

INK SLINGS.

-In ten days it will be here.
-This is the kiddies' time of year and how their precious little heads are crammed with visions far beyond the ken of older ones.
-This latest peace talk is too late, of course, to make it possible for Henry Ford to get the boys out of the trenches by Christmas.
-We must have \$1800 by January 1st and we're afraid to steal it with Judge Quigley on the bench. Won't you help us out a little.
-All the grocers are advertising "fresh nuts" just now. At other seasons of the year they are to be found loafing on the street corners.
-Just now there are more people being polite to their employers than at any other season of the year. There would be little in life were it not for hope.
-There is beginning to be a suspicion that the undertakers are at the bottom of the movement to get everybody to stop eating in order to bring prices down.
-The first real snow of the season fell here on Tuesday morning clothing everything in white and filling the kiddie hearts with hopefulness that Santa soon will be here.
-Germany's proposal of peace was necessarily only a feeler, but it is the entering wedge just the same and, unless our guess is wrong, it means the beginning of real work looking to the end of the awful carnage on the other side of the Atlantic.
-Lloyd George once called Lord Milner and Earl Curzon "feather heads." Now he has chosen them as members of his new Cabinet. It remains to be seen whether he has really changed his opinion of them or whether he wants a coup of "goats" at his side should it be necessary to use them.
-Corporal Cohen, the "Watchman's" trooper correspondent on the Border, is home looking every inch the soldier. And what's more he says our boys sit their horses down in Texas with all the ease and grace with which they sat the mess tent benches in the old Guard days at Mt. Gretna.
-All the newspapers published in Juniata county have announced an advance in their subscription rates, effective January 1st next. If you have received one of those heart searching letters that we have been mailing to subscribers recently please reply to it, because we don't want to be forced to do what the Juniata papers have just done.
-If you have put off your Christmas shopping until this late date necessarily many things will have to be done in a hurry. We are here to take part of the burden off your mind by offering to send the "Watchman," "Woman's World," "Today's Magazine," "Better Farming" and "Home Life," one weekly and four monthly publications all to any address you desire for \$1.75 for an entire year.
-The talk of Vance McCormick's entering the Cabinet as Secretary of War, in the event of Secretary Baker's transfer to the office of Attorney General might become more than mere rumor. Vance is a fighter and has been ever since he was the captain of the Yale football team "away back in the wet spring of '37," but we are still of the impression expressed three weeks ago in the "Watchman" that the duties of Secretary of the Treasury would be more congenial to him.
-With the coal bunkers full to overflowing, several cars of coal on the railroad sidings, the remodeling of the gas plant about completed and a full crew of workmen on the job Tuesday night Col. Taylor had just about decided to walk up town with his thumb in his nose when the big Sterling boiler of his steam heating battery blew up a flue and the long hoped for trip was off. Daily visits to the plant during the past week in search of gas have convinced the writer that the Colonel has some troubles too.
-It is not the amount of the proposed tax, but the principle of it, that will make rough sledding for the State Fish Commissioner's proposal to have a bill passed by the next Legislature requiring every one who wants to fish in the streams of Pennsylvania to pay a license of \$1. Personally the writer would cheerfully pay five times as much if he were certain that it would improve the sport, but such a proposal is a matter to be viewed from a far broader angle than personal pleasures or desires. Taxing and licensing, which is the same thing, is coming to be entirely too popular in Pennsylvania. Everything we do, it seems, must have some kind of a cost item tacked on to it. At every turn, from the time we come into the world until we go out, there is some agent from some Department or other wanting a tax or a license for something. The little fellows, the picnickers accidentally along mountain streams and the country folks who get probably a half a day's fishing a year are the ones to whom such a license would be an outrage. It is for the sake of this class that the "Watchman" is opposed to such a bill and will continue to oppose its passage.

Democratic Watchman.

STATE RIGHTS AND FEDERAL UNION.

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Causes of the High Cost of Living.

