

INK SLINGS.

—Now is the time for the ice man to make hay while the sun shines.

—Improved farm land brings only \$26 an acre in Cameron county, but that is probably because it is not very much improved.

—All the opposition to President WILSON appears to have simmered down to those who are fighting him because he has been fighting to keep this country from fighting some other country.

—Read the very excellent story of who Col. HOUSE really is in another column on this page. You should know something about the unique gentleman who is our Presidents' most confidential adviser.

—The Westmoreland county Democracy has evidently grown very sick of Disorganization for last week it unanimously selected an old time Democrat as county chairman over one of the Disorganizer kind.

—A. S. COLE, the Clearfield attorney, has emphatically denied the statement that he was to be an aspirant for the Republican nomination for Congress in this District against CHARLES W. ROWLAND, the present Member.

—The horse market in Centre county, which had been very stagnant since last spring, is beginning to look up. There have been many inquiries for farm horses lately, which presages good prices at the public sales which will begin next month.

—JANE ADDAMS points to the fact that China existed a thousand years without an army as a very good anti-preparedness argument. But JANE didn't mention what happened to China when she finally did get an army and went to war with wooden guns.

—GEORGE W. PERKINS has announced that ROOSEVELT will withdraw from the Presidential race if a "suitable substitute" can be found. Mr. PERKINS does not say, however, who is to pass upon the suitability of the substitute that may be found. Therein lies the joker.

—Aside from the fact that PHILANDER C. KNOX is not acceptable to all elements of the Republican party as a Presidential candidate, we are of the opinion that he can't be nominated for the purely political reason that Pennsylvania is regarded as too certain a Republican State to waste a candidate on it.

—Lieut. Commander CROFT, of the New York navy yard, has an idea. He thinks it would be possible to run the English blockaders and carry milk to the bables in the central empires of Europe in submarines specially built for the purpose. Now wouldn't that be putting the submarine to a new and very useful purpose.

—The announcement of the appointment of a postmaster for Bellefonte about concludes the distribution of political plums in Centre county. There are no more places of importance to be filled, so those of the faithful who had expectations have nothing else to do than settle down and be good until we re-elect WOODROW then, maybe, they will get a taste of the pie.

—One of our local churches has a question box in which any of its members may place written questions bearing on matters of general interest. They are then taken out and answered, when possible, by the pastor. One of the questions recently found in the box was this one: "Why do certain of the clergy wear collars fastened in the back like a horse?" In giving the answer the pastor acknowledged that he knew of no real reason why they did unless it was to distinguish them from the ass who would ask such a question. We are forced to score a big one for the clergyman who gave this clever reply right hot off the griddle.

—Did you ever stop to think that the cow that you could have bought for forty dollars fifteen years ago would have cost you from seventy to ninety today. And that the bran you would have fed her then could have been bought for twelve dollars the ton, while today it is selling for twenty-eight. These are rather startling facts when we set them over against the other one that the milk that the cow would have produced fifteen years ago sold for five cents the quart while today it is bringing only one cent more. Some farmers don't realize it, others won't believe it, but it is none the less true that about all most of them are actually getting out of their cows is the fertility they add to the land.

—The growing tendency of the American people to go off half cocked would be an alarming thing were it not for that sober second thought that so often comes to the rescue. We are not presenting arguments for or against preparedness, but isn't it a fact, now isn't it, that if there hadn't been any European war we probably wouldn't have heard a breath of agitation about a larger army and a larger navy? And we also believe that if England hadn't brought up the matter of conscription at all we wouldn't now be hearing the same thing so seriously talked of for our own country. Really, it is beginning to look as though anything can be started in these glorious old United States. All that is coming to be needed is the fool starter.

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Republican Senatorial Candidate Chosen.

So far as the Republicans are concerned the candidate for Senator in Congress for Pennsylvania, to succeed Senator OLIVER, has been chosen. PENROSE, BABCOCK, BRUMBAUGH and the VARES have declared for ex-Senator, ex-Attorney General and ex-Secretary of State, PHILANDER C. KNOX, of Pittsburgh and Valley Forge, and each of them is trying to enter a mortgage against him. Of course he is PENROSE's man, so far as ownership goes, but not exactly in the sense that PENROSE will control his official action. Justice and candor compel the opinion that no man will control KNOX. But he came to the front for PENROSE two years ago, when presence of courage and absence of conscience were necessary to that service, and PENROSE came to him first this year.

