

BY P. GRAY MEEK.

INK SLINGS.

—The thing that Dr. DUMBA seems to need most is a good, swift kick in the tail.

—Just a dozen more days for the fellows who hope to get nominated to get in their licks.

—There are eighteen thousand nine hundred and ninety-nine species of fish in the world. And in addition to these there is the sucker.

—The Grand Duke of Russia is probably merely getting into condition for the Marathon race at the first Olympia meet after the war is ended.

—It is beginning to look as though farmers who expect to get any fall seeding done will have to get gum boots for themselves and their horses.

—The Germans have been so close to the rear of the Russian bear for the past two months that they might have caught him often had there been any tail hold.

—Anyway HARRY THAW has been heard of less since being given his freedom than when he was within the pale of the law. There's some satisfaction in that.

—If Austria is to tell citizens of the United States that they may and may not do what's the meaning of renouncing Austria and swearing allegiance to the United States?

—COLE BLEASE is running for Governor of North Carolina again. What for? There are no more prisoners to liberate down there and that is about all he was good for the last time he mis-governed that State.

—The reply of Judge ORVIS to the interrogations of Brother SHUEY and Elder POTTER isn't quite as explicit as it might have been. The Judge has been on the bench long enough to know that facts, not innuendo, are acceptable as evidence.

—Many people will be surprised to learn that the Eastman Kodak company is the country's largest buyer of silver, next to the United States mint. In other words, it takes nearly as much silver to make kodak films as it does to make money.

—A Yorkshire college boy is credited with the following: "Before the war England was a land of pleasure, now it is a land of prayer." If the war has really done that much good for merrie England possibly it would be just as well if it were not terminated too soon.

—We have inside information to the effect that the Republican county organization is so sure of capturing all the county offices in the fall that already the clerks, janitors, tip-staves, etc., are selected for the various positions to be filled. We have often heard that it is terribly bad luck to buy the carriage before the baby is born.

—Dr. SURFACE says that clingstone peaches cling tighter and freestones are less free in a wet season. Here is a fact behind which the fruit vendor can fly when the irate housewife discovers that the peaches he sold her for freestones were really clings. You know most women get hot when they are taken that ride and most women have had it.

—Isn't it rather an interesting matter that during all of the expressions of opinion concerning our relations with Germany, England and Mexico the man who has been best informed has had least to say. Nearly everybody of any consequence has been belying about something and the great man in the White House has been silent. His silence has proven the old saying that deeds speak louder than words, for has not his superior diplomacy accomplished all that our government set out to accomplish and kept us out of war with all of the countries where there was danger of such a calamity.

—An unknown took MITCHELL GARDNER a ride on Sunday that he will not soon forget. MITCHELL was motoring to Gettysburg and when he reached Harrisburg he inquired of a stranger the best route to take to his destination. He was informed that the best road was via Carlisle and his informant also stated that as he was just on his way to that place he would ride along and guide our touring motorist. When Carlisle was reached the stranger disappeared and still at a loss to know how to get to Gettysburg, MITCHELL made further inquiry only to find out that he had been taken considerably out of the direct route and over the very worst roads in all that country.

—We have reason to believe that at least some of, possibly, many people, have misconstrued recent articles appearing in the WATCHMAN concerning the work of Bellefonte policemen. We have learned that some of our readers thought we were "roasting" the officers. Such was certainly not our intention because we do not believe that they need a "roasting." As a matter of fact the WATCHMAN thinks we have a splendid police force and has said so repeatedly. Our reference to what were merely slight derelictions was intended merely to keep the men in blue jacked up a little. We are all human and all of us liable to fall into ruts and more especially policemen in a small town like Bellefonte where there is so little for officers of the law to do.

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The Conspiracy to Fear.

