

INK SLINGS.

-That was some rain on Wednesday. -ULBGLADUKUM when you get back to good old Centre county next month.

-The Germans have been turned back from Przemysl again. The name must be too much for them.

-At last Dr. DERNBERG seems to have had some remote conception of the old saying that silence is golden.

-The German answer to the American note wasn't what we wanted but it was what we might have expected.

-In Germany a child is born every sixteen seconds, which is quite a bit faster than the German death rate has been during the war.

-According to the calendar summer is not yet here but the way time flies most people regard it as being half over when commencement days are no more.

-If it becomes necessary to forcibly pacify Mexico we'll just have to do it, that's all. But let's have none of the benevolent assimilation that was practiced in the Philippines.

-The solid freeze of last Thursday morning played havoc with beans, potatoes, grape vines, plums and cherries in many parts of the country. Ice, a sixteenth of an inch thick, was frozen on still water.

-Dr. DIXON's weekly health letter deals with the tooth brush and as usual, the Doctor pictures this little dental accessory as being almost as deadly as a forty-two centimeter gun when not properly cleaned.

-If Germany and Mexico would only decide to do what we want them to then truly could we paraphrase the remark of Uncle SAMMY PENNYPACKER and say that the United States would have no ills worthy of mention.

-Anyway Chautauqua week isn't scheduled until July 24th. That will give us plenty of time to compose ourselves and get ready for the intellectual uplift after the physical tear down that the strenuities of Old Home week are sure to impose upon us.

-The delicate position in which the United States finds herself with relation to foreign powers is fast revealing WILLIAM HOWARD TAFT as a far greater man than he was when he was chosen President. And, inversely, the public estimate of ROOSEVELT is being lowered.

-It is June. Five months only intervene until we elect an entire complement of county officials, together with a President Judge. Is it to be a gum shoe campaign, a still hunt or merely a whirlwind finish? Certainly "politics ain't what they used to be in Centre county."

-Secretaries BRYAN, DANIELS and WILSON are said to be the pacifists of the President's cabinet. That doesn't mean that they won't fight, for often the most peaceful men become the most terrible fighters when goaded too far. It merely means that they are not running around with chips on their shoulders bantering some one to knock them off.

-If your house needs a little fixing up it is economy to do it at once, before the wear has become too great. This is especially so of surfaces that need painting to preserve them from the elements. It is only making the job more costly in the end to put off doing it. Besides Old Home week will be here soon and Bellefonte should look her best on such an occasion.

-The starting and stopping of work at the new penitentiary so frequently calculated to destroy an efficient working organization. And there is a certain injustice involved. For example, laborers will be advertised for and assured that they will be given work upon application at the institution. Such application is made and men are put to work, only to be discharged the day following with scarcely enough earnings to compensate for their transportation while seeking the job. The men are discharged, presumably, for inefficiency, but if such be the case the kind of work to be done by the men sought for should be stated in the advertisement so that men who are physically incapable of doing certain work would know whether it would be worth while for them to apply.

-Inasmuch as N. B. SPANGLER Esq., has formally announced his candidacy for President Judge of Centre county the fight can be regarded as being on. With five aspirants for the honor it is only natural to anticipate a very spirited campaign. Of course the judicial contest is a non-partisan matter and should be regarded as such by the voters. The judiciary of our country is the most sacred of its temporal institutions and the citizen who would really do his country a service must put away personal preference and party bias so that they will not warp his judgment when it comes to choosing the man who is given power over the lives and property of his fellows. We expect a dignified contest, of course. The character of the aspirants assure that, though some of their advocates will needs be held in leash lest they resort to methods that will react upon the candidate of their choice.

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The German Note.

The German note in reply to the recent protest of President Wilson against submarine attacks upon ships carrying neutral passengers will not satisfy public sentiment. The President was candid and explicit. The reply is evasive and ambiguous. The demand was for a pledge that such atrocities as the torpedoing of the Lusitania would not be again perpetrated. The reply is an apology for the murder, without a pledge against repetition or a promise of reparation. A supplemental note is suggested in which the real question may be considered. But the people of the United States wanted a definite understanding now and have been disappointed.

As we said immediately following the outrage, Great Britain is not entirely free from blame in the premises. England has no right to shelter munitions of war under skirts of American women and the pinafiores of American babies. The German government had information that the cargo of the Lusitania was composed largely of war materials and in the absence of noncombatants aboard the ship was a subject of legitimate attack by the German forces. It has not been denied, either, that the Lusitania was listed as an auxiliary cruiser in the British navy. That being true noncombatants had no business on board. De-luded by the boast that Great Britain is master of the sea, they were on board however, and their lives were forfeited. President WILSON asked for a promise that this will not occur again. Germany side steps the question.

