

INK SLINGS.

—Recent rains have worked wonders with vegetation in Centre county.

—In three days June, the month of brides and roses, will be here. Then it will be only one month more until we celebrate Old Home week.

—Now that Governor BRUMBAUGH has the Legislature off his hands he can either revel in pedagogics or chase butter-flies in WETZEL's swamp.

—Italy makes the eighth power arrayed against Germany and Austria. It is beginning to look as if the Kaiser is ready and willing to meet all comers.

—Probably that New York jury found that ROOSEVELT didn't libel BARNES on the ground that few people pay any attention to TEDDY's utterances these days.

—The plans for Old Home week are growing more elaborate every day. All that remains to make it a real success is the return of multitudes of absentees to old home scenes.

—Bad weather put a damper on much of the enthusiasm that had been worked up in some parts of the county over good roads day, but at that considerable work was done. And Bellefonte was second to no community in the gratuitous service rendered.

—Really we think Sup't THOMAS should prefer a charge of grand larceny against the Pennsy. It's a crime for that great big corporation to steal the name of the Bellefonte Central and everyone knows that it will be guilty of false pretense anyway, because it certainly can't get PARKER or any of his boats.

—The sick Eskimo pays his doctor the fee before he is treated. If he gets well the doctor is entitled to retain the fee. If he dies it must be returned to some member of the victim's family. We publish this bit of information lest some of our American saw-bones might unwittingly elect to hang out a shingle in Eskimo-land.

—The jingoes of this country who are so persistently trying to goad Uncle SAM into a fight with some one should bear in mind that he is not trying to deter them from joining any army they like among those already in the war. They might be very useful, either to the allies or the Germans, as charges for those new gas shells they are using.

—The Fairbury, Nebraska, Journal says that during a big revival at Horton, a near by town, five hundred convicts were made, including the mayor and two councilmen. What a wonderful town Horton must be to have actually had a mayor and two councilmen who had never been regarded as being in the convict class before the revival got going.

—The advance notices were to the effect that Germany is sending us the dearest, sweetest, most conciliatory note imaginable, in reply to the President's demands concerning the blowing up of the Lusitania. And then, just to drop a little fly into the ointment along comes another cable announcing that Germany had blown up the American ship Nebraska.

—Signor MARCONI has invented a camera-like device which, when placed on the wall or floor of a room, makes metal or wood transparent and enables the operator to see persons in an adjoining room. It ought to be suppressed. Think of the misery a party of bachelor girls would be in should they be occupying an apartment above a curious bachelor man.

—It is interesting to know that of the 111,536 Italian male population of Pennsylvania in 1910 seventy-five per cent. had not taken out naturalization papers. Inasmuch as they are evidently here for the coin only it remains to be seen how many of them will change their mind now that they are offered the alternative of renouncing their allegiance to Italy or going home to fight.

—All of the Frick coke ovens in the western part of the State have received orders that will keep them running at their maximum capacity indefinitely. In fact the managers of each plant are urged to strain every effort to produce the greatest quantity possible. It will be just like our friends, the Republicans, to blame it on the UNDERWOOD tariff if such bulging business should strain any of the ovens.

—We just knew it was going to happen. Last week we told you that between "PRISCILLA," our pet poetess, and the effusions of our Rebersburg correspondent we are being so absorbed as to render us practically useless for any of the regular duties that we have to perform. We told you of our pleasure at "poUring over" their pleasanties and the "spell" was still on us when the proof of the paragraph came up to be read. Under such hypnotic influences, dear reader, you certainly will overlook our having overlooked that u that somehow had crept into the word poring and sympathize with us in the misery we have in being made fun of by a country correspondent. Our Rebersburg friend comes back at us as follows: "Pray, what is the editor going to 'pour over' this PRISCILLA, the pet poetess, and this purveyor of pleasanties? Hot honey, hey!" The come-back is so clever and unexpected that we are going to be more circumspect in the future, lest we start something we can't finish.

Democratic Watchman

STATE RIGHTS AND FEDERAL UNION.

