

INK SLINGS.

At this time last year we were wading through the mud that followed an eighteen inch fall of snow on the Saturday and Sunday preceding.

Beat the Dutch if you can. A quartet of "Belgian Refugees" were being showered with coin in New York until they were found to be Germans from Brooklyn.

German soldiers carry tin whistles to blow as a signal for medical aid when they are wounded. Certain it is that the Germans don't need to whistle to keep their courage up.

If the members of Troop L undertake to follow their new captain the first time he gets them out on a mounted drill there'll be a lot of them taking their meals off the mantle-piece for a few days afterward.

It is to be hoped that Colonel HOUSE will not give up his residence in Texas. With Cyclone DAVIS and JEFF MCLEMORE in the public life of that State there is need of "leaven to leaven the lump."

Now if the labor element will express its real opinion of Speaker AMBLER BRUMBAUGH will wonder why the VARES want him nominated. It is an easy problem, however. "A fellow feeling makes us wondrous kind."

The general average of food prices in the United States was 1 per cent. lower in 1915 than it was during 1914. Potatoes, sugar, cheese, eggs, beans and onions were higher in 1915, but meats, fowls and other food products were generally lower.

Mayor NEWT BAKER, of Cleveland, has been made Secretary of War. Well, NEWT ought to be right at home on that job. He has started some of the biggest wars Cleveland ever had. He started them as the people's champion in each case and always won out.

After grinding one of the longest weeks on record it looks as though the grist from last week's law mill will all have to be ground over. Not an important case that was decided will stand put. The attorneys in every one of them have moved for new trials.

When Capt. JOHN A. HUNTER, of Stormtown, died surely Centre county's "grand old man" passed away. He had lived ninety-six years and most of them were devoted to the development of a character that was remarkable for its amiable poise and steadiness in right living.

BILLY SUNDAY is disappointed over his Baltimore campaign. The people are not turning out to meet him and those who do are not turning their pockets inside out as BILLY thinks they should, but Baltimore has never had anything like BILLY before and possibly they'll waken up before he departs.

The whole world acclaims the daring, the strategy of the master and crew of the German ship Moeve. That they could slip out of Kiel, run the English blockade, sail the high seas on a commerce raid that had numerous rich prizes, then run the blockade back into Kiel, is too amazing for the English mind to comprehend; therefore they don't believe the Moeve did it.

Experts predict the exhaustion of gasoline in twenty years, if the waste is not stopped. Inasmuch as they have not specified just what is meant by "the waste" we are at a loss to know just what we might do toward playing a part in the way of conservation. We do know, however, that if JOHN D. were to put the price up to a dollar a gallon and HENRY FORD were to stop making tin Lizzies the experts would have to pull the telescope out a little longer to see the end of the gasoline production.

At a luncheon given in a Washington hotel, by Representative WARREN WORTH BAILEY, of the Nineteenth Pennsylvania district, on Monday, there were two Senators, fourteen Congressmen and WILLIAM JENNINGS BRYAN. In reporting the affair Congressman BAILEY's Johnstown Democrat says:

"Several of the diners asked Mr. BRYAN for a direct answer as to what they should do."

Such candor is refreshing. It will be so pleasing to the folks back at the homes of those fourteen Congressmen to learn that Mr. BRYAN is God-father to them all and that they needn't have any minds of their own at all.

Mr. BRYAN's efforts to embarrass the President seem most persistent. While he has a perfect right to oppose any plan the President may favor he has chosen a most inopportune time to play upon the power he wields among many Democrats in this country. It would be far more creditable and far more loyal to his country were Mr. BRYAN to keep his hands and his "silver tongue" off the preparedness question until others, and more serious ones, are settled. Our relations with the belligerent powers are unsettled. Let the President have opportunity to establish them finally then fight him on the preparedness question, if you like, Mr. BRYAN, but don't embarrass him and alarm the country by using the one issue as a club to enforce the acceptance of the other.

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Temperamental Mr. Bailey.