The American people do not want war with Germany or any other power. But there are many Americans and some interests that do want war with somebody. In 1898 this element in the population forced a declaration of war against Spain notwithstanding the aversion of President MCKINLEY to such a course. President WILSON is more steadfast than MCKINLEY was and may be able to achieve the result which his predecessor aimed to accomplish, but failed. But such incidents as the Lusitania and the evasive German note make his task more difficult. Unless German diplomacy is hunting trouble a supplementary note meeting the issues more candidly, will not be long delayed.

President Wilson's Mexican Policy. The present distress in Mexico is not directly or indirectly, attributable to President WILSON's policy, declared two years ago, of "watchful waiting," and the recent announcement of a purpose to admonish Mexico that something to avert the distress must be done immediately, is not a sign that that policy has been a failure. President WILSON wisely determined at the beginning of his administration that the Mexican problem must be solved by the Mexicans. In other words he applied to that unhappy country the principle expressed in the Declaration of Independence that governments "derive their just powers from the consent of the governed," and that alien government could not have such consent from a self-respecting people. That is the philosophy of Democracy, the fundamental principle expressed by JEFFERSON.

That was the correct attitude for a Democratic President of the United States to assume in the circumstances which existed at that time. By common consent the United States is and has been recognized as the "next friend" of the feeble and faltering governments south of us on this hemisphere. But we are not, because of this, overlords or invested with paternal power to dominate or even regulate them so long as they have force within themselves to administer their affairs. But when they are no longer capable of exercising the functions of self-government, when through the indulgence of passion, prejudice or ambition by their so-called leaders or Governors, the people are reduced to slavery starvation and mendacity, then it is the duty of the "next friend" to intervene and if possible prevent the suffering which is the inevitable consequence of misgovernment.

A less wise President of the United States would long ago have involved this country in a war with Mexico by intervening in behalf of one or the other claimants to the Presidency of that bogus Republic. The opportunities were abundant and the incitements ample to any President lusting for power, land or empire. Such intervention would have cost hundreds of thousands of lives and millions of treasure and would have amounted to nothing on one side of the line or the other because true American patriotism is averse to conquest and true Mexican patriotism will not yield obedience to an alien government. But Americans and Mexicans alike bow to the spirit of humanitarianism and the demand of President WILSON that the Mexican people be allowed to live rather than starve will find an echo in the heart of every patriot on either side of the line.

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., June 2nd, 1915.

Governor BRUMBAUGH yesterday fulfilled his promise to begin the consideration of bills in his hands on June 1st. He vetoed nine of them, "the first crack out of the box," and approved several. The first measure killed by the veto was a bill requiring legal advertisements to be inserted in a "legal newspaper," in counties over 100,000 population. There is a law on the statute books containing such a provision in counties of over 250,000 population and it creates a "soft snap" for a few lawyers in the cities who publish what they call "Legal Journals."

The bill increasing salaries of deputy sheriffs in Allegheny county, was vetoed by the Governor, yesterday. "It is unwise," he says, "to have the Legislature fix increases of salaries without the knowledge and consent of the citizens who pay the bill." But he signed several bills increasing salaries of State officials. He vetoed the bill to allow farmers to peddle their own products in boroughs on the ground that boroughs should regulate that matter and the bill validating titles to lands for non-payment of county taxes was vetoed for the just reason that it simply legalized the carelessness of county officials. The bill fixing the width of sidewalks was vetoed because "it would mean a death blow to local initiative and a sore stricture upon shade trees."

His Excellency broke a cog in the Philadelphia machine by vetoing the bill giving the right to appoint managers of the House of Detention in that city to the President Judge of the Municipal court. Judge BROWN has been conducting a patronage factory ever since that court was instituted and always to the satisfaction of the machine bosses. The Governor says the power of appointment should be vested in the court rather than in one judge. The bill requiring that compensation for changing streets in boroughs be paid by boroughs instead of counties and that authorizing the Commissioner of Health to lease a right of way through State lands met with the same fate. The bill giving authority to township school boards to acquire land in a contiguous borough or city on which to build a township High school was disapproved because the school code provides a better way of solving that problem.

