

INK SLINGS.

—Tomorrow we will celebrate the anniversary of LINCOLN'S birth.

—Anyway, the ice man is beginning to wear a more hopeful expression again.

—Congressman RAINEY, of Illinois, is being talked of as President WILSON'S running mate.

—TEDDY must expect those "six unborn grand-sons" to be ushered in with khaki clothes on.

—The efforts of the opposition papers to stir up discord in the Democratic ranks in Centre county are laughable.

—Between BRYAN peace and ROOSEVELT militarism, President WILSON is trying to keep in the middle of the road.

—Bellefonte surely was a dry town Monday, but even our temperance friends were unable to stir up any enthusiasm over it.

—The New Jersey Senate voted for local option on Monday and BILLY SUNDAY fairly dandled the tabernacle at Trenton off its foundations.

—The ground-hog may not have seen his shadow, but he has been making weather very like he had been scared back into his hole by something.

—The London and Paris news writers talk flippantly of Col. HOUSE and his mission principally because he wasn't flip enough to gratify their curiosity.

—The revenue derived from automobile licenses up to last Friday amounted to \$1,184,380. That is a pretty nice beginning for state road work when spring opens up.

—If JACK CARDIFF, BILLY SUNDAY'S old trainer becomes a revivalist next year, as he announces he will, it will be interesting to watch the results of the jump from the prize ring to the pulpit.

—Commissioner JACKSON announces that six thousand workers are to be killed and three hundred thousand injured in the various industries of Pennsylvania during 1916. The Commissioner must be having bad dreams.

—Men's spring coats are to be two buttoned sacks, single breasted with drapery over the hips. The advance fashion notes are not quite specific as to whether the "drapery" will be in the form of a ruffle or a flounce.

—If the Harrisburg business men are curious enough to want to see how Bellefonte does things let us be genial enough and enthusiastic enough to show them that we do everything right; and especially when entertaining the stranger within our gates.

—Judge BEN LINDSAY declares that Germany must have milk, else her babies will starve. The Judge addressed his remarks to the American people instead of the German cows, which is only another evidence of how frequently the jurist barks up the wrong tree.

—With millions of gallons of water running down the stream there was not a drop to be had from any of the pipes in Bellefonte Monday. Troops of boys were selling water on the streets and there was a continuous parade of a bucket brigade to the Big Spring.

—Admiral BLUE has stated before the Congressional investigating committee that our Pacific fleet is ready to meet and take care of any foreign fleet that might attack the Pacific coast. We are glad to know that we have one optimist in the Navy who is blue only in name.

—The Lusitania incident is practically closed. Germany has practically acceded to all of the demands of the United States and there yet only remains the matter of reducing the agreement to writing. How much better this is, even though it has been long drawn out, than fighting.

—If the fight really comes between BRUMBAUGH and PENROSE for the control of the Republican party in the State, as present indications assure, Centre county Republicanism will stand with PENROSE. But when it takes that stand a couple of local Republican celebrities who have long eyes on jobs at Harrisburg will take tumblers clear out of the range of the plum trees.

—It takes a catastrophe like Monday's break in the main water line supplying Bellefonte to point out the necessity of having supplies on hand to meet any emergency. While the town has probably never before been so uncomfortable for eighteen hours in succession, with no water, no steam and no gas, we are assured that council will at once take steps to make a few small changes in the system which, if they had been made years ago, would have obviated much of Monday's trouble.

—Since 1860 there have been three Democratic Presidents of the United States, yet every night some Republican backs a poor, timid Democrat into a corner in the store and threatens to annihilate him, calls him a rebel and a country wrecker, all because a Democratic President who has been in office a little over two years, hasn't built the biggest navy and army in the world, eaten Mexico up, and wiped Europe off the map. And the Democrat pipes a pean of peace or sneaks home. But that was ever the Republican way. Do nothing and claim every thing.

Democratic Watchman

STATE RIGHTS AND FEDERAL UNION.

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Declaration of War Confirmed.

