

INK SLINGS.

In less than three weeks the groundhog will be telling us what of winter we have to expect.

Doctor STOUGH is fast climbing into BILLY SUNDAY's class as an evangelist. He is getting front page space in the metropolitan dailies now and that means greater notoriety and greater notoriety means success.

Brother Bailey, of the Nineteenth Congressional district, has subsided noticeably lately on his anti preparedness propaganda. Beware of the Colonel. Maybe he is going to let them slip a big army over on him so that he can have more men with which to carry out that pet project of his of having the soldiers build our Alaskan railroads.

The fame that preceded Congressman ROWLAND to Washington as a multimillionaire and as a colossus of business ability and state-craft doesn't seem to have impressed his colleagues of the Republican delegation from Pennsylvania. At least PENROSE wasn't able to force him onto them as the successor to CHARLES E. PATTON, on the Republican campaign committee.

Rumor has it that W. D. ZERBY is to retire from the position of Democratic State committeeman for Centre county and that Col. J. L. SPANGLER will be an aspirant for the office. Both features of the rumor are splendid. Col. SPANGLER would prove a dignified and useful member of the State Committee, especially since he would be for constructive policies in Centre county rather than continue to tear up until the last shred of organizational efficiency is destroyed.

It does seem rather absurd for A. MITCHELL PALMER to think that he should dictate all the federal patronage in Pennsylvania and hold onto the personal appointments about Washington that he was able to secure while he was in Congress. As a rule real good Democrats go a long way to maintain harmony in their party, but the Pennsylvania delegation in Congress are not to be blamed if a fight follows their insistence upon having a little something for their own constituents.

Just what is council's motive in transferring all of Bellefonte's bonded indebtedness to the Water Department has not been revealed. It could be looked at in many ways. The Water Department can probably carry the incumbent interest charge without necessitating a raise of rates and if this debt can be legally transferred to that Department it will put the Borough in the position of having an unrestrained borrowing capacity, because the Water Department is not included in the fundamental franchise of the Borough corporation and, therefore, its debts can not be accounted against the legal amount the Borough is entitled to borrow on its assessed valuation. We do not know, however, that council proposes a new bond issue for any purpose so that if this is the reason it is probably only being done to make the way possible should an emergency arise.

This Congressional district will have two delegates to elect to the National Democratic convention in St. Louis. Certainly Centre county is entitled to one of them. Clearfield and McKean were accorded the honor four years ago so Centre has every right to demand that it be given at least one of the delegates to the coming convention and if the party leadership in the District is wise and has the future welfare of the party at heart it will arrange matters so that there will be no contest for these purely honorary positions. This District is a unit for the renomination of WOODROW WILSON for President so that the only purpose to serve in selecting our delegates is with a view to solidifying and invigorating our organization in the District for the next Congressional battle. We could have won the last one had we been organized as we might have been and the WATCHMAN has much information to the effect that the chances of winning the next one are even better.

Advance notices from Washington are to the effect that former President WM. HOWARD TAFT will not be appointed to the Supreme court bench to succeed Associate Justice R. Lamar. We call attention to this matter not so much because of its news value as to show how nearly the idea of Democratic policies and practices as propounded by the WATCHMAN square with those of the really great men of our party who shape the party policy. In its last issue the WATCHMAN discussed the suggestion that Mr. TAFT be given this appointment in one of its leading editorials and while we know that the article was probably neither read, nor heard of in official Washington it is exceedingly gratifying to us to read in the Washington dispatches since then that the Administration takes identically the same view of the question that this paper expressed a week ago. We refer to this matter merely to impress upon your minds that away out in the midst of the agricultural districts of Centre county there is a country newspaper that knows and promulgates, ably and fearlessly, as sound Democratic doctrines and practices as any of its great metropolitan contemporaries are capable of.

Democratic Watchman

Canvas Without Significance.

