

INK SLINGS.

The groundhog seems to be losing a little of his grip.

The snow is disappearing so gradually that the possibility of a flood is becoming more remote every day.

Hampy Moore will probably get himself worked up to the point where he will break off relations with every Congressman in Washington.

Willie Hearst might also be willing to enlist as a Major General though if the country is prudent in other things we may worry along without him.

Some better method of fighting than that in the trenches will have to be discovered or the European war will never end. The gain of a couple of yards a week gets them nowhere.

The fellow who thought spring was here on Sunday and discarded his heavy overcoat and rubber shoes is now having another think while he sits in the house nursing a case of grip.

Ambassador Gerard has got himself very much disliked among certain elements of the population of Berlin, but good men are sometimes "loved for the enemies they have made."

With Mexico, Cuba, Germany, Austria-Hungary and Turkey all doing their best to make a little trouble for Uncle Sam he is still playing the watchful waiting game and its a good one at that.

Hans Wagner, of Pittsburgh, and "Alexander the Great," of the Phillies, represent the ups and downs of base ball just now. The former is growing old and his salary goes down. The latter is still young and his goes up.

The Hon. Charles Rowland, our Congressman, voted with the "drys" in Congress, on Wednesday, to make the twenty-five States of the Union now having prohibitory laws, "bone-dry" after July 1st. This act prohibits mailing or shipping by any means liquor into dry territory.

Some farmers are fearful that the coating of ice that has covered the grain fields since early in January may have smothered out much wheat. It is too early to tell just what damage may have been done, but ice has a very different effect on winter wheat from snow.

One Pittsburgh poker player is in jail and another in the hospital merely because they both happened to show down four aces at the same time, during a little game they were sitting in a few evenings ago. Its awful, isn't it. Yet we have seen some very lovely old ladies "hold out" cards in a game of five hundred.

The Legislature of Pennsylvania is on record as being against compulsory military training and we are inclined to believe that our Legislators are right, for once. It could not help the present situation a bit and if the world war really is a war against war there will be no need for such legislation in the future.

In another column of this issue will be found a letter from the treasurer of the Democratic National Committee acknowledging receipt of all the funds which the "Watchman" was able to collect for the indebtedness of the party. It will be seen that we are still considerably in the hole and if you feel moved to help a little you can send your remittance to us or forward it directly to the treasurer, Mr. Marsh.

Some poultry fanciers get more satisfaction out of crowing over having the first chickens hatched out in the spring than they could possibly get out of seventy-five cent eggs in the winter. And investigations of the government experts find that the early hatched chickens are the poorest layers in the winter. So that if you want eggs and not satisfaction of the above sort don't hatch chicks before the latter part of March.

Now that potatoes are ranging in price from two to three dollars a bushel don't you think it is time to make that ground in your back yard produce something. Last year the "Watchman" called attention to the fact that there were enough uncultivated gardens in Bellefonte to have produced half as many potatoes or cabbage as the entire town consumes in a year. Economists insist that food stuffs will be little lower next year than they are now and it behooves everyone, especially the poorer people to look about for a bit of ground which will yield them food. A little work in the morning on a lot of the fallow gradens in Bellefonte last summer would have put enough potatoes into the cellar to have supplied the owner and his family all year. We have no right to complain of the high cost of living when our own laziness is responsible for very much of it.

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Governor Brumbaugh's Dilemma.

The Sproul joint resolution to investigate the State administration is now in the hands of the Governor. Whether he shall approve the measure and thus create an opportunity to expose the iniquities of the Republican machine during the past dozen years, is problematical. Most men who have been studying the subject believe that he will veto the measure and thus "save the face" of the Penrose outfit. Brumbaugh has certainly revealed a measure of mental stupidity since he became Governor, that justifies any prediction in the wrong direction. Guided by the prejudices of the Vares and influenced by the malice of Shunk Brown, any absurdity on his part is possible.

But why should Governor Brumbaugh thus lend himself to the service of the Penrose machine? He has nothing to lose by an investigation. He is already daubed over with the filth of graft from head to foot so that nothing can increase his burden of infamy. Everybody knows that the only legitimate purpose of an "executive contingent fund," is to pay the proper expenses of the Governor in the discharge of his official duties. Pressing the gubernatorial pants and buying cosmetics for the Governor's wife are equally graft and it has been amply proved that the Brumbaugh contingent fund was used for such purposes, thus increasing his compensation in violation of the constitution which he has sworn to "support, obey and defend."

