

BY P. GRAY MEEK.

INK SLINGS.

—Eighteen days until the election.
—Seventy-one days until Christmas.
—It is up to CARRANZA now to pacify Mexico.
—Cheer up, there is still Indian summer to look forward to.
—Of course the Phillies played good ball—but not good enough.
—And Mexico hasn't been the object of all the "watchful waiting" after all.
—Anyway, ALEXANDER the Great is still great in that he won the only game the Phillies got in the series.
—For all the observance it got poor old CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS might just as well have not been the cause of Tuesday's holiday.
—With the new lighting system installed in Bellefonte it will be clear to the outskirts of the town for those who are most heard and not seen.
—Mr. JOHNSTON'S withdrawal from the judicial race clears the atmosphere and leaves only one course to pursue for those who think our court should be presided over by the ablest jurist possible.
—Everyone admits that Centre county has seldom, if ever, had as clean and efficient a set of county officials as it has right now. If good officers are not to be rewarded for good service what's the use.
—FRANK SMITH is going to be re-elected Register of Centre county. Why shouldn't he be. He is a splendid man morally. He is a splendid man officially. He is a fine fellow socially and he is entitled to another term.
—As a Prothonotary DAVID FOREMAN probably hasn't a superior in any court house in the State. Almost any attorney practicing at the Centre county bar will tell you that. It is an office of peculiar importance and it is only the part of wisdom to have a competent man in charge of it.
—Facts and figures concerning what has been done for the good of the county by the present county officials have no appeal to the "ragtag and bobtail." They seldom pay any taxes and economic administration of public office counts little with them. Their vote hangs in the balance until election day and then goes which ever way there is most "in it."
—Mr. HUGH FULLERTON is some dooper. In fact he has made such an impression on us that we think we would send for him to dope the outcome of next month's election were it necessary. That is already a foregone conclusion. The voters of Centre county are too practical and sensible to let go of such a corps of splendid officials as the county now has.
—When the present board of County Commissioners went into office the county debt was \$139,505.84. On January 1st, 1915, it was only \$6,585.61. That is certainly some business management. And adding to it the fact that right now we are paying less county tax than we have paid since 1905 it must certainly look to every practical voter as if we want no change in that office at this time.
—In three years time the present board of County Commissioners have reduced the county debt \$132,920.23 and at the same time they have reduced the tax levy. What has any reasonable person to complain of with such management. Every taxpayer in Centre county, if he wants to save money for himself, ought to be hustling to keep Messrs. NOLL and GROVE in the office they are now so splendidly managing.
—In order that we are not deluged with wild turkeys by our sportsmen friends and to save ourselves the dilemma of having two or more in the refrigerator at the same time, because our refrigerators are small, we will hang a large red placard in the front office window when a turkey has been presented to us. Those of you contemplating hunting turkey with the thought of presenting it to the editor, if successful, will kindly arrange your trips to the woods on days on which the red placard is not displayed.
—Who pulled Centre county out of the hole it was in four years ago? The present board of County Commissioners managed it and every other public official in the county helped along by economizing wherever it was possible, without interfering with public service. All of them are entitled to a share of the credit, from the Sheriff down to the Auditors. They are the men to whom the taxpayers of Centre county owe a debt of gratitude and such gratitude can best be expressed by a vote to retain all of those who are candidates for re-election in office.
—Whatever may have been the cause of Mr. JOHNSTON'S withdrawal the effect will be to put the Prohibitionists in a far better position when a Legislator is to be elected in Centre county than they would have been had they insisted on keeping him in the contest. He could not have been elected Judge, hence they had nothing to gain; while they stood to lose in later contests the co-operation of a great many people who are for state wide or national prohibition, but who regarded the attempt to accomplish anything through the present judicial contest in this county as more harmful than good.

Democratic Watchman

STATE RIGHTS AND FEDERAL UNION.

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Settlement of the Mexican Muddle.

