

INK SLINGS.

It is no more America's "dollar diplomacy." It is America's dollar supremacy.

Of course we are not at war with any people, but we are doing a lot of shooting over the border in Texas.

Summer's drawing to a close. The fall is coming on. And soon we'll have to shovel snow. Where now we mow the lawn.

If, as Senator REED has recently declared, "no Nation is safe on account of its treaties," what's the use in signing them at all.

Reindeer are said to be more numerous than horses in Norway. But what of that. Horses are more numerous than reindeer in Pennsylvania.

With the mercury taking a drop from 90 degrees to 44 degrees in less than twenty-four hours do you wonder that you weren't feeling quite fit on Wednesday morning.

Why should the Allies declare cotton to be contraband of war in order to keep the American product out of Germany and Austria? Both Germany and Austria declare that they are getting nothing from America.

And JESS WILLARD, the mighty champion of the squared-ring is traveling with a circus. By the Marquis of Queensbury, this is awful. For years we were hunting a "white hope" but we never expected to see him sitting up beside the bearded lady and the human skeleton under a white top.

The lynching of LEO FRANK at Marietta, Georgia, on Monday night, was atrocious. Only cowards could have taken a life that was so weakened by a recent murderous assault upon him. The men who imagined themselves heroes in the perpetration of such a heinous outrage will find themselves scourged by public sentiment everywhere.

The writer of our weekly budget from Rebersburg has called to their own defense a party of young gentlemen from Millheim who appear to be quite in favor with some of the fair ones of Rebersburg. Knowing absolutely nothing of the situation the WATCHMAN proposes to sit tight, see fair play and let them go to it through its columns. The first wallop the Millheim "sports" take at our Rebersburg purveyor of pleasantries happily reveal their intention of soaking him with the pen rather than the mitts.

The husband of a New Jersey woman failed in business twenty-five years ago. She pulled the wreck together, got it started again and has just celebrated the quarter century anniversary of a wonderfully successful business career. During the big noise that was made at the celebration she was also given credit with having raised fifteen children in the meantime. It seems to us that the old man deserves honorable mention, at least. He may have been a failure in the mercantile business, but not everyone gets into the vocation that he is best adapted for at the first trial.

The imperial German government is reported to have purchased Cramp's ship yards at Camden. If there is any truth in the rumor the purchase was made, of course, to make the manufacture of supplies for the Allies no longer possible at that plant. While that would be one way of getting even with the Allies we fancy that if it were carried very far the result would cause serious labor problems in this country. Were the Germans to buy the Bethlehem Steel Co., our large tractor and ammunition manufacturers, they would not use their products themselves because it could not be transported to Germany. Consequently their only object in purchase would be to close them so that they could no longer make supplies for the Allies who have ways of transportation. Imagine what a serious labor problem the closing of such plants would precipitate and you will get an idea of what Germany, or any other government, buying American industrial plants would mean.

The replies of the various candidates for judicial position in Centre county to the questions propounded by a committee representing the Temperance vote, which appear in another column of this paper, are interesting. Possibly, they lay mind, the questions, themselves, will appear of most interest, for the reason that they do not make the radical demands that oftentimes are made by propagandists of one sort or another and really, they do not seem to desire more of the Judge to be elected than to know if more people of good character sign a remonstrance against the granting of a certain license than there are names of people of good character on the application for said license whether the Judge-to-be will refuse the license on that ground, Mr. JOHNSTON and Mr. DALE have answered to the effect that they would refuse a license purely on the relative number and character of the petitioners for and against. The others say they would consider such petitions as factors in determining the need of a license. At a meeting of the organization of which the committee that addressed the letter to the candidates is the creature it was decided to support Mr. JOHNSTON for Judge; the vote, we believe, having been 30 to 6, but it failed of being made unanimous.

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Neutrality Question Settled.