VOL. 60.

BELLEFONTE, PA., MAY 28, 1915.

NO. 22.

The Roosevelt Verdict.

The verdict in the suit of BARNES vs. ROOSEVELT, tried at Syracuse, New York, acquitting the defendant, is a travesty on justice. Libel is a "malicious publication tending to expose another to public hatred, contempt or ridicule." ROOSEVELT had clearly made such a publication against BARNES. Previous to 1910 they were personal friends and political associates. At the State convention of that year BARNES refused to obey the orders of ROOSEVELT and ROOSEVELT set out to destroy him. The publication made the subject of the suit, was the culmination of a series of vicious attacks running through a portion of two or three years. It charged directly a "working agreement" between BARNES and MURPHY, the so-called Democratic boss of New York city, to elect a TAMMANY candidate to the United States Senate in 1911 and loot the State generally.

Libel is a crime under both common and statutory law unless justified by the truth of the charge and proof of the absence of malice in the publication. In the trial there was not a scintilla of evidence of a political partnership between BARNES and MURPHY either in the election of the Senator in 1911, or in anything else. In fact it was shown clearly and proved by dozens of witnesses that BARNES urged the Republicans of the General Assembly to join with the Independent Democrats and thus elect an anti-TAMMANY man to the Senate. It was also proved by credible evidence in abundance that there was neither intimacy nor association between BARNES and MURPHY. Such an intimacy or association would have been infamous and would justly have condemned both men to popular execration. That was the obvious purpose of the publication.

The evidence, moreover, revealed the fact that so long as corrupt politics promoted the political interests of THEODORE ROOSEVELT he cherished it and so long as political bosses contributed to his support he embraced them. There was no man too vile for ROOSEVELT, if he obeyed ROOSEVELT. There was no man so good as to escape his vilification, if he were unwilling to accept ROOSEVELT's will as law. Even while the trial was in progress he perverted the rules of court and the principles of law to the base purpose of prejudicing and confusing the jury. That the court permitted such a prostitution of its functions is inexplicable. Possibly the change of venue was demanded in anticipation of such a misuse of opportunities and in any event these outrages afford ample cause for appeal to a tribunal which cannot be bamboozled.

Italy's Declaration of War.

If the entry of Italy into the European war will hasten the approach of peace, as some wise observers imagine, the declaration which issued from the Quirinal the other day may be justified. But in the present unsettled state of Europe the lust for land is no more justification than the real or imaginary weakness of the enemy. The position of Italy with respect to the war has not thus far been admirable. Solemnly bound to Germany and Austria as an ally, she has been bargaining and dickering for a price for keeping faith and having set too high a value upon her services, disappointment is followed by a declaration of war. It seems to be a question of profit rather than honor.

Of course the couple of million men which Italy can project into the equation and place on the firing line against Germany, Austria, Hungary and Turkey, will make a difference. The Teutonic allies had a full-grown man's job on their hands before and this additional force may make their burden too heavy to bear long. At least we may hope that it will be the result and that the complete conquest and dissection of the German and Austrian empires may be averted by an early appeal for peace. The latest estimate of present expenses of the war is \$2,000,000 an hour. This waste continued for two or three years will impoverish the whole world for no part of civilization is exempt from the burden.

No one is greatly concerned about the future of Turkey except in the hope that it may be completely revolutionized or "wiped off the map." But no one wants to see the German empire obliterated or the Austrian government too severely chastised. Germany has offended gravely in diffusing the spirit of militarism and Austria deserves punishment for senility. But to cut either or both up into particles for distribution among others lusty for land and hungering for conquest, would be an unsatisfactory remedy at best. The action of Italy may prevent such a calamity and if it works that result civilization will be grateful. But that is not what was intended.

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., May 26th, 1915.