Speaker AMBLER has formally announced his candidacy for Auditor General and thus the declaration of war between the factions, made by BILL VARE, a week ago, is ratified and confirmed. Probably those responsible for this situation fail to appreciate its importance. Possibly they imagined that PENROSE will yield as he did to BILL FLINN in the State convention four years ago when he left Harrisburg without even a protest; as he did when AMBLER was forced upon him as Speaker of the last Legislature, a year ago, and as he did when SMITH was nominated for Mayor of Philadelphia by the VARES and BRUMBAUGH, last spring. But viewed from this distance from the theatre of war it doesn't look as if the Senator will give up.

In the present situation it is political life or death for PENROSE. Four years ago he could lose to FLINN without impairment of his title to leadership and in fact he strengthened his chances for reelection to the Senate by yielding. In the Speakership he gave up a shadow rather than substance for he had little interest in legislation and evaded responsibility. In the Mayoralty affair it looks as if he was plainly cheated. In other words SMITH, who had been his most servile follower, sold himself to the opposition and betrayed a friendship of long standing. Now the Senator must win or vamoose and we have every reason to believe that he will engage in the fight with such energy and intelligence as to guarantee victory in the primary election.

Of course such a battle for control of the organization will leave deep scars and ugly sores on both sides and greatly impair the strength of the party. But the Republican majority is so large and the management of the Democratic forces so stupid, that there is scarcely a possibility of Republican defeat at the general election. What a pity that the Democracy of Pennsylvania has fallen to so low a level. Four years ago WILSON ought to have carried Pennsylvania by a large majority but the selfish and incompetent managers were so intent upon dividing the spoils among themselves that opportunity passed them by. This year things may be different. It depends upon the primaries. If the incompetents are thrown out PENROSE'S victory will be barren.

"HAMPY" MOORE is greatly distressed because Congress is inclined to levy taxes on the wealthy rather than the poor. "HAMPY'S" party has always followed the opposite course because the poor can't furnish campaign funds.

Unreasonable Criticisms.

The unreasonableness of the President's critics is most pronounced in their insistence that he do something other than write notes of protest against belligerents which impair our commercial interests or perpetrate outrages upon our citizens traveling abroad in pursuit of their pleasure or business. Colonel ROOSEVELT is not mentally responsible for what he says and of course nobody pays any attention to his mouthings. But some Senators and Representatives in Congress and certain newspapers, hitherto regarded as respectable, insist that the note writing be discontinued and diplomatic relations with the offending governments severed. That of course would mean war.

Now, in the name of reason, what would the government of the United States go to war with? Mr. GARDNER, of Massachusetts, and other Congressmen have openly declared that our navy is a farce and our army a shadow. Experience teaches that a call to arms in this country gets prompt and generous response. But what would be the use of an army, however big, if we had no guns for them to shoot or ammunition to load? As a matter of fact we haven't even the facilities for sheltering or drilling a large army or resisting the diseases and infections which invariably attack armies in camp improperly equipped. If we were prepared to fight and refrained through fear, there would be cause of complaint.

The authorities in every capital in Europe are as well informed as to our unpreparedness as our capable and efficient Secretary of War. In fact it may safely be said that the criticisms of ROOSEVELT, GARDNER and others in and out of Congress are uttered for the purpose of informing military authorities of other countries that they may flout us with impunity. ROOSEVELT would gladly pay that price for a personal and political advantage. But the people of the country are not so unpatriotic. The President has asked them to give him the equipment and they will grant his request. Then there will be no quibbling. Europe will then know that a just demand of the United States must be met.

Breweries and Other Evils of Politics.

Mr. F. LOWRY HUME, United States District Attorney for the Western District of this State, has instituted a judicial investigation of the recent political activities of breweries. Mr. A. MITCHELL PALMER who ran last in a three-cornered fight for Senator in Congress for this State in 1914, imagines that the breweries defeated him by contributing funds to his opponents. He brought the matter to the attention of the Senate but after a preliminary inquiry that body, though the Democrats are in substantial majority, declined to give it serious attention. Various reasons were given, some of them sinister, for this action upon the part of the Senate, but nobody was publicly questioned as to the wisdom of it.