Senator PENROSE couldn't have found a more congenial colleague in the State. He couldn't have found a man in this broad Commonwealth more suitable to his purposes as Master Mechanic of the machine. Mr. KNOX will have no interest in patronage and no concern in politics. Any other colleague who might have been chosen would probably have set up claim to a voice in determining which aspirant for local leadership should be chosen in this section of the State or that and thus to some extent bother the main boss. But KNOX won't do anything of that kind. He will vote in the Senate for whatever measures and policies the caucus frames up and will look wise, wear the Senatorial toga with dignity and decorum and give PENROSE free rein in running the party machine.

The endorsement of the KNOX ambition by BILL FLINN, the ROOSEVELT purse holder in Pennsylvania, may have astonished the uninitiated and casual observer. But it is not surprising. Like PERKINS, BILL FLINN is a Progressive only in name and for a purpose. PHILANDER C. KNOX represents the FLINN brand of Progressive more completely than any other man in Pennsylvania. He is one of the most resourceful corporation lawyers in the country and can discover more ways for corporate evasion of laws and penalties than any other lawyer. ROOSEVELT suits PERKINS and FLINN better, of course, for he simply revokes any law that interferes with corporations he favors. But the difference is only that between an artist and a whitewasher. KNOX is smoother.

—The more the subject is analyzed the more certain it becomes that the only man ROOSEVELT will support for President is THEODORE ROOSEVELT.

Not a Wise Suggestion.

The suggestion which comes from Washington that Secretary of Labor WILLIAM B. WILSON be nominated for United States Senator by the Democrats of Pennsylvania will hardly meet with popular favor. Mr. WILSON represents nothing that is historical or traditional in the Democratic party in this State. When he didn't know which party he belonged to and didn't care much, the Democratic organization of the State took him up and elected him to Congress. That probably determined his political affiliation and the organization re-elected him. While enjoying the fruits of the organization favor, however, he turned against those who had helped him and maligned the leaders whenever opportunity offered.

After having succeeded in a conspiracy to destroy the Democratic organization which had given him a small "place in the sun," he became a candidate for re-election to Congress under the auspices of a selfish and incompetent machine, and was defeated. Then for some inscrutable reason he was appointed to a seat in the Cabinet of the Democratic President. He was a lame duck, of course, and had to be taken care of. The labor organization of which he had been a paid officer previous to his election to Congress had repudiated him, and then there was nothing left for him but an office. The reorganizers were all hungry for office.

With Mr. KNOX as the Republican candidate for Senator a Democratic nomination is a forlorn hope. But it is a high honor, nevertheless, and should be bestowed upon some gentleman of character and ability. There are plenty of such within the ranks of the Democrats of Pennsylvania and to suggest WILLIAM B. WILSON for the office is a crime against the integrity of the party and an insult to the intelligence of the voters of that faith. The party can be rejuvenated and restored to its former hopeful place in political life but that result can be achieved only by repudiating the professional office seekers.

—The English cabinet ought to take a large dose of salts. It needs movement.

Trouble in the Republican Camp.

The Republican leaders are certainly having all sorts of troubles this year. In addition to a factional fight of intense bitterness over the delegates to the National convention, there are certain to be battles-royal over the nomination of State candidates. Three aspirants are already in the field for Auditor General and they represent three firing lines. There are the same number for State Treasurer and they are already established in trenches. So far as information is attainable BRUMBAUGH and the VARES will support the same candidates and PENROSE and McNICHOL will be on the opposite side in every instance. The contest for member of the Congressional Committee was a compromise and signified nothing.