We have already expressed in these columns, and in rather enthusiastic phrases, our personal liking for Congressman WARREN WORTH BAILEY, of Johnstown, and the hope that he may be re-elected. We have not approved of his attitude toward the policies of the President and very much regret his wide divergence from the trend of Democratic thought with respect to the obligations of Congress in the matter of defensive facilities. But in justice to Mr. BAILEY we are constrained to say that probably it isn't his fault. In other words his temperament forces him into positions which misrepresent rather than express his feelings and purposes. He wants to be a Democrat and really is a Democrat. But he can't restrain his impulse to oppose authority.

Mr. BAILEY is constitutionally and fundamentally an opponent. There is an old tradition, or superstition, or something, that "whatever is, is right." But that never appealed to Mr. BAILEY. In his mind whatever is, is wrong. From the earliest period of his political activity, he has been fighting and fighting hard. At first he fought only the Republican party and he thumped it fore and aft, hurling sixteen inch broadsides with the rapidity and velocity of machine gun fire. But there probably weren't enough Republicans to keep him busy or they didn't fight hard enough to keep him interested, and he turned his attention to the organization of his own party. And what a fight he made? What results he achieved?

It is safe to say that the Old Guard Democratic organization tried harder to please WARREN WORTH than any living man. He was such a likeable fellow that nobody could help trying to please him. But it was absolutely no use. You might as well try to put out a conflagration by pumping coal oil on it as to please Mr. BAILEY and he kept on fighting early and late, in season and out. Finally the Old Guard organization was turned out and the group affiliated with Mr. BAILEY in his fight came into power. But BAILEY was no better satisfied than before and within a year he was fighting the new faction as hard as ever. There is but one thing to which he is constant. He is a single-taxer first, last and all the time.

If the New York Democratic State convention had been a day or two later the chances are that O'GORMAN would not have been elected a delegate-at-large to the National convention.

Democratic Publicity Bureau.

The Democratic State committee has opened a Publicity Bureau at Harrisburg, according to the news dispatches, for the purpose of supplying the Democratic weekly papers of the State with information, political or otherwise, for use in their columns, during the coming campaign. A weekly letter is contemplated touching political developments and covering political events, and a very capable and experienced newspaper man has been employed to direct the bureau and perform the service. If the bureau is properly conducted the funds of the committee could be used to no better purpose. The weekly papers can't afford to supply such service and it is capable of much good.

But a Publicity Bureau perverted to factional uses is a grave evil and a serious menace to party prosperity. Two years ago such an agency of disruption was created and during the primary campaign it sowed the seeds of dissension and cultivated the spirit of faction to such an extent that the party will suffer for years from it. The rubbish it sent out to the papers was slanderous and scandalous and the funds of the committee were thus misappropriated and mispent. In other words the money contributed to the committee by Democrats was used to spread vituperation against one element of the party and endow the other element with a false virtue. Such service is worse than none.

The truth is that the Democratic State committee has neither legal nor moral right to take sides in a fight for nomination or participate in factional quarrels. Democratic citizens have a right to differences of opinion with respect to aspirants for party favor and the organization is bound in honor as in law to keep hands off until the question of preference is settled at the primary polls. Then, which ever faction or element wins, the organization is bound to promote its success at the general election. Unless the newly created Publicity Bureau intends to pursue this course it would better not be born.

Of course we are all interested in the re-election of Indiana Democratic Congressman but it is just possible that other things might be equally important.

Widening of the Breach.

The Citizens' League, an organization of Independent Republicans of Philadelphia has issued a statement expressing its purposes and justifying its existence. "The stumbling block to party unity in Pennsylvania," this manifesto declares, "is the pernicious system of 'contractor government,' as exemplified in Philadelphia; the effort to extend it to the State government, and the furthering, through the influence and the public advocacy of city contractors, of the ambition of the Governor of the Commonwealth to be the Republican candidate for President. Such a factional effort must be defeated if independent Republicans are to realize their desire to effectively express their convictions in national issues."

