Hotel at Grass Flat, of which Joseph Strickland is proprietor, was entered Thursday night and robbed of about \$70.00 in silver which had been placed in a couple of tumblers and left in the bar room. Suspicion attaches to a certain individual, and arrest may follow. A young Swede was arrested for the crime and will be held pending an investigation.

—A 12-year-old son of Frank C. Livingston went to sleep in a Williamsport theatre last Saturday night and was locked up, the janitor not having seen him. Later in the night he woke up and his cries secured his release. At 11 o'clock Sunday morning the lad vanished from his home and has not been seen since. His parents are considerably worried over his prolonged absence.

—No. 7 tipples of the Berwind-White Coal company at Fordham, near Punxsutawney, now operated by the United Coal company, was dynamited Wednesday morning of last week at 1:30 o'clock, causing heavy damage to the tipples and destroying the scale office. The night watchman narrowly escaped death. The coal company is without a clue to the perpetrators and have placed officers on the case.

—The storage battery branch of the Pennsylvania railroad, operating between Montandon, Lewisburg and Mifflintown, was put out of commission Saturday evening when the only two tipples of that service collided, fire, F. Mitchell Danville; Mrs. Harry Nesbit, of Lewisburg; the motorman, Mr. Bubb, and several others, were slightly injured. A substitute operator and a mixture of orders is said to have been the cause.

—The little village of Hynes, in the upper end of Clinton county, was the scene of a fire on Sunday morning. The mill of T. R. Harter & Company, of Loganton, is located at that place. Fire was discovered in the lumber piled near the mill and, before extinguished, a million dollars worth of lumber and staves were destroyed. This firm does the largest business in that section in the manufacture of staves, which are used to make nail kegs. The loss is covered by insurance.

—Rembrandt Peale, the millionaire coal operator, spent last Friday in Patton and it is believed that his visit may have something to do with the rumored sale of several mines by the Pennsylvania coal and Coke corporation to interests identified with the ownership of the New York Central railroad. Mr. Peale refused to make any statement. The reports concern the future of the mines of the Pennsylvania corporation located at Patton, Cambria county, which are reached by the New York Central system over its Beech Creek division.

—Charles E. Richardson, former secretary of the Keystone Building and Loan Association of Shamokin, was arrested at Washington, D. C., on Tuesday, charged with embezzling more than \$5,000 of the corporation's money. According to reports Richardson left Shamokin about ten months ago, and the directors of the organization, all prominent men, made up the shortage. It is understood that efforts were made to get the matter settled up, but the money that he was alleged to have embezzled was not made up and a warrant for his arrest followed.

—The large home of Dr. S. S. Koser, on Grandpian boulevard, Williamsport, was totally destroyed by fire of unknown origin early Sunday morning. Six persons, including the surgeon's family and servants, escaped from the burning structure in their night clothes. The loss is about \$30,000. Escape for two women down the stairway was cut off and they climbed to the porch roofs and gained the ground by means of ropes made of bed-clothes. The fire was discovered by Dr. Koser when he arose early, and at that time had spread through the house. Jewels valued at \$2,500 were lost.