

INK SLINGS.

—Seventeen days until Christmas. —You are late enough as it is, so you had better start that Christmas shopping at once. —With the price of eggs so high any kind of a ham actor can strut the stage with impunity. —A smile and a pleasant word don't cost any more today than they did a thousand years ago. —The President's message to Congress was exactly what the country wanted to hear. No more, no less. —If it's really an acceptable Christmas gift you are thinking of sending to some friend why not send the "Watchman." —The demand for a two-and-a-half cent piece is justified when we recall that we have to pay three cents for one "two-for."

Democratic Watchman

STATE RIGHTS AND FEDERAL UNION.

VOL 61. BELLEFONTE, PA.. DECEMBER 8, 1916. NO. 48.

Penrose and Senator Vare.

The fight for the Republican nomination for Speaker of the House at Harrisburg, is approaching an acute stage. Both the candidates are silent, of course, for the reason that they are figure-heads and neither knows whether he will be a candidate tomorrow or not. But the distinguished gentlemen whom they represent are talking freely and both Penrose and Vare have issued statements, more or less vitriolic. For example, Penrose says "the prominence of contractor leadership in the so-called Republican organization of Philadelphia, with the frequent scandals which have attached thereto in the past, and are flagrant at the present time, has been and is the subject of adverse criticism and reproach among patriotic Republicans throughout the State."

Promise of Permanent Harmony.

In an interview published in Philadelphia, the other day, Hon. A. Mitchell Palmer, member of the Democratic National committee for Pennsylvania, sounded a note which promises enduring harmony and ultimate triumph in the State. Referring to the distribution of party patronage he said: "There will be no bargains or deals in regard to Federal patronage. Every element in the party will be recognized, not as factionists but as Democrats." That is the true spirit and we sincerely hope it will be maintained. If that policy had been adopted after the election of four years ago the victory which is now a hope of the future would be a radiant page in the history of the State.

Roosevelt Misinterprets Lessons.

Colonel Roosevelt has taken the world into his confidence at last and in a magazine article tells why Wilson was elected and his own personally conducted campaign was defeated at the recent election. The voters were too stupid, he declares, substantially, to learn the lesson he taught and absorb the ideas he promulgated. "The appeal made for Mr. Wilson," he says, "was one which would tell very strongly with good, honest citizens whose preoccupation with their own pursuits was such that they could not be expected to look deeply into national affairs and general world conditions," and he adds, "it would have been highly creditable to the average man if he had possessed the vision and disinterestedness to disregard such an appeal."

Time to Avert Disaster.

Though the protectionist claim is absurd that low tariff rates will bring on an industrial depression, it must not be assumed that therefore, no depression will come. Nothing is more probable than that within a few years—possibly before the end of President Wilson's administration—another period of hard times will be on us as bad as the depression of the 90s and of Roosevelt's administration, if not even worse. The depression cannot be averted by tariff legislation nor by restrictive laws of any kind. Business depressions result from restrictions which interfere with industry and make it unprofitable. The restriction chiefly responsible is of the use of natural resources. When land values increase faster than potential productivity there must come a time when it becomes a losing venture to buy or rent for land use. Then industry must stop and depression sets in, to last until values fall enough to make resumption possible, or until labor and capital become satisfied with smaller returns, or until improved methods of production make it profitable to pay high prices for land.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