The putative head of this organization is Mr. GEORGE D. PORTER, who was the principal opponent of the present mayor at the recent municipal election. Mr. PORTER's associates in the movement are the usual reformers of the city, those who have formed the "Committee of One Hundred," the "Committee of Seventy" and other political bodies which have opposed the "machine," sometimes successfully but mostly otherwise. At the time of organization preference was declared for PENROSE against the VARES and it was regarded as a substantial help to the Senator in the then impending fight for control of the Pennsylvania delegation to the Republican National convention. At least it set PENROSE in a respectable environment.

The statement issued the other day indicates no recession from the original purpose but broadens the plans of operation somewhat. It declares opposition to the nomination of Speaker AMBLER for Auditor General for the reason that being a contractor his nomination and election would make for the extension of the contractor government over the State. "Mr. AMBLER is in the contracting business, has been engaged in important State Highway contracts and is in close political relations with the VARE contracting interests," the statement adds. These are literal facts and coming from such a source must command attention. If the Citizens' League is true to its declarations, therefore, the VARE and BRUMBAUGH combine is going up against an obstacle.

Speaking of physiognomy the chin of WOODROW WILSON is a good deal like that of the late and revered ANDREW JACKSON, and by the same token there is a good deal of resemblance between these great men along other lines.

Secretary of War Baker.

The long delay in the appointment of a successor to Secretary of War GARRISON is justified in the excellence of the choice finally made. On Monday President WILSON announced the appointment of NEWTON D. BAKER, of Cleveland, Ohio, and the universal judgment of the press is that he made a peculiarly wise selection. Mr. BAKER is a lawyer of much ability, an administrator of wide experience and a Democrat of the sterling type. He is old enough to be of ripe judgment and young enough to enjoy full vigor of mind and body. He was a supporter of the President for the nomination four years ago and has been a consistent and capable friend of WOODROW WILSON ever since.

Mr. BAKER is a native of West Virginia and forty-four years of age. His first public service was as Secretary to the Postmaster General during CLEVELAND's second administration, WILLIAM L. WILSON, author of the WILSON tariff law. Some ten years later he moved to Cleveland and entered upon the practice of his profession, the law, in which from the beginning he met with great success. He was elected city solicitor three times and mayor of that city twice, and at the beginning of WILSON's administration declined the portfolio of Secretary of the Interior for the reason that being at the time mayor he felt that it was his duty to complete the term and thus fulfill his obligations to the people.

When the late TOM JOHNSON died and left his campaign in behalf of the people against an arrogant street car monopoly unfinished, Mr. BAKER took it up and pursued it to a triumphant conclusion. At the expiration of his second term as mayor, however, he declined a re-election and resumed the practice of law which had grown to large proportions. But he never lost his interest in or fidelity to the principles of the Democratic party and for many years has been recognized as among the leaders of the party in his adopted State. He is a member of the Democratic State committee and chairman of the local executive committee. But notwithstanding his relations with the President he never opened an office brokerage establishment.

Put your ad. in the WATCHMAN.

Important Question Finally Settled.

In the vote of the House of Representatives, tabling the MCLEMORE resolution, on Tuesday, following the similar action of the Senate with respect to the GORE resolution last Friday, Congress has with some emphasis expressed its condemnation of allegiance to the Kaiser rather than the President. Both propositions had the effect of embarrassing the President in his diplomatic negotiations with Germany concerning offenses against the United States. Both apparently had their inspiration and origin in the pro-German propaganda which has been operating in various sections of the country ever since the beginning of the war in Europe.

The point at issue was the question of forfeiting the rights of American citizens to sail on ships of belligerents armed for defense. International law sanctions defensive armament of merchant ships and Germany undertook to alter the law by an order instructing submarines to attack, without warning, and sink with crews and passengers ships so equipped. The President assumed the ground that such action would be violative of the rights of neutrals, and that to tolerate such a violation of the rights of Americans would involve the sacrifice of National honor. Mr. GORE in the Senate and Mr. MCLEMORE in the House introduced resolutions warning Americans against traveling in such ships.

For some unaccountable reason these resolutions were held over the President's head by the Kaiser's government. The President addressed a letter to Senator STONE, of Missouri, chairman of the Senate Committee of Foreign relations, pointing out the evil influences of such a menace, but his protest was disregarded. Finally he demanded a vote on the resolutions with a view to discovering whether or not the Kaiser had control of our legislative machinery. The result is all that he could have desired or the country hoped for. The Senate resolution was tabled by a vote of five to one and the House measure by two to one. It settles once and for all time that important question.

