

INK SLINGS.

—Winter surely has been lingering in the lap of spring.

—March certainly went out more like a lion than a lamb.

—Moving day is over for another year, that is for all except those who think it is cheaper to move than pay rent.

—Those poor little onions that you put out last week aren't a bit further on than the ones that are not yet planted.

—A cable message requires three seconds to cross the Atlantic. It's going some when a thousand miles a second is attained.

—With the moon away round to the north of course little but cool weather was expected, but, goodness knows, we weren't prepared for an arctic shot like we got Monday night.

—Inasmuch as every country at war feels just a little peeved at the way Uncle SAM has acted in the premises isn't that pretty fair evidence that your Uncle has really maintained his neutrality.

—School teachers are entitled to the best of everything but civil pensions are as dangerous as they are expensive. Why not move for such compulsory recompense for teachers as will remove the need for pensions.

—Only fourteen days more until trout fishing season, and the streams are now in fine shape, with the trout jumping and outlook fine. But don't be encouraged, it may not be this way on the morning of the fifteenth.

—There are more girl painters in Bellefonte today than at any time in the history of the trade. They are all sign writers too, for what better sign does the world need in forming its conclusions than the miserable daubing that many of these misguided misses resort to to distort the natural beauty that nature has lavished upon them.

—Well, the public sales are all over and the unhappy farmer will have to stay in his own cosy home and eat good warm dinners instead of shivering around somebody's bleak summer kitchen with a paper bag of cookies in one hand and a tin of black coffee in the other. Surely "the good time" of the average farmer passeth all understanding.

—RAE TANZER, the East Side New York girl, who has been the cause of all the "dear OLIVER" stuff that has been filling metropolitan papers lately has blown up. Her admission that JAS. W. OSBORNE is not the man who failed to make good his promise to marry her can be explained in only one of two ways. Either she is a black-mailer and is caught at her game or her eyesight is very poor and we are not inclined to accept the latter theory.

—Was it the real gentleness of his Quaker ancestry cropping out or was brother MITCHELL PALMER indulging in a little irony when he concluded his address before the students of Georgetown University the other day in the following language: "In fact, the only man who is less patriotic than the man without a party is he who will never leave his party for any cause." We assume that this is Mr. PALMER's notice to the world that he recognizes the patriotism that was evidently displayed by a great many Democrats in Pennsylvania last fall.

—It must be admitted that thus far in his local option campaign the Governor has shown no signs of yielding. Every day he is gathering more strong men to his support and among them some of the cleverest political managers in the State. Witness, the announcement Wednesday that T. LARRY EYRE is to marshal the Governor's forces in Harrisburg. Few there may have been who ever dreamed of the Chester county boss entering the fight against the liquor forces, but many there are who will have more respect for his potentiality since he has become the leader.

—A Boston suicide who was pronounced dead was revived and kept living for three hours longer by heart massage. Eight experts took turns at massaging the heart through a five inch aperture they had made in his side. There had been no sign of life for nine minutes before they undertook the delicate operation and in fifteen minutes after they started the victim's purplish color changed to red and his blood flow became natural, with respiration, etc. Now the question might naturally arise as to whether the poor fellow actually did commit suicide or whether those eight experts didn't leave him die because they didn't keep the massage up longer.

—Mr. McCORMICK has announced that he is not a candidate for National Committeeman for Pennsylvania, to succeed A. MITCHELL PALMER, in the sense of seeking the office. In other words, he would like to have the office, but he wouldn't like to have to fight for it. As we have said before the WATCHMAN cares little who is National Committeeman for Pennsylvania, but inasmuch as many of the fights that now exist in the Democratic party in Pennsylvania can be traced, directly or indirectly, to Mr. McCORMICK's personal stubbornness we don't think he would feel at home in a place to be had without a slight dose, at least, of his own medicine.

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McCormick Wisely Declines.