Straw votes are of little value. "Canvases" which more or less somnolent newspapers indulge to fill space or amuse themselves are equally worthless. But the canvas which an esteemed Philadelphia contemporary is now making to show the relative strength of Senator PENROSE and Governor BRUMBAUGH in their contest for mastery of the Pennsylvania Republican machine is interesting because of its absurdity. A prominent man once said that he could get signers to a petition to hang the most innocent man in a community and it is a safe bet that a newspaper can put either aspirant ahead of his competitor, if it is disposed to do so. Of course in the case in point the canvasser pretends to be neutral and it has been wobbling woefully. But the chances are that it desires to produce the result announced which favors PENROSE.

The voters in the contest are the managers of the local machines and the verdict is in accord with their desires. For example Dauphin county is made to express itself in favor of the Senator though the potentiality of patronage is recognized in the statement that "if the Governor threatened to drop State employees (who favor PENROSE) there might be a change in sentiment." In Allegheny county the verdict is "an even break" for the reason that there are two machines there which are divided in allegiance. That is to say Public Service Commissioner MAGEE and DENNY O'NEIL favor the Governor and the municipal administration is for PENROSE. But there is nothing to indicate which is the stronger and the even break is a safe but not very informing guess.

In the other counties covered by the canvas the same uncertainty is revealed. Delaware county is for PENROSE and CHESTER divided. Montgomery is silent and Bucks cinched for PENROSE while Lehigh is waiting. Berks is uncertain and Lancaster in a compromising frame of mind. Lebanon is for PENROSE and Schuylkill is of the same mind while York is neutral and Franklin for peace. Lackawanna and Northumberland are for the Senator and Lycoming for the Governor. Luzerne is independent, Tioga for BRUMBAUGH and Cambria refuses to acknowledge a fight. Blair leans to BRUMBAUGH, Fayette is for PENROSE and Mercer for BRUMBAUGH. Washington county is neutral, McKean for PENROSE and Indiana for harmony.

Thus twenty-five counties out of sixty-seven, or a trifle more than one-third of the whole split about even and indicate nothing. But it may be assumed that the purpose of our Philadelphia contemporary has been accomplished. That is to say its purpose was to advertise the fact that Senator PENROSE accused Congressman VARE of humble origin. The accusation is that PENROSE publicly declared that VARE is "an ash-crat" and he a "statesman." No man except a cad or an ass would say that and PENROSE is neither. But it makes a "good enough Morgan until after the election" and the friends of Brumbaugh are using it for all it is worth. It will deceive no one of intelligence, however, as the figure of the canvas will fool nobody.

The FORD peace party has been placed in the right category at last. The meetings at the Hague are being held under the auspices of the Royal Zoological Society. We presume that the Dutch were really too polite to gather this bunch of Americans "bugs" under the Entomological division of the Society.

Senator FALL, of New Mexico, is not half as much concerned about the welfare of the Mexicans as he is about the confusion of the President. If his courage were equal to his malice he would be introducing resolutions on German or British affairs rather than on Mexican matters.

It looks as if the entire body of Republican Senators would be unable to force this country into war with Germany. But most of the Republican Senators would rejoice if they could accomplish that evil result.

Now that the FORD pilgrims are safely at the Hague it is to be hoped that they will squander the remnant of FORD's money still in their possession and come home.

The Kaiser may be as sick as the most gloomy reports represent him to be but his soldiers appear to be enjoying a robustness of health that is surprising.

Representative BAILEY, of this State, and Representative GARDNER, of Massachusetts, are striving for the same result, though by different processes.

added during the three months trial of the New Haven directors charged with conspiracy to violate the SHERMAN anti-trust law, the jury, on Sunday, returned a verdict of acquittal of six and disagreement as to the guilt of the other five. Those acquitted are F. B. BREWSTER, D. NEWTON BARNEY, ROBERT W. TAFT, JAMES E. HEMMINGWAY, A. H. ROBINSON and HENRY MCHARG. Those upon whose guilt or innocence the jury was unable to agree are WILLIAM ROCKEFELLER, LEWIS CASS LEDYARD, CHARLES F. BOOKER, CHARLES M. PRATT and EDWARD D. ROBBINS. It was announced that the five will be tried again, though not immediately.

The reason given for the acquittal of the six first named is that they were "dummy directors." That is they were put upon the board with the understanding or for the reason that they wouldn't interfere with the management of the enterprise as directed by the others and Mr. MORGAN. That is a poor excuse for the action of the jury. The one thing that is objectionable in corporation management in this country is the result of "dummy directors." They are put on the board for the purpose of letting the active directors violate the law and loot the public and instead of being acquitted these delinquents ought to have been promptly convicted and severely punished.