Besides some bills of interest only to Philadelphia the Governor approved those making the offices of councilman and school director incompatible; providing that the Highway Commissioner need not employ all persons mentioned in the Act of 1911 and providing for an engineer of maintenance; making the Act relative to adoptions apply to cases now pending; validating annexations and extensions of boroughs prior to April 22nd, 1903; amending the Act relative to the patenting of lands; validating municipal liens for borough sewer systems; providing procedure for placing foot walks, curbs, parking, shade trees and grass plots; enlarging powers of State Live Stock Sanitary board in meat inspection; providing for reciprocity in pharmaceutical licenses; authorizing an amortized basis for valuing the bond investments of life insurance companies and beneficiary societies and fixing \$1000 as the minimum salary of court stenographers.

Bills were also approved on Tuesday requiring second class cities to establish pension funds for employees; authorizing municipal liens for curbing in boroughs; authorizing acceptance of donations to erect chapels at State Sanatoria; requiring prothonotaries to provide an ad actum index; fixing salaries in the Department of Public Instruction; requiring State officials who handle money to give bonds; permitting the Commonwealth to intervene in any proceeding at law or equity in which the State may have an interest, without giving security; refunding to PAUL C. WOLF money erroneously paid; authorizing CHARLES H. SLEICHER to sue the State for damages caused by constructing a dam and the code for reporting, quarantining and controlling contagious diseases.

Most of the Governor's time today was given to the consideration of appropriation bills. It has been ascertained that the appropriations exceed the revenues by about \$4,000,000 and he has set himself the task of squaring that circle. It would be an easy job if the methods of his immediate predecessors were followed. But he has promised not to do that. Yet nobody can tell what the exigencies of politics will develop.

Five bills were vetoed today the only one of general interest being that which provided for an increase of the compensation of appraisers appointed by Registers of Wills for collateral inheritance tax from \$2 to \$5 day.

The Legislature certainly put the seal of its approval upon the work of the Economy and Efficiency Commission created during the session of 1913. Nineteen of the recommendations of the Board were enacted into law and eight of them have been approved by the Governor. It is an exceptional record but was made under exceptional circumstances. Efficiency has become a fad, mostly among those who don't understand what it means, and most of the recommendations involved the multiplication of offices. The one thing that is certain to "get by" in the Legislature is the increase of offices.

For example, the bills recommended by the Economy Commission and enacted into law include the reorganization of the Attorney General's department by adding a couple of deputies and a number of clerks; increasing the number of factory inspectors; creating a fund to carry insurance on State property with the necessary clerks to administer it; reorganizing the office force of the Adjutant General by adding a couple of clerks; enlarging the division of statistics in the department of labor and industry by increasing the office force; increasing the number of inspectors of the Board of Public Charities; reorganizing the State Highway department by increasing the force; creating the office of State architect with several clerks and stenographers and increasing the force of the State lunacy commission.

All these recommendations and all this legislation are said to be in the interest of economy. The business of the Commonwealth was conducted wastefully, the Commission concluded and its remedy is to provide officials to "eat up" the cash. Money spent without method is certainly wasted. It doesn't do the party a bit of good. But if distributed judiciously among officials it can be made work as industriously as caskarets, even while the leaders sleep. This is why every reform measure enacted by the recent Legislature provided for an increase of officials. There is no money saved to the people by such reforms, but that slovenliness which wastes without method is done away with and a scientific system of looting substituted. Maybe we ought to be thankful for the improvement but some of us have lived in Missouri long enough to acquire the habit.

The Board of Water Supply Commissioners is working short handed but accomplishing results. The Chairman, Vice Chairman and Secretary are salaried, but only the Secretary, THOMAS J. LYNCH, of Northampton county, is on duty. The Chairman, Mr. BIRKINBINE, of Montgomery county, is dead and the Vice Chairman, Mr. FOCHT, of Union county, was elected to Congress last fall, so that Mr. LYNCH has to do the work of three. But he is doing it, all right, and well. Recently he authorized the building of twenty-six bridges and dams including one

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Spiritual Rather than Material Civilization the Issue in Europe.

From the Philadelphia Evening Ledger.

There is no reason to assume that German success in Europe would put an end to what may be called the material evidences of civilization. Mechanical efficiency, scientific research, manufacturing in all its branches, agriculture, etc., would not be discouraged. It has been German policy to encourage them.

When men say that civilization itself is imperiled by the Germans, they mean kindness, generosity, mercy, unselfishness. The Kaiser's vast war machine has overleaped the restraints that twenty centuries of Christianity have built up. It stands for a morality which most people thought had been extirpated from the earth. It owes allegiance to a brutal code, which makes might right, takes no heed of the interests of others and seeks to extend indefinitely the domain of sword and gun. It comes into conflict with all modern ideas and ideals, and is opposed to that sort of progress which society for generations has endeavored to foster and encourage.