The candidates thus far entered in the race for Auditor General are President pro tem of the State Senate CHARLES H. KLINE, of Pittsburgh, who will probably have the PENROSE O. K. stamped all over him. But Senator CHARLES A. SNYDER, of Schuylkill, has been a servile follower of the machine and servicable, and he wants the same nomination. The BRUMBAUGH candidate will be Speaker of the House, CHARLES A. AMBLER, one of those pretended reformers who are always ready to perpetrate any crime in the name of righteousness. The candidates for State Treasurer are not so easy to tag. Representative WOODWARD, of Allegheny county, is friendly to both sides.

There will be quarrels over local nominations, of course, and the Senator and the Governor will be drawn into them, more or less. But the indications are that outside of the big cities the Governor will not cut much figure in the contest of this year. He is working hard, however, and employing every available device and by another year with the help of the VARES and his appointees can give him the may make serious trouble for the Senator. But on the other hand conditions may turn in the other direction within the next couple of years. Hypocrisy doesn't wear well in politics and it is certain to be revealed within the period of a gubernatorial term.

—Mr. GEORGE W. PERKINS says that "the question of finding the one man who can bring together the two anti-Democratic National parties is only a question of negotiation. Precisely. And Mr. PERKINS' entire political philosophy is a question of dollars and cents.

Senator Penrose's Plans and Policies.

At a dinner at the Manufacturer's Club, Philadelphia, on Saturday evening, Senator Penrose outlined, presumably by authority, the present policies of the Republican party and its plan of campaign for this year. He assumed at the outset of his speech that all present were Republicans and he was probably right. All those who participated in BELSHAZZER'S feast were Babylonians and a Democrat at the Manufacturer's club would be as much out of place as a Bethlehemite at the other banquet. But if the Senator expected his communication to be confidential he has been disappointed. It got into the papers.

High protective tariff is to be the dominant note in the Republican platform, according to the Senator, and the delinquencies of President WILSON the basis of accusation. "Deplorable conditions have been brought about under the WILSON administration by sheer incompetency," he declared, and "the army and navy is demoralized and the condition of our treasury is one that the American people have yet to learn in all its horrible truth. These are startling statements but happily they are unverified. If the people had already learned "the horrible truth," it would be awful. But they haven't. From Maine to California people are laboring under the impression that conditions are exceedingly prosperous.

But Penrose will tell us all about it. He knows the difference between a baby coach and a locomotive and if any laboring man imagines that increasing wages and plenty of work are signs of prosperity, our great statesman will cheerfully assure him of the contrary. Idle factories, silent mills, empty dinner pails and clearing house certificates for currency, as we suffered with in 1907 under a Republican administration and high protective tariff, represents what PENROSE believes to be prosperity and the return of that forbidding condition is what he will strive for. But the people are not fools though he holds high office.

—Possibly Senator PENROSE may be tamed down until he is willing to eat out of ROOSEVELT'S hand but it will be wise for Teddy to wear a glove during the operation.

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

Teaching Spanish in Colleges.

During the recent Pan-American congresses held in Washington, the inability of American delegates to speak Spanish or French and of the foreign delegates to speak English greatly impaired the usefulness as well as the pleasure of the meetings. This fact influenced the Philadelphia Public Ledger to suggest that some of our colleges "would make a virtue of our National necessities and announce that it intended to make Spanish obligatory in all those courses which bear on science, engineering and commerce and on subjects related to the needs of the great empires to the South whose trade we are supposedly ready to exploit." The point is well taken.

Students of Pan-American affairs and interests have long since known that the greatest difficulty American manufacturers and exporters have encountered in their rather feeble efforts to gain the markets of Central and South America lies in the inability of our traders and agents to speak the tongue of their proposed customers. Germany and France long ago set themselves to overcome this handicap, so far as their tradesmen were concerned. But all that has been done on our part, so far as the public is informed, is to talk about it and express regret that something is not done by somebody to correct a grave commercial fault. But that is not enough. Practical results are what are needed.

It may gratify our esteemed Philadelphia contemporary, however, to learn that the proper steps have already been taken at State College where a course in Spanish is part of the curriculum and a very capable native Porto Rican is one of the teachers. The course is growing in popularity rapidly for more than sixty of the students are taking it. Mr. J. G. WHITE, a graduate of State College, and head of the J. C. WHITE engineering and financing concerns of New York and London, has established two Spanish scholarships. He has extensive mining and public utility enterprises in Central and South America and has always been able to make places for State College graduates who appeal to him.