President WILSON has assented to the act of the A. E. C. conference which recognizes General CARRANZA as the head of a de facto government in Mexico. This action was taken after careful consideration of the question in all its aspects. For upward of three years that Republic has been in a state of anarchy. War and brigandage have reduced the people to want and wretchedness and every attempt to restore order and re-establish a government of law has failed. No other subject has given the President of the United States as much anxiety or a greater lot of distress. The conference of the other American Republics was the last hope and the recognition of Carranza is the result. There is little in CARRANZA as a man or in his career as a civil or military leader to recommend him to popular confidence. Measured by any available standard he is a narrow, selfish, sordid and ambitious pretender. But the close investigation which President WILSON has made of conditions in Mexico has persuaded him that any outside interference with internal affairs in that country would be futile and that the only remedy for existing evils lies in the recognition of the strongest and fittest of the claimants to power. CARRANZA has demonstrated the fact that he most nearly approaches that requirement. HUERTA was an usurper and a murderer and therefore impossible. CARRANZA is not a criminal. This expedient may fail of its high purpose because CARRANZA may not fulfill the hopes that have been placed in him. But the President of the United States and the representatives of the other American Republics will have the consolation, in that event, that they earnestly tried to solve a difficult and vexed problem and finally adopted the most promising course to that end. If CARRANZA has a spark of patriotism and a modicum of good sense, there will be no disappointment. He can restore peace and prosperity to his countrymen if he will and the only thing that is left for us is to hope he will measure up to the requirements. Any way President WILSON has done his part well.
—It may be remarked without much risk that the "M. P., Pennsylvania," which excited so much popular interest a few weeks ago, has not appeared upon the White House register lately. Commercializing Presidential confidences is not popular in that neighborhood.
Fast Ships Contemplated.
After a conference at the White House in which the President, the Secretary of the Navy and the Chairman of the House Committee on Naval Affairs participated, the Washington correspondents dope out that the construction of a number of battle cruisers will be part of the naval policy for the near future. Battle cruisers are powerful ships of great speed and they will be substituted for battleships which are powerful without speed. We have no battle cruisers now and no other country except Great Britain has any. But it is said that they are exceedingly efficient in sea fighting and as they will cost no more than battleships it is thought wise to add a few to our equipment.
Of course the building of battleships will not be given up and the probabilities are that the coming Congress will authorize one or two. But the enthusiasm for submarines which was so obvious if not obtrusive a few months ago has subsided to a considerable extent and the expenditures in that direction will not be as large next winter as they would have been if the session had been in July. Of late the German submarines have not been doing much and if the stories now current with respect to destroyers of undersea craft are confirmed, it may be safely said that submarines will not cut much figure in future naval preparedness.
The Secretary of the Navy, according to Washington dispatches, favors the construction of six battle cruisers within the next three years but is averse to interfering with the battleship program. The battleship program, it is understood, contemplates two new ships a year and with a schedule of six cruisers in three years it would mean an expenditure of say \$60,000,000 a year on that type of vessels. This would be digging into the treasury pretty strong and caution would suggest a softer pedal. The work of preparedness is all right but the danger of bankruptcy should be averted if possible. We are in no immediate danger of invasion and there is no necessity for excitement.
—The belligerents are certainly borrowing a lot of money and burning it too for that matter, but that only shows that the art of coining money out of sweat is to be fully developed in the future.

For the Consideration of Centre County Taxpayers.