Under the spur of necessity the Legislature, before final adjournment, last week, passed finally and sent to the Governor for approval, a number of measures which the Democrats have been trying to force into the statutes for more than a dozen years. They are the workmen's compensation bills and though they passed the Senate unanimously they were among the last measures to get through. The Attorney General was greatly pleased with the achievement, according to press reports, but as a matter of fact he and BRUMBAUGH, though then private citizens, had asserted a deep-seated and determined interest in the subject two, four, six, eight or ten years ago, the Legislature would have been performing its beneficent purposes ever since.

There is a difference of opinion among experts as to the adequacy of the revenues to meet the appropriations made during the recent session. The appropriations aggregate \$67,000,000, and the revenues for the two years, according to estimates, will be \$65,000,000. If both estimates are accurate the Governor will be obliged to cut \$2,000,000 off the appropriation or create a state of bankruptcy. Mr. BRUMBAUGH has declared that under no circumstances will he violate the constitution by "shaving" items after the fashion adopted by his recent predecessors. If he adheres to that determination he will find it necessary to veto "separate and distinct" items and in that event nobody knows what project would suffer. There is a fine opportunity for favoritism.

Two revenue bills which had been previously defeated were passed during the closing hours of the session. They were Senate bill imposing a stamp tax of two cents on each \$100 stock transfer and House bill escheating to the State all deposits, dividends and other moneys which have lain inactive in banks for a number of years. Possibly these measures will bridge the chasm between receipts and expenditures and justify the approval of all the appropriation bills. If this hope is disappointed, however, look out! The coal tax will be resisted in the courts and litigation is proverbially slow. Meantime the friends of State College would better be alert. The appropriation to that worthy institution was increased from \$900,000 to \$1,000,000 during the closing hours and the Governor had previously expressed himself in favor of the lesser sum.

The claim has been made that the Legislature of this year sent a greater number of bills to the Governor than any of its predecessors from the beginning. More bills were introduced during the long session of two years ago, but fewer got through. The record shows 1045 measures were sent up for approval of which forty-one were recalled, fifty-three vetoed and 243 were approved. There are 708 measures still in the hands of the Governor which must be acted upon within thirty days of the date of adjournment and the indications are that a number of them will be vetoed. BRUMBAUGH is ambitious to make a record in veto work and to accomplish that he will have to "go some." At present he is over a hundred short of TENER's number.

There is a good deal of mental speculation as to which bills the Governor will sign and which he may veto. Of course the compensation bills will be approved, the revenue raisers are equally certain of favor and the several resolutions providing for constitutional amendments will be signed. There is an increasing suspicion, however, that the approval or disapproval of bills will be determined more by favor to those interested than by merit of the measures. BRUMBAUGH appears to be a man of strong prejudices and inclined to resentments. It is recalled that while the fight for local option was on he administered a rebuke to VANCE C. MCCORMICK that was rather petty. VANCE had tendered his "good offices," and they were curtly declined.

But there was some reason for the action in the case of MCCORMICK. Out of the forty-one Democratic members of the House probably less than ten voted for MCCORMICK for Governor and maybe not more than five could have been influenced by him. The vast majority resented his star-chamber attempt to force an anti-Democratic platform upon them and his undertaking to control Democratic votes on the local option bill might have driven those personally inclined toward the legislation to vote the other way. But BRUMBAUGH had another reason for snubbing his recent antagonist. During the campaign MCCORMICK did nothing but iterate and reiterate the charge that BRUMBAUGH was committed to the liquor interests and would oppose any sort of temperance legislation. Under the circumstances his offer to help BRUMBAUGH was surprising, to say the least.

Another suspicion is beginning to reveal itself on the political horizon. It is that BRUMBAUGH imagines that he is "somewhat of a politician himself," and aspires to create a political machine which he can absolutely control. The cloud was "no bigger than a man's hand" when attention was first called to it but it has grown amazingly. Analyze his appointments, for example. He named one of Senator OLIVER's friends for Highway Commissioner and thus "sealed" the Senator to him. Then he put ex-Mayor MAGEE of Pittsburgh on the Public Utility board, dinging the support of those opposed to OLIVER in Allegheny county. In view of these facts the announcement that there will be no fight for Republican nominations in Pittsburgh, this fall, is not surprising.