With the McNICHOL and VARE machines in absolute control of the Republican party in Philadelphia and the OLIVER and FLINN forces joining together to seize control of the party in Pittsburgh, it is about time for self-respecting citizens of Pennsylvania to prepare for a raid upon the resources of the people. There is no immediate danger of foreign invasion and no actual necessity for greatly increasing the army and navy. But when piratical combinations like that already consummated in Philadelphia and contemplated in Pittsburgh are in view, there is danger of raids upon the public treasury and the private rights of every individual not actually participating in the conspiracy.

Probably Senator McNICHOL and Senator VARE have no present thought beyond the profits in municipal contracts in forming their surprising alliance. Possibly BILL FLINN doesn't look for much more than a share in the contracting business in Pittsburgh and neighboring counties. But Senator PENROSE, who pulls the strings on McNICHOL and VARE, and Senator OLIVER, who operates FLINN, or will under the combination, have wider and more varied interests in the political combinations formed and forming. Senator PENROSE and Senator OLIVER may not be entirely in harmony of purpose themselves, but it is certain that both of them are aiming at political control of the State for selfish purposes.

Self-preservation is the first law of nature and when party buccaneers like these join together to despoil the public the people should promptly unite for the purpose of defeating the conspirators. It is as certain as day that the success of the conspiracy means the looting of the State. Then why should good citizens sit quietly while the preparations to rob are in progress? When the preparations are completed it will be too late to protest. Highwaymen never listen to sermons while rifling their victims' pockets. These political pirates will not be restrained of their purpose after their plans are completed. But if the people unite against them now the plans will fail.

—The worst has happened. Last week we announced our fear that WILLARD HALL would not survive the waves that that big IRA BURKETT made when he jumped into the political pond at the last minute to grab the nomination for Prothonotary. WILLARD was drowned, politically. He couldn't keep his head above the water and down he went, right out of the race.

Let us All Rejoice.

The practical settlement of the dispute with Germany upon the terms laid down by the President, the voluntary acceptance by the government of Great Britain of the American demand with respect to the commercial rights of neutrals and the substantial adjustment of Mexican problems, mark WOODROW WILSON as the greatest diplomatist of his day and generation. As another distinguished statesman has said no President since LINCOLN has encountered such vexed problems or borne such distressing burdens. Yet he has quietly and patiently proceeded with the solution of the problems as they arose and is now emerging from under a cloud of doubt triumphant.

We might have had war with Germany, England and Mexico simultaneously or with either of them separately. In either event the cost in life and treasure would have been immense. War with Mexico would have been a long drawn out struggle against bands of semi-savage guerrillas, the ultimate conquest of whom would have reflected no credit upon the country and afforded no recompense for the cost. War with either Germany or Great Britain would mean a bloody encounter with kin involving sacrifices too great to contemplate. President WILSON has rescued us from all of these dangers and disasters by the exercise of wise statesmanship, profound patience and superior diplomacy.

But the escape from danger is not the greatest achievement of our splendid President. The honor which comes to our country from all points in which civilization prevails, is the supreme source of satisfaction. What glory could be hoped for from the conquest of Mexico? What distinction would we have acquired by a prolonged and exhausting war with Germany or England? There would have been sorrowing households and mourning mothers and widows in every part of our broad land and little else as reward for savagery. These perils have been averted, thank heaven, because of the great intellect and splendid heart of our President, WOODROW WILSON. Let us all rejoice.

—For high class Job Work come to the WATCHMAN Office.

An Interesting Write-up of happenings at Harrisburg.

HARRISBURG, PA., September, 8th, 1915.

"Tom" SMITH has "jumped his job." That is to say the Philadelphia politician of that name who was appointed Public Utility Commissioner as the result of a rotten deal, has resigned, the purpose of his appointment having been accomplished, in so far as it could be. The two contracting bosses, McNICHOL and VARE, having arranged for a division of the spoils of the municipal administration for four years, wanted SMITH for Mayor. But SMITH as he was known to the public was impossible. No respectable citizen "would touch him with a forty-foot pole." To give him the semblance of reputation, therefore, the bosses made Governor BRUMBAUGH appoint him to the important place from which he resigned yesterday. It was a shameful prostitution of power.