In the contest for the county offices that are to be filled by your suffrage on November 2nd the argument is so preponderantly in favor of the present incumbents, who are seeking re-election, that it seems almost like a waste of your time and our space to discuss the matter at all. However, there are some features entering into it that might be lost sight of by the candidates themselves and it is for the purpose of bringing them clearly to your notice that we direct this article to the voters who are paying the taxes in Centre county.
The WATCHMAN has always maintained that even one term is too long for an incompetent official and two terms, at least, should certainly be the reward of merit in competent officials.
In the first place the emoluments of any one of the court house offices today are not large. And deducting the campaign expenses and other gratuities that our county officials are compelled to make continuously, from their salaries for one term it will be found that the net income is small indeed. Looking at it from this light, alone, it would appear that the competent ones, and they have all been exceedingly competent, should really be given a second term without being involved in an expensive campaign.
Looking at the situation from another angle everyone will admit that experience increases efficiency. All of the men who are seeking re-election on the Democratic ticket have been in office for one term. They have had the advantage of four year's experience in the offices they fill and are now at the very height of their efficiency, so far as service to the public is concerned. Therefore it would seem only the part of wisdom to accord them a second term for this reason alone.
By virtue of the experience gained no one will deny that they are better qualified than the gentlemen who are seeking their places and who have no experience whatever.
Without indulging in personalities it might be added that the candidates on the Democratic ticket would have the balance of your favor were you to carefully investigate their personal habits and mental attainments and compare them with those of their opponents.
But over and above all these reasons there is that paramount one. That one that appeals most directly to the voter who has to go down in his pocket each fall and dig up enough money to pay his taxes. There is where the present county officials have scored heaviest.
Men may lose sight of the fact that an officer has been clean, has been courteous, has been competent, but they always remember as to whether he has been extravagant or economical. That is, practical men do, and they are the ones to whom we are talking.
On January 1st, 1912, Centre county was in debt to the amount of \$139,505.94. Today the county is in debt only \$6,585.61. Think of it! A reduction of \$132,920.23 in only three years.
Ah yes, some might say, that was easily done because the tax rate was raised. Let us see. There was an increase of 2 mills in the levy in 1912. The same increase was laid in 1913, while in 1914 only 1 extra mill was laid. The total income from this extra millage for the entire three years was \$58,864.49. Deduct this amount from the amount paid on the county debt in three years and there are still \$74,055.74 to be accounted for. Where did that great amount of money come from. It didn't come from increased taxation. It came from actual saving, through careful management in everyone of the county offices.
In other words, each year the present officials have been in office they have saved the taxpayers \$24,685.25. In addition to being competent and courteous they have been, best of all, most economical.
Such surprisingly gratifying results have not been accomplished at the expense of the public service or public utilities either, for when we look further into the matter we find that in addition to having actually saved the taxpayers the stupendous sum of \$74,055.34 they have spent \$32,083.52 on public improvements such as bridges, road views and repairs to public properties.
The proof of the pudding is the eating thereof. Every taxpayer in Centre county today is having this all proved in the way that counts most with him. He finds, in looking over the statement of his taxes, that his county tax is only 4 mills. Lower than it has been since 1905 and if the present corps of officials are re-elected it will be 3 mills and possibly 2, with all of the county debt wiped out by the time they close their second term.
The election of county officials is a business matter. There is nothing else to it and surely the voters who have to foot the bills will be wise enough to see to it that men who have made such a wonderful record in saving them money will be kept at their posts.
Another Blundering Law.
Another of the new-fangled election laws is causing no end of trouble and confusion and may result in injustice in some of the cities of the Third class in which it operates in the nomination of city councilmen. It is the law which provides that in the nomination of candidates for non-partisan offices candidates receiving fifty-one per cent. of the entire vote cast at the primary election, shall "be the sole nominee for such office at the succeeding election, and his name, and none other, shall be printed as candidate for such office upon the official ballots for use at such succeeding election."
Under the provision of this law Judge JOHN B. HEAD, Judge GEORGE B. ORLADY and J. HENRY WILLIAMS, Esq., have been practically elected to the vacant seats upon the Superior court bench. At least no other candidates will be presented on the official ballot and it is not likely that a sufficient number of voters will take the trouble to write in another name, to defeat either of them. So far as Judges HEAD and ORLADY are concerned the presence of other names on the ballot would probably make no difference. They are experienced, capable and thoroughly honest jurists and would be elected by overwhelming majorities in any event. But Mr. WILLIAMS is not entitled to such consideration and with an opposing candidate on the ticket it is not certain that he would win.
In the cities in which candidates for councilmen have received the necessary vote it works confusion. Under the law to which the act in question is a supplement, the eight candidates having the highest votes at the primaries are entitled to places on the official ballot at the general election, there being four to elect. But if one of them receives more than fifty per cent. of the primary vote, his name goes on the ticket without opposition, the number to be elected is reduced to three and one of the eight highest, and probably the fittest of the lot, must be dropped from the list of candidates, and is thus deprived of a right guaranteed him under the law. He incurred the expense and performed the labor under the sanction of a law which is nullified.
Thus these bogus reformers and amateur politicians are always playing into the hands of the Republican machine. If there were another name on the ticket for the Superior court bench WILLIAMS might easily be defeated for election. His only recommendation for the office, so far as the public is informed, came from the Republican machine and as the friends of Judges HEAD and ORLADY were anxious for their success, the vote for the third place was divided among the four or five candidates in the running. At the general election there would have been a concentration and the machine candidate might have been defeated. In view of these facts the law ought to be repealed by the next Legislature.
—If our esteemed contemporary, Hon. WARREN WORTH BAILEY, M. C. is as wise as he is interesting and earnest he will discern in the stars a message that will admonish him against opposing the administration plans for strengthening the national defenses. Going up against a buzzaw has never got much for any one.
British troops don't cut much figure in the operations on the firing line but the British press is exceedingly valiant in attacking the policies of the government.