Every man and woman in the country is interested in the high cost of living and most of them are in sympathy with the purpose of the movement recently undertaken to discover the causes and apply the remedy. That manipulation of stocks and prices by speculators is largely to blame may be accepted as a certainty and to the extent that this condition goes a remedy may be found in the courts or in legislation. But the fault is not all in that direction. If there were no speculators and no manipulation of stocks prices would be high for the reason that there are fewer producers and a greater number of consumers now than ever before and the demand is greater than the supply.
The European war is the principal cause of the high cost of living. It has taken out of the ranks of producers millions of men and put upon those that have remained the obligation of maintenance. It has taken from the area of cultivation thousands of acres of land and removed from the sources of supply the products of those fields. If every adult male produced sufficient for his own maintenance the expense of living would be meagre for each. But when every man in industrial life is forced to produce sufficient to maintain himself and several others the burden is increased to the extent that dependants are multiplied. This fact is so palpable that it needs no support.
Speculators contribute to some extent in producing the lamentable conditions which now exist and they are culpable and should be punished. The scarcer the commodity the easier it is to manipulate the prices and the plainer the evidence of their operations appear. Therefore the effort to reveal and punish them ought to be a comparatively easy matter and we hope the Department of Justice at Washington will continue to pursue them until they are forced to abandon their atrocious practices. We believe that they are punishable under the common law and that under existing conditions they will be brought to book. But if not then additional legislation should be enacted.

The Kaiser is willing to make peace now that he has license to claim a good deal but the other side is not so eager. Peace will come but not at the call of the Kaiser or at a time that suits his convenience.

Baldwin and Cox—Twin Evils.

The fight for the Speakership of the House at Harrisburg is proceeding with unabated energy and increasing interest. Both of the candidates are "on the hoof" and rampaging. The Vore candidate, Mr Cox, of Philadelphia, visited the western counties last week and left home on Sunday again to canvass the coal regions. Mr. Baldwin, the Penrose candidate has been even more energetic. He has covered the entire State two or three times and is still on the road. Cox is working under the direction of Congressman-at-Large John R. Scott, of Philadelphia, and Baldwin's peripatetic is under the management of State Senator Sproul, of Delaware county.

Dick Baldwin, the Penrose candidate, is easily the most reactionary member of the General Assembly. He has voted against every progressive measure introduced since the beginning of his service. His first session was that of 1895 and he had three successive terms. Then he was retired until 1911 and enters upon the fourth session of his second innings next month. During the six terms he has never voted for a progressive, reform or labor measure. He takes pride in a record that would overwhelm a representative for any other county in the State. He championed the bill for the repeal of the Full Crew law last session and led the opposition to the child labor, employers' compensation and other progressive legislation.

His antagonist, Edwin R. Cox, is little if any better. He voted for local option, woman suffrage and the labor reform bills. But he was not influenced by personal feeling on the several subjects. He was simply a pawn in the Vore game of "fast and loose" with all sorts of legislative problems. He is a typical South Philadelphia Legislator and obeys orders from the Vore camp with the servility of a whipped slave. Why Penrose takes chances with Baldwin and why the Vares pin their faith upon Cox are twin mysteries. Probably it is because neither faction can trust a capable man with the power of the Speakership and both accept the candidates as necessary evils.

If Carranza were summoned to explain why Villa has not been captured he might justly plead the statute which exempts a man from criminating himself.

Another Taxing Outrage Proposed.

A new form of taxation has been discovered by the Republican machine, according to statements that come from Harrisburg. Fishermen are to be taxed a dollar a head in order to create a fund to employ an army of office-holders and incidentally a new element in the political campaign force. During the coming session of the Legislature a bill is to be introduced and passed to make this levy. There are a good many thousand men and boys in the State who find pleasure in whipping the streams during the season. There are a good many others who are able to solve the problem of the cost of living by supplying their tables with wholesome and nutritious food from the streams. They must be stopped.

Shades of Izaak Walton! From the beginning of time the privilege of fishing has been open to man free and without other restraint than such as seemed necessary to preserve the supply. But the covetous eyes of political vampires have finally been focussed upon this pleasant pastime as a source of graft and the order has gone out to grab out of the pocket of each person, old and young, male and female, who finds delightful recreation or healthful exercise in the use of the rod and line, a tribute. Every man, woman, boy or girl in the State ought to rise up and protest against such perversion of the taxing power for the reason that it is a needless levy upon an element in the population, as unequal as it is unjust.