Were Europe threatened by barbarians whose success would mean the disruption of modern mechanics there would remain the hope that the barbarians themselves would be softened by contact with civilization and would soon be dominated by its ideals. But the Germans are already as highly civilized as any people on earth and acquainted with all principles that civilization teaches. The military caste has deliberately repudiated fundamental tenets with which it was fully conversant. Its success, therefore, would mean an end absolutely of the moral code heretofore prevalent, and would be a living, constant menace to Democratic ideals.

It is the spiritual, not the material, side of civilization that is threatened by the cataclysm in Europe.

Becker Has Chance to Tell.

From the Altoona Times.

With almost his last hope of escaping the electric chair taken from him, Becker, the former New York police captain, is said to contemplate making a complete confession of the inner workings of Gotham's police department, as well as giving his reasons for not taking the witness stand in his own behalf. From the outset of this sensational murder case it has been hinted that two important elements were contributing to the conviction of Becker and then to the obstruction of his efforts to regain his freedom through appeals to the courts and executive clemency. His extensive knowledge of underworld conditions made him a dangerous individual to be at large, and it is stated that he received very little support from his colleagues, who are steeped in the philosophy that "dead men tell no tales." On the other hand, his prosecutors have been convinced that before he faced the final ordeal his lips would be unlocked and there would be a sweeping revelation of facts that reformers have vainly sought.

If Becker has determined to betray his accomplices, it may eventually save his life. There are many persons in New York who believe that he merits a long term in prison, but who are loath to justify his conviction on the testimony of self-confessed murderers and crooks, who already have paid the penalty of their misdeeds. Prudence seems to dictate that a frank and full exposition of all the facts in his possession will best serve Becker at this time. There is a very remote possibility that Governor Whitman, who aided in his conviction, will intervene to save him from the death chair unless there is a very strong impelling reason for clemency.

What Biddy May Yet Achieve.

From Farm Life.

We have come to the conclusion that there is no limit to the farmer's accomplishments. He can do whatever he sets his head and heart upon. The 200 egg hen has already been replaced by the 300 egg hen, and in the course of time, whether we live to see it or not, some industrious little biddy will no doubt show up with a record of 365 eggs in a single year. We should not regard it as a miracle if we were to hear that a hen could lay even two eggs a day. There is no such thing as a biggest hog or a heaviest steer or a strongest horse. Somebody can always break the record—somebody always does it.

Why Hoosiers Rejoice.

From the Indianapolis News.

Notwithstanding wars and rumors of wars, it is not likely that everybody will be wholly downhearted with the season for Indiana-grown strawberries just beginning.

Etiquette and the Law.

From the Washington Post.

The Georgia sheriff who refuses to arrest a self-confessed lady shootist without a warrant can fall back on the plea that he was never introduced.

Last Thursday's heavy frosts, while freezing ice and nipping the gardens in Bellefonte and the farming districts of the county without doing any great amount of damage, froze the leaves on the trees and brush on Nittany mountain so that the woods look as if swept by fire. So far the frozen leaves show no signs of budding out again.

According to advices from the United States Department of Agriculture the seventeen year locusts are due to make their appearance in some of the eastern counties of Pennsylvania this year, but not in the central or western part of the State.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

-The voters of Lilly will soon consider the question of bonding the borough to the amount of \$30,000 to pay for street paving.

-The proposed increase of rates by the Mount Union Water company, objected to by citizens as excessive, has been sustained by the Public Service commission.

-Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Norton, of Jersey Shore, found a baby on their back porch the other evening and have determined to give it a home, at least for the present.

-A recent marriage in Johnstown was that of Noah Lenhart, aged 78, and Mrs. Margaret Longstreth, aged 71. They have taken a honeymoon trip to Niagara Falls.

-The borough of Reynoldsville has offered \$72,000 for the water plant owned by a local corporation, it being the intention of the town to operate a municipal water plant.

-Newport has had sixty-eight cases of typhoid fever as the result of the recent epidemic, six of which have been fatal, the last death having been that of Mrs. Mary Kepner, aged 48 years.

-William H. Walker, a Somerset county man, left his home two weeks ago, telling his wife he was going to Somerset to purchase an automobile. He has not been seen or heard of since.

-An Indiana county woman strenuously objected to paying a tax bill amounting to \$2.70. Later on her husband paid the tax and the costs of a prosecution, the whole bill amounting to \$12.82.

-A Williamsport alderman has decided that a man who refuses to obey the call of a fire warden to assist in fighting fire is guilty of a misdemeanor and must either pay a fine or go to prison.

-Neither Judge Hall nor Judge Heck will recognize the legality of the act annexing Clinton county to the Potter judicial district. The matter must be settled by the Supreme court, which now has it in hand.