LET HER VOTE.

If you think she knows as much
As the steerage Turk and such,
Let her vote.
If you think she has a mind
Equal to the steerage kind,
Let her vote.
If you think she's earned the right
That you grant without a fight
To the foreign bedlamite,
Let her vote.
If you think she is as good
As the burglar brotherhood,
Let her vote.
If she's more deserving than
Any bum or hold-up man,
Let her vote.
You don't bar out the thug,
Or the anarchistic bum,
Or the gin-mill ugly mug,
Let her vote.
If you think that she is just,
And is worthy of the trust,
Let her vote.
If you think her heart beats true
For the right, it's up to you—
Let her vote.
If you think she's earned her way,
Don't be stingy with the pay,
Let her have her little say,
Let her vote.
—Exchange

The Inviolability of States.

From the Philadelphia Record.
Every State is bound to respect the independence of every other State. This is a fundamental principle of the law of nations. Respect for the independence of a State implies respect for its sovereign rights; and among the sovereign rights of States none exceed in importance the right of territorial inviolability and the right to remain neutral in a war between other States. These rights of sovereignty being inherent to all States, they need not be specifically guaranteed by treaties; just as the constitutional rights of persons do not need to be guaranteed by express contracts with every potential violator. If one comes by night and burns your house, he has injured you in the inalienable right to security of life and property, even though the incendiary be not under contract to insure you against loss by fire.
When a belligerent with his armed forces invades the territory of a neutral State, he violates the neutrality, independence and sovereignty of the State invaded; and this is so whether or not the invader has agreed by treaty to respect such neutrality, independence and sovereignty. It would have been just as wrong for Germany to violate Belgium if the convention of 1839 had not existed. Nor is the violation of Greece by the landing of French and British troops at Saloniki justifiable by the fact that there is no treaty specifically forbidding such invasion of neutral Greek territory by belligerent armies. Of course, the consent of the nation whose territory is invaded alters the case. The invasion would cease to be a wrong; but the country invaded would have ceased to be neutral. If King Albert had consented to the entrance of the Germans he would have become their ally.
King Constantine, of Greece, desiring that the government continue in a state of neutrality, has protested against the French and British proceedings at Saloniki. Whether a mere protest will be enough to save the Greeks from being regarded as in alliance with the invaders of their territory is doubtful. A State is not to be making any resistance—Luxembourg, for instance—might satisfy the requirements by a verbal denunciation of a violation of its sovereignty. But Greece has a considerable army. Her passivity, therefore, would alter her status from one of neutrality to that of an ally of the Entente Powers. However, Germany, which is the only Power likely to question the attitude of Greece, would be in no position to make a very strong objection. The Greeks are doing for the allies no more than the Germans expected from the Belgians.