The false pretense set up to justify this outrage is that the money is needed to prevent the pollution of the streams. The real reason for it is, however, that the Republican machine wants sixty-five additional officials to tax for campaign purposes and to work politics in the interest of the bosses. The rich and leisurely city anglers would be glad to drive the country boys off the streams, of course, and leave the fish undisturbed until it is convenient for them to go out and lure them. But that is only an incident in the matter. The strengthening of the political machine is the principal object of the proposed legislation and it ought to be prevented in the interest of fairness.

There can be no arbitration system that isn't compulsory. If one or the other disputants refuse to arbitrate there can be no settlement. But if both sides are compelled to arbitrate and accept the award of the proceedings, there is a chance of arriving at a conclusion.

Germany's Peace Proposition.

The peace proposition issued by the German Chancellor on Tuesday is simply a diplomatic coup following the recent military triumphs of von Hindenburg in Rumania. Germany can hardly hope to ever be in better position, while the war continues, than she is now. It is not probable that Bethmann-Hollweg imagined that his offer would be accepted. But he did believe, and he was amply justified in his faith, that a peace proposal frankly declared, would put upon his enemies the onus of continuing the war with its attendant horrors and atrocities, and that consequently the proposal was a wise diplomatic expedient. It is an adroit appeal to popular credulity.

Peace based on any plan that would be acceptable to Germany at this time would be only temporary at best. Even if it should restore the various belligerents to the status they occupied before the beginning of the strife, history would repeat itself and Germany would begin plotting for future conquest as she did a generation ago. The military spirit would still be dominant in Europe and within a comparatively brief period hostilities would be renewed. Such a peace would be worse than a mockery. The only peace that is worth while is one that will endure for all time and that is only possible after Germany has been so reduced that militarism will no longer exist.

Thus far it must be admitted that practically all the military victories have gone to Germany and this diplomatic adventure places the civil forces of the Kaiser's empire on a level with the military. A vast number of thoughtful people will "fall" for this bluff which is without meaning or significance except as a diplomatic trick. But the British, French and Russian forces are now preparing for more aggressive action and we may well hope that within a year Germany will consent to a peace proposition which will involve the elimination of militarism and mean a permanent peace that will be of advantage to the whole world because it will end profligacy in preparations for war.

Now is the time when the fellow with a 1916 model car begins to worry about raising the necessary to trade it for a 1917.

Britain's Cabinet Flare Up.

The recent flare up in the British cabinet is just what might have been expected. It is the natural fruit of British selfishness as expressed in the statesmanship of that country. From the beginning of the war each of the leaders, in parliament, the army or the navy, has been striving to climb over all others into power. Lord Kitchener was pestered into his grave by incompetents who interfered with his plans and Asquith has been driven to cover because Lloyd-George had developed an ambition to be Premier. Meantime they let the Irish, French, Russians, Scotch, Australians and Canadians occupy the trenches and fill the military burying grounds.

Belgium, Servia and Rumania were enticed into the war by British promises of reward and British statesmen quarrel over the spoils of office while the victims of their perfidy are being wiped off the map. It may be that Asquith retarded the movement of troops to relieve them and some one else may have been to blame. But it is certain that there has been fault somewhere and that the penalty has fallen with a heavy hand on others than those responsible. The victims of "perfidious Albanian," numerous enough before, have been multiplied every day since the German invasion of Belgium set the whole world aflame with indignation and resentment.

Lloyd-George whose ambition has been fulfilled may be "the man of the hour," but he has yet to prove it. He has met every responsibility in the less important offices he has occupied but he never encountered the nagging which annoyed Kitchener at every turn or the criticism which was heaped upon Asquith's head from morning to night. He is said to be a man of energy and action and we hope he will justify his reputation by sending some of the "carpet knights" of London to the battle front where they may get a fair share of horrors as well as the honors of war. There is plenty to do in the trenches on the various battle fronts and Englishmen should do part.

