

INK SLINGS.

—March came in like a lamb. —February was surely a winter month. —Gasoline is still going up and wheat is coming down. I should worry, says the poor man.

—Already those garden utensils, ash piles and rubbish heaps are crying for a little attention.

—Where are the English soldiers while the Germans are pounding the French around Verdun?

—No doubt all countries will be willing to disarm after the war is over, but look what the wait cost.

—One year from tomorrow we will be inaugurating WOODROW WILSON President of the United States again.

—It is beginning to look as if Congress, having been caught bluffing, will lose its little play against the President.

—Former Judge ALLISON O. SMITH, of Clearfield, is being groomed for the Democratic nomination for United States Senator.

—Any way there has been enough ice harvested to insure the kiddies of the usual supply of ice cream cones next summer.

—Really there has been so little excitement during the past week that we would have welcomed the appearance of a German U-boat in Spring creek.

—Every time a two thousand-ton freight train comes to a full stop then regains its speed of twenty-five miles an hour it has cost the company operating the train sixty-one cents.

—The beginning of a new way to bring about Prohibition has been made in Pittsburgh. If they keep on sending all the big brewers to jail out there there will be none left to run the breweries.

—It is said that the forthcoming auditor's statement of the financial condition of Centre county will reveal that the county is entirely out of debt and has more cash in the treasury than has ever been reported before. Some business management, that.

—HENRY FORD has deposed Frau SCHWIMMER as chief "nut" to his peace parley at The Hague. If what the newspaper men who were with the party said was true the Frau must be a sort of cream "nut," as she took the best of everything for herself.

—This preparedness business is not a new idea at all. Why a fellow whose credit isn't A1, wouldn't think of going to a country sale without having first hunted up some kind friend whose credit is good to accompany him—and, incidentally, go on the note for the goods he buys.

—The people of the county generally will approve of the determination of the County Commissioners to take advantage of every opportunity that presents itself for public improvements. Every bit of State aid road possible to secure will be supported by the Commissioners, so that every community will have a chance to get what it needs.

—Our Presbyterian friends have called a new minister. We understand that they were unanimous in their choice. We suggest that they meet next Sunday and unanimously resolve to let their new minister find out who and what each one of them is without any coaching from the side-lines. The worst place in the world to play favorites is in a church.

—Attorney W. G. RUNKLE came very near having his hair pulled in court on Monday afternoon by a couple of "able bodied" witnesses whose testimony in the case he was pleading he had just declared to the jury to be "a tissue of lies." The attorney had scarcely gotten the words out of his mouth when the two women in question arose in the rear of the auditorium and "bawled him out" in a way that threatened a scene, until the brand new corps of tipstaves mobilized and restored order.

—We want every reader of the WATCHMAN to read the long article on page three of this issue, that concludes the Tylersville correspondence. We want you to read it carefully and then ponder over it for quite awhile. There are thoughts in it that will do you good to think, because they will reveal to you what a struggle many newspaper publishers really have over a matter that possibly never enters the head of the hurried reader. The real question which our Tylersville writer brings up is as to whether the business office or conscience should dictate the policy of a newspaper. Of course there is only one side to the question altruistically, but it is impracticable, nevertheless; for the reason that so long as the public craves all the sordid details of crime and misfortune that paper cannot live that does not, in a measure, cater to the taste. We doubt if there is a single legitimate newspaper publisher alive who would not welcome the day when it could all be blue pencil.

The WATCHMAN has gone further in this direction than many of its contemporaries, but it has lost business through it. We have heard within the past month of people who "do not take the WATCHMAN because it is too high toned." And they mean by "high toned" because it does not exploit the things that "yellow" journals thrive on and that lack of refinement leads many people to regard as news.

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Abate the Roosevelt Nuisance.