The opposition to BRANDIES as Justice of the Supreme court has practically petered out and his confirmation may be expected within a few days. But the animus behind it will be remembered a good while.

He Should be Chosen.

At the Central Pennsylvania conference of the Methodist Episcopal church, to be held in Altoona next week, W. T. TWITMIRE, the lay delegate from the Bellefonte church, will present the name of C. C. SHUEY, of this place, as an aspirant to represent the Conference as one of its lay delegates at the General conference of the church.

So far as we are able to recall the Bellefonte congregation, nor the Centre county Methodists, have never had the honor of having a representative from the laity to the General conference. Mr. SHUEY has a peculiar claim for recognition when the six laymen are chosen, because of his devoted service to Methodism in particular and the cause of religion in general. We know of no layman who has given more enthusiastically of his time and his means to the upbuilding of the church of God and his efforts in recent years have reached into almost every church in the conference.

Surely the Central Pennsylvania conference cannot fail to let its choice fall upon this man whose one pleasure seems to be work in his Master's vineyard.

Centre county farmers who are having public sale this spring, as well as those desiring blooded stock, will be interested to know that at a public sale of Charles Wertheimer, on the O'Donnell stock farms near Petersburg, Md., last Thursday cows sold as high as \$270, while horses went for \$100 to \$175. Sheep brought from \$8.00 to \$13.50. The sale amounted to \$9,830.

An explosion at an oil stove caused a fire in the kitchen of the Mrs. H. Y. Stitzer home, opposite the court house, shortly before five o'clock on Wednesday evening, but the timely arrival of the firemen resulted in the flames being extinguished before any great damage was done.

Senator GORE voted against his own resolution to embarrass the President, but that is not surprising. GORE is one of those peculiar statesmen who are influenced more by patronage than principle.

Another evil of the war is that it gives so many people whose opinions are worth nothing an opportunity to obtrude their opinions in public prints.

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

THE HOUSE OF TOO MUCH TROUBLE.

By ALBERT BIGLOW PAINE.

In the House of Too Much Trouble "Lived a lonely little boy." He was eager for a playmate. He was hungry for a toy. But 'twas always too much bother, Too much dirt and too much noise. For the House of Too Much Trouble Wasn't meant for little boys.

And sometimes the little fellow Left a book upon the floor, Or forgot and laughed too loudly, Or he failed to close the door; In the House of Too Much Trouble Things must be precise and trim— In a House of Too Much Trouble There was little room for him.

He must never scatter playthings, He must never romp and play; Ev'ry room must be in order And keep quiet all the day; He had never had companions, He had never owned a pet— In the House of Too Much Trouble It is trim and quiet yet.

Ev'ry room is set in order— Ev'ry book is in its place, And the lonely little fellow Wears a smile upon his face. In the House of Too Much Trouble He is silent and at rest— In the House of Too Much Trouble With a lily on his breast.

The Cart Before the Horse.

From the Louisville Courier-Journal. That the Republicans did none of the things they accused the Democrats of doing is a sufficient answer to the indignant speech of Mr. Elihu Root. "Hindsight," as Andrew Johnson used sentimentally to observe, "is better than foresight." It is easier to relate what was best after the event.

In the matter of preparedness the Republicans have nothing on the Democrats. The response to the chatter of Roosevelt comes the ready retort: "You were eight years in the White House; what did you do for the army and the navy?" A similar answer might be made to Mr. Root in the matter of our foreign relations. There are wheels inside of wheels. All that glitters is not gold. If Congress should proceed headlong to place the country on a war footing, with no enemy in sight, the plain, common sense of the people, stimulated by needless and vexatious taxation, would not be long in convincing members that they were not sent to Washington personally to exploit themselves at the public charge. They would be given to learn, to know and to realize that there is such a thing as economy as well as timeliness in national expenditure.