Lieut. George Boal Thompson, of the First Mounted Machine Gun troop, who early in November came home from El Paso, Texas, on a thirty days furlough on account of the illness and death of his father, the late John I. Thompson, of Lemont, recently requested an extension of his furlough after hearing the many rumors that the troop would shortly be ordered home. On Sunday he received an extension of his furlough for twenty days with an order that he was to report at El Paso for duty on December 28th, which does not look as if there is any immediate prospect of the Centre county soldiers returning home, all rumors to the contrary notwithstanding. Of course the War Department at Washington gives out very little advance news, so that there is no telling the day when an order may be issued to Gen. Funston to send some more troops home and the General will look over the bunch and say to Gen. Clement "you git," and every man will be only too glad to "git."

At a meeting held in Harrisburg last Wednesday a State Chamber of Commerce was organized, the object of which is the development of all civic, industrial, agricultural and commercial affairs, together with the co-operation in the advancement of plans for the welfare and prosperity of every one in the State. Col. W. Fred Reynolds, of Bellefonte, and Dr. Edwin Earle Sparks, president of The Pennsylvania State College, were made members of the board of directors.

There will be seven eclipses during the year 1917, four of the sun and two of the moon, but only two of them will be visible here. The first will be a total eclipse of the moon on the night of January 7, and will be visible here. The other eclipse visible here will be another total eclipse of the moon on the night of December 28th. The eclipses which will not be visible here occur on January 23rd, June 19th, July 4th, July 20th and December 14th.

Really Senator Owens ought to have insisted on the passage of his resolution requiring a statement of the sources of revenue and expenditures of the recent campaign. It probably would have reduced the total Republican vote next year for inmates of penal institutions have no vote.

Senator O'Gorman, of New York, is displeased because President Wilson was re-elected but there will be nobody displeased because Senator Gorman will be re-elected. He won't be.

There are people credulous enough to think that Roosevelt will be a candidate for President in 1920. Take it from us, in 1920 Roosevelt will not be even a favored camp follower.

World-Wide Effects of War.

Denmark scientists who have been busy studying the war with the view of ascertaining its cost and its economic effects report that during the first two years of fighting 3,600,000 men were killed, while 4,500,000 sustained permanent disabilities on account of wounds. That makes approximately 8,000,000 men who have been wiped out as producers. It is too early, of course, to determine with any degree of accuracy how many of those who have sustained permanent disabilities will linger on as a charge upon those who will emerge from the inferno of war uninjured. It must be borne in mind that the 8,000,000 who have either been killed or permanently disabled were mostly young men. Their loss will become more apparent five years from now than it is at the present time. Diplomats and military men, notwithstanding the fact that peace talk is growing, now venture the assertion that the war may last four years. The struggle has intensified as it has progressed and if four years in fact be the term of its duration 16,000,000 men rather than 8,000,000 would represent what might be termed its minimum cost. The world, of course, has never had 16,000,000 men who could be spared all at one time. The loss of that many is bound to make million producers will have vanished by the time peace is declared. Before the war each one of that host of 16,000,000, in all probability, produced more than he consumed, and that surplus went to make up the riches of the world. We can be certain all the nations will be poorer because of the war and that eventually we will share humanity's poverty. Just as the war reaches out and grasps us now while it is in progress so it will inflict itself upon us long after it has ceased to exist. The world is so small nowadays that no nation can live to itself alone or suffer alone.

Promoters of Starvation.

From the Railroad World.
With one man holding 72,000,000 eggs bought at 20 cents a dozen and still held for a higher price when the original cost has practically doubled; with other men alleged to be responsible for holding hundreds of carloads of perishable vegetables in the railroad yards, waiting for the grip of hunger to drive the prices of these necessities still higher; with these instances of human greed on the one hand we have on the other hand the spectacle of thousands of persons on the verge of starvation in New York and Chicago. With railroads and coal companies conspiring to create an artificial scarcity of this other necessity of life, there is call for strenuous measures of prevention and punishment. And these are individuals who are guilty of these heinous crimes. And other individuals who are sufferers therefrom. It is the supreme duty of government to stand behind the strong and the weak to see that justice is done. Justice in this case would be the appropriation of these necessities of life and their distribution among the needy; while the individuals found guilty should be tied to the tails of army mules and kicked to death. And I am a humanitarian and a pacifist.