If the breweries of Pennsylvania have been corrupting the politics of the State they should be exposed and if they have violated any law through their political activities, they should be punished severely. Pennsylvania is too big and the standard of morality among her people too high, to be influenced by the rum power through improper agencies. But Federal District Attorney HUME, of Pittsburgh, is not the sort of man to whom we should look for earnest or honest reform work and if he is employing the instrumentalities of the courts to politicize the disappointments to MITCHELL PALMER'S absurd ambitions, he is committing a crime against the public interests of the country greater than that which is alleged against the breweries.

A man who would embarrass the President under the pretense of friendship as Mr. PALMER did when he procured a postponement of the sentence of the lumber pirates, now justly serving sentence in prison and as he did by becoming involved in the scandal over the leakage of State secrets to German agents, is not entitled to much consideration at the hands of the agencies of government or the officials of a Democratic administration. Punish the brewers if they have violated the law and eliminate the rum power from political influence and activity if possible. But don't prostitute the courts to the service of corrupt politicians and mercenaries.

—Speaking in war terms the conquest of the Middle West by President WILSON was about the most complete thing in that line in recent years.

Mr. Bailey and His Plans.

The announcement of Congressman WARREN WORTH BAILEY, of Johnstown, that he will not be a candidate for United States Senator will be regretfully received by a large number of earnest Democrats in Pennsylvania. We are not in accord with Mr. BAILEY in all his ideas of public policies. For example, we are diametrically opposed to his views upon the question of preparedness, now the paramount issue in the public mind. But Mr. BAILEY is so honest, earnest and capable that he is entitled to free mental action, and though he disagrees with the President, most of his Democratic associates in Congress and a vast majority of the Democrats of the country, he is absolutely within his right.

It is gratifying to learn, however, that Mr. BAILEY will be a candidate for reelection to Congress and we sincerely hope that he may again be successful in that contest. Four years ago he rescued his district from Republican control, having secured a plurality of 938 against a Republican plurality two years previously of 10,464. Two years ago he was re-elected, though by a decreased plurality, but sufficient to show that his splendid services were appreciated by the people. By attaching himself to a selfish faction he had offended a considerable number of Democratic voters, but because he was personally unselfish and sincere, he was supported loyally by the Democrats and elected while most of the other factionists were defeated.

Mr. BAILEY is a man of fine ability, ripe judgment and earnest purpose. Being human he errs at times but being honest he assumes full responsibility for his action and meets the consequences with full front. He has not absorbed the preposterous notion that a handful of selfish and sordid office holders and office brokers in Washington compose the Democratic party of Pennsylvania and frankly declares that he doesn't covet a seat in the coming Democratic National convention. He asks the support of his constituents in his just and laudable ambition for re-election and he deserves such an expression of popular approval. We would be better off if we had more like him there.

—The British navy was probably giving its attention to fishing when that German tramp started out to prey on commerce and capture the Appam.

The Tariff Commission Folly.

Opposing the proposed tariff commission is no sign of hostility toward President WILSON. During the last Congress some of his warmest friends in the House and Senate fought the ship-purchase bill and the fact made no difference in the relations between them. Independence of thought is essential to true friendship and assuming that President WILSON resents the exercise of mental freedom is a reflection upon his character and an aspersion upon the intelligence of his friends. Therefore in objecting to the tariff commission we are expressing no spirit of opposition to the President.

There can be no such thing as a non-partisan tariff commission. The proposition to take the tariff question out of politics is equally absurd. Those who favor high tariff are on one side and the supporters of low tariff on the other, and in the minds of each the others are partial and partial. High tariff and low tariff are opposite policies. Any tax which takes from the pockets of the people money in excess of the actual needs of the government is robbery. The purpose of high tariff is to compel one set of tax payers to pay in order that another set may get unearned bounties. Its effect is to take from the earnings of one man to bestow the money on another.