A correspondent of an esteemed Philadelphia contemporary protests against the exploitation of ROOSEVELT by the press of the country. The public is growing impatient, this writer declares, at "the continual posing of him as a classic, presumptuously rated beside WASHINGTON and LINCOLN." Whatever question arises his views are paraded for popular guidance and featured as the last word. In this timely protest we most cordially concur. What has ROOSEVELT ever done to entitle him to such distinction? He served seven years as President of the United States during which period trusts multiplied and monopoly thrived, graft ran riot in every department at Washington and scandal was traced into the Executive Chamber. Is he to be canonized for this? Whenever opportunity offers ROOSEVELT denounces President WILSON because the country is not prepared to engage in a war of vast magnitude. During the seven years that he occupied the White House not a single thing was done toward preparedness. He denounces the President because trusts are not restrained and yet while he was President his partiality for the MORGAN interests and his promotion of the unlawful deal by which the Tennessee Coal and Iron company was absorbed by the Steel trust, so completely entrenched the trusts that it has been practically impossible to reach them. As a matter of fact nine-tenths of the evils from which the country is suffering now are traceable to ROOSEVELT's misinterpretation of the laws and misuse of power.

ROOSEVELT is simply and solely a "scruvy politician" who will pervert every principle and sacrifice every public interest to promote his selfish ambitions. He wants to be President again because he desires to flout a tradition created by WASHINGTON and strengthened by all his successors in the great office. He hates WOODROW WILSON for the same reason that "the devil hates holy water," and he opposes every act of the administration with the blind bigotry of a crazy mind. Of course the public is growing weary of this constant ranting and the newspapers which have the courage to set their faces against his exploitation will do the public a service of the highest value. Abate the nuisance.

Middle West Sees Roosevelt.

The Middle West, according to the Chicago correspondent of the Philadelphia Public Ledger, firmly believes that ROOSEVELT will be the Republican nominee for President. "It is all traceable to the GARY dinner in New York," the correspondent continues. He satisfied the financial magnates then and there, that he can be depended upon to repay obligations and is ready to make the contract at any time. "That the selection of ROOSEVELT is made by Wall Street, is remarkable enough," the Chicago writer adds, "but that this choice is accepted more and more by people not particularly with that part of the world is still more wonderful." Probably it is hypnotic.

One thing is certain and that is if the stupid or venal Democratic managers had not pumped life into the political lungs of ROOSEVELT in 1914, when they brought him into Pennsylvania to "tear WILSON to pieces," he would not have been a menace to Democratic success now. We don't believe that his nomination will fulfill the expectations of those who are striving for it. That is to say we are still confident that WOODROW WILSON will be re-elected no matter who the Republican candidate may be. But no other candidate than Roosevelt could carry any State against WILSON and therefore the perfidy of the Democratic managers of 1914, in restoring ROOSEVELT to political life, is a source of trouble, if not an actual menace now.

The signs are strongly indicative of ROOSEVELT's nomination as the Republican candidate. But we can't imagine the thousands of Republicans who justly esteem WILLIAM HOWARD TAFT as a worthy man will support ROOSEVELT. It is not probable either that the friends of Senator PENROSE, Mr. BARNES, of New York, Mr. CRANE, of Massachusetts, and former Speaker CANNON will vote to recompense ROOSEVELT for his treachery four years ago. But he is by all odds the strongest man the Republicans can nominate and the only man who can carry a State against WILSON. Never-the-less he ought to have been allowed to stay dead politically when he was dead and before the Pennsylvania stupids restored him to life.

—What else could have been expected of OWEN WISTER? For fifty years his family has been grafting from the government through tariff taxation and the probability that his grip will be wrenched off has made him mad.

Boss Palmer Must Be Opposed.

It is the bounden duty of the Democrats of Pennsylvania to oppose the reelection of A. MITCHELL PALMER as a member of the Democratic National committee for Pennsylvania. Mr. PALMER has never risen above the level of a factionist. His mental structure is of such a nature that he can't rise or expand much. His ambition is to manage an office brokerage so that he may reward servility and pay, without cash, for services performed. On at least two occasions he has been charged with using personal gain his influence with the President and always his party leadership has been used as "stock in trade" for the promotion of his own political, professional and commercial purposes.