In fact there are evidences on every hand of the high value in commerce and science of education in the Spanish language. No part of the earth offers as great attractions to enterprise as Central and South America and the most lucrative employment is always to be obtained by those properly equipped who enter the field. State College has wisely taken an advanced step in this direction and the many friends of that great and progressive institution, not only here but throughout the country, hope she will continue to progress along those lines. The course already organized is only a beginning, a good beginning to be sure. But it ought to be developed to the full measure.

—Every individual connected with the Altoona Tribune deserves commendation for the splendid edition gotten out last Saturday as its sixtieth anniversary number. It contained 116 pages and was replete with historical articles on Blair county, Altoona and surrounding towns, even stretching into Centre county. The Tribune is one of the WATCHMAN'S most valued exchanges. It is progressive and high class in every particular. In fact it could not be otherwise with such men as Hon. Henry W. Shoemaker and editor Schwartz at the head of it, and with our own John D. Meyer as treasurer. We congratulate the Tribune upon its enterprise and hope that its usefulness in Altoona will continue to grow during the next sixty years as it has in the past and that its material success will be proportionately great.

—Council has taken a rather radical step in deciding to electrify the borough's water pumping system. Electricity is much cheaper and much more efficient as power than steam. It is more efficient and more expensive than water, but since we do not have sufficient water power at command to do all the necessary pumping it will certainly prove more economical to do the work by electricity and abandon, entirely, the combination of steam and water pumps now in use. Electrification will probably consolidate the pumping at the old plant, thus doing away with the rental of the Phoenix station.

—Montenegro has surrendered to Austria, and Serbia and Belgium are occupied by the German and Austrian forces. This makes three victims of England's cowardice or incompetency.

—If the Southern banks are exacting usurious rates of interest they ought to be punished and the evidence is certainly strong against them.

—There is a slight reason for hope that the FORD foolish pilgrims will be interned somewhere in Central Europe.

Col. House as Assistant to the President.

From the Philadelphia Ledger. Colonel Edward M. House, assistant President of the United States! Such is the unique place occupied at Woodrow Wilson's right hand by the mysterious Texan who is on his second diplomatic trip to Europe at the request of his pal, the President.

Next to the Chief Magistrate of the nation himself, it is safe to say that Edward Mandell House is the most influential man in the United States to-day. Although he holds no office and never has held any, he far outweighs Cabinet officers and bureau heads in Washington affairs.

He may not be the power behind the presidential chair, but he is the power alongside of it.

He is a figure without parallel in our political history.

Other Presidents have had their intimate advisers. But Colonel House is unlike any of them.

The so-called "kitchen cabinets" of past Administrations have been composed either of officeholders or seekers after presidential favor.

Colonel House asks nothing for himself. He has more money than a man of his simple tastes could ever spend. He hates the limelight with an intensity that bears him from public office. He is neither philanthropist nor reformer. He represents no interests at Washington either political or financial.

Then why does he play the political game? The answer to this question is as amazing as the man himself. Colonel House is connoisseur of politics. He is a new kind of collector who gathers men and measures instead of Persian rugs, postage stamps or Pekinese dogs.

Legislation, national policies, all the machinery of government—these things fascinate him. He regards them with the same fond eye that the collector casts upon his treasures.

Colonel House after his first mission abroad gave the President just what he wanted—a clear-cut view of the tangled situation in war-swept Europe. He came back with no dreams or enthusiasms on the subject of peace. Now he is going back again to train the white light of his intelligence on the new situations that have arisen since.

The position in which he has been placed by his latest commission from the President is even more amazing than the place he had filled before. When he embarked on his first mission he denied the President had asked his services. But now he frankly admits that he is an unqualified envoy and that he will wield the American representatives in the capitals of the warring nations. No other man in our political history has ever occupied just this place. It makes Colonel House virtually Woodrow Wilson's assistant in the conduct of American affairs.