The military experts would put the cart before the horse. That is their profession. The mercenary armorplate people would get up a hysteria of patriotic fervor. That is their trade. But back of these stands the mass and body of voters, the men who hew the wood and haul the water and, incidentally, pay the bills and are sensible, not always dull of vision—who take no curbstone stock in Japan scares and no insurance risks against submarine hobbings. They would have the country protected against all comers. But they do not believe the Mikado, having robbed China, is going to be a party to swim the Pacific, nor sent to Kaiser, after he has licked the British and made monkeys of the Dagoes and the Frogeaters, means without warning to annex Canada to Prussia and thence to descend upon Plymouth Rock in Massachusetts and Simm's Hole, in Kentucky!

Time to Stand by the President.

From the Lancaster Intelligencer. There was a moment of most ominous tension on Thursday when Senator Gore made a hasty mistake by venturing to quote the President upon an issue of war or peace and at second hand, without troubling to secure confirmation of the quotation. Fortunately a prompt and positive denial was forthcoming, but the incident serves to show both the fire-eater character of any careless statement like that of the Oklahoma Senator, in spite of his unquestioned pacific intentions, and the exceedingly grave conditions now confronted by our government.

Altogether the situation in both Houses of Congress was for a time both confusing and alarming although the temper of both Houses showed the usual gruff disposition to rally to the support of the Chief Executive in any controversy with a foreign power. The President's appeal to the Republican leader of the House met with a prompt response and that incident was the most creditable to the patriotism of both, for in such emergency patriotism should always rise above partisanship.

It is most unfortunate, however, that the Democratic leadership in the House has not been in more thorough harmony with the administration, thus making more urgent the appeal of the President to the minority. The result has been a virtual division of that leadership between Mr. Kitchin and Mr. Pou, the ranking member of the committee on rules. This is an intolerable situation and one that should be immediately changed by the side tracking of Kitchin unless he realizes at once the need of more perfect party harmony. Both wings of the party must flap together in Congress as they will throughout the Nation; for there can be no doubt that Democratic sentiment will overwhelmingly support the President in his stand upon foreign policies.

Monday, March 6th, was the twentieth anniversary of the famous Etlinger tragedy at Woodward, one of the most sensational occurrences that ever happened within the memory of several generations.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

Punxsutawney's steel hoop mill, which has not been in operation for several years, is once more to be the scene of industrial activity, thanks to the efforts of Punxsutawney's chamber of commerce.

The district attorney of Juniata county has had seven men arrested, some charged with selling liquor without license and to minors, others with running a gambling room and still others with playing poker.

Alfred A. Pancake, who was engineer on the first locomotive to make the trip from Harrisburg to Pittsburgh, died at Harrisburg on March 1st. He also ran the first train through the Gallitzin tunnel.

Governor Martin G. Brumbaugh on Friday fixed the week of April 3 as the date for the electrocution of Thomas Chickarella and Gaspar Marturano, Barnesboro men who were twice convicted of the murder of Vito Cavella, near that place.

The funeral of Mr. and Mrs. David Stambaugh, an aged couple who were burned to death at their home in Ellitotsburg, Perry county, one night last week, occurred last Monday. But little of their remains could be found in the ruins of their home.

After living together for forty years and rearing eleven children, Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Keibler, of Armstrong township, Indiana county, have obtained a legal separation in court. The wife charged her husband with non-support and abuse and was granted \$25 monthly. To be paid by the husband, at the court's order.

Extensive snow slides on the mountain sides between Renovo and Lock Haven closed the railroad tracks, covering them to the depth of twenty feet. All the available men between Williamsport and Renovo, about 300 in number, were put to work and succeeded in clearing the tracks about 4 o'clock Tuesday morning.

Prospectors drilling in the vicinity of the head of Clover Run in Bell township, Clearfield county, are working night and day. They have struck a pocket of gas and are going deeper. Their results are being closely guarded but it is said that the price of acreage in that vicinity is higher than usual if one were to try to buy it.

Sarah, the 4-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Rupp, of Saville, Perry county, was burned to death one day last week. She and two younger children were playing when one of them kindled a stick at the fire and thrust the flame between the leaves of a book Sarah was looking at. Her clothing was set on fire and fatal burns ensued.