That the five active directors were guilty of conspiracy admits of no doubt. They indulged in every form of corporation atrocity, and employed every device known in "high finance" to rob the public and cheat the share owners of the road which they mismanaged. It has been announced that they will be brought to trial again and we sincerely hope they may. But there is no certainty upon the subject. It took several years to bring them to the trial which has just miscarried and three months were consumed in taking the testimony. If President WILSON is re-elected another trial will likely be had but otherwise they are certain to go scot free to enjoy the fruits of their iniquity.

A Connecticut physician declares that soap will prevent the grip. After all, maybe the barber who slathers the lather into our eyes and up our nose is more of a doctor than a barber.

Roosevelt's Dreams Dissolving.

That THEODORE ROOSEVELT hopes to stampede the Republican National convention and seize the nomination is beyond question. That he will succeed, however, is not certain. Ten days ago the average observer would have expressed the belief that ROOSEVELT would be the nominee if he so desired. But the sober, second thought, which serves the purpose of conscience among Republicans, has asserted itself and completely changed the aspect. No charlatan will never again be nominated for President by either of the great parties. The peril which has been escaped by the election of WOODROW WILSON four years ago, instead of ROOSEVELT, has made a profound impression upon the public mind.

But ROOSEVELT will try to capture the nomination, nevertheless. He is now abasing himself before the Republican leaders in the hope that they will forget the slanders he circulated against them in the last Presidential campaign and since. And with equal assiduity he is trying to enlist the support of certain Democrats who, for one reason or another, mostly sinister, are opposed to the re-election of WILSON. The infamous bargain under which he was brought into this State in the campaign of 1914, and permitted to address himself in the false spirit of friendship to Democratic audiences helps him now in his schemes to divide and disrupt the party and divert it from its logical candidate.

Whether ROOSEVELT gets the Republican nomination or not he has no claims on Democrats for aid or comfort. No man in public life at present and no public man of any period is as widely separated from the principles of Democracy as declared by JEFFERSON and interpreted by WOODROW WILSON, as THEODORE ROOSEVELT. He is essentially an imperialist. He would yield nothing to individual action of initiative, but would invest all powers in government and concentrate all government in Washington. Such doctrine is intolerable to Democrats and obnoxious to popular government. In any event, therefore, Democrats should oppose ROOSEVELT and if he steals the Republican nomination let that party reckon with him.

Judge QUIGLEY held his first real court on Tuesday morning and former Judge ORVIS argued the first case before him.

expressed in a letter written to A. MITCHELL PALMER before he entered upon his first term, and made public the other day, that there can be no misunderstanding upon the subject. A pledge against the reelection of a President was incorporated in the platform of the Baltimore convention which nominated Mr. WILSON and if it had been supplemented by legislation giving it force and effect, the candidate and the party would have been justly held in obedience to it. But the Democratic Congress to which it was referred, declined to ratify it, and for the reasons given by Mr. WILSON in his letter, and he is therefore absolved from obligation as is his party also.

The Baltimore convention for reasons sinister or otherwise, made some absurd pledges and advanced some preposterous propositions. Among these was the promise that American ships should be exempt from tolls in passing through the Isthmian canal. That was equivalent to an excessive ship subsidy and a perversion of the fundamental Democratic principle against subsidies. The declaration upon the question of a second term was equally subversive of Democratic traditions. As the President states in his letter to Mr. PALMER, it would deprive the Democratic people of the freedom of choice in the selection of a candidate for the highest office in the gift of the electorate. There should be no legal impairment or statutory restraint of that kind.

The vast majority of the Democratic voters of the country favor the renomination of WOODROW WILSON. They sincerely believe that his re-election is essential to the completion of the beneficial work which he has begun and to prevent the full and complete exercise of their desire in the matter would be a crime against civil liberty. There is an unwritten law against a third term in the Presidency, based upon the solemn declaration of Washington and supported by the free action of his successors in office for more than a century. But even a custom so entrenched and sanctified should not be impaired by putting it in the shape of law, organic or statutory. If the people of the United States want to elect a President the third time they have an inalienable right to do so.