MITCHELL PALMER, VANCE C. McCORMICK and ROLAND S. MORRIS held a meeting in Washington, the other day, to select a successor to Mr. PALMER as member of the Democratic National Committee. Under the rules of the party, sanctioned by the laws of the State, the power of choice is vested in the Democratic State Committee. But Mr. PALMER, Mr. McCORMICK and Mr. MORRIS are not willing to trust the committee with so important a service. Under their own interpretation of practices the National Committeeman is the official distributor of patronage. The selection of a Committeeman other than a man of their own choice would interfere with the business of office brokerage in which they have been so active and successful lately.

According to the Washington dispatches the three party bosses fixed upon VANCE C. McCORMICK for the impending vacancy. Mr. McCORMICK has declined, however, for obvious reasons. During the campaign of last fall Mr. McCORMICK entered into a corrupt bipartisan deal with BILL FLINN and THEODORE ROOSEVELT under which ROOSEVELT made a tour of Pennsylvania, vilifying and traducing President WILSON in every speech he made. In the same issue of a Philadelphia paper which announces Mr. McCORMICK's declination, and upon the same page, there appears a long telegram addressed to the chairman of the Senate Committee investigating the charges that corrupt influences were used to procure the passage or defeat of the ship purchase bill, in which Mr. ROOSEVELT charges President WILSON with every crime in the calendar, including treason.

Mr. McCORMICK, "who can see as far into a millstone" as the average man, probably apprehends that his election to the office would defeat the very purpose which PALMER and MORRIS had in mind, namely, the conservation of the interests of the office brokerage firm which has had such a profitable and prosperous career during the two years it has been in operation. President WILSON might resent the partnership between McCORMICK and ROOSEVELT, made through BILL FLINN, the most atrocious political pirate who has ever polluted the public life of the Commonwealth, and dispense the patronage in the usual way, through the Representatives in Congress and at the instance of the influential Democrats of the several neighborhoods concerned. VANCE is a wise guy at that.

The anti-saloon managers are confident that the local option bill will pass both houses of the Legislature by safe majorities. The anti-saloon managers are liable to imagine that it is a cyclone when it hits them.

Good News if True.

The European war will end in thirty days, according to rumors current among banking interests in Philadelphia and New York. The story is that a short time loan in the form of German treasury notes maturing in January, 1916, to an aggregate of \$10,000,000, was offered in New York, Chicago and Philadelphia, simultaneously. New York and Chicago were reluctant to give up good money for this paper, while Philadelphia grabbed it up eagerly, on private information that the war will end within thirty days. Later New York got the "tip" and tried to get in on the deal. But three-quarters of the total had been disposed of and only the fraction was available.

There are two points of interest in this story and two sources of satisfaction. The first, of course, is the hope of the early closing of the distressing and devastating war and the resumption of normal commercial conditions throughout the world. Whatever of industrial paralysis and commercial stagnation has been felt in this country since mid-summer of last year is attributable to the war. The UNDERWOOD tariff law would have greatly reduced the cost of living if conditions had remained as they were and the new currency law would have certainly rescued the country from the money monopoly of Wall street. But before either law became operative the cataclysm intervened.

Then the fact that Philadelphia got the good news first is an equally gratifying circumstance. We have been accustomed, since "time out of mind," to believe that Philadelphia is asleep while New York and Chicago are alert to every advantage in a business way that is going or coming. But if this story is true the somnolence that blights had possession of New York while Philadelphia was not only awake but wise to an opportunity. Still there is a possibility that the good news of the coming of peace may have been manufactured as an inducement for country innocents to take off the hands of Philadelphia financiers a burden assumed while indulging in a pipe dream.

Our Weekly Summary of Legislative Activities.

Feeling that the people of Centre county have a personal interest in what is being done by the Legislators at Harrisburg and that laws that may affect the future of every individual more directly than ever before are under consideration now and may be written into the statutes of the Commonwealth, the WATCHMAN has arranged to publish a weekly summary of what has been done at Harrisburg. It is not the purpose to go into detail of the various Acts proposed and furnish you with a burdensome account of them. Merely to set them, and whatever else is deemed of interest to the people of this community, before you in a general, unbiased statement that will keep you informed of the progress that is being made. The contributor of this Summary is one of the most capable and best informed of Harrisburg's newspaper men and the WATCHMAN has been very fortunate in enlisting his service for this work.—ED.

