

INK SLINGS.

-A week from tomorrow will be the day, boys. Are you ready?
-Up to this writing winter has shown no disposition to linger in the lap of spring.
-Most of the girls will have their new spring hats half worn out before the Easter parade is formed.
-How anybody ever imagined that VILLA as a military genius is inconceivable. He is simply a murderous maniac.
-Farmers are looking longingly at their fields with the hope that they will soon be in condition to start spring plowing.
-With one leg out of commission VILLA seems to be able to hop out of every trap our dashing cavalymen set for him.
-Council is worried because it cannot decide what color to paint the electric light poles on the streets. Why not put the color scheme up to the Civic club?
-Dust was blowing on some of the hard roads of the county last Saturday, while many of the dirt cross roads were either banked full of snow or hub-deep with mud.
-The public has at last got THEODORE ROOSEVELT's exact measure. The New York Evening Post designates him as "a barroom politician." The title fits admirably.
-Anyway the approach of spring has started a lot of folks to fussing with their gardens and flower beds who might otherwise have been lying in wait for Col. TAYLOR.
-RODMAN WANAMAKER is going to try to fly across the Atlantic during the coming summer. Here's hoping that the last thing to bring him down will be the English anti-air craft guns.
-Since the chase for VILLA began the average American reader does little more than look at the headlines over the stories of the troubles they are having on the other side of the pond.
-Speaker CLARK resents the imputation that Congress is "dawdling in its work," and with reason. The present session has been industrious and intelligent in its work and is a credit to the Democratic party and the country.
-There are always people ready to profit by the misfortunes of others, but it is not often that men as high up in official circles as those Canadians were who have been caught in the shell scandal, seek to line their pockets at the expense of their character.
-The Boston Transcript says that everybody is busy in New England. And everybody who wants to be is busy in every other section of the country and how cheerfully the vast majority of them will vote, next November, to re-elect the President in office during these busy times.
-From investigation of one hundred thousand words used in personal and business letters it has been learned that the word "the" was used nearly seven thousand times. The word "mother" was used twice as often as "father," which latter goes to prove that mother is the one for whom the tenderest love is cherished and whose welfare evokes the greatest concern.
-The condition of the Nittany valley state highway along the BEAVER farm, east of Bellefonte, presents a suggestion to the state highway engineers that they might well consider. At all other places along the road the winter has completely disintegrated the asphaltum-oil dressing that was put on last fall and the road has no bond whatever. But on the stretch referred to the coal tar that was put on two years ago by Mr. BEAVER himself, is still holding and the surface of the road shows less wear than it does any place between Bellefonte and Lock Haven. Judged from its present condition the asphaltum-oil which gave promise of good results at first has not proven durable.
-While the WATCHMAN does not believe that it is best for the Democracy of Pennsylvania to continue A. MITCHELL PALMER as its member of the National committee it does not believe that bringing Congressman LIEBEL, of Erie, out as an opponent is a wise move either. Such a contest will only have the effect of opening wider the split in our party which should be closing instead. If the gentlemen who encouraged Mr. PALMER and Mr. LIEBEL to go in for this contest were to meet in a joint conference and ask both to withdraw, then name someone who has not been prominently identified with either wing of the party to go before it for endorsement they would be doing something constructive rather than destructive. Congressman LIEBEL has quite as much right, and more, to run as Mr. PALMER and would make quite as capable a committee man, but the WATCHMAN feels that neither one of them should be in the field at this time. However, since they are in the field Mr. LIEBEL's candidacy gives promise at least of serving notice on the two or three Democrats who have the habit of getting together in Washington and naming a ticket for us, that there are Democrats in Pennsylvania who think that right should be exercised by the rank and file of the voters at the primaries.

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Insurance Commissioner Johnson's Charge.

In resigning the lucrative and important office of Insurance Commissioner a week ago, Mr. CHARLES JOHNSON wrote Attorney General FRANCIS SHUNK BROWN, "you told us in so many words that we were holding our jobs by the grace of Governor BRUMBAUGH and that any one of us who would not or could not deliver his district for the Governor at the Presidential primaries in May would find his position with the administration decidedly uncomfortable."