We are not disposed to enter into an investigation of the reasons which influenced the Baltimore convention to put such a pledge in its platform. In the first place no convention can pledge a candidate to a proposition with which he is not in sympathy and attempting to exercise such power shows scant respect for the intelligence of the electorate. If a public official fails to fulfill his obligations, the people are not likely to re-elect him and if he measures up to the standard the people ought to have the right to continue him in the office. President WILSON has earned the popular favor which he enjoys by faithful service to the country and if the people want to re-elect him it is their right to do so, notwithstanding absurdities of the past.

Contractor R. B. TAYLOR is defendant in a case being tried in the United States district court at Sunbury, this week, before Judge CHARLES B. WHITMER. The case was brought by the DONALD-McNEIL company, of Pittsburgh, to recover a claim of approximately \$6,000 alleged to be due them for "Warrentite," a patent road surfacing material which Mr. TAYLOR used in constructing a piece of state highway near Claysville, Washington county. On the stand on Wednesday Mr. TAYLOR told some plain truths which reflected somewhat on some of the men who several years ago were prominently connected with the Highway Department. The State is still indebted to Mr. TAYLOR to the amount of \$23,000, or thereabouts, the amount being held up, pending the payment of the DONALD-McNEIL claim. The outcome of the present trial may hasten the payment of Mr. TAYLOR's claim against the State.

General VICTORIANO HUERTA is reported to be dying in El Paso, Texas. In a sense his death could be looked upon as a blessing, for with the departure of each one of the men who have figured in Mexico's troubles in the past comes a greater certainty of peace in the future.

The Republicans in Congress would like to see the President's preparedness plans defeated by Democratic votes and there are Democrats in Congress so stupid that they can't see the trap that is being set for them!

Senator LODGE talks all right and the more he talks the clearer it becomes that he ought to take his son-in-law, GUSSEB GARDNER, out into the woods for some wholesome exercise with the slipper.

On no account would we impair the proud privilege of all opponents of the Administration of throwing bricksbats at us but we cannot help some amusement at observing that they are throwing from opposite sides, are leaving the President unharmed and landing in the other attacking party.

Here, for example, we find Republicans caustically remarking that the Lusitania controversy is settled after eight months. It's a pretty slow coach, this Democratic Administration, isn't it? Are our Republican contemporaries at all sure that it would have been settled in less time if the United States had sent Germany a 48-hour ultimatum about the 10th of May last? The American people are anxious to maintain the laws of nations and the law of humanity, but are they really eager to enter this war? If we had become a party to the war the submarines might now be operating against merchant steamers. We might easily have had war, without a settlement; what we got was a settlement without war.

On the other hand, we find a number of persons, not confined to one party, who provide themselves with pencils and a great deal of paper and will calculate for you how much cheaper it would be for us to waive our rights and know to any indignities and injuries the belligerent put upon us. There was a time when an American thrilled the hearts of his countrymen by declaring, "Millions for defense, but not one cent for tribute!" Now we have developed a variety of citizen who wishes to know which is the cheaper. He will pay tribute cheerfully enough if it comes to less than defense.

Still, we are rather skeptical about the good faith of these Americans. They may not be such ultra-pacifists as they would like to be. Mr. WORKS has already given indications that he does not care particularly about the trade in munitions, but he wishes Germany to win. Mr. O'Gorman feels that the opportunity of Ireland has come, and the important thing is that Great Britain should be conquered. Both, like Henry Weisman and Dr. Mach and Professor Walz and George Sylvester Viereck and Dr. Hazamer, are passionately determined to have the United States serve the purposes of a European Power.

The overwhelming majority of Americans are more patriotic and more just than they are in favor of any policy that is for the advantage of the United States. They will not allow foreign issues to determine American politics. And this same overwhelming majority is willing to fight when it is necessary, and it will not unless it is necessary. It is profoundly thankful to have the submarine controversy settled aright without involving us in war, and it recognizes the enormous, the almost unparalleled, diplomatic victory won by the President.

Using Compensation Law As Excuse.