HARRISBURG, PA., March 31, 1915.

"Freak" legislation, like the proverbial poor, "we have always with us." The "freak" bill of the present session is that introduced by Senator FARLEY, of Philadelphia, providing for compulsory military training in the public schools. One would think that the exhibit of militarism now on view in Europe would turn the minds of all people in the direction of peaceful pursuits. But that hope is disappointed in the legislation proposed by Representative GARDNER in Washington and Senator FARLEY in Harrisburg. The Italian historian GUGLIELMO FERRERO in a recent article said "definite peace means disarmament. Europe's great error has been her belief that she could assure peace indefinitely by the equilibrium of armaments, augmenting them on all sides in a like degree. There is no organ without functions, so it is not possible to increase our armies and navies, to spend billions every year on manufacturing arms and keep them idle indefinitely." It is equally absurd to imagine that the spirit of militarism may be constantly instilled into the youth of the country during the formative period of its life, and preserve the spirit of peace and the love of art and industry. But there will be fools in Congress and the Legislature as long as time runs.

Another week of legislative log rolling has left the local option bill in precisely the same position it occupied in the beginning. That is to say the partisans of both sides of the contention confidently claim certain victory and are actually fearful of defeat. Governor BRUMBAUGH is certainly "humping himself" in his canvass for votes and has been "invading the enemies' country" with much vigor lately. He gave a dinner to a group of Philadelphia Representatives last evening, hoping to reach their hearts by way of the stomach, and the local option managers seem greatly pleased with the result. His guests were all of the VARE clan and social recognition appeals with subtle force to the VARE brothers. But his enlistment of the Grange, through Grange Master McSPARRAN is a more significant achievement. Master McSPARRAN has sent a personal invitation to every Grange Master in the State and a general invitation to grangers to attend the local option demonstration here next Tuesday. It is predicted that there will be 70,000 grangers "invigiled" by this device and that the effect will be overwhelming. But to the student of affairs such things are not so impressive. Senator VARE can give or take from the measure more votes than the grangers.

Upon the Workmen's Compensation and Child Labor bills there appears to be perfect harmony. GRUNDY, the Bucks county boss has been obliged to yield to the Governor and McNICHOL and VARE are striving to "beat each other" to the championship of the measures. The bills were reported out of the Committee yesterday and one of them will meet little or no opposition. The discriminating provisions to which opponents of the Compensation bill objected at the public hearing last week are retained and the only important change from the original draft is an additional discrimination against alien claimants under the law who will receive only two-thirds as much as American dependents. The Governor has had everything his own way in the matter of the Child Labor bill. It provides for a 51-hour week, with eight hours to be spent in continuation schools. As there are few continuation schools in the State this provision may be regarded as negligible. In any event the importance of it is not entirely obvious though it is said to be the one feature upon which the Governor's mind was set. There will be some opposition to this bill in the respective chambers though hardly enough to seriously impede its passage. Many a poor widow may suffer because of it however.

Senator McNICHOL, of Philadelphia, told some of the Philadelphia reformers "where to get off" at a hearing before the Elections Committee of the Senate, last evening. Senator MAC is inclined to indulge the Governor and others in harmless dreams of "up-lift" but when they undertake to disturb the pool of politics it's different. The Committee had under consideration Mr. McNICHOL's election bills and delegations from the Philadelphia Committee of One Hundred and Committee of Seventy protested against the measure known as the Anti-Fusion bill. Mr. THOMAS RAEBURN WHITE had just stated to the Committee that such a law "would cripple the independents in Philadelphia, especially in the Mayoralty contest," whereupon Senator MAC declared: "We don't see why, after the primaries, a few men, assisted by disappointed politicians, should get together and put a ticket in the field." Possibly Mr. WHITE can see and certainly a good many others can. It might even be suspected that Mr. McNICHOL's political hopes have been shattered at one time or another in that way, and in the minds of many people that is a sufficient reason. But it won't influence the General Assembly to defeat the measures and after the hearing McNICHOL confidently said the bill will pass.