The personnel of the Public Utility board is a subject of admiration, as well as study, in this connection. PENNYPACKER, BRECHT and MONAGHAN are PENROSE adherents of the most servile sort; KEISS and MAGEE are sort of political mercenaries, ready to serve anybody who will help them and AINEY represents, in a feeble way of course, that meagre element in the party which is against the organization, right or wrong. It is a habit with some men to be opposed to whatever is and though as a rule they don't have anything better to offer, they fight blindly. They imagine that everybody in authority is dishonest and that nobody is righteous except themselves. AINEY is one of this type and probably the only one that could be relied upon. BRUMBAUGH threw them together with the hope of fastening all of them to his personal machine.

For several years JOSEPH R. GRUNDY, president of the Pennsylvania Manufacturers' association and principal "fat-fryer" of the PENROSE machine, has enjoyed the purely honorary distinction of a seat in the Suburban Metropolitan Planning Commission. During the campaign for and against the child labor bill in the Legislature GRUNDY said some things about the Governor which couldn't be tortured into a fulsome eulogy. TENER had reappointed GRUNDY and his name was among those recalled a few days before the close of the session. While all the others were renamed GRUNDY was dropped. But Insurance Commissioner JOHNSON, State Librarian MONTGOMERY, Water Supply Commissioner LYNCH and Superintendent of Public Grounds and Buildings RAMBO were reappointed. In justice to these gentlemen it must be said, however, that they are capable and efficient officials.

The resolution to amend the constitution to authorize the issue of \$50,000,000 in bonds, the proceeds of which is to be used in building and maintaining public

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Oil on Troubled Waters.

From the Johnstown Democrat.

Gov. Brumbaugh is making it evident that he is the boss on the hill. There are also indications that he is a boss politician. The new Public Service commission may or may not meet the expectations of the State as far as service is concerned. That it represents a rather neat thimble turn none will deny. Former Mayor Magee gets a place and gets it in the face of the fact that he and Mayor Armstrong have found it quite impossible to dwell together in unity. Whether or not Magee will cease to trouble in Pittsburgh as a result of his new job is a matter that the future must develop. It is only natural to suppose, however, that the Governor hopes Magee's appointment will at least serve to compose the Pittsburgh situation.

William B. D. Ainey is another one of the disgruntled ones. He is not, of course, a regular insurgent. He has rebelled only with moderation, but by landing him in a nice fat job the Governor makes it evident to the "North Tier" that the days of warfare are over and that the Great Father in the State capitol proposes to take care of all his children, even to the extent of protecting them from the wrath of Big Chief Penrose.

The Republican State Machine has for years stood pretty solidly by the doctrine that all those who would not go along should be run over. Gov. Brumbaugh tries different methods. Those who will not go along are to be given jobs. Their enmity is to be tempered as a result of an infusion of kindness. There is, of course, no ground in the political arena where men like Edgar A. Keiss and Mr. Ainey can meet and establish a common footing. Keiss is a regular "regular." He may prove to be a better judge of fact than he has been of political leaders.

The striking feature of the new Public Service commission is that its first services are purely political. It constitutes the basis for some sort of harmony deal. Whether a body so palpably appointed with a view of side-tracking factional warfare in the party that Gov. Brumbaugh is so bravely attempting to capture can render a really constructive service; whether it is a body that will be free from all entangling alliances, is a problem that the future must solve. The people of the State can only hope that the new commission will be as efficient as it is political.

The Rose-Colored View.

From the Lancaster Intelligencer.

The Philadelphia Record, after gathering trade reports from all parts of the country, takes a rose-colored view of the industrial and commercial outlook and it must be admitted that it presents an array of evidence which strongly encourages that view, even though a return of prosperity while the greater part of the world remains at war and while we ourselves may even be upon the brink of it seems to be rather too much to expect.