SMITH was appointed three weeks ago but never sat in a session of the Board. He did occupy an easy chair in the office of the Commission two or three times and has already, or will, draw six or seven hundred dollars out of the treasury as salary for his services. But that is only a incident. The Republican machine is in the habit of making the State pay its campaign expenses and the managers seem to think that this was an important campaign service. And if the voters of Philadelphia "fall for the play," the boss estimate will be accurate. In no other way could McNICHOL and VARE bind and gag Father PENN as this atrocious trick will have done, in that event. TOM SMITH would have had no greater chance of election, upon his merits, than SAM SALTER or DAVE LANE.

But McNICHOL and VARE imagined that a BRUMBAUGH "brand" would serve to sanctify him. In other words these corrupt conspirators made themselves believe that an appointment to an important office by a Governor who was apparently getting away with a false pretense of righteousness would fool enough voters as to his character and capacity to elect SMITH Mayor. And after that the deluge. Four years of "good stealing," would be plenty and the election of SMITH would guarantee that. Possibly their expectations will be fulfilled. Philadelphia voters are a stupid lot and how they do love graft? The tariff variety is preferred, of course, but any sort is better than no plunder and SMITH may be elected just to gratify an insatiable appetite for graft.

A joint meeting of the members of the State Workmen's Compensation board and the Workmen's Compensation Insurance board was held in the office of the Attorney General yesterday. The object of the meeting was to discuss the methods of operation of these boards when the law creating them becomes effective in January next. HARRY A. MACKAY, of Philadelphia; JOHN A. SCOTT, of Indiana, and JAMES W. LEECH, of Ebensburg, compose the Compensation board and Insurance Commissioner JOHNSON, Commissioner of Labor and Industry JACKSON, and State Treasurer YOUNG the Insurance board. It was arranged at yesterday's meeting to hold another informal meeting immediately after the return of the Governor from his Western trip. His excellency wants a voice in the distribution of patronage.

Commissioner of Health DIXON throws bouquets in big bunches to middle-aged and elderly men in his talk on health and hygiene this week for which in behalf of the said m. a. and e. m., many thanks. "For all that has been said to the contrary," Dr. DIXON declares, "this is the middle-aged man's day. You can talk of the early recognition of competence of youthful success, and what does it all mean but that a man reaches middle age with more years of successful endeavor behind." But the Doctor lays down conditions as he lays "this flattering unction" to our souls. We must take plenty of exercise and live temperately, which is all right. But he wants us to play golf and compete with JOHN D. in other frivolities and "there's the rub."

By the same token the State Health Department is not scoring its usual success in fighting the typhoid epidemic at the Danville Insane hospital, though in the absence of evidence upon the subject we are inclined to absolve Dr. DIXON from blame in the premises. The Department was certainly prompt in responding to the call for relief and as energetic as possible in applying the remedies. But its investigations thus far have failed to reveal the source of the evil or check its progress. One of the cooks in the institution is now among the victims and there is a suspicion that he brought the contagion into the place. But even the attending physicians refuse to assert this as a fact and meantime the malady is spreading throughout the neighborhood.

The jitney problem like Banquo's ghost refuses to efface itself. Some weeks ago it came to the Public Service Commission from Williamsport but before it was considered the petition was withdrawn. Now it is here on complaint of the Scranton Railways company which alleges that "three jitneys are being operated in suburban Scranton in competition with their lines." Of course the right of these vehicles to serve as public carriers will have to be settled sooner or later and probably the sooner the better. But in this town, where there are hundreds of them running in every direction, they have proved an excellent utility and ruling them out without substantial reason would be resented by the public. Regulate them or cut them but don't strangle them.