It is as reasonable to ask a man to favor burglary as it is to ask him to support high tariff when the proceeds of the operation is to benefit one at the expense of the other. No commission can make burglary a virtue or the perpetration of crime an expression of righteousness. All it can accomplish is to gather statistics of no value and take money out of the treasury for worthless services. The President may adopt another view of this subject. He may view it from another angle as he has a right to do. But to your mind tariff legislation is the work of Congress and we admire WOODROW WILSON just as much as if he agreed with us.

—The Harrisburg Chamber of Commerce has practically completed the arrangements for its trip through the central part of the State for the purpose of booming the capitol city. Bellefonte will be one of the towns visited and the special train of five cars will arrive here between twelve and one o'clock on Thursday of next week, February 17th. About one hundred and fifty members with a band of twenty-two pieces are expected on the trip. They have arranged for luncheon at the Brockerhoff and Bush houses and will also visit some of the main points of interest in the town, among which will be Bellefonte's famous spring. After luncheon a brief meeting will be held in the court house which will likely be presided over by J. Linn Harris, president of the Bellefonte Board of Trade. The meeting will be held for the purpose of giving Bellefonte business men an opportunity to meet the visitors. From Bellefonte the Harrisburg delegation will go to Lock Haven, Williamsport and Sunbury.

—Next week the county papers will publish the names of all the owners of dogs in the county and the boy who owns the most miserable cur will get just as much canine as the fellow with a pedigree pup.

—Senator LEWIS, of Chicago, is apprehensive of an alliance between Germany and Great Britain to attack the United States. Obviously "JIM HAM" is talking through his purple whiskers.

—England is preparing for an important shift among cabinet and other officials. Well, some sort of a movement was needed there to prove that the people have some interest in the war.

—The balance in the State treasury is smaller than the favored banks like, no doubt, but as long as it is above a couple of millions there is no danger of bankruptcy or default.

—One of Berlin's great editors declares that "Germany has the allies by the throat." If that be true there will probably be some chewing when the grip is relinquished.

—Of course JIM BLAKSLIE will want to be a Delegate-at-Large to the Democratic National convention. JIM wants to put the party in safe hands.

—Mr. ROCKERFELLER has gone to Florida to play golf but as the price of gasoline has gone up he can probably afford the expense.

—From the kind of weather we have had ever since, the ground-hog must at least have seen something on February 2nd.

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

LITTLE GIRL.

From the St. Louis Post-Dispatch.
When you buy them, what's the cue
Those are very pretty shoes,
Little girl.
Are they truly number twos,
Little girl?
They're so radiant with eyes
That they dim a body's eyes
In the matter of the size,
Little girl.
One can see them for a mile,
Little girl.
Are they nothing but the style,
Little girl?
They're so dainty and petite
In the throng upon the street,
One is just a little beat.
Little girl.
When you buy them, what's the cue,
Little girl?
Do you ask for red or blue,
Little girl?
Or in women's sweet estate
Where the shops are up to date,
Do they dye them while you wait,
Little girl?
We are very much afraid,
Little girl.
Of the tendency displayed,
Little girl.
Not to speak of what we see
Now and then of someone's knee
When the wind is wild and free,
Little girl.
Are they making women's suits,
Little girl.
To display the newer boots,
Little girl?
If they are, it might be wise
For the men to bind their eyes,
For the boots are on the rise,
Little girl!
Just a moment at the gate,
Little girl.
The effect of it is great,
Little girl.
Only this, to close the rhyme:
Though your booting is sublime,
We are looking all the time,
Little girl.

The Blatancy of Borah.

From the Johnstown Democrat.
It is now generally conceded that our war with Spain was a stupid blunder and a national disgrace. A weak and obliging President and a spineless Congress were forced into it by a mendacious and unscrupulous press. The United States obtained nothing in trade and commerce that it could not have obtained by treaty. A financial burden was saddled upon the people that was wholly unnecessary and which it was a national crime to make them bear.

When broad-minded statesmen like Senator Borah, blatant demagogues like Theodore Roosevelt and discredited diplomats like Henry Lane Wilson unite in demanding intervention in Mexico, it is proper for the average citizen who must pay the bills to demand to know what obligations morally or politically the people of this country are under to restore peace and order in Mexico.