From the Harrisburg Star Independent. According to reports coming from Pittsburgh and other big industrial centers in this State some employers are dismissing old men and other employees whose health is not perfect, on the brutal theory that if such employees are retained much longer on the pay-rolls they will die and the companies will be required to pension their families.

If it is true that corporations are doing anything of the kind they are acting in ignorance of the Compensation Act, which does not require employers to compensate families of employees who die through disease—even in cases of so-called "occupational" diseases contracted through the employees exposure to dangerous elements when at work. The Compensation Act applies only to cases of injury and deaths from injuries and does not take into consideration disease in any form.

At the Workmen's Compensation Bureau in the Capitol it was said today that there is no provision in the law for occupational diseases or any other diseases, but that the disability or death must be solely the result of injury.

For instance in the case of a city policeman made ill as the result of exposure, or from any other cause outside of injury, the law does not apply.

Employers, therefore, whether corporations, municipalities, firms or individuals, who may be "fring" old or ailing men as "bad risks" under the Compensation Act, either are ignorant of the fact that the new law does not apply to diseases, or they are pretending ignorance in order to have an excuse—a very crude and brutal excuse at that—to unload men who have grown old or have become ill in their service.

A Pacifist Fighter.

From Max Eastman in the Survey. All men and most animals are pugnacious. They love to fight. Everybody loves to fight. Some people get all the fighting they want at the breakfast table, and others have to carry it out in the law courts or the battlefield, where it makes more noise. Roosevelt likes to charge up San Juan hill, and then he likes to prosecute for libel anybody that says he didn't charge up San Juan hill. War people fight for war and peace people fight for peace. When Roosevelt calls the peace people molly coddles and college sissies, I only want to walk up and smash him. That's the way I like to fight.

The Colonel is a "Rara Avis."

From the Philadelphia Ledger. It is said that Col. House has been sent to Europe because he is "a good listener." That is a far rarer accomplishment in these days than being a good talker.

The days are perceptibly lengthening.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

The new house of worship just completed by the Presbyterian congregation of Mill Hill, Clinton county, will be dedicated next Sunday.

It is announced that the Northern Cambria Street Railway company is planning to extend its line from Barnesboro to Hastings the coming summer.

William M. Berlin, candidate of the "Old Guard" for chairman of Westmoreland's Democratic county committee, won out by a large majority over the candidate of the reorganizers.

William H. Ackerman, a resident of Latrobe, complained of not feeling well when he retired, but did not seem seriously ill. Next morning he was found dead in bed, the result of heart trouble.

Beulah Ritchey a little girl living at Burnt Cabins, Fulton county, who was accidentally shot in the leg by her father, had the leg amputated twice, the last time above the knee. It is said she is now out of danger.

After attending his dying mother, Dr. John G. Spangler, aged 55, a prominent physician of Huntingdon county, was instantly killed by an east bound express on the Pennsylvania railroad at Mapleton, Friday morning.

A resident of Flemington, Clinton county, was sent to jail last June for failing to pay a borough tax of \$2.50, including the costs. The county has been maintaining him ever since and is likely to present a gooey bill to Flemington.

Certain denizens of Williamsport who have been ordered to cease hanging about the corridors of the court house are complaining bitterly about the new edict of the commissioners. They say they pick up many an odd job while lounging about the temple of justice.

The Rev. Father Nicholas Szabados, pastor of St. Mary's Greek Rite church, Cambria city, has brought suit for \$10,000 damages against Emil Sarady, one of his parishioners, in that Sarady called him a "zioidi," a Slavish word meaning "a robber and a thief."

Four years ago young John Cullen, of Derry, stepped on a broken wax crystal and cut a painful gash in the ball of the foot. One evening last week his father succeeded in taking from his foot a piece of the crystal that had been there ever since the wound was inflicted.

Bishop Decker, the 11-year-old resident of Derry who was recently shot by his elder brother, William, during a scuffle for possession of a revolver, died in the Latrobe hospital six days after the wound had been inflicted. The elder boy, who is 16, is still incarcerated in the Derry lockup.

Two women and two children were burned to death last week in Westmoreland county. In both instances the women undertook to fill a kerosene lamp without going to the trouble of extinguishing the flame. Their carelessness or recklessness cost their own and two other deaths.