One sentence in the note of Secretary of State LANSING in his reply to the complaint of Austria-Hungary against the sale of munitions of war to the allies of France completely answers all the objections raised in Vienna and Berlin. "This government is reluctant to believe," writes the Secretary, "that the Imperial and Royal government will ascribe to the United States a lack of impartial neutrality in continuing its legitimate trade in all kinds of supplies used to render the armed forces of a belligerent efficient, even though the circumstances of the present war prevent Austria-Hungary from obtaining such supplies from the markets of the United States, which have been and remain, so far as the action and the policy of this government are concerned, open to all belligerents alike."

If the government of the United States were to issue an order forbidding the sale of munitions of war to one belligerent and not to the other, it would be partial and unneutral. An order prohibiting the exportation of munitions altogether, in the event that one belligerent had facilities to supply itself and the other hadn't, would be equally violative of neutrality and certainly inimical to our own industrial life. The only real neutrality is expressed in the declared policy of the United States government to offer an open market to all who desire to buy and equal opportunity to purchase. If one belligerent is unable to purchase, either because it is unable to secure delivery or hasn't money to pay, the other ought not to be deprived of its chance to obtain what it wants on terms that are open to both, so far as we are concerned.

It is not the fault of the government of the United States that Germany, Austria-Hungary and Turkey are unable to obtain goods from makers across the sea because of the greater sea power of the other belligerent. Citizens of the United States manufacture goods for sale and offer them in an open market to all who want to buy. To say that one customer may not buy because another can't would be putting the penalty of the faults of both upon the American manufacturer. In view of these obvious facts the note of Secretary of State LANSING is a complete answer both to Vienna and Berlin and further correspondence upon the subject would be a waste of time and labor. As the diplomats say, "it is a closed incident."

It takes half a day to sing China's national hymn and three minutes to sing America. And that is just about as far behind America as China is in everything else.

"Don't Kick the Dog."

An esteemed Philadelphia contemporary, the highest aspiration of which is to be a wet nurse for trusts, is greatly perturbed because of a rumor that several more or less extensive steel plants are about to combine under the management of Mr. SCHWAB, to compete with the Steel trust, the pet creation of the late Mr. J. PIERPONT MORGAN. "Don't kick the dog," says our Philadelphia contemporary, and, it adds, "there comes a point where enlargement of size no longer adds to efficiency." The time is probably when a pet project is about to encounter an antagonist equal in proportion, energy and efficiency to itself.

"By a curious circumstance," says our contemporary, "United States Steel itself supplies the best arguments against the welding together of its smaller although formidable rivals. Trade and mill statistics prove that there are no economies which United States Steel may practice that the Cambria and Bethlehem and the others mentioned may not put into effect. The fact is that all these big plants can and do compete successfully with United States Steel in every market." But it is not because they are smaller. It is for the reason that they were honestly conducted.

The United States Steel trust was more than half water and for the reason that no individual concern is big enough to compete with it it maintains prices of steel products at a level which enables it to pay dividends upon the vast volume of water pumped into it at its organization. Mr. CARNEGIE gave Mr. FRICK an option on his steel properties at precisely half the amount which MORGAN subsequently paid. Presumably the other units were bought under similar conditions and the products must pay for this load. The amalgamation talked of would compel the pumping out of the water and reduce prices to a fair level.

There was a decided change in the atmosphere on Tuesday which became so cold by Wednesday morning that a slight frost was noticed in some portions of Centre county. Fortunately it was not heavy enough to do any damage.

An Interesting Write-up of Happenings at Harrisburg.

HARRISBURG, PA., August 18th, 1915.

No recent incident has shaken the political centre known as Capitol Hill so severely as the appointment of THOMAS B. SMITH, of Philadelphia to, the office of Public Service Commissioner. "It's just like taking your watch to a blacksmith's shop for repairs," remarked an experienced politician and long time public official. Of all men who have fallen into the office-holding habit TOM SMITH is the last one who would come into a rational mind for that service. He served as postmaster of Philadelphia and made a fairly good PENROSE agent. But he is absolutely without experience or other qualification for the service to which he has been called. But the surprise at his appointment doesn't come from the conviction that he is incapable. As a matter of fact fitness receives the least consideration in making appointments. The surprise was that BRUMBAUGH had plunged headlong into the dirty pool of Philadelphia machine politics. There was no real fight on between the VARES and McNICHOL for the Mayoralty nomination. The false pretense of a difference was set up for the purpose of getting a candidate who would serve both interests and fool the people into the belief that he would serve neither. This required a good deal of manipulation and to pull it off the Governor was dragged into the conspiracy.