The election of such a man to represent the State of Pennsylvania in the Democratic National committee would be an outrage upon a large body of earnest and honest Democrats. He sneaked into the party leadership under a false and fraudulent pretense. He asked the preference as an opponent of bossism and at the very first opportunity gave such an exhibition of bossism as had never been seen or dreamed of in the State before. If WILLIAM A. WALLACE, SAMUEL J. RANDALL, ROBERT F. PATTON, CHAUNCEY F. BLACK or any other of the great men who at one time or another has been recognized as party leader had undertaken to force a platform of alien doctrines upon the party, he would have been crucified by the indignant Democrats of the State.

But A. MITCHELL PALMER perpetrated this crime upon the party in 1914 when he issued a platform that had never been voted upon by any constituted authority. He brought the paper with him from Washington and in Harrisburg revealed its contents to nine servile followers of his machine. The meeting which had been called to pass upon it was adjourned by his direction before the paper was read to it and thus nine contemptible puppets of an arrogant boss usurped the sacred right of making a Democratic platform for a Democratic campaign. A man who will thus pervert opportunities to promote his own personal aims has no right to sit in the Democratic National committee for Pennsylvania.

The European War.

We have no more doubt today than had a year ago as to the ultimate result of the European war. The entente allies will win for the reason that their triumph is necessary to the perpetuation of human liberty. A victory for Germany would make the world one vast military despotism in which Austria-Hungary and Turkey would be among the first sufferers. In the nature of things such a thing could not possibly happen in this period of civilization.

But Great Britain has not performed her share in the work of compassing the necessary result. She has made great boast of what she can and will do but failed to meet her obligations. She has been liberal with money and loaned freely to her allies to meet their requirements. But she has not offered the supreme sacrifice. In other words she has not put her own sons before the cannon's mouth as the people of Belgium and France have done and until she comes up to that standard she is not acquitted.

The English are a boastful people but hitherto they have not been wanting in courage so far as the records show. In every previous national emergency she has shown the highest fighting qualities, though in the South African struggle she blundered grievously. There was excuse for that in the fact that she had had little recent experience in war. But after Earl KITCHENER and Lord ROBERTS reached the centre of activities conditions changed for the better and the opposition, however stubborn, gave way.

In this war, on the other hand, the British appear to be laggards, if not cowards. ASQUITH tells the world every day or two what terms will be exacted to secure peace but the Germans are making progress on every battle line. This boasting ought to be stopped and real soldiering begun. The war ought to have ended a year ago. Every day that it continues is a crime against civilization. But the British are to blame. They ought to go to the front.

Wilson Challenges His Enemies.

The President has supplemented his recent admirable letter to Senator STONE by a direct challenge to the opponents of his policy in Congress to make a record. As clearly expressed in the letter to Senator STONE forbidding American citizens to exercise their absolute right to travel on board ship would be a sacrifice of National honor. Still under some malign influence the talk of such prohibition by Congress continued until finally, on Tuesday, the President challenged a "show down." He asked the House Committee on Rules to permit a vote upon one of the pending resolutions on the subject. That will settle the question finally. It may show who is behind the conspiracy.

During weeks of most extraordinary trial President WILSON has been harassed by the leaders of the opposition party and a contingent in his own party, who have been trying to create the impression that his policies are not supported by Congress and the public. The result is that foreign governments practically flouted propositions coming from the President. It was clearly reasonable and might have involved us in the war now in progress in Europe. But such partisans as ROOSEVELT are not restrained by considerations of patriotism. They want to make the administration a failure even though the government is wrecked in the process. And it must be admitted that there are Democrats in the enterprise.

The show down which the President demands will prove not only that Congress but the entire people of the country are behind WOODROW WILSON in his policies. Not only will the House of Representatives refuse to adopt the mischievous resolution in question but it ought to pass a resolution of confidence in the President. From the beginning of the government no President has had as difficult problems to solve and no President has solved the problems before him with greater wisdom and conscience. Let Congress act promptly and upon its action different reports will come from Berlin. The Kaiser will not be quite so positive when he finds the people behind the President.