The Penrose machine has discovered another way of proving the charges of graft against the Governor and one which guarantees immunity for Penrose and the conspirators associated with him in the enterprise to fly Brumbaugh. Therefore they want Brumbaugh to veto the Sproul resolution for the reason that such action will be interpreted as a confession and used as corroborative evidence to the testimony of their own witnesses. Of course Vares wants the measure vetoed because the Senate Committee on Appointments cannot involve the immoralities and iniquities of the Vares. Equally, of course, Shunk Brown wants the resolution vetoed for the same sinister reasons. "Every fellow for himself and the devil take the hindmost," is the motto of these Brumbaugh advisers.

But why should Brumbaugh sacrifice himself to save one set of conspirators and help another set? He stands to lose in either event but if he signs the bill and takes his medicine like a man the others will suffer with him and he will earn a small measure of public gratitude by opening up a means for purging the State of the vicious pirates who have been looting it. If the Sproul resolution is approved and the proposed investigation is conducted with the energy and purpose that is possible, Penrose and his gang will emerge from the ordeal quite as besmirched as Brumbaugh and the State will be rescued from two sources of vice. In the light of these facts Brumbaugh's course is clear. He should approve the resolution and aid in the investigation.

If the resolution is vetoed there will be no inquiry into any of the immoralities which have been perpetrated by Penrose or for Penrose during the past decade. The Vares will enjoy equal immunity and though the Senator of that name openly acknowledged that he has been "accessory after the fact" to the electoral frauds in Philadelphia during recent years, he will go Scott free. Is the Governor compelled to compound this felony in order to shield Vares? Certainly not through gratitude for there has never been a moment since the beginning of this quarrel that the Vares would not have betrayed Brumbaugh to his enemies if such perfidy had promised advancement of their selfish purposes.

The death of General Funston will be universally regretted. He was an industrious and capable soldier and had the merit of minding his own business well developed. If other Generals who got advancement through favoritism were equally wise public confidence in our army would be considerably strengthened.

Let us hope that President Wilson will be able to construct his cabinet without the help of a certain Philadelphia newspaper which bitterly opposes him in everything and constantly butts in with advice.

"Hampy" Moore's Pipe Dream.

"Hampy" Moore, a Philadelphia Congressman, has introduced a resolution, or is about to introduce a resolution, or wants to introduce a resolution to the effect that all the leading newspapers of this country have been bought up or subsidized by British gold. Hampy lusts for notoriety and because a bone-head Congressman from Indiana gained a lot by introducing a preposterous resolution with reference to leaks of some sort, Hampy thought the wild rumor of wholesale newspaper sales to Great Britain, opened up a chance for him that was worth while. He says he will act upon it if he hasn't done so already, and will tear things wide open.

Mr. Moore declares that he got his information on the subject from a Texan named Calloway who said something on the floor of the House at Washington, the other day. Mr. Calloway's story is that the purchases were made by J. P. Morgan who had not only bought the properties but had employed editors to guarantee the proper use of the columns thus acquired. Neither Calloway nor Moore has indicated what papers have been purchased by British gold but as both say that "all the leading papers" are included, we are compelled to look upon the matter as personal for the "Watchman" is certainly not easily in the front rank.

Now we desire to say in the most positive terms and unequivocal language that neither the British government nor Mr. J. P. Morgan has purchased the "Watchman" or in any other way acquired control of its columns. No doubt both would like to add it to their possessions but have not expressed themselves thus far. But we can positively assure our friends that the "Watchman" will continue business at the old stand and that nobody need fear that money paid on subscriptions whether in settlement of old arrears or for new acquisitions to our list will find its way either into the treasury of the British Empire or the coffers of J. P. Morgan.

Worthless Report Riddled.

Professor Clyde L. King, of the University of Pennsylvania, riddles the absurd report of the Commission recently appointed under the authority of the Legislature, to investigate the causes of the increase in the price of anthracite coal. The Commission completely exculpated the coal companies from blame and specifically declared that the tax on anthracite coal, levied under an act of the Legislature during the administration of Governor Pennypacker, had nothing to do with the matter. As a matter of fact, however, the price was raised immediately following that levy and it was given as the reason. Subsequently the levy was declared unconstitutional but the tax was not refunded or price reduced.