The Suffragettes have sent out notice from the headquarters here that October 1 will be "Dollar Day for Suffrage." That means that every man and woman in the State who believes in female suffrage is expected to contribute a dollar on that day to the campaign fund. According to gossip the Suffragettes are not particular as to the source, character or previous reputation of the dollar. The order is to save or beg the dollar and probably no questions will be asked if it is stolen. Be that as it may the several local organizations are urged to get busy on that day and it is a safe bet that all other tag collection enterprises will be backed off the record by this one. The Suffragettes are some collectors and they know that political campaigns require money.

Health Commissioner DIXON has begun the enforcement of the act passed during the last session of the Legislature to "protect the patrons of hotels and eating houses," by enforcing sanitary conditions and pure food. Boards of Health in all boroughs and cities have been furnished with copies of the law and instructed to make inspections at once. The act prohibits the employment by hotels or eating houses in the capacity of cook, waiter, chambermaid, kitchen help or other house servant any individual suffering from communicable or loathsome diseases. It requires that the proprietors of such establishments "shall institute and maintain a medical inspection of employees at intervals of at least twice a year. It also requires the cleansing of dishes and utensils.

The freight traffic of the Pennsylvania railroad for August shows an increase of 58,610 tons over the same business for August 1914 which is a daily average of 1891 tons. This a hard blow to the calamity howlers and disarranges Senator PENROSE's plan of campaign for next year.

—That was a regular seventy-five centimetre shot Mr. JOHNSTON fired at Aunt CLEMENTINA at the temperance meeting on Tuesday afternoon when he stated that had Mr. DALE been endorsed by the temperance people at their meeting several weeks ago he (Mr. JOHNSTON) would have immediately withdrawn from the race. Perhaps!

—Not enough of members of borough council could be gotten together on Monday evening to hold a meeting.

—There is a State of Tobasco in Mexico and just now it is about the hottest place this side of

—They are all good enough, but the WATCHMAN is always the best.

Our Most Eminent Cowards.

From the New York World. Cowards die many times before their deaths; The valiant never taste of death but once. —Julius Caesar.

The most eminent cowards in the United States today are the extremists in the military preparedness. They are afraid of everybody. They live in quaking and abject terror of everything.

Their weird imagination concocts invasions of the United States by Germany, with the Atlantic seacoast defenseless and billions of dollars in wealth at the mercy of the Kaiser. They see the troops of Japan landing in endless procession off the Pacific coast and marching eastward to overwhelm the Caucasian race. After Europe has bled itself white in the most devastating war of history, they picture the staggering and exhausted victor moving upon the United States in order to obtain the gold that he could get in half the time, without spilling a drop of blood, by peaceful methods of trading and commerce.

Hobgoblins are hidden behind every lamp-post, ready to spring upon a weak nation. Ghosts flitter through the highways and haunt the righteous. Nobody is a patriot whose skin is not pimpled with gooseflesh that is bred of terror. Every man who goes to sleep at night without looking under the bed for a German or a British or a Japanese spy is a pacifist or worse. Anybody who is reasonably sane is under suspicion of being a foreign spy.

Cowardice is a bad trait in individuals and it is a worse trait in a nation. We can think of nothing more contemptible than a great country that is cringing in fear of a theoretical and conjectural foe, and we do not believe the United States is that kind of country. It never has been, and there is no evidence of a revolutionary change in the national character.

We do not mean that the nation ought to rest smugly satisfied with inadequate national defense or that its military resources should be left to chance. To say that the United States must immediately spend \$500,000,000 on the navy and support an army of 1,000,000 men is just as silly as to say that the country should learn no lesson whatever in military defense from the war that has wracked Europe. Between the lunatics and the fools, there is a broad plateau of sanity which we hope that the administration and Congress will seize and occupy. In particular, we should like to see the navy equipped with battle-cruisers, destroyers and submarines to the end that its fighting efficiency, ton for ton, would be 100 per cent. But in the meantime we can think of nothing more ridiculous than the campaign of cowardice which the preparedness propaganda has undertaken in the hope of terrifying the country. It is doubly foolish because it produces the cause of rational and sensible preparedness. Its advocates are demanding a preparedness that is absurd in danger of defeating the preparedness that is necessary.