One of the curious things in connection with the present session of the Legislature is the facility with which the Republican party bosses can adjust themselves to changing conditions. It is revealing no secret to say that Senator CROW, of Fayette county is the real leader of the party in the Senate. But McNICHOL and VARE are potent forces and even CROW has to reckon with them. McNICHOL and VARE hate each other most cordially, and VARE hates PENROSE. A few days before the election last fall Congressman VARE's brother BILL denounced PENROSE in most scathing terms. But on election day the VARE following supported PENROSE with as much earnestness as any of the McNICHOL adherents could have done. The same adaptability to party exigencies is shown in the Senate. Upon ordinary questions MAC and ED. are as the antipodes. Even on some reform measures, like the local option bill, VARE is secretive and uncertain. But upon questions of vast political importance in Philadelphia such as the McNICHOL election bills and the "housing bill," they are brothers. When McNICHOL takes snuff VARE sneezes and when VARE takes a cold McNICHOL coughs. "One touch of nature makes the whole world kin" and the hope of graft brings all crooks into brotherhood.

Governor BRUMBAUGH is a "lucky dog" at that. One of the most troublesome problems that confronted him has solved itself. During the campaign for election he promised a prompt re-organization of the State Highway Department. The Commissioner of Highways, EDWARD N. BIGELOW had got himself most thoroughly disliked all over the State and demands for his removal came from all directions. But BIGELOW has some influential friends who insisted that the charges against him were unjust and the faults of which complaints were made, those of others than he. The dismissal of BIGELOW would have caused a storm of vast proportions, in other words, and just as it was about to break, BIGELOW resigned and BRUMBAUGH gave him a certificate of character and let it go at that.

Speaking of resignations that of Judge UMBEL continues to be a subject of gossip and speculation. The Democratic re-organizers have been trying hard to create the impression that Senator CROW's quarrel with UMBEL was on account of the Judge's activity in the movement to dispossess the GUFFEY leadership and sub-

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War and Hate.

From the Johnstown Democrat.

"Wars will never have any ending," said President Wilson at Baltimore, "until men cease to hate one another." But how much hatred was there among the mass of the allies in the present war against the Germans? As a matter of fact the day before the configuration burst forth to amaze the world there was complete amity between the mass of Frenchmen and the mass of Germans, between the mass of Englishmen and the mass of Austrians, between the mass of Russians and the mass of men now fighting against them. War is a madness which turns brother against brother, which destroys all ordinary ties, which severs even bonds of blood and interest and which leads its victims to forget everything except the blood lust which has supplanted reason and human kindness and all that distinguishes man from the brute.

We shall not get rid of wars while we persist in warlike preparation. We shall get rid of it while we go on billyblundering and blustering, as there seems a disposition to do in Mexico. We shall not get rid of it by rushing war ships to every scene where sordid American interests seem threatened. Nor shall we get rid of it if we grow excited every time some fanatic in a foreign land who hates us vents his spleen on the stars and stripes. In a fit of stupid anger we can do more in a moment to disgrace and insult that flag than any enraged or contemptuous foreigner could do in a hundred years. We should merely pity the poor fool who would thus relieve his feeling toward this flag. And besides, how long would foreign flag be permitted to float here in our own land if the country to which it belongs were menacing our coasts and insisting on a more or less intimate regulation of our affairs?

Lively Hope of Good Times.

From the New York Commercial.

Sharp advances in the grain markets have come at the right time to encourage our farmers to sow as much wheat, oats and corn as possible this spring, and probably to induce the south to plant less cotton and more grain and cattle feed. Our remarkable export trade shows no signs of slackening and business men and capitalists are convinced that the United States is on the eve of a great revival of trade and industries. We must remember that foreigners have usually been able to forecast coming events in this country more successfully than we have done. In the early months of 1913, when we were dependent, Europe "bought our securities and invested money in our lands and industries with perfect confidence in the future and profited enormously. If the crops turn out well we will create more real wealth this year than we did in 1914, and we have the money and the credit to finance our customers and keep our own wheels turning. Dollar wheat and other grains proportionally high in primary markets is enough to insure active business, and anyone who fears a decline in the price of wheat can insure against it now.

The Thoroughness of Italy.