A Splendid Idea.

Just now, when all eyes are turned hopefully towards Central and South American countries, expectant that our limited trade with them will expand wondrously because of their divorcement from all European connections, the thought presented in the appended communication is most timely. A real vigorous, significant hymn, set to inspiring, vibrant music, expressing the mutual interests, sympathies and hopes of the peoples of the Western Hemisphere and voicing the spirit of the MONROE Doctrine would be a wonderful bond of sentimentality for the Pan-American countries.

The suggestion of the "Old Resident of Centre County" is a timely one and we publish it with the hope that its appeal will reach and interest some one who will contribute to make the idea a reality.

ATLANTIC CITY, February 22nd, 1916. DEAR WATCHMAN:

Why don't we have a grand new Pan-American hymn to celebrate the ONE good hyphen.

Something beautiful, sonorous, stimulating—the equal of the Marseillaise, or the Russian and Austrian national hymns. Not offensive, braggart, like "Britannia Rules the Waves!"

It seems to me that "it is up to" Penn State College to give us both words and music. Among her students there is much musical talent, possibly genius, as well as poetic gift.

Will not some generous Centre county millionaire step forward and offer a fat little prize for such a hymn; and put our fine old county at the head of the procession. Also help some boy to get his education.

One or two verses—crisp and clear, with a ringing air, that all may sing. Now then, boys, give your Alma Mater the credit for it, and fill with pride an OLD CITIZEN OF CENTRE.

—The German drives at Verdun accomplished nothing, thus far, except to kill men. The Crown Prince of Germany is in command of the operations in question and presumably has ordered the men up to the slaughter day after day. Comment is superfluous.

—Still the report that HEARST is likely to support ROOSEVELT may prevent the Colonel's nomination. The HEARST support is a big handicap.

WILLIE REGISTERS A KICK.

By an Unknown Author. Since mother's learned the modern step things haven't been the same: To gain distinction on the floor is now her only aim. When Dad suggests she sweep or cook, in anger mother rants. I wish she'd take the time to sew some buttons on my pants. She won a silver cup last week at Hooligan's cafe: 'Twas in a fox-trot contest—now she goes there every day. We've tried to make her give it up. We can't to save our souls. I wish she'd darn my stockings, for they're full of great big holes. She tells us she is perfect now, an expert, as it were: She says this Mrs. Castle is a joke compared to her. She classes most professionals as nothing more than fakes. I wish she'd stay at home a while and bake some batter cakes. We're merely camping out at home; ours is a sorry lot. For ma this life appears to be one joyous turkey trot. She simply won't ease up a bit, no matter how we beg. It looks as though our only hope is that she'll break a leg.

The Assault on Verdun.

From the Philadelphia Record. It goes without saying, of course, that the German attack upon Verdun, which has so far been so thrilling and successful, is the result of most careful thought and months of most thorough preparation. The chances of failure and success must have been weighed with great deliberation, and the fact that the decision to attack carried the day is the best of proof that the German General Staff attaches enormous importance to the campaign now under way. Otherwise it would not be willing to sacrifice the lives of many thousands of men and officers who cannot be well replaced. And yet, 400,000 men credited to them as constituting the Crown Prince's army.

Such considerations prompt the thought that the object aimed at in this vast slaughter of men is political and moral rather than strictly military. It is apparently planned to impress upon the belligerent nations as well as upon neutrals like Rumania an idea of the tremendous offensive strength of the Teutonic Powers and their unlimited resources in men and munitions of war. Possibly it is hoped to detach some one of the hostile countries from the pact not to agree to peace terms except as a whole. Whatever the motive, the Kaiser and his advisers evidently attach very great importance to it, or they would not be ready to impose such appalling sacrifices upon their troops. To the outside observer the fall of Verdun, if it is brought about by Teutonic prowess, would seem to have no more decisive effect than the capture of Warsaw or the crushing of Serbia. Events of the coming month are likely to throw much light upon these interesting problems.