Things are different now, however. When some years ago some genuine reformers, men of the type of GEORGE WILLIAM CURTIS and CARL SCHURZ, undertook to improve the methods of politics by introducing the merit system, the atrocity of public life was the dragging of office holders into support of creatures of the machine. The practice became so odious that legislation forbidding it was enacted by Congress and the Legislatures of several States. The agitation on the subject culminated in the civil service regulations which prohibit the dismissal of any public official, not in a confidential position, on account of politics. Since the accession to power of bogus reformers the evil has been revived, and in the order of SHUNK BROWN, has attained full power.

In putting such conditions upon the officials of the State Attorney General FRANCIS SHUNK BROWN has violated not only the spirit but the letter of all merit system legislation and he ought to be impeached. But rank as his orders are they are not the greatest or gravest of the offences which BRUMBAUGH's amateur politicians have perpetrated. Mr. JOHNSON adds: "The presumption shown in attempting to purchase BRUMBAUGH votes with salaries paid by the State of Pennsylvania is probably without precedent in American politics." It is certainly outrageous and criminal but not without precedent. Two years ago the managers of the Democratic organization did practically the same thing. They used the funds of the party to promote the success of a faction.

ROOT has been forgiven by the Colonel and if he behaves himself in the future may hope to be regarded in the Oyster Bay region as nearly as good a man as BILL FLINN.

War of the Republican Factions.

Blowing alternately hot and cold the temperature of the Republican camp this week indicates a savage battle. The olive branch which was swaying over the Brumbaugh headquarters last week has disappeared, the Penrose managers having positively and somewhat summarily rejected it. A delegation from western Pennsylvania has assured the Penrose managers that "the Governor is already beaten," and there being as little magnanimity as there is affection in the systems of these warring factions, the declaration of war has been reissued. A week ago the indications pointed toward compromise. Now the signs are for war to the last ditch and savage mutilation of the victims.

In the Governor's trenches there are signs of renewed activity also. The auction block has been in view very conspicuously and the trading of offices for votes has been exceedingly active. Strangely enough our esteemed friend, DR. JOHN PRICE JACKSON, late of State College, has been the moving spirit in this branch of the business and it is said that he has developed a high standard of efficiency in submarine politics. In any event he has been switching the "referees" in the Department of Labor and Industry, so as to make the most of the material in manufacturing BRUMBAUGH sentiment. His operations are a trifle raw, but not nearly so coarse as those of FRANCIS SHUNK BROWN.

As the esteemed Philadelphia Record observed the other day: "What a pity the Democratic party of Pennsylvania is not in position to take advantage of the demoralization in the Republican party? But the selfish office brokers and stupid or venal managers of the party are so bent upon serving their own selfish interests that they have neither time nor inclination to look after the interests of the party and the people. Let us hope that in the near future things will be different and that before the opportunity entirely disappears we will have men in control of the party organization who will have the intelligence and fidelity necessary to accomplish results."

Congressman Liebel for National Committeeman.

The announcement of the candidacy of MICHAEL LIEBEL Jr., of Erie, Representative in Congress for the Twenty-fifth district of this State, for the important office of Member of the Democratic National committee will inspire hope in the breasts of the Democrats of Pennsylvania. Mr. LIEBEL is an earnest, capable and sterling Democratic leader. He has labored assiduously and efficiently for the success of the party for many years, is an organizer of much force and as unselfish as he is effective. Under his local leadership the party in the city and county in which he lives has been free from factionalism and has constantly increased in strength and vitality.

Mr. LIEBEL has served three terms as mayor of his native city and has never been defeated. Modest to a degree he has always been averse to holding office but obedient to public duty. To rescue his Congress district from Republican domination he consented to run for Representative and was elected against vast odds. In entering the contest for a seat in the National committee he is equally unselfish. "In consenting to be a candidate," he states, "I am actuated by a single motive, and that is to aid in an effort to compose the differences, unify the forces and effectively organize the Democracy of the State." What higher motive could influence the actions of any man? Every Democrat in the State should aid him in that purpose.