From the Detroit Free Press.

One of the wonders of the time is the cold-blooded and calculating deliberation of the Italian government in getting ready for war. It appears to have prepared for every possible eventuality. It has worked methodically and according to what must have been a definite plan to what must have been a definite plan arranged months in advance. It has made each move in logical order, has carefully restrained every outburst of popular enthusiasm that seemed dangerous to its plans, and has as carefully seen to it that the repressive measures were of a nature to dampen the enthusiasm of the people. Little by little it has drawn the lines tighter and tighter against the nations which are presumed to be its prospective enemies, crippling them here, hampering them there, but always having at hand some convenient explanation or excuse. And while making ready for war it has kept the way open for a peaceful adjustment of the conflicting ambitions and interests which seem to have brought the kingdom to the very verge of the big conflict that has claimed every great European power except itself.

We Eat Too Much Disease-Laden Dirt.

From the Philadelphia Evening Ledger.

When women enough refuse to patronize a grocer or provision dealer who leaves his stock exposed to the dust of the street and the ministrations of stray dogs, the dealers will protect their goods from contamination whether the law requires it or not. Some of the members of the Women's clubs are already interested in the subject and they are buying no food which has not been kept in a place free from the disease germs that are blown about by every breeze. They are also using their influence to induce the General Assembly to pass a bill introduced recently which requires all dealers to protect their wares. It will apply to the vendors of pretzels who sit on the street corners and sell their dust and germ-covered stomach stayers to those willing to risk eating them, and it will apply also to the corner grocer who spreads his lettuce and celery and spinach in attractive display before his door. It may be necessary to eat a peck of dirt before we die, but few of us want to have the peck made up of germs of consumption, diphtheria, bronchitis and no one knows what else.

Just as soon as the weather becomes more open and spring-like the State-Centre Electric company will start work on its line up Bald Eagle valley to Unionville. Residents of that thriving little borough are anxiously awaiting the time when the electric fluid will be a purchasable commodity in that town.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

—Julien Bease, a citizen of Allport, Clearfield county, recently celebrated the 95th anniversary of his birth and the doctors say he is likely to be a centenarian.

—Jacob Wissinger, a resident of Centre township, Indiana county, over 90 years old, is erect, can read without glasses, does active work and last spring grubbed two acres of land unaided.

—It is asserted that the village of Centerville, Somerset county, has but fifteen voters and that ten of these are candidates for the five councilmanic positions to be filled at the November election.

—John Breen, aged 67 years, a well known resident of Williamsport, lay down on a lounge in his home the other afternoon and almost immediately breathed his last. Heart disease is supposed to have caused his death.

—Mrs. William W. Paynter, of Williamsport, ate some ice cream and retired shortly after. Very soon she was attacked by acute indigestion and died within fifteen minutes. She is survived by her husband and six children.

—Mrs. John Embick, who lived alone in a small home in Lock Haven, was so badly burned by her clothing taking fire from a stove, which she had been sitting that she died soon after in the Lock Haven hospital.

—Professor J. A. Kiess, principal of one of the ward schools of Williamsport, has been obliged to submit to the amputation of the left leg below the knee. Gangrene threatened and amputation was resorted to in the hope of checking its progress.

—Indiana county is tendering the hospitality of her fields and forests to a herd of eight deer, evidently wanderers from the State preserve in Cambria county. The farmer on whose place the animals have located has agreed to see that they are abundantly and properly fed.

—Amos Hassler, treasurer of the Myerstown Trust company is in the Lebanon county jail following the discovery by Charles E. Gebhard, a state bank examiner, that there was shortage in the bank's funds amounting to \$6,300. Hassler is 30 years old. He has a wife and one child.

—One of Renovo's former police chiefs allowed a thief to pick up his overcoat and walk off with it the other day in a Lock Haven hotel where he was superintending repairs. The fellow accomplished the feat while a companion was asking the ex-chief for a job in the hotel as bartender.

—It is believed that the police officers and constables of Altoona left a \$2,000 reward slip through their hands on Monday when Cramer, alias Penny, who shot and instantly killed the chief of police at Elmira, N. Y., and seriously wounded a detective, was on the East side begging money.