Professor King shows that the Commission has not treated the subject intelligently or based its report on existing facts. On the contrary it justifies the increase in price on the ground that some operators are not favorably situated for the production of coal and that those who are have a right to fix the price of the product on a scale which will afford profit to those who are not. That is not only an absurd but immoral doctrine. The laws forbid the fixing of price by collusion and the restraint of trade and production for any reason. In setting a scale of prices on the lines indicated by the report both provisions of the law are violated and the consumers mulcted coming and going.

The Commission probably made precisely the kind of report it was appointed to make, however. Professor King overlooked the fact that the resolution creating the Commission was introduced by Senator Vares, of Philadelphia, and legislation emanating from that source is likely to be filled with snakes of every variety. His interest in the dear people is of a negative sort but his interest in corporations both active and practical. In any event, however, the report is worthless, ought to be ignored and a new investigation ordered. The coal trust, like the paper trust, can be brought to terms and a real investigation will accomplish the result in one case as it did in the other the other day.

If you find it in the "Watchman" it's true.

Sproul Touching On Treason.

Senator Sproul who hopes to secure the Penrose endorsement for Governor next year has deceived no intelligent person as to his purpose in introducing a resolution instructing Congress how to raise revenues. It is not the menace to State revenues that worries him. His soul purpose was to embarrass the administration at Washington, at a time when such action is nothing short of treason. The copperheads of the Civil war period had the excuse for perfidy that the enemies of the government were kindred and countrymen. The Sproul type of traitors have no such justification. They don't care for Germans or Germany. All they think of is embarrassing the administration at Washington.

Of course Senator Sproul imagines that his treacherous movement is in the interest of tariff taxation and possibly he believes that there are men who think that an enormously increased tariff tax would supply the government with revenues necessary to the work of preparedness now in progress. But he only is deceived. It would make no difference in the customs revenues whether the tariff tax on steel were ten dollars or ten cents a ton. The threat of submarine atrocities has taken commerce from the sea and there are practically no imports of steel or anything else. Dependence upon customs receipts for revenue when there are no importations is as absurd as depending upon the Republican machine for decency.

Senator Sproul and other leaders of the Republican party of Pennsylvania have entered into a conspiracy to show Germany and Great Britain that the people of the United States are not in sympathy with the President. That is giving aid and comfort to those countries and in the event that war is declared against Germany by the United States or against the United States by Germany, it will be high treason. That is a precarious situation for Senator Sproul but the Republican machine exacts high prices for its favors. Senator Penrose has been fooled once or twice and hereafter all applicants for nomination must submit to the acid test.

The undersea craft may be doing the best they can but they are not accomplishing much in the way of sinking ships.

Insincerity of Reform Pretenses.

The insincerity of the Penrose pretense of reform in official life is clearly revealed in the vote on the resolution, the other day, to take a census of the legislative offices. The resolution proposed to compel each official in the Legislature to disclose the duties of his office, the amount of his compensation, the hours required to perform the work and the agency through which he obtained the appointment. The measure was indefinitely postponed on motion of one of the Penrose followers, though candor compels the acknowledgement that some of the Brumbaugh adherents voted for postponement.

There is no greater abuse in the public life of the Commonwealth than that at which the resolution was aimed. It has been the custom for years to create as many new offices as were necessary to satisfy the demands of disappointed party workers who had failed of getting places on the regular roster. Then the places are farmed for the benefit of the lame ducks. For example the men who get the offices draw the compensation of six to eight dollars a day and hire boys about the capitol to do the work at from one dollar and a-half to two dollars a day, spending their time in their regular employment at home.

Four years ago when the Bull Moosers were strong enough to prevent the machine from electing the officers, an attempt was made to abate this evil. An inquiry was begun and the testimony of many of the officers taken which showed that most of them had little if anything to do and that all of them were overpaid. But the two wings of the Republican party were soon brought together in the presence of this menace to graft and the aim of the Democrats to expose the outrage was defeated. Then as now the "cohesive power of public plunder" brought both factions of the Republican party into union and the proposed reform failed.

Even if the winners of election bets do have to pay income tax the Republicans needn't worry.

How We Might Prove Effective.

From the Scientific American. If we are drawn into the world war we may well prove to be the decisive factor, even though we land not a single soldier upon European soil. For it is a fact, well understood by the statesmen and strategists of Europe, that if we were lined up with the allied cause we should place it in an impregnable position in respect to two of the most vital necessities for the winning of a war of this magnitude, namely, financial resources and munitionment.