Practical Peace Experts.

From the Johnstown Democrat. If Congress wants some testimony on the causes of war, from the class for which it has most respect, it should call Jacob Schiff and Admiral Chadwick to testify. Jacob Schiff says that "world wars will never cease as long as custom houses exist." He ought to know, for his firm has had splendid opportunities to get inside views of the financial end of modern international wars. Admiral Chadwick says that the way to maintain permanent peace is by "doing away with custom houses all over the world." He agrees with Mr. Schiff that without free trade wars will not cease.

These men are not theorists. One is a practical and very successful business man. The other knows all about the practical side of war. It may be that Mr. Schiff and Admiral Chadwick do not yet realize that free trade means more than abolition of custom houses. It means freeing of industry from all taxes and from all tribute to monopoly. Taxes devised by States and Municipalities on labor and its products interfere with trade, as also do corporations or individuals who monopolize land which must be used to produce or to transport wealth.

To get universal peace we must give absolute freedom to the things that make for peace.

Nice Weather We're Having!

From the Houston Post. The Ohio papers are ridiculing Cyclone Davis and we shall not restrain them, but will they tell us why Theodore Roosevelt has no Ohio grandchild and why an animated ism like Jake Coxey is permitted to run loose?

—Are you a subscriber to the I. O. O. F. souvenir program? If not, why not? Look for the souvenir window cards.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

—The town of Indiana will celebrate its centennial by a big celebration beginning June 19th and ending June 24th.

—Henry W. White, aged 72 years, an old and well known citizen of Williamsport, committed suicide on Monday evening by shooting himself in the head.

—All records for the present epidemic of measles in the Johnstown area, was broken last week when 128 new cases were reported, bringing the total up to 235.

—Alvin L. Kriner and Miss Nora Pepper, residents of Lycoming county, were married on Thursday of last week after a courtship extending over a period of nineteen years.

—Howard T. Baker, a resident of Williamsport when at home, a graduate of the Williamsport High school, class of 1909, is now a British soldier in the first trenches, "somewhere in France."

—Andrew Saganak, aged 13, a resident of Hawk Run, Clearfield county, was handling a dynamite can when it exploded and blew off three of the fingers of his left hand and inflicted injuries on his right hand.

—Charles H. Kuhn, who was the conductor on the ill-fated Ligonier Valley passenger train which was wrecked on the Wilpen branch, July 5th, 1912, was on Thursday awarded \$10,000 damages by a Westmoreland county jury.

—M. O. Smith, 69 years old, editor and publisher of the Hanover Record-Herald, one of the oldest of the pioneer weekly journals of the State, died on Monday. He was a Civil War veteran, school teacher, historian and promoter.

—Herbert Confer, aged 43, a resident of the Newberry section of Williamsport, was found dead in his bed on Thursday morning. He committed suicide by drinking laudanum. Inability to find employment is thought to have driven him to the act.

—Harrisburg is suffering the worst outbreak of measles in a decade. Scores of cases have been reported daily and some of the schools have small attendances, with possibilities that they may be closed. The outbreak has affected the attendance at moving picture theatres, too.

—Exhaustion from plodding through snow drifted to a depth of several feet is believed to have caused the death of John Carroll, of Carrolltown, early Monday morning. He had walked about a mile to the place of his employment. He was 75 years old and the exertion proved too much for his strength.

—Five leaders of the no-license campaign in Lebanon, including Rev. T. Clifton Harris, of the First Baptist church, have been arrested on charges of conspiracy brought by the saloonkeepers because of the activity of the men in procuring remonstrances against the hotels for the 1916 term of license court in January.

—The Interstate Commerce Commission on Saturday held that allowances made by the Pennsylvania railroad to coal and coke companies for hauling their products over private rails to through carriers, complained by the Mitchell Coal and Coke company of the Clearfield district in Pennsylvania, were unreasonable.