Mr. and Mrs. David Stambaugh, aged residents of the village of Ellitotsburg, Perry county, were burned to death in a fire, which destroyed their home early last Thursday. They lived some distance from any houses and the flames, which are thought to have started from a defective flue, had spread through their home before an alarm could be given.

It has been announced from Ebensburg that the contract for the proposed extension of the New York Central line from White Mills through Nant-y-Glo to Beulah, had been let to an Altoona concern. The mines of the Ebensburg Coal Co., controlled by Coleman & Weaver, said to be allied with the N. Y. C. lines, are located at Colver and Beulah on the line of the proposed new railroad.

During a spell of despondency Mrs. Thomas Marshall, of Houtzdale, on Wednesday morning, March 1st, committed suicide by drowning in the Higgins dam, near that place. It is said that since the death of her husband, who was killed in the mines at Pocahontas, W. Va., one year ago, her mind has on several occasions seemed unbalanced, and it was during one of these spells that she committed the rash act.

State health officials are following with close interest the numerous reports of outbreaks of measles and grip and the unusual after effects of these two diseases which are constantly being heard from. The measles outbreaks have been notably severe in several cities of the State and it is believed the total for the month of February will run very high. Reports of ear troubles following grip are numerous.

Brookville has suddenly found itself enriched to the extent of \$1,453.33 by the accidental finding of two \$500 bonds issued in 1904. It was supposed that they had been sold at the time of the issue and the borough's accounts had been figured from that view, with the interest amounting to \$463.33 added. They were found in the bottom of a tin box by the borough manager while rummaging through some stores.

Galeton has raised \$300 by popular subscription to press a fight against the Galeton-Eldred Water Co. for alleged inadequate water supply for fire protection at the time of the fire on January 19 which did \$800,000 worth of damage to Galeton property. The water company's franchise requires it to furnish an "adequate" supply for all purposes and the borough officials do not believe that was done at the instance of the fire.

The sight of a live deer taking an automobile ride through the business section of Altoona, Pa., made pedestrians stare on Tuesday. The buck has been living with the cattle in the barnyard of Frank Weyandt's farm, in Frankstown township, for some time and refused to be chased away by the sight of the automobile. One day a pen, bound his legs together, loaded it into an automobile, hauled it to another section of the county and turned it loose again.

As the result of a shooting affray in a pool room Monday night at Sugar Hill, Jefferson county, Oliver Harrison is in the Adran hospital, at Punxsutawney, with a bullet hole through his windpipe while Miles Flack, aged 17, is held at Reynoldsville, to await the result of Harrison's injuries. The latter is breathing through the hole in his windpipe and the bullet has not been located. Flack says the shooting was accidental and occurred during a friendly scuffle.

Digging their way through an 18-inch brick wall four prisoners in the Mercer county jail slid down a rope made of blankets sometime during Thursday night and escaped. A sheriff's posse took up the trail as soon as the escape was discovered, but it is believed that the fugitives had a start of several hours on their pursuers. The hole through which the prisoners crawled to liberty was 18 inches in diameter, and it is thought that they worked on the job for several nights. Where they secured the tools is a mystery to the jail officials.

Hollidaysburg is likely to be one of the most progressive localities in the State during the present year, as a number of new buildings will be erected and other improvements made. Among these will be a federal building, a State armory, for which the ground has been donated; a market house square; a commerce building; a cold storage and store room; a foot bridge across the railroad tracks of the P. R. R.; a marble and tile factory; a steel casting foundry; ice cream factory; and natural gas throughout the borough.

One hundred and one indictments against brewing companies distributed throughout Pennsylvania and one against the United Brewers Association of New York were returned on Friday at Pittsburgh by the United States grand jury. The indictments charged violations of the penal code, principally on unlawful expenditures of money in Federal elections. No individuals were mentioned in the indictments. Among the companies named are: Altoona Brewing company, Altoona; Clearfield, Phillipsburg and Windber companies; the Emeling, of Johnstown; the Flock, of Williamsport.