Excellent though it may be in morale and in its all-round military efficiency, our army would be lost amid the embattled millions of Europe, and the fact that Great Britain defeated the German fleet off Jutland, and drove it back into its harbors and now holds it there, proves that our battleships would be superfluous in the North Sea. But the moment our enormous financial resources and our vast potentiality for the manufacture of guns, powder and shells were lined up behind the allied armies the ultimate overthrow of the Central Powers would be as certain as the rise and setting of the sun.

If we went into war, it should be our policy to apply our strength where it would bring the most immediate and decisive results. Outside of certain defensive measures against submarine attack in our home waters, we should bring our potential strength to bear on that part of the European battlefield where it is most needed and would have the greatest effect. Such a field is to be found on the Russian front.

Russia has today, with the colors, nearly ten million men. Of these about five million are fairly well armed, equipped and munitioned. If the whole of that mighty army were munitioned on the scale of the Central Powers it would roll like a tidal wave across the plains of Poland and Galicia, and might well engulf Berlin itself. We have only to bear in mind how Brusiloff, last Summer, swallowed up the Austrian armies, and ceased his onward rush only when his Winter's accumulation of munitions were depleted.

Enormous though the task would be of munitioning those five million men, now undergoing constant training at the depots, so vast are our resources that we could do it, and do it at a rate greater even than at our own Great Britain munitioned its own armies. For our resources in the way of steel mills and machine shops, iron ore, coke and the necessary labor must be fully double those of Great Britain.

Miss The Point.

From the Johnstown Democrat. The commission appointed by Governor Brumbaugh to nose around for the purpose of discovering why the price of anthracite coal is so high reports that it can locate any conspiracy. Coal is high because it is high, and that is all there is to it, says the commission. The price reports report that a very few owners own approximately 90 per cent of the unmined coal, but they dismiss that fact as one that is not worthy of consideration. The monopolization of the unmined coal is treated as a matter of course.

It is rather curious it never occurred to the probers that if a few men or a few corporations own the unmined coal and are permitted to mine at their convenience and under conditions and circumstances that best suit their interests coal will always be high. It is not the coal mined that boosts the price, but rather the coal that should be mined but which is held out of the market.

The owners of the undeveloped anthracite lands find that it pays to curtail production, that it pays to hold mines out of use. They pursue the course that pays.

The commission has nothing to say regarding the effect of regulations that would compel the owners of the undeveloped anthracite lands to either operate their holdings or pass them along to some one who would. Such a simple method of procedure seems to have occurred to them. They support the output, they tabulate the owners of the lands that are not developed, they point out that the corporations that are operating are the firms that own the coal lands not being operated and yet they tell the Governor that they are unable to understand just why coal is as high as it is. Such simple souls never should have been turned loose on the trail of an octopus. The price probers seem to have started out with the simple faith of children and the intellectual equipment of the man who still believes the foreigner pays the tax.

"Patriotism" of the Militarists.

From the Springfield Republican. Ex-Congressman Powers tells the Middlesex club of Boston that we should prepare for war by building a navy superior to any other afloat and by putting an army of millions into the field, so that the American merchant marine might go into any part of the world without fear. Some persons seem more eager to fasten a vast military system upon the nation than to solve the problems of the present.

It may be assumed that the Kaiser didn't say that he would rather have the United States in the war than out of it. The Kaiser is more or less queer but he's no fool.

SPAULS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

Mr. and Mrs. John Beck, of DuBois, have just celebrated the sixty-fourth anniversary of their marriage.

Just before he died John O'Neill, of Phoenixville, a deaf mute from childhood, recovered his speech and startled his wife and children by calling them by name.

Three hotels and one private residence at Mt. Pleasant, Westmoreland county, were entered by burglars the other night and considerable booty, including \$30 in money, carried off.

Rocco Della and Dominic Pedula have been arrested and lodged in the Westmoreland county jail charged with having killed two boys who were coasting on a Greensburg street one night last week.

A men's mass meeting at a Hooversville, Somerset county, revival was broken up and an Italian baby almost cremated when the dwelling occupied by the babe's parents was partially destroyed by fire.

Sheriff John P. Kilgore, of Westmoreland county, began the week by escorting twenty-five convicts to the Allegheny county workhouse and the western penitentiary. Six of the delegation were women.

Two hundred cars of shells passed through the East Hattysburg classification yards on Friday and Saturday, of last week consigned to the navy yards along the Atlantic coast. The cars were given preference over other freight.