—Miss Shaffer, aged 65 years, one of the best known farmers in Lycoming county, dropped dead Monday afternoon about 5 o'clock while talking with a number of friends in the yard of his home, near Jersey Shore. Death resulted from an attack of apoplexy. Deceased is survived by his wife, one son, Lynn, and one daughter, Cora.

—Flossie, the 15-year-old daughter of William M. Stoner, of Fernanagh township, Juniata county, believes she swallowed a set of false teeth a week ago. The physician who was called administered an emetic without result and then advised that the house be searched carefully for the teeth in the hope that the girl is mistaken as to their location.

—A breach of promise suit for \$500.00 was filed on Monday by Miss Nettie M. Richardson against Henry Denniston through her attorney, William H. Pratt. Denniston is the 76-year-old reclusive of Swissvale, said to have a fortune of \$1,500,000 and for whom relatives sought to have a guardian appointed. Miss Richardson is cashier in a downtown hotel at Pittsburgh.

—After months occupied by promoters in closing up multitudinous details operations are expected to be started this week on the new half-million dollar railway equipment plant just over the Indiana county line in Westmoreland county. The plant is operating under the DuRoi patents and will employ about fifty men to start, making steel ties, car trucks, collapsible steel cars and car wheels.

—Mr. and Mrs. Thomas J. Bogart, of Milton, on Monday brought suit in the Northumberland county courts at Sunbury, seeking \$100.00 damages from the Lewisburg, Milton and Watsonstown Passenger Railway company for the loss of their son's life. The son, Nelson Bogart, 19 years old, was fatally hurt last February when a car owned by the defendant company ran into his buggy near Riverside Park, above Milton.

—Game Warden Harry Hummelbaugh, of Clearfield, has just received another shipment of ring-necked pheasants including a dozen hens and four cocks. The birds have been released in covers of Clearfield county and as they multiply rapidly, are expected to add a lot of birds to the numbers in that county. The male birds liberated were bedecked with the usual fine plumage, highly colored at the neck and on the long tail.

—F. Q. Hartman, of Danville, who superintended the erection of the plant of the Watsontown Throwing company, has contracted to erect a silk mill at Middleburg, at Turbotville and in Dalmatia. Each of the mills will be of the very best, and equipped with a full complement of the latest improved machinery for weaving, spinning and twisting silk. Ample capital is back of these industries, and will give employment to a large number of hands.

—A single drop of sweat from the brow of a working man, dropping into a tank containing twenty-four pounds of cotton, saturated with nitric acid, caused a loud explosion at the Atlas Powder company's plant at Mount Carbon, Wednesday. Workmen nearby narrowly escaped injury when the explosion came and immense rolling clouds of smoke passed through the building. A drop of water on this preparation will cause it to explode. The plant makes large shipments every week of high explosives for the French army.

—E. L. Ungard, a freight conductor on the Susquehanna, Bloomsburg & Berwick railroad, has as much confidence in the number "13" as President Wilson. Ungard carries pass No. 13 on his road, running out of Watsonstown. He was conductor of a train pulled by locomotive No. 13, which was derailed on the 13th day of the month, causing the train crew to make 13 hours overtime. The accident occurred on Ungard's 13th wedding anniversary. Ungard considers himself fortunate to have escaped injury of anything on such a day of "thirteens."

—William Dodge, of Northumberland, has a new job. Dodge by covenant written, signed and sealed and delivered to the Northumberland county commissioners at Sunbury, agrees to watch the tri-county covered bridge crossing the Susquehanna river between Sunbury and Blue Hill, keep the dirt off the floor, report all dangerous plankings to the commissioners and be the man in charge of the structure for a salary of \$2 per month. Added to that, Dodge owes the county \$250. He has agreed to pay the debt in labor on the bridge at the rate of \$2 per month and he will have to work ten years to get the bill paid without interest. He must also give bond for the faithful performance of his duties.

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