Democratic Gubernatorial Timber.

From the Harrisburg Star-Independent.
There is talk of the Democrats bringing out George W. Guthrie, of Pittsburg, as a candidate for Governor, provided Vance C. McCormick, of this city, does not care for the nomination. Mr. Guthrie was one of the quintette of party reorganizers who wrested control of the party from Col. "Jim" Guffey, and at the Baltimore national convention held the Pennsylvania delegation for Wilson. His reward was the appointment of Minister to Japan, and he is said to be making good. Rumor, however, is that he is tiring of his long absence from old Pennsylvania, and that he is willing to come back in 1918 and have a try for the Governorship. The younger Democratic element, however, are beginning to talk McCormick for Governor, and Vance C. McCormick is his way to carry the Democratic party gonfalon as its candidate, but, if so, his campaign will be fought along very different lines from those of 1914.

Opportunities of Special Privilege.

From the Altoona Mirror.
John D. Archbold started life as an errand boy. He saved his money and went into the oil business. By aggressiveness, energy and sticktoitiveness he became the most dominant figure in a great industry, next to John D. Rockefeller. His success should prove an inspiration to boys. The opportunities are to be found on every hand.

Those Stupid Stars.

From the Pittsburg Dispatch.
Any one wanting a high grade prophet should send a scout to look "Nick" Longworth over. He said the next Congress would have not less than 100 Republican majority and bought 14 Democrats of the Ways and Means committee new hats because the stars didn't get his signals right.

Sentence Him to Eat the Cheese.

From the Manchester (N. H.) Guardian.
We appeal for a paragonic referendum as to the proper punishment for the Boston Advertiser man, who perpetrated this: "The lady who attached a car load of genuine Wisconsin imported limburger cheese to satisfy a debt probably got all that was odor."

For high class Job Work come to the WATCHMAN Office.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