Ell Bedi, the Madera man who was shot twice during the progress of a quarrel with his wife over a week ago, is dead in the Phillipsburg hospital, as a result of his injuries. The woman is in jail and will probably be tried for murder.

Between seventy-five and one hundred students of Bucknell University are working at the Army munition plant. The opportunity to get some of the big wages being paid out is tempting to the boys and they are doing the turns along with taking care of their studies, making from \$6 to \$10 a day.

Harriet A. Laird, of Huntingdon, through her attorney, W. Lloyd Hibbs, Esq., has brought an action of trespass against Thomas H. Myers, of Ashville, to recover the sum of \$10,000 damages sustained by plaintiff by reason of the defendant's unlawful possession of 29 acres of coal land in Gallitzin township, Cambria county, of which the plaintiff is the lessee.

The police are investigating the brutal murder of Mrs. Louise Delare, of Jeannette, aged 65, whose mangled body was found in her home by her son, Archie Mallard, early on Sunday. Several dollars which the son had given his mother to keep was missing and robbery is believed to have been the motive. Amiel and John Dantine, brothers, aged 22 and 18 respectively, have been taken into custody and are being held pending further investigation.

While sawing wood on a circular saw at a small mill at Tylersville on Saturday afternoon, Franklin Caris had the misfortune to have his left hand so nearly severed at the wrist that it hung on only by a few shreds. The accident resulted from a slip of the hand, which came in contact with the rapidly revolving saw. Mr. Caris was taken to the Lock Haven hospital late that afternoon, where amputation was completed according to surgical science.

Nearly 1,000 acres of good coal land in White and Cherryhill townships, Indiana county, were sold to Robert E. Young, J. B. Daugherty, of Indiana; C. M. Lingle, of Gracetown; B. M. Clark, of Punxsutawney, and others, this week. The price paid was \$45,000. The tract of land is one of the most valuable in Indiana county. There are no definite plans for operating the field. Mr. Lingle was a former Phillipsburg boy, and has for years been superintendent for the Gracetown Coke Co.

That drillers struck a 1,000,000 cubic foot gas well on the Corbett tract, two miles from DuBois, is verified by a driller for A. A. Milkin, who has a contract for sinking wells for the United Natural Gas Co. The gas flow was struck when the drill had gone two feet in the third sand at a depth of 1,792 feet. Drilling will be continued into the Kane sand. This is the first big gas well that has been brought in near DuBois, and there is much excitement among adjoining land owners.

The jury in the case of Bert Boyer, who sued the Pennsylvania railroad company for \$15,000 damages for personal injuries, returned a verdict in Clearfield county court on Wednesday afternoon. Of last week for \$10,900. This is the largest verdict given for personal injuries on record in Clearfield county, the next largest being a verdict of \$10,300 several years ago. Boyer asked damages as the result of his leg being struck by a train at a grade crossing at McGee Mills, Dec. 22nd, 1915, when he received serious personal injury.

The large safe in the office of T. H. Quinn & Co. chemical manufacturers at Straight, Elk county, was blown open by yeagmen some time during last Friday night and \$500 in postage stamps and \$100 in cash extracted. No one heard the report of the explosion and it was not covered until 6 o'clock Saturday morning, when Mr. Krenking, manager of the general store, opened the place for business. The office is connected with the store, the postage being in the store, and the postage stamps were placed in the big vault for safe keeping.

Married at Clearfield Friday, Mr. and Mrs. John Hawkins started on a honeymoon trip to easter cities. The bridegroom had boarded an east-bound train at Tyrone when the bride discovered she had left her handbag in the station. She covering it she stopped to pick up some orange peel she dropped and the train pulled out. "He has all the money and tickets and I haven't a cent," sobbed the frantic bride, while the husband tried to get off the train but failed. Railroad officials bought her a ticket to Huntingdon, then telephoned ahead and had the husband leave the train and wait for her.

Peter Nickles, a miner of Beccaria township, Clearfield county, on Monday at Clearfield entered suit against the Ironvons Coal and Coke company for \$50,000 damages for injuries received on October 12, 1915, when he was caught under a fall of roof and received a broken back, fractured leg and many other cuts and bruises. He has been totally incapacitated since that time and has been not only unable to provide for his family, but has been an inmate of the Clearfield county home. The accident occurred before the Workmen's compensation act went into effect, hence the necessity for bringing this suit.