One of the finishing mills of the Aetna Explosive company's plant at Mount Union was destroyed by fire Friday evening. The loss is estimated at \$60,000. No lives were lost and the origin is believed to have been spontaneous combustion, caused by an increase in the temperature of the building.

South Fork had 102 cases of measles at the close of last week and the authorities have decided that no child of ten or under shall be permitted to attend the moving picture theatres, Sunday school or other places of public gatherings. Singularly enough, they are to be allowed to attend the public school.

Clayton E. Palmer, who has been chief of police of Punxsutawney for almost twenty-five years, has turned into the borough treasury between \$45,000 and \$50,000 in fines for arrests made by himself. One year he turned in \$2,700, and yet some of the residents of that city are kicking and want him turned out of office.

Dr. E. F. Rhinebold, a dentist of Athens, was severely injured in a peculiar manner on Monday morning. A piece of a tooth which he was extracting struck him on the right eye, making an injury so severe that the doctor had to be taken to a hospital. The injured eye became infected from the diseased tooth within two hours in spite of the best treatment.

Fred Frank, a prominent contractor, is dead at Carbondale, a victim of petromotors, or auto gas. Mr. Frank went to his garage to test out his engine on Sunday evening and, as the night was cold, closed the doors. He started the engine and left the muffler open, with the result that the small garage became filled with gas and he was overcome, dying there.

J. Clinton Hill, prothonotary of the Superior court, on Saturday night announced that the case of George C. Bayless, of Binghamton, N. Y., the millionaire owner of the Bayless Paper and Pulp company, charged with manslaughter as a result of the bursting of the dam at Austin, four years ago, which caused the loss of 70 lives and the destruction of millions of property, will come to trial at Williamsport on February 29.

John W. Reed, retiring judge of Jefferson county, filed a civil libel suit for \$100,000 damages against W. N. Conrad, Gil C. Reitz and John C. Dwight, of the Brookville Republican, on Saturday. An alleged defamatory statement appearing in the Brookville Republican on February 15, 1915, prior to the opening of the judicial campaign, in which Judge Reed was defeated for reelection by Charles H. Corbett is the basis of the suit.

Vance C. McCormick, of Harrisburg, Pa., who was the Democratic candidate for Governor in 1914, has been appointed by the Federal Reserve Board as class C director of the Philadelphia Federal Reserve bank. Mr. McCormick is an officer of the Dauphin Trust company, of Harrisburg, and is interested in coal and other large business operations. He is 44 years old and is a graduate of Yale University of which he is now a trustee.

The identity of the robber who entered the home of Philip Shirey, at Youngstown, Westmoreland county, early last Monday morning was discovered in a singular manner. In the Whitney mine on Monday a miner was hurt. A fellow miner went after his comrade's coat, got the wrong one and in its pocket found a little box addressed to Mrs. Shirey. Learning later of the robbery he told his story. Victor Stillwagon, a workman employed in the mine, was arrested and confessed. All the stolen jewelry, with nearly \$80 in money, was recovered.

The State Forestry Commission has ordered that 1,500,000 seedling trees shall be made available this spring for the use of the public. All of these trees have been raised in the State's own forestry nurseries and the offer is the first move in a big program of securing more trees throughout Pennsylvania. The Department will have the trees made ready for shipment at its nurseries and they will be sent to any organization or individuals who will agree to plant and care for the young trees and to furnish such information as the State may require regarding their growth.

Governor Brumbaugh has granted a respite staying the execution of H. E. Filler, Westmoreland county, from January 17 to February 25. H. E. Filler, who was a resident of Altoona until about three years ago, is charged with the murder of Jacob K. Blank, a taxicab driver, in Greensburg, on the night of August 27, 1913. He escaped from the scene of the murder, but was captured in Cleveland, O., on September 15, 1913, and returned to Greensburg, where he was tried and found guilty. Since the trial numerous efforts to save the man's life have been made and respite after respite has been granted. There was a mad scramble for a reward of \$1,000 offered for the arrest of the man, but to date the commissioners of Westmoreland county have not decided upon the person or persons entitled to receive the money.