Mr. LIEBEL makes no pretense that President WILSON is behind his candidacy though the President was made acquainted with his purpose and is not averse to its consummation. National leaders of the party, however, are concerned in the matter and freely offer moral support. This State is looked upon as one upon which hope of victory in the coming election may be based if the party management is taken away from the office brokers who have betrayed it in order to serve selfish interests and it is felt that in the success of Mr. LIEBEL these hopes may be fulfilled. He has been among the staunchest supporters of the President's policies in the House and his fidelity is unquestioned.

Mr. LIEBEL's announcement will at least serve the purpose of preventing our State organization from making a farce of the purposes of the preferential primary.

The Senate subcommittee has voted to confirm the nomination of Mr. BRANDIES for the Supreme court but the vote indicated a division on party lines. It is gratifying, however, that the Democratic majority in the Senate is sufficient to carry him to the seat and not surprising that the Republicans should obey the mandate of the corporations to defeat that result.

Pursuit of Outlaw Villa.

The punitive expedition pursuing VILLA in the mountains of Mexico is making progress in its perilous enterprise but not as rapid as was hoped. The bandit got several days' start on General PERSHING's troops and made the best of his time toward the shelter which the mountains afford. But he was overtaken last week and his force dispersed with considerable loss in men and munitions. The object of the expedition escaped, however, and though every effort to discover him has been made thus far it has been without avail. He is familiar with the trails and hiding places and uses his knowledge to the full measure.

But the enterprise has served a good purpose even though it should fail in its original purpose. It has established a better understanding between the government of the United States and the people of Mexico which is likely to remove the suspicions that have been sources of trouble ever since the Mexican muddle began. Besides it has shown the admirable efficiency of our small army and completely refuted the charges of degeneracy which some of the Republican orators and papers have been making during the last several months. No force on earth could have done better work and few could have done as well.

Colonel DODD who is approaching the age of retirement made a marvelous drive over mountains and plains and after seventeen hours in the saddle fought a band of desperadoes greater in number than his own force for a period of four hours. The Germans and French have been performing some heroic deeds but none that required greater endurance and courage than that and if the expedition achieves nothing else it will have been worth while. But it will accomplish more. It will result finally in the capture and just punishment of the outlaw.

No doubt VILLA thinks Colonel DODD ought to have been retired at the age of sixty.

Democratic Ticket Has Been Named.

We are indebted to the Washington correspondent of an esteemed Philadelphia contemporary for the interesting information that Democratic candidates for State offices and Delegates-at-Large to the Democratic National convention have been chosen. Mr. SAMUEL B. PHILSON, of Somerset county, is the candidate for State Treasurer and Mr. JAMES B. MURRIN, of Lackawanna county, for Auditor General. "It is stated," writes the correspondent in question, "that the Democratic organization has agreed upon this ticket, and will support it against any candidates who may file nomination papers." By the Democratic organization is probably meant Mr. PALMER, Mr. MCCORMICK, Mr. BLAKESLIE and State Chairman MORRIS.

The gentlemen chosen for the two State offices are worthy and fit. Mr. PHILSON was the candidate of the party for State Treasurer in 1910 when most of those who now compose the State organization shamefully betrayed the party by supporting the candidates of the Keystone party. Mr. MURRIN has been mayor of Carbondale and is well recommended. The candidates chosen for Delegates-at-Large are gentlemen more or less widely known and some of them more or less frequently bolters but fully capable of registering the will of Mr. PALMER and Mr. MCCORMICK. Mr. PALMER has been chosen as the candidate for National committee member and as "word will go out that these men have the backing of National committeeman A. MITCHELL PALMER and State chairman ROLAND S. MORRIS," it is assumed that that "will be equivalent to a summons to their support."