It is a matter of historic record that we enjoyed a more than feverish prosperity on several occasions when great foreign wars were in progress and actually built up a great American merchant marine during the Napoleonic wars. Doubt whether we could do it again has been based mainly upon the belief that long wars were out of date, but this war is getting to be amazingly long as well as broad.

It cannot be questioned, however, that a stable prosperity is only to be expected as a development of peace, and all the commercial expansion that comes before that must be accepted with cautious consideration of the ways and means by which it may be retained.

—From the quantity of rain we have had during the past two or three weeks one is almost inclined to believe that nature has provided a regular rainy season for Pennsylvania, as at no time since May of last year have we had as much rain as we have had this spring. But it came at a good time. Most of the farmers have their corn in the ground and these rains will bring it along in good shape. Then enough water has already fallen to soak the ground thoroughly and springs and wells that have been dry since last fall have started flowing once again and all the streams in the county have been replenished. The wheat and grass are looking fair and all we need now is warmer weather and all vegetation will just naturally leap out of the ground.

—Billy Sunday on Sunday closed his seven week's campaign in Patterson, N. J., with a credit of 14,907 converts and a contribution of \$24,000, which it is expected will be increased to \$25,000. The total expenses of the campaign including Billy's contribution was \$61,742, or an average of \$4.07 a convert. Billy worked forty-two days, receiving an average of \$572.28 per day and preached ninety-three sermons at an average of \$258.06 a sermon. This makes a total of \$410,529.26 Sunday has received from twenty-three evangelistic campaigns covering a period of a little over ten years.

—J. KENNEDY JOHNSTON has purchased a Ford automobile, we presume to put a little more speed into his judicial campaign. Judge ORVIS already being the possessor of a "tin Lizzie" there will evidently be no competition in motive power, at least, between these two judicial aspirants. Mr. QUIGLEY has relied on shank's mare up to this time, but we wouldn't be surprised to see him start his campaign on a road roller, while candidate DALE will probably ride his tripod.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

—Lewistown has a near-epidemic of mumps and chicken-pox.

—Johnstown's Young Men's Christian Association has a paid up membership of 1,613.

—William Barkey, of Homer City, Indiana county, whose death has just occurred, spent the last twelve years of his life in bed, suffering from a broken back.

—Dr. J. A. Murray, chief of staff of the Miners' hospital at Spangler, a resident of Patton, has been accepted for service in England and France and will soon leave for his new post of duty.

—Officer George B. Stahl, of DuBois, has just received \$250 from the authorities of Allegheny county, N. Y., for the capture of a man who shot and killed his uncle, later escaping, only to be recaptured.

—With ninety-one jitney busses registered, Johnstown has collected more than \$700 taxes for licenses to operate passenger carrying vehicles. Somerset people are thinking of establishing a jitney service with Johnstown.

—A. C. Lansbery, of Bigler, has disposed of his timber tract near Palestine, on the Deer Creek road, to H. W. Hoover and Alfred Graham, of Clearfield, embracing about 1,000,000 feet of hemlock, which will be marketed without delay.

—Several young residents of DuBois have received neat typewritten letters from an alleged matrimonial agency in that city offering to arrange marriages for them. They don't know whether to take the proposal in earnest or as a joke.

—Francis Halloran, aged 8, a Clinton county lad who had gone with his father and an elder brother on a fishing expedition last Saturday, and suddenly disappeared, is believed to have been drowned in Bald Eagle creek. All efforts to find his body have been fruitless thus far.

—While their parents had supposed they had gone to church last Sunday morning, LaVerne Titus, aged 18 years, was drowned in the river at Williamsport by the capsizing of his canoe, and Ralph Homan, his companion, narrowly escaped a similar fate, but was rescued after he had abandoned hope.

—John P. Kelly, alias i cBurney, whom a tender-hearted Westmoreland county jury found guilty of murder in the second degree, although he had dynamited a residence and killed six human beings, was sentenced to serve not less than fifteen nor more than twenty years in the western penitentiary.

—Returns of the constables of Somerset county are calling the attention of the voters to the fact that many of the township highways are badly in need of repairs. Several township supervisors have been haled before the court on the charge of failing to keep their sections of the roads in passable condition.