Senator Borah in the Senate scorchingly denounced the Administration's policy in Mexico as a "compromising side-stepping, procrastinating, un-American policy of leaving the American citizen to struggle for himself against the bandits of an adjacent country."

The Senator of course is profoundly impressed that such silly prattle strikes a responsive chord somewhere in the anatomy of the American people. But a moment's reflection ought to convince him that the American citizen who remains in Mexico to struggle against bandits is doing so of his own volition. He is free to quit the struggle with bandits at any time he feels so disposed. There is no fugitive law to restrain him or bring him back if he escapes.

But one thing is certain. He has no right to stay there and involve his native country in a stupid, brutal, objectionable war. If he is a true American, a sincere patriot, the last thing he would think of doing would be to bring the horrors of war on his native land.

Disposing of the Appam.

From the New York World.
Holding that the British ship Appam, now at Newport News, is legitimately a German prize of war, Secretary Lansing solves the first and perhaps the simplest of several complicated questions. The Hague Convention of 1907 undertook to rule that in cases like this the prize should be compelled to put to sea, and, failing to do so, should be turned over to her original owners. A section in conflict with this gives to prizes the right of asylum in neutral ports pending the decision of a prize court, but the United States never subscribed to this, and the Hague Convention has been reduced almost to blank paper by the actions of the belligerents themselves.

Directly bearing upon the point is a section of the treaty between the United States and Prussia of 1828, an instrument which both Powers have repeatedly recognized during the present war. By the terms of this agreement, prizes are to have asylum in all ports of both parties and are free to come and go at will. As Germany is not likely very soon to be in a position to carry its prize to a home port, there is nothing to do so far as the Appam is concerned but to give it safe harbor.

Beyond this, and with reference to the final disposition of the ship, its cargo, its military prisoners and its crew, there are many things to determine, responsibility for which will rest upon the United States alone. We have been attempting, not always with success, to maintain international law. In this case the State Department will be both judge and jury, and the more closely it approaches justice rooted in treaties and law, the more vehement the protests of interested belligerents are likely to be.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

—James Hobson, residing near Philipsburg, on the Clearfield side, married, committed suicide a few days ago by shooting himself. Nobody knows why he did it.

—The new board of commissioners of Indiana county announce that the office will be open six days in the week hereafter, the Saturday half holiday being abolished.

—William Melvin, who died last Sunday at his home in DuBois, at the age of 83, had been blind for a half century, his eyes having been blown out in a mine explosion in Luzerne county.

—Mrs. John Hughes, of Westmont, a suburb of Johnstown, has had a steel needle removed from one of her knees that had been there for eighteen years and only recently began to give her pain.

—An epidemic of mumps has been prevailing among the youngsters of certain sections of Clinton county. In Chapman township all save one of the fifty pupils have been suffering from the disease.

—Some Jefferson county hotel men, since all licenses were refused last Thursday by Judge Corbet, are talking of closing their houses, while others propose to try to do business without the aid of bar receipts.

—A few seconds after leaving her son, to whom she had taken his dinner, Mrs. Ida Frey, aged 47, of Casselman, Somerset county, was struck by an engine and instantly killed. The accident happened Sunday afternoon.

—Two of the three men who broke jail in Westmoreland county recently and were captured were sent to the penitentiary last Saturday, one for not less than two years, the other for not less than two years and six months.

—The Red Men's lodge of Morrisdale has appropriated \$500 for the equipment and uniforming of a band. This will give that growing call town its second musical organization. O. W. Weiler, of Philipsburg, is to be the leader.

—All male students of the Kittanning High school over five feet, six inches tall have joined a military company of that school which is receiving instructions and being drilled by Prof. E. B. Roberts. Thirty have joined the company.

—Measles, whooping cough and diphtheria have closed a dozen or more rooms of Johnstown public school buildings for functioning and are responsible for the absence of many pupils. Of measles 214 cases were reported at the beginning of the week.

—Dogs, horses and cows will be quarantined for a long period in Millport township, Somerset county, as the result of an analysis of the brain of a dog which was shot after it had bitten other dogs, cows and horses. The analysis showed that the canine had rabies.