Just Drivel.

From the Johnstown Democrat. There is some of the preparedness talk that is tragic. It is only when the sob pedal is pulled clear out and a presumably intelligent citizen proceeds to weep because of the soldiers slaughtered in the Civil war, and all because of a lack of preparation for war, that the entire subject takes on a silly aspect. As matters stood the south got its share of the military establishment. If there had been more soldiers, more trained officers and more ships the south would have made a bigger haul in the secession period. Neither the north or the south could have maintained an exclusive military establishment in the pre-bellum days. To weep because the Civil war found us unprepared is really to flop back into mere drivel.

Tired of the Primaries.

From the Boston Herald. We ought to go back to a simpler system of nominating candidates. The preliminary campaign, such as the State is now going through, under the direct primaries, is burdensome to the aspirants, in time and money, and productive of no good result. It is limiting our choice of candidates to those who seek the office, and those who can afford to do so. It is, however, wearying men with the turmoil of politics, its contests coming one after another in ceaseless procession. The movement under way for the short ballot is wise and necessary. It should be supplemented by a movement for the short campaign.

The War Teaching Us.

From the Boston Globe. The war may bring lasting benefits to the United States if it leads us to utilize our wastes and develop our resources, in the German fashion. For instance, an expert chemist says that our coke industry wastes about \$100,000,000 a year in by-products which form the crude material for aniline dyes, and that, while we import annually \$15,000,000 worth of potash from Germany, off our Pacific coast, within the three-mile limit, we have deposits of kelp valued at \$150,000,000 by government investigators, from which potash can be made.

Mars Henri Beat the Barrier.

From the Florida Times-Union. Colonel Watterson blew up before Vice President Marshall had announced that the President would give us the signal when to get good and mad.

Berlin Papers Please Copy.

From the Philadelphia Ledger. Napoleon got 500 miles farther into Russia than the two Kaisers before he heard the call of back home.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

—Five or six of the operators in the Johnstown Telephone exchange are reported engaged and their marriage will occur within the next few weeks.

—Aaron W. Brungard, Esq., city controller of Lock Haven, is dead after a lingering illness. He is survived by his wife and one son and was in his 67th year.

—The meanest thief in Pennsylvania recently entered the residence of Morris B. Winter, of Reading, and stole the contents of a child's bank, mostly pennies.

—Alexander Markel, treasurer of Somerset county, fell dead at his residence in Somerset last Sunday night. He was 60 years old and had been in ill health for some time.

—Shortly after midnight Tuesday morning Harry C. Albricht, the oldest mail carrier in Tyrone, was instantly killed, when his automobile backed over a steep embankment on the back road to Tipton.

—Nearly 1,000 persons attended the golden wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Smith, of Washington township, Clearfield county. The dinner was served in the orchard and was some feast.

—Some business men of New Kensington, Westmoreland county, who were found guilty of maintaining gambling devices in their establishments were sentenced to pay a small fine and costs and serve one day in jail.

—Judge Thomas J. Baldrick has been holding court in Westmoreland county. Among other sentences imposed by him was one of \$500 fine each and costs, including six months in jail, upon three violators of the liquor laws.

—An election board in the north precinct of the borough of Farrell, Mercer county, has sent a letter to the various candidates asking them to furnish some extra compensation for the laborers who will receive and count the votes.

—Capt. Alfred Hicks, a Pittsburgh coal operator, has made a contribution of \$20,000 to the Methodist church of Duncanville, to be used in the erection of a new church. Capt. Hicks is a native of Duncanville and frequently visits the old town.

—The Women's club, of Clearfield, held a pleasant little function one day recently during which prizes were awarded nine children who excelled in floriculture during the year. Four of the prize-winners received \$2.50 each; the other five were given \$1 each.

—A woman known as Mary Caldon and claiming to be 84 years old spent her birthday in the Punksatuney lockup, the victim of too much rum. Incidentally when captured she was still in possession of about \$8.50, made by "selling pencils" that day.