—Westmoreland county's latest murder was caused by drunkenness and resulted in the killing of Frank Koderman by his brother Tom. —The Cambria Steel company has posted notices at Johnstown announcing an increase of wages to general labor which will amount to about 10 per cent. —The case of former Judge John W. Reed, of Jefferson county, against the Brookville "Republican" was settled by the parties before the matter got into court. —William H. Bonn, of Wilkes-Barre, has been ordered to muzzle a flock of 200 geese. The order was made by Alderman William McCarty in his efforts to make the nights peaceful for the residents of that city. —A man by the name of Joe Pearson has been lodged in the Clearfield jail to await trial on the charge of having sent threatening letters to the superintendent and the manager of the Westover tannery. It is reported that he has admitted his guilt but denies all knowledge of certain bits of malicious mischief done. —John D. Schief, an employee of Williamsport's highway department, was run down by an automobile driven by George W. Jackson last Thursday afternoon and died at the Williamsport hospital early Saturday morning as the result of his injuries. Jackson has been held on the charge of manslaughter. Schief was 56 years of age. —With the purchase of a tract of fifteen acres of land, on which the old blast furnace is standing, and other buildings along the banks of the Susquehanna river, the water has been opened for another industry for Wrightsville, Pa. The price paid was \$14,500, and the Susquehanna Casting company and the Wilton Manufacturing company are interested parties. —Frank Courson, general foreman of the Pittsburg shops of the Pennsylvania railroad and a former resident of Altoona, who learned his trade in the local shops, has completed a car draft gear which, it is claimed, is a great improvement. Mr. Courson has been offered \$150,000 for his invention by a car building concern. The invention required twelve years' time to perfect. —Mr. Charles Reigh, who resides on the Wolf farm, near Gannister, was recently relieved of close to a hundred chickens that had been fattened for market. About the same time he had a valuable cow brutally cut over the body with a sharp knife of some kind, which animal was so badly cut that it had to be sold to a nearby butcher as beef stock. The cow was valued at close to one hundred dollars and was sold for little better than half that amount. —Six men were wounded, two probably fatally, in a clash between Deputy Sheriffs and striking coal miners for the Saluburg Coal company at Avonmore, near Pittsburgh, on Tuesday. Four of the wounded were taken to a local hospital. According to Philip Murray, president of the Pittsburgh district of the United Mine Workers of America, the riot occurred when striking miners attempted to approach five men said to have been strike breakers. Four arrests were made. —While hunting one day early in the season on Pocono mountain, John Vonada, of Centre county, saw a bird rise and taking it for a pheasant he fired and brought it down. It was very large and resembled a young eagle. Only the tip of the wing was broken and the bird easily fought off two dogs. The hunter, however, managed to secure it and took it to his home where it is living on muskrats and mice and is recovering from its wound. It is Mr. Vonada's intention to set it free. —A damage verdict of \$145,830 against the Pennsylvania Railroad company, secured by the Sonman Shaft Coal company of Cambria county, Pennsylvania, of which Chairman Vance C. McCormick of Harrisburg, Pa., is treasurer and a principal stockholder, for failure or refusal to furnish cars for shipping coal, was affirmed on Monday by the Supreme court. The court directed a new trial in a claim for \$21,094 damages by W. F. Jockley & Co., of Philadelphia, against the Pennsylvania. —Work has been stopped on the Port Loudon and McConnellsbury railroad by reason of the sheriff of Franklin county seizing the tools, equipment and supplies of contractor Clyde Kuhns. This road started as a trolley line, was then changed to a steam line and recently was halted by the public service commission. Its promoters tried to water the stock. Aside from a little lumber narrow gauge over the Bedford side, Fulton county has no railroad and was banking high on this one. —Hannah A. Buck, widow of Rev. Chas. L. Buck, of New Enterprise, Bedford county, who died recently, left an estate valued at \$30,000 to charity. She bequeathed a fourth each to the Old Folks' Home of the Church of the Brethren at Hartsville, Orphans' Home at Huntington, Pa., and home and foreign mission work of the Church of the Brethren. During her life time and since the death of her husband, Mrs. Buck had given \$2,000 to Juniata College. A quilt over 100 years old was willed to her sister. —Winburne, Clearfield county, had four destructive fires last week. On Sunday a dwelling owned by Albert Kowalski was burned to the ground. Monday afternoon the repair shops of Bloomington mine No. 9, were totally destroyed by a fire which caused a loss of \$10,000. Tuesday afternoon the Methodist Episcopal church building, used by the school board to house the eighth grade schools, caught fire from the furnace and was damaged to the amount of \$800. On Wednesday the big union hall owned by the United Mine Workers of America was totally destroyed by fire. The loss was heavy. —The Blair Limestone company, on Wednesday, near Blair Four, fired the largest blast ever shot in a quarry anywhere. There were 35,000 pounds of dynamite of a type known as Trojan powder. There were 23 holes, sixteen of them 180 feet deep, each hole 5.5 inches in diameter. The shot brought down 200,000 tons of limestone. Officials of the company from Pittsburgh and many people from that district viewed the shot which shook the earth like an earthquake, but did not make any loud detonation. Cyrus Ickes of the Raystown company, fired the shot by throwing the electric switch in the Raystown substation, down in the town of Blair Four. The whole town of Blair Four was evacuated, the only occupants being Mr. Ickes and the manager of the Powder company, F. J. Leonard, who had the blast in charge. —In the contest to break the will of the late Rosalie P. Coleman, formerly of Lebanon, Pa., but now of Paris, instituted in the Lebanon county courts by her son, D. Guido Hinkel, a surgeon in the German army, W. G. Light, counsel for the son, Tuesday filed in the local court returns of the alias citations, service of which was had by publication in New York and Paris on the several parties in interest, including the beneficiaries under the will, by the provisions of which the son is disinherited. The Pennsylvania Company for Insurance on Lives and Grants, Annuities, which is the administrator of the Coleman estate in the United States, Tuesday entered its appearance through local counsel as a party to the suit. It was announced Tuesday that the testimony of Prince Eonnersmark, father of Dr. Hinkel, had not as yet been taken by the Berlin court, because of legal technicalities.