—Boys of Williamsport, Pa., are to have a college opportunity that boys in other cities may well envy. Through the will of the late A. D. Hermance, funds are eventually to be made available sufficient to give every deserving graduate of the High School \$500 a year for four years while attending Cornell University.

—Joe Pelleretti, convicted in the Clearfield court of manslaughter on the charge of killing his wife at Woodland on the night of April 14th, was sentenced Thursday last week by Judge Bell to solitary confinement in the western penitentiary for a maximum term of eight years. He was also fined \$1.00 and costs of prosecution.

—Another Westmoreland county jury found Fritz Ungerer, a young fellow who deliberately choked his wife to death, guilty of murder in the second degree. The court sentenced him to imprisonment in the western penitentiary for not less than twelve nor more than twenty years. Jurors out in old Westmoreland seem to be quite tender-hearted.

—Two naughty Lock Haven lads created an excitement by carrying several sticks of dynamite and a quantity of caps into the school room. One of the boys disappeared promptly after they were compelled to remove the stuff and was later located at Philadelphia. He is to receive attention from the proper authorities when he is landed at Lock Haven again.

—While working about the machinery in the plant of the Ligonier Block & Stone company, near Cramer, Cambria county, Marion Clark, 19 years old, met a horrible death. In some manner his clothing became entangled in the shafting and he was whirled about many times, his lifeless body being discovered by his father, I. G. Clark, superintendent of the company.

—L. H. Knapp, of Salona, on Saturday arrested three Lock Haven men for fishing with set lines in a trout stream, in Fishing creek, at the head of the Axe company dam. A hearing was held before Alderman Anthony in Lock Haven Monday afternoon. One of them was discharged and in default of a fine of \$20 the other two were committed to the county jail for 20 days.

—After being robbed of grain, fruit and poultry, S. A. Robinson, a farmer, living near Academia, Juniata county, laid in wait for the marauders with a shotgun. Two of them visited his farm and both are now suffering from the effects of gun shot wounds inflicted on them by the farmer. William Hostler received thirty-eight shot in one leg and nine in the other and had to be taken home in a wagon. The other man escaped with very slight injuries.

—Joseph Smith, of Muncy, state game protector, has returned to Williamsport from Rose Valley where he inspected the wheat field on the farm of D. L. Stiger which was damaged by deer. He found that ten acres had been badly damaged by the animals. Mr. Stiger has asked the State to reimburse him for the loss. Mr. Stiger states that he has driven as many as seven deer from his fields at one time and that he has lost considerable every year through their depredations.

—Laborers sinking postholes in Oakdale, Luzerne county, on Friday, unearthed a crock of gold. While the exact amount of the treasure cannot be definitely ascertained on account of the scramble of the workmen for its possession, it is estimated at from \$500 to \$1,000. The money was in \$10 and \$20 coins. It is believed to have been the property of a woman who lived on the premises about 30 years ago and put no faith in banks. She was known to have money, but the secret of its hiding place she carried to the grave.

—The complaint brought by the West Virginia Pulp and Paper Company against the rates advanced by the Pennsylvania railroad for the transportation of pulp wood from various points to paper mills at Tyrone, Williamsburg, Lock Haven, Roaring Spring, York Haven and Johnsonburg, has been dismissed by the old Public Service Commission. The complainants alleged that the rates would amount to ten cents per net ton and that this would be excessive and discriminatory. The Commission found that there was no discrimination and that the advance of the rates was just and reasonable.

—The Renovo Record says that two car loads of flint fire clay taken from land on the mountain north of Renovo by Michael Dempsey and taken over the Paddy Run railway, are now in the Renovo yard awaiting shipment to Keeby, N. J., to be used in a large brick plant at that place by parties who have leased from Mr. Murphy the land on which the clay was mined. This company has heretofore purchased clay from Germany, and their experts say that the clay found on the Murphy lands is superior to any German product they ever received, containing as it does, less than half of one per cent. of iron.