—While Gerald, the little son of Joseph M. Gibson, of Conemaugh, was eating candy and peanuts, some of the food became lodged in his wind-pipe and before a physician who had been summoned reached the house, the child was dead. He was 5 years of age.

—Miss Carrie E. Wilt, of Ligonier, lost her gold watch two years ago while attending a picnic at Idlewild. Diligent search was made and advertisements were inserted in several papers, without result. This week the watch was found in a Pittsburgh pawn shop, where it had been for a considerable time.

—The Rev. William M. Burchfield, a Presbyterian minister of eminence, a member of Huntingdon Presbytery for many years, died recently at his home in Centre, Perry county, in his 82nd year. He was the first pastor of the Presbyterian church in DuBois and previous to that time resided in Curwensville.

—John Ryan, aged 28, a resident of Torrington, Conn., a canvasser employed by the 101 Ranch show, died at the Clearfield hospital from the effects of a fractured skull, due to a blow on the head from a club or other blunt instrument some time the previous night. Three negroes and a white man were arrested.

—Charles Houston, an animal trainer, who performed with several big lions in the Johnny Jones carnival, was attacked by one of the animals while that show was in Berwick last week. Houston, who is a young southerner, was frightfully injured before attaches rescued him. His condition is regarded critical.

—Smoking a brand of cigars one day recently, Wood Kelchner, of Rohrsburg, was shockingly injured, when what is thought to have been a dynamite cap exploded in the cigar. His chin and lips were lacerated and part of his hip was torn away, while his chest and arms were riddled as by buckshot. His condition is critical.

—The Pennsylvania Railroad company offered the use of a tract of land lying between Trafford City and Pitsburg to its employees living in that vicinity, on the single condition that they cultivate it. The offer was accepted and the men are now reaping a large crop of various vegetables that will be particularly useful during the winter.

—The case against Harry Newbauer, his father and Daniel Milson, all of Phillipsburg, in connection with the burning of a store building and contents at Allport some months ago, came up at Clearfield court on Tuesday morning and for want of evidence was withdrawn by the insurance company, prosecutors. The case against Henry Meyer was continued.

—The citizens of Nescopeck, across the river from Berwick, have received notice that after September 30 their post office will be abolished and their mail delivered from Berwick, carriers taking it across the river. In as much as Nescopeck is not in the same county, the same congressional or the same legislative district, a vigorous protest will be presented to the post office department.

—State Veterinarian C. J. Marshall, of Philadelphia, is mentioned on Capitol Hill, as a possible selection of Governor Brumbaugh as secretary and executive officer of the new State Commission of Agriculture. Other names under consideration are said to be H. V. White, Bloomsburg, chairman of the commission; former Representative William C. Freeman, Lebanon, and R. L. Waits, dean of the agricultural department of State College.

—The property of the York Bridge company, in the hands of receivers, was bought at public sale last Thursday by W. H. Miller, a Pittsburgh manufacturer, for \$33,600, the court having previously set aside a private sale to a creditors' committee, headed by W. W. Fisher and T. Harry Down, who offered \$30,000. This committee had been negotiating for the manufacture of shrapnel for the British government. Miller's plans for operation of the plant are not divulged.

—Pennsylvania railroad officials have announced that the contract for the construction of the new station in Johnstown stipulates that the work shall be completed within six months. The building will be constructed of red tapestry brick and stone and the interior will be finished in marble and tile. The plans include two island platforms, each of which will be 900 feet long. Access to the station platform will be by means of two tunnels, one for passengers and the other for baggage.

—With 32 new cases in the last few days, the epidemic of typhoid fever at the Danville hospital for the insane has assumed serious proportions. There are now 77 cases at the institution, two of the patients being nurses. Authorities at the hospital, assisted by the State Health Department, have been unable to trace the epidemic to its source. Analysis has shown the river water to be pure, yet the fact that no other source of infection can be found, leaves the water supply open to suspicion, and towns nearby have been warned to boil the water.