Four years ago when GEORGE H. EARLE defeated BILL VARE for the nomination the VARE followers couldn't be reconciled and a Mayor was elected who was quite as averse to one boss as to another so that both the contracting firms suffered. Mr. SMITH is entirely willing to be the candidate of both McNICHOL and VARE and they are equally willing to accept him in full confidence that under the circumstances he will be fair to both. Four years ago he fought VARE for the nomination, but he was PENROSE's postmaster at the time and is one of those persons who "stay bought." This year he was free to enter into any sort of combination that seemed expedient or promised advantage. With McNICHOL's consent, therefore, he threw out a life-line to VARE which was accepted.

The friendship of VARE was a negligible asset, however, in the face of the antagonism of McNICHOL and PENROSE and after giving the proper assurances of allegiance to his old boss SMITH induced McNICHOL to offer him to VARE as a compromise candidate. But the support of both contractors left him in doubt unless he could obtain a certificate of character from some respectable source and Attorney General BROWN was appealed to. Out of his prolific brain came the solution of the problem. There was a vacancy on the Board of Public Service Commissioners. An appointment to that position by a political purist like BRUMBAUGH would be unimpeachable evidence of his respectability and as BRUMBAUGH was enjoying himself in Maine, nothing could be easier.

The only perceptible "fly in the ointment" was the uncertainty of the temper of the VARE "cohorts." Suppose they would pursue the same course as they adopted in 1911? Mr. BROWN was equal to this emergency, also. He inserted into the letter tendering SMITH the seat on the Public Service Board a statement that the suggestion came from Congressman VARE and Senator VARE, thus binding the VARE followers to SMITH "with hooks of steel." It was not necessary to fool the PENROSE and McNICHOL adherents. They may be relied upon to "stand without hitching," and would vote for one candidate as freely as another, if the boss' interests were conserved thereby. It looks now as if the whole fabric may tumble down, however.

In other words there are grave doubts concerning the adequacy of the BRUMBAUGH certificate of character. The newspapers of Philadelphia have emitted a roar which is still reverberating in the mountains of Maine. The Governor has appealed to public sentiment to await his explanation and public sentiment is somewhat disposed to refuse his request. Meantime Mr. SMITH has been hanging around the capitol hoping for an opportunity to break into the pay roll on a basis of ten thousand dollars per year. He can't connect, of course, until his commission is duly signed and in the absence of the Governor the commission can't be signed. The Governor will be here this week, however, and when he comes there may be something doing. In any event things look different now.

A report of the crops in Pennsylvania as to August 5 has been issued by the Department of Agriculture. The Hessian fly damaged the wheat in half the counties of the State but the loss from that source this year will only be half what it was last year. The greatest damage was done in Berks county. There were 1,105,000 acres in oats this year and the yield averaged 34.5 bushels to the acre. The corn crop will be 2,000,000 bushels short of that of last year and six per cent. short of the average for ten years. The average will be only 37 bushels to the acre. The 277,200 acres sown in buckwheat this year will produce 5,448,500 bushels and there will be 5,020,000 tons of hay from 3,015,000 acres of meadow. Tobacco shows a decrease in acreage and product and potato production will average 89.6 bushels to the acre, a total of 24,493,000 bushels.

Professor SURFACE, State Zoologist, has discovered that the bee disease known as "foul brood" is prevalent among bees in Pennsylvania to a considerable extent and is setting out to provide a remedy. He estimates that there are about 105,000 hives of bees in the State. Last year more than 19,000 colonies were inspected and 870, in forty-one counties, were infected. Dr. SURFACE estimates that the bees of the State and the fixtures used in caring for them are worth a million dollars. They produce \$1,000,000 worth of honey a year and are worth an equal amount in fruit production.