These Democratic bosses have great faith in the docility of the voters of the party and sublime confidence in their own divine right to run the machine. In the old days such an assumption upon the part of three or four semi-professional office brokers would have provoked the indignant resentment of the rank and file of the party and such a storm of protest would have followed their announcement as would have driven them to the shelter of the nearest cyclone cellar. But lust for office and selfish ambition have usurped the place of party patriotism and possibly the Democratic State organization will be able to put this outrage upon the people. Cupidity is a corroding force and is working overtime.

"Hints" to Trout Fishermen.

The opening of the trout fishing season is but eight days distant and Fish Commissioner Nathan R. Buller this week issued some timely hints for the benefit of the thousands of fishermen who are sure to be out and try their luck on the morning of the opening day, April 15th. He starts out by giving the limit as 40 a day and the size six inches and over.

He cautions fishermen to take every precaution to preserve the life of all trout which may be hooked under legal size. Release the trout under water and don't handle it with dry hands. To do so means sure death.

Don't fish on the small tributaries where the little trout are most likely to be, but pick out the larger streams which are naturally inhabited by larger trout.

Only a single rod and line can be used by fishermen in trout streams, and all true sportsmen who come across any one fishing with a device not prescribed by law should report the facts.

And lastly, don't be a "fish hog." Be satisfied with a fair catch and leave the stream, as in this way it will mean better fishing for all.

Among the Pennsylvania railroad employees placed on the Roll of Honor on March first was Patrick J. Walsh, section foreman of the Tyrone yard. He was born in Ireland and was seventy years old on February 17th. When eight years old he came to this country with his mother and located in Tyrone. At the age of sixteen he went to work for the Pennsylvania railroad company as a laborer and two years later, when the Confederate army made its raid upon Chambersburg Walsh was one of the guards selected to accompany several carloads of valuable books and papers which the company transported from Altoona to Snow Shoe for safe keeping, evidently fearing the Confederates might reach Altoona and sack the town. From February until September, 1867, Walsh was assistant foreman in charge of special work on the Bellefonte and Snow Shoe railroad, but ever since that time has been located in Tyrone.

If the Zeppelin raids on the British coast and the submarine outrages in the several seas accomplished anything worth while there might be some justification for them. But they simply perpetrate murder and intensify bitterness.

Demanding War and Fighting It.

Nothing is easier than to drink a cup of black coffee, light a perfumed cigarette delicately upon an upholstered chair and write an editorial demanding war. If the editorial carries any weight, say just enough to turn the balance between peace and war, new opportunities for editorial writing immediately arise.

The failure of the mobilization will make room for some hard words. The inability to find cre.s.s. to man the ships will call forth a column. The lack of ammunition will furnish a target for editorial hot shots. Lack of success of naval and military leaders will furnish material for editorial triumphs. The sufferings of the boys in the trenches will create an opportunity for pathetic writings done to the accompaniment of an after-dinner cigar or a perfumed cigarette. It is most unlikely, under the present circumstances, that the war will reach our seacoast sanctuaries. It is, we truly believe, beyond the bounds of reason to suppose it could reach a bloody hand into our mountain retreats.

But even if the unforeseen should happen, the editorial writer could still continue to take up arms and face the bullets there would be less pen and mouth warriors in our midst.

Second "Good Roads Day."

Governor Brumbaugh, in a proclamation issued Thursday, fixed May 25th as the second annual "State-wide Good Roads Day," on which all good citizens of Pennsylvania are expected either to put in a full day's work with pick, shovel or road machine in repairing the highways, or to contribute financially so that others can be hired to do the work instead.

Last year 78,000 persons, including the Governor himself, volunteered to do this work and 11,000 teams were provided gratis to help the highway menders. That was a very good start, but there is no reason why the number of workers, man and beast, should not be greatly augmented on the coming "Good Roads Day." The plan is an excellent one, as was demonstrated by results obtained in Pennsylvania last year, and as has been demonstrated in other States for a number of years.

This has been a rather hard, wet winter and the damage to roads must have been considerable. Much of the repair work would drag along for months, perhaps, if it were not for some sort of united action such as "Good Roads Day" will inspire. It is a fine plan to have everybody turn in and lend a hand to do it all at once.