The Cost.

From the Johnstown Democrat.
Forty-eight first class battleships is the figure set by the navy league. If Uncle Sam has that number, the experts say, we are in for a trouncing.
Forty-eight battleships represent an investment of approximately \$750,000,000, not counting the upkeep cost. That means an annual interest charge of at least \$36,000,000 a year. But the battleships are only a part of the projected fleet of cruisers, torpedo boat destroyers, colliers, submarines, and all that sort of thing figure on the program for \$500,000,000 more. In other words, the navy the jingoes have in mind represents an expenditure of at least \$1,225,000,000. And that navy will have to be renewed at least every ten years. This would make the annual expenditure for ships approximately \$122,500,000. Every decade, of course, there will be a turn over.
The big battleships will be scrapped. Something new in the way of fighting machines will make its appearance. The old battleships will disappear and new ones will take their place.
But who is simple enough to suppose that forty-eight battleships will satisfy the navy boomers? Japan may have more than that. Germany may exceed us in tonnage. England may "put us to shame." The cry will inevitably go forth that forty-eight battleships is not enough. It will be argued that we must have "the greatest navy on earth." That will mean more billions invested in preparedness.
The battleships, however, represent only a part of the expense involved. The more ships we have the more forts, the more forts, the more big guns, the more big guns and more marines, the more munitions of war. And so the circle widens. It is a big game the navy boomers are playing. There are literally "millions in it." Col. Sellers missed his mission when he failed to launch a preparedness campaign.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