The Department of Labor has begun issuing pamphlets like those of the Health and Agricultural departments and S. S. RIDDLE, of Bloomsburg, has been appointed Department editor. We are moving toward a time when government will do everything for the citizen and the citizen will have nothing to do but get poor.

By a ruling of the Attorney General's office, handed down yesterday, interpreting an amendment to the Mothers' Pension law passed during the last session of the Legislature, only mothers whose husbands are dead or permanently confined to a hospital for the insane are eligible for pensions. Heretofore mothers deserted by their husbands could claim under the law and much good was accomplished under that provision. The Attorney General has also decided that County Commissioners must make the necessary provision to put the law into force. Very many boards of Commissioners had neglected or refused to do so.

The petitions for judicial candidates are coming in now in numbers. Those most numerous signed are for Judges HEAD and ORLADY, candidates for re-nomination to the Superior court bench. It looks as if the bar of the State is practically unanimous for these two jurists and they are exceedingly popular with others.

The Governor's junket to San Francisco is scheduled for next week, but a considerable number of those who were expected to participate will not do so. The party will not have returned in time to take a commanding part in the primary campaign and there is a great deal of interest in the local candidates everywhere. The Bull Moosers as a rule are returning to their former parties but in Dauphin county they are trying to form an alliance with the Democrats. Four years ago the Democrats and Keystoneers fused and elected every county office that was filled except one, that of District Attorney. Probably the proposed new combination will accomplish the same result.

An important political campaign will soon be here. Subscribe for the WATCHMAN and get the authentic news fresh every week.

Roumania Slipping.

From the Altoona Times.

It seems evident that the next neutral country to go over to the allies will be Roumania. The only reason she hasn't joined them already is said to be a desire to harvest her grain before plunging into the conflict. The crops in all the Balkan states except Serbia, whose agriculture has been prostrated by the war, are said to be bountiful.

It may be that similar considerations are holding back Bulgaria and Greece, although their problems are more complicated. It is even possible that those two nations will remain neutral throughout the war. As for any of the three joining the German allies, there seems not the slightest possibility of it. The most German diplomats hope for is to prevent their ranging themselves with their enemies.

The latest move in Roumania shows clearly which way the war wind is blowing. Turkey is seriously short of ammunition, and the Constantinople campaign may hinge on her getting supplies quickly. Germany is reported to have forwarded thousands of cars loaded with munitions, confident that Roumania would let them pass through. But Roumania held them all up at her border, where they are now congesting the Austrian railways. Cars that happened to pass the frontier were seized and the contents confiscated. The Germans have tried to ship rifles concealed by false sides and bottoms in freight cars, but the Roumanians have foiled that ruse. Shipments of German beer to Constantinople have been stopped since the Roumanians found the beer kegs filled with cartridges and shells.

Roumania's decision seems not to be affected by the present discouraging plight of the allies. Like Italy, she is planning to join them when their fortunes are low, particularly Russia's. It cannot be said, therefore, that she is picking a "sure winner" and aiming to share the spoils of victory with little effort. She seems actuated less by the expectation that the allies will win than by fear that, without her help, Austria and Turkey—her natural enemies—might win. Like Italy, she doesn't dare to take the risk of a Teuton victory.

Brumbaugh's Blunder.

From the Public Ledger.

Philadelphia had a right to expect better things of Governor Brumbaugh than that he would make of himself and the powers of his high office mere pawns in the selfish game of politics now being played by the gang bosses of this city. Were there no other complications to affect the issue, the selection of ex-Postmaster Thomas B. Smith to be a member of the Public Service Commission would have been a flagrant blunder; but under the circumstances of the appointment, it becomes something far more serious. Mr. Smith is absolutely without the essential qualifications called for by the office into which he has been catapulted. The correspondence between the Governor and Mr. Smith leaves no loophole for escape from the conclusion that one of the most important offices in the gift of the Governor has not only been unworthily filled, but has been used to serve a sinister purpose. Why did Governor Brumbaugh deem it necessary to explain to Mr. Smith that Congressman VARE and Senator VARE were his political sponsors for the commission? Why was it necessary to brag into the offer a reference to the Mayoralty or to exact a pledge that Mr. Smith would stick to the office that was tendered him?