Farmers as Strikers.

The strike of 8,000 milk producers in the Chicago district has an element of novelty as showing the use by farmers of the regulation methods of organized labor to enforce their demands. But it is the same old kind of strike as respects the disregard of the public's rights in the matter of the strikers. The quarrel of the producers being wholly with the distributors, they proceed at once to punish the consumers by dumping milk into ditches to prevent dealers from obtaining it and emptying cans in transit.

This is a perfect adaptation of the methods of striking traction motormen or other public-service employees, and shows how well the farmers have learned the game. But while farmers have as good a right as other people to see their function as producers of the necessities of life imposes obligations upon them.

Altogether, the appearance of the "embattled farmer" in his new role is not greatly to his credit.

The Country Differs.

If the country believed what Senator Lodge said at Lynn, any Republican "yellow dog" could beat President Wilson. But the country doesn't believe it, and it is perfectly evident that Mr. Lodge knows that the country doesn't believe it. The earnest call from Republican newspapers and Republican orators for a "good, strong man," a "big figure," for the opposing of Mr. Wilson is the real measure of what they think of the President. Their partisan vilification of him is another matter altogether.

An Impossible Undertaking.

"A detail of militiamen will guard the Roosevelt dam." No attempt, you understand, to muzzle the Colonel in the event that the Republican nomination is not handed to him.

Silence Gives Consent, Colonel.

The authorship of that novel credited to Colonel House has not yet been determined. If the Colonel is not guilty, he should lose no time in proving his innocence.

Likely Enough.

We are inclined to think that by the time the war is finished Europe will come to the conclusion that the King business is overdone.

Will Be Going Some.

If Penrose can be converted to Roosevelt "Billy Sunday's achievements will look pretty small.