-No less than eighteen Gallitzin lads—all aliens—were recently fined \$1.48 each for malicious mischief and for having robbed freight cars and stoned passenger trains of the Pennsylvania Railroad company.

-Mrs. E. Marshall, of Big Soldier, Clearfield county, undertook to rid herself of earthly existence by drinking a mixture of wood alcohol and bi-chloride of mercury. Although she was still living at last accounts, her recovery is not expected.

-It has been discovered that the Oshall farm, the scene of a more or less sanguinary battle between the Oshalls and the sheriff of Cambria county and his deputies some weeks ago, is in Clearfield county. The two Oshall girls now confined in the Cambria county jail will soon be released.

-The experiment station at Davidson, Westmoreland county, established by the H. C. Erick company about a year ago to extract chemical by-products from the sulphur waste of Mountz creek, has been abandoned. Theoretically the scheme was highly successful, but commercially it was a failure.

-Mrs. Catharine Dela, of Skysville, is an inmate of the DuBois hospital, where her leg has been amputated below the knee. She undertook to drive her cow across the railroad track in front of an approaching train. The cow got across all right, but the woman was caught and her leg crushed.

-The body of Francis Holloran, the Clinton county boy who was drowned in Bald Eagle creek nearly two weeks ago has been recovered, having been found floating on the surface of the water about two miles from where he is supposed to have fallen in. A reward of \$100 was offered for the body's recovery.

-Mrs. Daniel Dougherty, a resident of Newberry, became ill on a Williamsport street and was placed in a jitney, after temporary relief had been administered, and hurried towards her home. Half way there she died. She was a very large woman, weighing about 250 pounds. Death was due to heart disease.

-The application of Helen Boyle, serving twenty-five years for her part in the kidnapping of Willie Whittle, in Mercer county several years ago, has been listed for the meeting of the State Board of Pardons on June 15. The prisoner claims that she has been sufficiently punished for the part she took in the affair.

-In deciding a recent case brought against a mine owner for destroying the fish in a Somerset county stream by means of mine drainage, Judge Ruppel has decided that the law does not include mine drainage in its prohibitions, and since other causes of pollution are particularly specified, there can be no conviction for polluting a stream with mine drainage.

-At the recent session of the Danville district Epworth League convention an unfinished paper written by the late Miss Harriet Kerstetter, of Lewisburg, was read. The theme was "Rocks in the Epworth Highway." The author had started a quotation which began with the word "Heaven," when she laid down her pen for the last time. Next morning she was found dead in bed.

-A party of Pittsburgh capitalists have leased the farm of Jacob Leer, along the Carlisle turnpike two miles above York Springs, in the Cumberland valley, and will begin operations for the mining of magnetic ore in a short time. Negotiations have been in progress for some time and the necessary papers have been written and signed, giving the Pittsburgh men the right to take ore from the place.

-Somerset offices of the Quemaoning Coal company have received word to the effect that the big corporation has been awarded a contract for furnishing coal to the United States navy, a delivery to be made at Annapolis, Baltimore and Philadelphia. The company has numerous operations in the Somerset county field and all of them will be worked to the limit. The Quemaoning coal is unsurpassed for its steam-producing qualities.

-His fondness for dogs was almost the undoing of Charles Price, a watchman on the P. R. at Red Rock, near Anderson, one night recently, when he mistook a 200-pound bear for a large black dog that recently visited his box. Price was making his usual rounds when he heard a scratching noise in the ditch and in the uncertain light mistook the bear for a dog. Patting it on its shaggy head, he tendered taffy via the "good doggy" route. At the sound of the human voice Bruin let out a "woof-woof" and, tucking his head under, rolled down the embankment into the Juniata river. It was only after Price had turned the reflector of his searchlight on the swimming animal that he realized his danger.

-Thirteen self-confessed bounteous swindlers, from Wilcox, Elk county, who have been in the county jail since arrest several weeks ago, were sentenced by Judge Harry Alvan Hall on Saturday. Eleven of them received from one to two years in the western penitentiary while two others, on account of their age, received a suspended sentence for two years. Dr. Joseph Kalbfus, secretary of the State Game commission, in explaining the methods of the swindlers, said that hides of animals were bought by the men in ten cents each and that they would be taken to the office of a justice of the peace, where affidavits were made by the men, who would turn them in to their county commissioners for \$2 each. Deals were made in Westmoreland, Elk, Forest, Cambria, Shenango, Warren, Allegheny, Jefferson, Clearfield and Armstrong counties, according to Dr. Kalbfus, and the swindlers have been plying their scheme in the State for the last two years, reaping a harvest estimated at \$75,000.