—Miss Bella Greenleaf, of Colerain, Lancaster county, 76 years old, who had been confined to her bed for nearly fifty years as an invalid, died Saturday night from infirmities of age. She taught school when quite young and her illness resulted from a fall. Two sisters survive.

—The Board of Commissioners of Clearfield county that retired with the close of 1915 appointed H. L. Bowman, one of their number, mercantile appraiser. The new board has appointed James Hall, and legal proceedings have been instituted to determine who really is mercantile appraiser.

—Walter Walthour, a seventeen-year-old school boy of Greensburg, fell while crossing a barbed wire fence on his way to school recently and broke his neck, dying instantly. Walthour was a Senior in the school and was walking with a lady friend, taking a short-cut to the school when the accident occurred.

—Alleging that he was put off a car and whipped by a conductor on the Shamokin-Mt. Carmel Transit company's line when he asked for his change out of a 25-cent piece, after he had paid for a 5-cent ride, Victor Stroh, of Mt. Carmel, Saturday brought suit in the Northumberland county court for \$5,000 damages.

—Three hundred Williamsport sidewalks that have not been cleared of snow were reported to the highway department of that city last week and the officials have as many men as could be secured at work removing the snow and ice. The bills will be sent to the property owners. We have no such policy in Bellefonte.

—John W. Mack, aged 40, a colored resident of Mount Union, had the fingers frozen on one of his hands during the January cold snap, and did not give the hand the attention it should have received. In consequence he contracted lockjaw, of which dreadful disease he died in the Blair Memorial hospital, Huntingdon.

—Jesse Allen, now an inmate of the DuBois hospital, having been shot in an encounter with an officer who undertook to arrest him on the charge of being implicated in the Rowles murder, at Clearfield, is improving in health and will soon be removed to the county jail at Clearfield. He laughs at the officers who have been trying to persuade him to confess.

—Four stores at Williamsport were entered late Saturday night, or early Sunday morning, and the cash registers in three of them were relieved of their contents. The biggest haul was made at the Milliner drug store, where \$57 was secured. At the Otto book store and the Cox shoe store \$5 was taken from each place. At the Lester shoe store the thieves apparently left empty-handed.

—While repairing doors of the motor barn at the Fraser mine of the Lennox Coal company, near Barnesboro, Frank Feighner was crushed to death by a runaway motor. The motor got down grade when entering the barn. This one got away from the motorman and crushed through the door on the inside of which the man was working. He leaves a widow and eleven children, the oldest only 22.

—Early last Wednesday morning the firemen of Meyersdale were called out to a fire that destroyed the residence of the late William Daberko, who died under peculiar conditions a few days previous. When the firemen reached the place they found Mrs. Daberko standing outside, fully dressed, with a trunk by her side. She said she did not know how the fire caught. She and her late husband had lived in the same house but in different apartments.

—Fred Blakslie, of Meadville, aged 69, was sentenced to pay fines and costs amounting to \$1525 for hunting game out of season and selling it. Blakslie was indicted to go hunting by Game Protector George M. Langdon and then sold four pheasants and four rabbits he had killed to the game protector. This is a case that should be inquired into very carefully by the State Game Commission and, if the facts as reported are correct, the above game protector should be summarily dismissed and compelled to pay a portion of the fine. Such action on the part of game protectors should not be tolerated one day, as they are the real instigators of the violation of the law.

—The body of Miss Hazel Schoenfelt, aged 20, of Altoona, was found floating in the Allegheny river at Pittsburgh on Saturday. Miss Schoenfelt, who was a student in the school for nurses at the Allegheny General hospital, Friday gave medicine, prescribed by one of the hospital physicians, to the wrong patient. According to Herbert Beamer, who Saturday relinquished his position as superintendent of the institution and who identified the body, Miss Schoenfelt admitted her error, and was dismissed. She at once put on a heavy coat, and hurrying to the river, three blocks away, walked into the water until it covered her head. Pedestrians who witnessed the act from a bridge, were unable to save her, and her identity was not disclosed until the body was recovered.