Governor Brumbaugh's participation in a transaction of this sort will be a sad disappointment to thousands of his fellow-citizens who found in his veto record during the last session an earnest of higher ideals and who believed that he was incapable of "playing politics" of the too familiar Philadelphia gang type. If the Governor cherishes political ambitions he has taken the most effective means of destroying whatever chances he may have had to be regarded as a possible factor in national politics. By tying himself to the "piggy politics" of the South Philadelphia bosses he has placed upon himself a brand which he will find it extremely difficult to erase.

The Cost of War.

From the Springfield Republican.

The extent to which money is wasted in buying war supplies is illustrated by the statement made in Washington by Senator Reed, of Missouri, that the farmers of his State have sold all qualities of second-grade horses and mules at double prices for export to Europe.

Human Ingenuity.

From the Providence Tribune.

Dope is being supplied to prisoners in the starch with which their shirts are stiffened in home laundries, and the prisoners have been literally eating their shirts to get the benefit of the drug. Human ingenuity finds expression in many and devious ways.

The Double Trip.

From the Detroit Free Press.

A man claims that he lent Andrew Carnegie a dollar when he first came across and the Steel King has never paid him. If the story is true it is certainly true that the canny Scot came across again.

Slit Skirts Out of Style, Too.

From the Wheeling Intelligencer.

The war in Europe seems to be all over but the shooting.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

The effort to raise \$30,000 for the projected Maple Avenue hospital in DuBois, closed Saturday night last with more than the needed sum pledged. It is believed the amount will reach \$40,000.

Mrs. Louisa West, of Oaks, Montgomery county, who has four great grand children and one great-great-grand child, celebrated the centennial of her birth last Wednesday and still has good eyesight.

William Rinkvich, serving a year in the Westmoreland county jail for robbing a post office, escaped the other day and has not been heard of since. He was a model prisoner and had been employed as a "trustee."

The coal and brick industries in Clearfield county are recovering rapidly from the depression which struck them a year or more ago. The brick trade is exceptionally active, and many of the great plants in and around Clearfield are working full time or over.

Rev. Dr. Jonathan R. Dimm, who has been in the active work of the ministry for fifty-six years, thirty-one of which have been spent as pastor of the Lutheran church at Shamokin Dam, has retired to private life. He was the first president of Susquehanna University.

It is said that W. F. Wagner, of Coalport, caught 3,112 trout during the season recently closed. They were all exceptionally large, three-fourths of them measuring over ten inches. No diagrams or affidavits accompanied this fish tale, but we put it on for what it's worth.

Wilbur Seger, a Westmoreland county man who got into trouble a few Sundays ago because he became intoxicated and then undertook to drive a motor car, had a similar adventure last Sunday and was again visibly intoxicated. The state authorities should lift his license.

At a Jefferson county mining camp much beer was consumed the other night during the progress of a dance. Finally an Italian named Orico Zama became wild and stabbed four of his compatriots. Two were seriously hurt, one of whom, Gido Pasharini, will probably die.

When the Jefferson county court came to try the libel case against S. H. Whitehill instituted by L. Mayne Jones, president of the No License League, the prosecution declined to offer any evidence, where-upon the jury acting under instruction by the court returned a verdict of not guilty.

Charles H. Williamson, the hobo who shot and killed a boy in Jefferson county, was found guilty of murder in the second degree. It is said he made a very bad impression upon all who saw or heard him during the progress of the trial. He was sentenced to serve fifteen years in the penitentiary.

Spangler was visited by a costly blaze Tuesday morning that destroyed the National hotel for the second time within a year, as well as the Gray livery stable, and badly damaged the furniture store of A. P. Weyland. The loss will be in the neighborhood of \$70,000, a portion of which is covered by insurance.