Colonel House is one of the small, wiry men of a great deal without any noise, his is a ball-bearing personality, he moves swiftly but with never a squeak or a rasp.

He was born 57 years ago at Houston, Tex., and he was not born poor. He went to Cornell and then went back home to attend the family fortunes in banking and land dealing.

He made money as smoothly and silently as he has won his new power. He retired early in his forties and gave the bulk of his time to his strange hobby of political "collecting."

He became a familiar figure at Texas conventions. It was not long before his skill at political manipulation began to show itself, and soon the leaders learned to take his advice. Then a Texas governor put him on his staff and he has been "colonized" by his friends ever since. It is on record that he never wore a colonial uniform. In fact no one can imagine him to have any hankering for gold lace or buttons.

When the Democratic leaders were casting about for presidential timber in 1911 Colonel House attended most of the important conferences.

And it was during this period that he came into closest contact with Wilson. His place as "assistant President" did not develop, however, until Wilson was in office and the Mexican reign of terror was creating the presidential brow. It was then that Woodrow Wilson developed the habit of dropping in on Colonel House at New York.

Slowly but surely since then the country has come to realize that an absolutely new and unique figure has arisen in American politics.

There have been political "bosses" at the side of Presidents in the past. But Colonel House is no boss. He controls no votes, he can swing no district, county or State. He wouldn't if he could. He cannot be classified because there never has been any one quite like him. Therefore, he has been called "assistant President"—a new name for a new and puzzling figure.

Straddling the Conscriptio Horse.

From the Altoona Times. Great Britain is making a virtue of necessity and apparently is determined to accept compulsion with the best possible grace. The government has removed much opposition by mollifying its opponents. The Irish have been relieved of the provisions of the conscription measure, and labor has been assured that it shall not be employed to deprive the industrial rights which have been gained after years of struggle. The result is that those who did not want it will not be disturbed in their security.

—Some of the conspirators who were blowing up American industrial plants may not have received money from Captain VAN PAPAN but it was because they didn't advise the Captain of their activities.

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

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

—Chicken-pox threatens to become epidemic in Cresson and several rooms in the public schools have been closed for two weeks.

—Hugh Jeffries, former chief of police of DuBois, has been appointed county detective for Clearfield county by Judge Singleton Bell.

—Mrs. E. W. Hess, of Clearfield, fell dead on the streets of DuBois Monday afternoon while hastening to catch a train for her home town.

—John Galoni, a resident of Greensburg, last week was fined \$9.47, including the costs for neglecting to send a married daughter, aged 13, to school.

—The prevalence of measles in Johnstown has led the city's health officer to threaten to prosecute persons concealing cases of that disease in their homes.

—The coroner's jury that investigated the shooting of Henry Decker, of Derry, by his brother, William Decker, rendered a verdict of accidental shooting.

—Four of Williamsport's well known mercantile establishments will go out of business April 1. One has been catering to the people of the Lumber City for forty-nine years.

—It is intimated that the council of Williamsport will appoint a city physician and open a free dispensary where persons unable to pay for medicine may obtain it free of charge.

—Mrs. Annie Faber, a resident of Westmoreland county, has been committed to the county jail charged with the theft of a pound of butter. Her little son was taken with her to the prison.

—At Lock Haven Tuesday Judge Hall and his associates granted 41 applications for license to sell liquor, refused 5 and held over 3 for future consideration, two of them being applications for wholesale license.

—When Mrs. Meckan, of Lock Haven, awoke the other morning she was horrified to discover that her baby, two months old, had died sometime during the night, although it had been in good health the previous evening.

—Last Monday evening the authorities of Williamsport discovered and removed to the city building a colored family whose members would have been frozen to death had they been allowed to remain in their fireless home over night.

—Mrs. Mary Skilling, of Sutersville, Westmoreland county, aged 85 years, lost her balance while stirring an open grate fire and fell into the grate. She was badly burned and inhaled smoke and flames, dying about ten hours after the accident.

—Miss Minerva Humbert, a resident of Somerset county, has entered suit against Charles Spence, an official of the Baltimore & Ohio rail road shops at Somerset, for breach of promise. The lady thinks it will take \$10,000 to soothe her lacerated feelings.