President Wilson's Message.

In his address to Congress on Tuesday President Wilson wisely gives much attention to the completion of the legislative program for the avoidance of labor strikes. His attitude on that question as revealed in his address to Congress last September won hundreds of thousands of votes to the Democratic party. If Congress will have the good sense to complete the program as expressed then and urged again in the address in question the affiliation of those voters with the party will become permanent. He is the first President to take the case of the wage-earner in a labor controversy and if his party in Congress will show that it is in sympathy with him self-respecting working men will support it. It is said that the railroad brotherhoods are opposed to the completion of the President's program, that they want only such part of it as benefits them. We do not believe they are so unfair. The President frankly told them in the beginning that his solution of the problem involved the passage of six separate measures of legislation. There was only time for one, however, the eight hour day law, and that was passed and accepted by the men. That action morally bound them to accept the others and we have full faith that they will accept them when they are enacted. It is up to Congress to give them the opportunity and at the earliest moment possible. Delays are always dangerous. The President suggests no new legislation but advocates the completion of several measures which were begun during the last session and are now on the calendar of one branch or the other. The appropriation bills will be large this year and will provoke a good deal of discussion and the length of the session is limited so that little time can be spared to the consideration of new propositions. But there will be time enough to clear the calendars if industrious effort is given to the work and the President justly believes that Congress will do its part well. Meantime the country will watch the proceedings with great interest and will lay the blame where it belongs if things go wrong.

Penrose's Little Trick.

Senator Penrose is again playing his old and probably his only trick. He is endeavoring to defeat one measure of legislation by threatening to agitate for another. His purpose expresses the standard of Republican statesmanship. On one occasion the late Senator Quay prevented the passage of a bill to which he was opposed by threatening to read a hundred volumes or more of Department reports. It was the only way he could think of and an oyster would have quite enough brains to turn the trick. Penrose's scheme is different only in that it reveals a greater measure of malice and brutality. He threatens to advocate the Force bill which was buried more than thirty years ago. Senator Penrose is very much opposed to the passage of the pending Corrupt Practices act. He apprehends, no doubt, that in the event that measure becomes a law, a considerable number of his friends would be sent to the penitentiary. Besides he understands that with such legislation in operation the Republican party would have no more chance of carrying a national election than Sam Salter has of being President of the United States. He knows that Indiana, Illinois, New York and New Jersey would have voted for Wilson this year if they had not been bought to vote for Hughes and that a corrupt practices law will stop the flow of gold necessary to buy enough votes to carry a State. So the Senator imagines he can scare the Southern Senators out of voting for the Corrupt Practices Act by threatening to introduce the Force Bill. Possibly there are in some of the asylums others simple enough to share that belief with him, but not many. The looters and grafters who controlled the Republican party then couldn't pass that bill when it was up a generation ago and the Democrats were weaker than they have ever been since. Therefore there is no danger of its passing now or at any time in the future. Men of the type that favor such legislation are mostly in custody or dead and that vicious spirit will never be revived in this country of just and intelligent men.

Champ Clark in the Chair.

From the Springfield Republican. It looks as if the Democrats would be able to organize the next house and make Champ Clark speaker. Records in three closely contested districts in Pennsylvania, in one New Jersey district and one North Carolina district favor the Democrats. This makes the present outlook: Democrats, 217; Republicans, 213; Progressive, one; Socialist, one; Prohibitionist, one, and Independent, one. The total membership is 435, and on the above reckoning the Democrats lack one vote of a majority, but Riddell, the California Prohibitionist, and Kelly, Independent, of Pennsylvania, are counted on to act with the Democrats on organization. This prospect chills the discussion of Republican aspirants for the speakership, but in any event the close division between the parties in the next house will make for moderation in its action.

Progressive Policies Demanded.

From the Public. The re-election of President Wilson is by no means a Democratic party triumph. The western voters who chose Wilson elected made clear their wish to elect progressive officials regardless of party. As between Wilson and Hughes they naturally preferred the President. And as between the Republican candidates known to be progressive, and untried Democrats, they preferred the former. These voters can only be held by progressive policies and they seem able to distinguish between real progressivism and the Roosevelt-Perkins kind. The party that does not deal fairly with them will take a very dangerous risk. —For high class Job Work come to the "Watchman" Office.

—Put your ad. in the WATCHMAN.