SPAWNS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

-Only forty new cases of measles were reported in Johnstown last week and the youngsters and their next friends are feeling encouraged.
-Pasquale Colosano, of Greensburg, has sued John A. Kelley & Co., for \$25,000 because of the loss of an eye while in the employ of the defendant.
-The West Branch National bank, of Williamsport, has paid \$50,000 for a site upon which it is to erect a new bank building at a cost of \$200,000.
-There are twelve cases of small-pox in Paint township, Somerset county. The disease existed there several weeks before its real nature was known.
-Martin Nelson, a prisoner in the Warren county jail, has fallen heir to \$6,000 in Denmark, through the death of his step-father. The Danish consul has been searching for Nelson for five years.
-William J. Weaklen, of Susquehanna township, Cambria county, has entered suit against the Cambria Coal company, operating near Barnesboro, for \$5,000, because of damage done to his house.
-Judge Whitehead, of Lycoming county, has decided that the Act of June 18, 1915, purporting to provide for the reimbursement of county fair associations for sums paid out in premiums, is unconstitutional.
-W. L. Horman, of Lock Haven, has brought suit for \$10,000 for injuries sustained by the Pennsylvania Railroad company. Horman was injured by coming in contact with the safety gates when attempting to cross the railroad.
-An interesting situation exists in Lewisburg, where both the larger hotels having been refused license, have closed their doors, and their furnishings, as well as the real estate, is announced, will be sold at auction at an early day.
-J. Harris McKinney, former associate judge of Clinton county, aged 78, is dead at his home near South Aris, after an illness extending over several months. Up to within a year ago he was president of the Jersey Shore bank. Two daughters survive.
-LeRoy Moore, aged 10 years, of Beech Creek, Clinton county, threw a lighted match into a bottle containing powder. The explosion that resulted cut the lad's face and shoulders badly and injured his left eye to such an extent that it is feared the sight may be lost.
-The snow which fell in March has saved the owners of the thirty chemical plants in McKean, Warren, Forest and Elk counties about \$100,000, having made it possible for the manufacturers to haul to their plants virtually every piece of chemical wood cut in the forests last summer.
-While he was operating a cutting machine in a Williamsport box factory Saturday afternoon, one of Thomas Smithgall's fingers was cut off. After the wound had been dressed by a physician he returned, and had been at work less than ten minutes when two more fingers were cut off.
-Sheriff Mulhollen, of Cambria county, and Constable Miller, of Ebensburg, mean to carefully shun Clearfield county for the ensuing two years, their purpose being to elude a summons in a civil suit for \$5,000 damages, instituted by the Oshelhs, who claim to have been falsely arrested.
-A young inmate of Jefferson county named Mottaran, in jail charged with the murder of William Haynes, has made a written confession in which he charges that he did the deed at the instigation of the murdered man's son, Edward. Rumor links the murdered man's wife with the plot to kill him.
-Colonial Court, the \$80,000 residence of the late T. A. Snyder, of Lehigh, occupied by Charles W. Miller, was burned to the ground early on Tuesday. The building was originally erected at the Pan-American exposition at Buffalo by the State of Michigan and purchased by Mr. Snyder at the close of the exposition.
-In a fit of jealousy, Wilson Fowler, a young man of Hazleton, shot and killed Joseph Ludwig, of Warren, Ohio, and seriously wounded Miss Anna Keuch, the twenty-three-year-old daughter of former Councilman Nicholas Keuch, owner of a local saloon, where Fowler was employed as a helper. Fowler surrendered to the police.
-Dean B. Furst, of Lock Haven, dealer in hides, has obtained 321 musk rat skins as a result of the recent high water. They bring an average of 40 cents apiece and, therefore, about \$128.40 was turned into the pockets of those who took the time to hunt the little animals. There is a brisk demand for musk rat hides in the present market.
-The Berwind-White scale for the ensuing two years gives the miners a flat advance of three cents per ton on pick and shovel coal and a five per cent. increase on labors. The same scale has also been announced by the Beulah Coal company, of the Munds operations in the vicinity of Ramey and Beulah, the second largest independent operation in the district.
-Ines Mackel and Mary Mackel, sisters, who were separated when young girls and who had not seen each other for nineteen years, were brought together at the wedding of their brother, Ollie W. Mackel, and Ivy O. Wright, both of Rochester Mills, March 30. Ines has been residing in Big Run and Mary in Mahaffey. Neither sister knew the other when they met.
-The State Water Supply Commission has made public its policy for the supervision of dams in Pennsylvania, in an endeavor to prevent such disasters as that at Johnstown in 1889 and the later one at Austin, both of which were attended with large loss of life. The Commission recommends that a larger appropriation be made for the employment of a larger staff of inspectors of dams.
-In two weeks the Berkshire Iron Works, at Sheridan, will blow in its furnace. This plant was closed three years ago. A large amount of money was expended in giving the plant a general overhauling. When running full the capacity of the furnace was 700 tons of pig iron per week. Attention will be given to the making of ferromanganese. Before the war much of it was imported from Germany. The plant will have from 120 to 150 employees.
-Desire to "try out" a pair of red-top boots that his mother gave him a few days ago cost George Thomas, four-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Andy Thomas, of Johnstown, his life in the Conemaugh river on Thursday afternoon. The lad had gone to the river against the wishes of his parents and although the current was swift, he attempted to wade along the bank. He was carried off his feet and when last seen was in midstream.
-State Game Warden James H. Carpenter, who has caused the arrest of four residents of Bucks township, Clinton county, believes he has uncovered the biggest scheme yet brought to light in defrauding the State through bogus affidavits on which bounty was collected for killing noxious animals. The following are under arrest: Milton Hughes, justice of the peace; Roland Reese, a hunter; Sylvester Keenhold and Harry Seafos, of the Pocono section.
-Oil and gas operators about Claysville, Washington county, are excited over the discovery of a liquid said to be pure gasoline on the J. D. Campsey lease, just north of Claysville. Expert oil men have examined the product and declare there can be no mistake that it is gasoline. It has been tried in a motor car and works as well as the manufactured buzz wagon liquid. To make sure before putting the product on the market, however, samples of the fluid have been sent to Pittsburgh for analysis.