—Westmoreland county has two men working on the job of cost clerk owing to a difference of opinion concerning the appointing power. They are not quarreling and are likely to divide the work until the salary board meets and determines which is which.

—Mrs. Cogette Salvadore and several other women, residents of Greensburg, have been lodged in jail to await a hearing on the charge of shop-lifting. It is said that dry goods to the value of several hundred dollars were found secreted in the houses searched.

—Andrew Kopelak, a coke plant employe of the Cambria Steel company at Johnstown, was run over by a Cambria car while engaged in cleaning the tracks last Monday and instantly killed. He was the first Johnstown man whose widow will profit by the compensation act.

—The rumor that A. L. Cole, of Clearfield, would contest for the congressional nomination with Representative Charles H. Rowland is denied by Mr. Cole, who says he is for Rowland and never authorized anybody to announce his candidacy. This ought to settle that matter, so far as Mr. Cole is concerned.

—Paul Fisher, aged 3 years was burned to death and his father seriously injured in a fire which destroyed 14 houses owned by a coal company at Fayette City, early on Sunday rendering 13 families homeless. The explosion of an oil lamp was believed to have been responsible. The loss was estimated at \$25,000.

—Pete Picadilly and Mike Karba of Barnesboro, two lads who had run away from home and started to see the world, were taken into custody at Johnstown on Saturday morning by the police. Relatives at Barnesboro were notified of their capture and Saturday night the youngsters were sent home by Chief Swabb.

—Several thousand employes of the Harbison-Walker Refractories Co., which operates plants in Retort, Philipsburg, Wallacetown, Bigler, Stronach and Clearfield, will be affected by a wage increase to take effect February 1st. The General Refractories Company and the Bickford Fire Brick Company, of Curwensville, have also announced an increase in the wages of their men.

—In August, 1915, Walter Smith, on a visit to his brother in Sycamore, Jefferson county, met Miss Alta Stahl, of that town and in less than twenty-four hours after the meeting they were married. They removed to Rochester, N. Y. Two months ago the young wife disappeared. Last Wednesday morning her body was found in the Erie canal, at Rochester. The cause of her suicide is unknown.

—One day last week two very aged residents of Allport, Clearfield county residing under the same roof but in separate apartments of the double dwelling, died about five hours apart. They were Julian Bese, a native of France, but for many years a resident of this country, and Mrs. Christina Mattilda Hagman, who was born in Sweden, but has resided in Allport for some years. Mr. Bese was in his 96th year, Mrs. Hagman in her 92nd year.

—Another fire occurred at the Aetna explosives works one mile east of Mount Union on Saturday evening at about 5 o'clock, when the brick-making building burned down. This building is about one hundred feet long by forty feet wide. About 600 pounds of powder was burned, without an explosion. The machinery was also destroyed. It is supposed that the fire originated from a spark from a chisel in the hands of a workman doing repairs.

—William Shontz, 20 years old, was arrested at Lewistown on Monday charged with the robbery of the Jacob Harowitz clothing store more than a year ago. Following the arrest Shontz led the officers to a cave high up in the mountains in Manns Narrows where he had stored the loot. The crime puzzled the local authorities at that place for a year until Patrolman M. A. Davis, of the Pennsylvania railroad force, caught Shontz in the act of shipping one of the stolen suit cases by express.

—A 65-ton locomotive crane used by the Reading railroad as a pile driver on the bridge construction work at West Milton, overturned Friday and dropped to the river, a distance of 15 feet. Frank Helwig, of Milton, the fireman, was in the cab at the time and was carried with the machine to the river bottom. He was injured in the fall and narrowly escaped drowning, before he was rescued. Ernest Leary, of Harrisburg, who was operating the crane when it overturned, jumped to a place of safety on the bridge and went to the rescue of his companion, who was penned in the cabin of the crane which was submerged in several feet of water. When Helwig was brought to the surface, he was unconscious, but was quickly revived. A physician who was summoned found that he was suffering with a broken collar bone.