—The will of the late Justice John P. Elkin bequeaths all his property of whatever description to his wife, to be disposed of according to her pleasure.
—Notwithstanding the rigid quarantine instituted in DuBois three new cases of diphtheria have been reported there and the quarantine is likely to be continued.
—Two robbers, early Monday morning, blew open the safe in the postoffice at Menzes Mills and carried off \$200 in stamps and \$15 in old coins. Nitroglycerine was used by the burglars.
—Some sharp politician is said to be frightening the foreigners who live in Conemaugh by telling them that they will not be allowed to keep pigs and chickens if the Democrats get into power in Cambria county.
—By the explosion of a gas tank in the cellar of the A. E. Bittner residence and restaurant, in Boswell, Somerset county, the entire structure was blown almost into atoms. Nobody was killed although three persons were badly burned.
—Conscienceless burglars entered the residence of the United- Presbyterian minister at Scottdale and carried away with them several pairs of shoes and about \$7 in money. This is the second time robbers have taken shoes from Pastor Miller's home.
—Miss Edith Cummings is a candidate for register and recorder of Union county on the Democratic and Washington party tickets. She is the present assistant register and recorder and it is said she has performed practically all the duties of the office for the last three years.
—A large mill owned and operated by Napoleon McDonald and located at Home Camp, Clearfield county, was destroyed by fire one afternoon of last week involving a loss of \$8,000. The structure housed four separate milling operations having been used for a saw mill, grist mill and cider mill.
—Howard Kaufman, aged 21, of Altoona, was sentenced in the United States district court at Pittsburgh on Monday to serve five days in the Allegheny county jail for passing counterfeit money. He has already been in jail seven weeks and the court took this into consideration in passing sentence.
—Because he had no faith in banks H. G. Jeffers, a Pittsburgh tailor, kept his savings for some time, amounting to \$500, in the pocket of a coat in the cellar of the building in which his shop was located. A fire broke out in that part of the building early Wednesday morning and the money went up in smoke.
—Orders were issued at Harrisburg last Friday by Adjutant General Stewart, announcing the commissioning of a first lieutenant of artillery of Garrett Cochran, of Williamsport, and his assignment to Battery D, Williamsport. Mr. Cochran, who is a son of Senator J. Henry Cochran, was a noted football player at Princeton several years ago.
—Charles B. Spatz, editor of a weekly newspaper at Boyertown, received a cablegram from Germany telling him he is heir to a third of a \$1,500,000 estate left by an uncle, Frederick Spatz, who died recently in Crefeld, Germany, leaving the estate to sons of three deceased brothers. Spatz was the unsuccessful candidate for Congress last year.
—The little daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Redner, of Conewago, some time ago swallowed a stalk of hay. Every effort to dislodge it failed. The stalk passed into the right lung, causing many abscesses. Finally it worked its way out beneath the shoulder blade, but the child's condition remains critical. The stalk was about three-eighths of an inch long.
—The Black Hand is held responsible for dynamiting the home and store of Frank Antonuch, at Cresskill, Indiana county, early last Thursday morning. Mrs. Antonuch was seriously injured by the explosion; both arms were broken and she received internal injuries. She is said to be dying. Antonuch received many cuts and bruises but was not badly hurt. Two children escaped unburnt.
—William H. Webster, a well known miner employed in the Electric Colliery near Osceola, was instantly killed Thursday afternoon about four o'clock by a fall of rock. He had completed his day's work, and was just leaving the heading of the mine when the accident occurred which so suddenly and unexpectedly crushed out his life and brought deep sorrow to his family and friends. The deceased was aged about 29 years, was married and leaves a wife and two children.
—Charles Mullen, 39 years old, son of John Mullen, Shamokin banker and manufacturer, was killed when his automobile turned over two miles east of Sunbury and his sisters, Helen Mullen and Letitia Mullen, escaped with superficial hurts, late last Thursday afternoon. Harry Snyder, of Harrisburg, the chauffeur, suffered lacerations of the head and face. Mr. Mullen was a brother of W. A. Mullen, who is well known in Bellefonte, and an uncle of John Mullen, a former Bellefonte Academy student, now a Sophomore at State College.
—The ashes of John Mozanik, aged 21, of Greensburg, Pa., who disappeared from his home last December, were found on Monday afternoon by his brother-in-law, Edward Chuchran, in the morgue in Pittsburgh. Through a description Deputy Coroner Hugh Glinore found a record showing that a man named Mozanik had been cremated on January 7. The body had remained in the morgue several weeks following Mozanik's death in the Braddock General Hospital, December 13. He had been struck by a street car in Wilmerding. Chuchran was given the ashes.
—"Good-bye, fellows; here I go," cried an unidentified man on Monday as he leaped under the locomotive which Engineer Blake Portbel was driving into Johnstown on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad in the Eighth ward. The man was decapitated. Several lads playing beside the railroad told the police that the man had followed the engine a short distance before he shouted his farewell to the engineer of the train. The man was about 30 years of age, was fairly well dressed and was an American. No money was found in his pockets. The body will be held a few days in the hope that identification may be established.
—Ira Van Horn, a Middleburg automobile dealer, is a sadder and wiser man, also poorer by \$375, as a result of a transaction several days ago when he purchased a Ford automobile from a pair of strangers for the above named sum. Shortly after the strangers departed a sleuth arrived from Philadelphia and identified Van Horn's newly purchased car as a stolen machine. A description of the auto confidence man was furnished the officer by the duped dealer and the accused men were arrested shortly thereafter in the Quaker city. With the culprits under arrest and the stolen car returned to its owner, Van Horn is wondering where the 375 good round dollars he paid out are going to come from.
—After having marked passages in the pocket-worn Bible which was found in his clothing D. M. Burman, once a prosperous real estate holder of Williamsport, Pa., went to a high bridge near Montgomery, Ala., on Sunday morning, where he drained a poison phial and awaited the coming of death. The poison proving slow, he cut an artery near his elbow and then tried to find the artery in his wrist, making several gashes. Becoming faint he sat down on the edge of the bridge and when unconsciousness came he fell 65 feet to his death. Burman had been in Alabama but four days. He was without funds and expected to find money there. Saturday night he left his suitcase at his boarding house, went down town to a barber shop, paid his last 70 cents for a haircut, shave and a bath, and with the poison already in his pocket, went to his death. A brother at Williamsport was notified of the tragedy.