Joseph Pickolo, aged 15, a resident of Johnstown, was arrested on Wednesday afternoon. Every member of the Pickolo family is now in custody. The mother is in jail at Ebensburg; one of her sons is in the Huntingdon reformatory; another is in an industrial school in Baltimore; three others are in the children's home in Greensburg.

Edward Emigh, of Morrisdale, Clearfield county, employed as a motorman at the Morrisdale coal company's No. 3 shaft, was knocked off the motor in some way, sustaining a fracture of the skull, a broken collar bone and a broken arm. He was removed to the Phillipsburg hospital and is in a critical condition. He is aged 36 and is married.

James Burlett, aged 9, and Paul Rhinich, aged 10, were asphyxiated in the dome of an tank car, standing in the railroad yards at Somerset last Saturday evening. They had been playing about the tank and evidently fell in. Their bodies were not found until Sunday morning, although parents and townspeople had spent hours in searching for them.

A member of her family instituted proceedings against Miss May Elliot, widow of the late daughter of a former mayor of the city, who had declared an habitual drunkard. The attention of the court was absorbed by the case for several hours but the jury found the lady not guilty of the charge, so that she will be permitted to manage her own affairs.

Following the arrest, conviction and sentence to the penitentiary of Earnest Carlson, in connection with the series of Grass Flat robberies, George Every and James Henry were also placed under arrest on the same charge. Every at Clearfield on Monday was found guilty, and sentenced to the penitentiary for a period of from 1 1/2 to 5 years. Henry is out on bail awaiting trial.

Seven men of the P. R. R. track gang, four Americans, Ralph Kittenhouse, Henry B. Honstine and Harmon R. Bookwalter, of Huntingdon, and three Austrians, were killed Friday morning and Frank McCool, as a result of stepping in front of the fast Keystone express in trying to get out of the way of a work train coming on the track on which they were working just a little below Mt. Union.

Catherine Miller, the youngest of the quartette of jail breakers who gave Indiana county so much trouble, made her escape one morning last week, this time from the Willard home in Indiana, whither Judge Telford, sympathetic with her extreme youth, had sentenced her after her recapture. She carried \$100 belonging to an employee of the home when she left, but was captured at Tarentum. She was immediately taken to Allegheny county.

While participating in the festivities of the Ozceola Presbyterian Sunday school picnic, at Onondola Grove, Arnold Allard was struck on the head by a pitched ball. At first he was not supposed to be seriously hurt, but later on it became necessary to rush him to the Phillipsburg hospital where it was found that his skull was fractured and a blood clot had formed on the brain. An operation was performed but he is still in a critical condition.

Grant McClellan has a saw mill on the J. L. Gwin estate farm in Juniata Gap, being engaged in converting the mammoth oak trunks of the estate into switch ties, boards and slabs. A huge oak cut on Saturday, 338 years old, according to James Gwin who was able, with the aid of a magnifying glass, to count the years growth. If Mr. Gwin's count is right, the tree was a sapling of twenty-seven years when the first English settlement was made in America.

Ben Bracken, William McDonald, William Lane, Fred Gleason and Eugene Gleason, all from Barnesboro, and Calvin Miller, near Colver, are in jail at Barnesboro, charged with complicity in the attempt to hold up Paymaster Fred Vinton, of the Greenwich Coal and Coke company, and the shooting of Private Blucher, of the state police near Garmantown, Saturday morning. A seventh man, Harvey Miller, is being sought by the state constabulary.

An automobile run by Barr Snyder, of Huntingdon, and containing six other persons, got uncontrollable a short distance this side of Belleville, last Sunday and ran over an embankment. Snyder was uninjured; Mrs. Snyder had two fingers of her left hand almost torn off; Frank Dugan received a cut above the left eye and was bruised; his wife was uninjured. Miss Olive Snyder, of Omaha, had her nose broken; Mrs. H. B. Miller was badly bruised and had a leg broken; George Snyder had a couple of teeth loosened. It is a wonder all seven were not killed.