The Easton Poultry association's ninth annual show has not less than 1,000 birds on exhibition.
-Serious trouble exists between the milk producers and the retailers of Northampton county because the former have increased the price of milk from 18 to 22 cents per gallon.
-C. F. Ridinger, aged 30 years, a resident of Somerset, slipped on the sidewalk a few days ago and fell, fracturing his skull. He died twenty-four hours later. He was unmarried.
-The sheriff of Clinton county having declined to admit violators of Lock Haven ordinances to the county jail without a commitment, the city council is about to take steps to provide a city prison.
-Harry Frantz, a Johnstown youth who ran the automobile he was driving over a man and killing him, was sentenced at Ebensburg Wednesday to spend two years in the western penitentiary.
-The school directors of DuBois are favorable to the erection of a Junior High school building in that city and may soon ask the voters to authorize a bond issue of \$175,000 to pay for the structure.
-Irvin Reese, a young farmer living near Ebensburg, lost the year's crops, three cows, some chickens, several hogs and all his farming implements by a fire which destroyed his barn last Friday night.
-Congressman J. Thomas Hefflin, of Louisiana, and Secretary of Labor William B. Wilson are expected to speak at the Jackson Day banquet of the Young Men's Democratic club, of Williamsport, on the 8th of January.
-A spectacular fire, believed to be of 'hobby' origin, destroyed more than 1,000 feet of stables, cattle pens and fence at the Punxsutawney fair grounds last Friday evening. The loss is about \$3,000, with no insurance.
-The 17 year locust is due to appear again next summer, according to C. H. Hadley, Jr., entomologist of the Pennsylvania State College. He called attention to the fact that the last outbreak of this insect occurred in 1909.
-John A. Gray, a Cambria county gardener, informs the "Mountaineer-Herald," of Ebensburg, that he and his wife had the pleasure of eating a dish of delicious strawberries the other day which were covered with snow when gathered from the vines.
-Nicholas Prestis, a brakeman on one of the electric motors in the mine of the Superior No. 2 plant, Westmoreland county, was electrocuted last Saturday when something went wrong with the motor. He was only 20 years old, but is survived by his wife.
-George Coulter, a Pennsylvania Railroad engineer died in the Altoona hospital Sunday morning as a result of an automobile accident late Saturday night in which he suffered a broken back. His car turned turtle when he collided with another while passing it on the Buckhorn road.
-Alva Green, who lives near the head of Queens run, a famous old hunter, was a Lock Haven visitor Thursday. Mr. Green has the distinction of having killed 146 bears in his time, a majority of which he caught in traps. Mr. Green purchased some ammunition while in that city, and expects to kill a buck or bear this fall.
-Rev. Robert F. Gibson, for the past eleven years rector of Trinity Protestant Episcopal church, Williamsport, preached his farewell sermon last Sunday and he and his family left the next morning for Macon, Ga., their future home. After Sunday evening's service Mr. Gibson was presented with a pure containing nearly \$500.
-Samuel A. Peden, Johnstown's oldest dentist, aged nearly 69 years, died at his home shortly after noon Monday, after a long illness. He was a native of Cambria county but lived for some years in Altoona, where he learned the trade of a carpenter in the Pennsylvania Railroad shops. He is survived by his wife and two daughters.
-The sale of 12,000 acres of Green county coal land owned by Josiah V. Thompson, former banker and coal operator of Uniontown, Pa., was announced on Saturday by A. C. Robinson, chairman of the Thompson Creditors association. The H. C. Frick Coke company bought the property, paying between \$6,000,000 and \$7,000,000 for it.
-Frank Holden, of Waterville, Lycoming county, was arrested late last week by state policemen, charged with having set twelve fires in the woods between Waterville and Lucullus last Friday. Some of the fires were kindled on state forestry lands others on private lands. In all 3,000 acres were burned over. Holden is said to have confessed his guilt.
-A few days ago ago Paul Heift, aged 14 years, accidentally killed his brother, Ralph, aged 8, at his home in Ansonville, Jordan township, Clearfield county. Ralph had picked up a loaded shotgun in the house and Paul attempted to take it from him. The gun was discharged and the contents of one barrel entered the little fellow's head, killing him instantly.
-Mistaken for another whose life had been declared forfeited when he failed to comply with a demand of \$1,000 on penalty of which Tony Rossi, agent for a brewing company was shot and killed early last Thursday, at Bulger, one mile west of Midland, as he stepped from the store of Quinto Banti. The authorities believe the bullets were intended for Banti.
-George Baier, a resident of Collinsville, Lycoming county, had a narrow escape from death last Friday afternoon. He found nobody at home when he got there at 5 o'clock and being hungry ate a piece of cake which he found in the cellar. It had been saturated with rat poison and the man's life was barely saved by the prompt services of a physician.
-The controller of Berks county has been investigating the situation of certain families getting out-door relief and finds that out of forty cases investigated many are not entitled to assistance. One family on the relief fund was earning \$28 a week, while in another, husband and wife who got relief earned \$92 a month. Perhaps other counties may be similarly situated.
-While Lewis Faust, charged with numerous robberies in Harrisburg, Steelton, Scranton, Wilkes-Barre, Hagerstown, York and other places, was being held for trial at court in Harrisburg, on the first charge, police searched his home, last Thursday, and found over \$2,000 worth of jewelry concealed in a coal pile and several cameras under a porch. It is estimated the plunder at Faust's home aggregates \$6,000 in value.
-Eleven hundred cars passed through the east-bound yards of the Pennsylvania railroad, East Hollidaysburg, last Friday. This was the largest number passing through this point in a single day in the history of the yards. There were 35,000 cars transported west, through the Hollidaysburg yards, during the month of November. This is also a record, considering the fact that traffic was diverted for a week, due to the big wreck on the railroad, at New Portage Junction.
-The Vinton Colliery company will develop at once the coal field, comprising almost 6,000 acres at Claghorn, near Heshbon along the Blacklick branch of the Pennsylvania Railroad, purchased recently from the Lackawanna Coal & Coke company. The coal will be mined from three drifts which were partially opened by the Lackawanna company several years ago when the operation was continued. The Vinton Colliery company will repair the buildings and will erect at least 25 additional houses for the accommodation of the miners.