—The Beaver Oil and Gas company, which is composed mainly of Johnsbury men, got a nice well Wednesday, when a million feet and over gushed out of their hole on the Simon farm, near Ridgway. The well had been drilling for some time and Friday it came in with a rush, showed it to be stronger than the ordinary run of wells.

—A guest at one of the Latrobe hotels the other night gathered together some bed clothes, including pillows, sheets, haps, etc., and carried them off in a sample case he had with him. The theft was discovered, the man followed and arrested, but allowed to go upon return of the goods and payment of the costs. He said his family needed the bedding he had confiscated.

—Williamsport tells a story of a woman of that city who broke off a needle in her right hand ten years ago, and last week she picked it out of her left hand. There have been many stories of the needle's wanderlust, but none to date has ever approached the one from McKean county. A pretty Bradford school teacher broke a needle off her back at the waistline of her dress, and worked out of the arm of a bachelor school director of Smithport some years later.

—The Hastings Coal and Coke company has leased on royalty from John D. and Sidney Garman 350 acres of coal in the vicinity of Cherrytree, where the company is operating mines. The Garman will receive eight cents for each ton mined and the company is required to take out 30,000 tons this year, 25,000 next year and 30,000 each following year. The tract is the key to a valuable coal field in that section, the greater part of which lies in Green township, Indiana county.

—John H. Miller, known as the lumber king of Millfin county, has announced the purchase of the largest tract of standing timber in the State. The tract is located near Robertsdale, contains 2,500 acres underlaid with coal and one prosperous mine is now in operation within its feet of the line of the Miller tract. The purchase was made at a cost of \$35,250. Saw-mills will be shipped there soon prepared for five years' work and as rapidly as the timber is cleared away coal mining will begin.

—Glen Campbell was visited on Sunday at midnight with a disastrous fire, which destroyed the opera house building owned by the Clark Brothers, coal operators of Glen Campbell. The opera house was on the second floor, while the ground floor was occupied by the Mammoth Supply company's large department store and Irish Brothers coal office. The fire started on the second floor near the roof and spread so rapidly that very little of the contents were saved. The loss will reach several thousand dollars.

—The farm home of G. H. Barner, located about a mile and a half north-east of Logan, was destroyed by fire Friday afternoon at four o'clock, with all the furniture and other belongings on the second floor. The furnishings on the first floor were nearly all saved. The blaze broke out on the roof, probably from a spark blown from the stack of a nearby saw mill. When the discovery was made the entire roof was ablaze and the house was doomed. The loss is about \$1,700 on the house and contents, with \$500 insurance on the house.

—Preparations for the anniversary of the I. O. O. F., which will be held at Bloomsburg on April 23rd, are being made. Already many Lodges throughout central Pennsylvania have told the committee in charge that they will be present at the celebration. The Orphanage band, of Sunbury, recently organized, will make its first appearance at the celebration. The orphans in the Sunbury Orphanage will attend the anniversary, going to Bloomsburg on a special train provided by the local Lodge. It is expected to have 30,000 persons in attendance, and to have at least thirty bands.

—Mrs. Elizabeth Long, of St. Clair, will receive \$7,500 from St. Clair borough for the destruction of her husband by wires belonging to the borough's electric light plant. This was the sum awarded to Mrs. Long by a jury, and the court Tuesday refused a new trial. Mrs. Long's husband was the proprietor of a hotel, and a year ago went into the basement of his place to repair the electric wires. An extraordinary fire occurred which was running over the wires, and as soon as Long touched them he was killed, and those who tried to pull him away were almost electrocuted also.

—Charges of violation of the banking laws in connection with the failure of the Standard Title and Trust company in 1907 were withdrawn against Homer L. Castle, H. F. Aspinwall and C. J. Masinger, in the court of quarter sessions at Philadelphia, when the bills of indictment upon which they were convicted in 1912 were submitted for verdicts of not guilty. The defendants had been granted a new trial by the Superior court which held that the evidence produced at their trial was not sufficient to sustain a conviction and the district attorney's office announced on Monday that it had no further evidence to produce.