

INK SLINGS.

—March surely came in like a lamb.
—Anyway potatoes won't come too high, next summer, for the potato bug.
—And to think they used to laugh at the country publishers who took potatoes on subscription account.
—Bellefonte has had many intimate sorrows this week to add to the gloom that hangs over the entire country.
—A brave man would not have vetoed the Sproul resolution to investigate what all had hoped would prove to be a brave man.
—Vare and Shunk Brown are saved but Brumbaugh has gone into the discard. Nevertheless there has been no great sacrifice.
—The Chester county prophet says winter ended yesterday, but we prefer to stick to the almanac and wait until the 21st before we break forth into rhyme of springtime.
—About everything in Bellefonte but the hills is getting higher. They tell us that even one of our churches is getting so high that it is making low people feel stilted.
—One important development of the European war is the fact that the women of the belligerent nations will be able to take care of the cripples of the war and that condition has never obtained before.
—It can hardly be said that the President is afraid of the presence of Congress in Washington. He kept it there most of the time during his first term and managed to maintain friendly relations with it.
—Even the Emperor of Germany may be convinced, after a while, that the President of the United States means what he says. The opposite policy disappeared when an important change in the cabinet occurred.
—Phillipsburg seems to be taking the ride of its life along the way to publicity. The town is being personally conducted by a gentleman named Green, who happens to be secretary to the Chamber of Commerce of that city, and possibly a descendant of Darius Green of the flying machine. What, with boomin real estate, catching the mayor with his fingers where they ought not to have been, getting columns of publicity in the Sunday editions and haling women into court for selling cigarettes to youthful Phillipsburgers, here is a gentleman who must be busy as a hen with one chicken. Perish the thought, but the day when the name Phillipsburg might not size up to the growing needs of the metropolis of Rush township might not be far off and who would then dare to rise up and say that Greenville would not be better.
—The Johnstown "Democrat" is worried because State College is asking for \$350,000 for a new armory. The "Democrat" is such a pacific organ that it sees possible harm to the youth of the Commonwealth in their even knowing what an armory is. Compose yourself dear brother Bailey. The armory that is now called upon to take care of three thousand and while the word armory does smack of militarism the writer sits here to say to you that the physical "setting up" and the discipline inculcated through the militarism at the Pennsylvania State College twenty-five years ago are even now not out-weighted by any other advantage extended during a four years' course in that institution. Armories and drills don't always make warriors, but they rarely fail to correct physical defects in the carriage of young men and to teach them what discipline is. And discipline is just as necessary in the mills in Johnstown as it is in the trenches in France.
—"Mother" Jones took a very sensible view of the food shortage in New York when she told the rioting women to go home and not to pester the Mayor or the Governor about it, as neither were responsible and neither could give them immediate relief. There is plenty of food in the country and no one need starve. Speculation has run wild, however, and stories of the fabulous sums made by munition workers during the past year have inoculated everyone with the desire to get more than he has been getting for anything he has to sell, with the result that food stuffs are being held out of the market. The two dollar man, whom a fictitious demand for labor has put in a position to earn ten dollars, has no real reason for kicking when he finds that one dollar potatoes have jumped to three dollars through the same conditions. He is simply beginning to find out that it is merely a matter of economics that high wages should make high prices and that when ten dollars is the wage it doesn't buy much more than eighty-five cents did, when it was the wage.

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Senator Penrose a Traitor.

Senator Penrose made a great speech in the Senate, the other day, on the revenue bill. The ranking Republican on the Finance committee of the Senate he presumably expressed the wisdom of his party upon that important measure. At any rate he grew very vehement in his declarations to the effect that "the Democrats had shown themselves unable to raise sufficient money to run the government." His was a sad tale of woe and it was expressed in a tearful tone of voice. Senator Penrose's heart bleeds for his country at the earliest sign of trouble. He is essentially a patriot and never thinks of partisanship. It's a great pity that his judgment isn't as perfect as his pretensions.

In his remarkable speech the other day Senator Penrose stated that the pending revenue measure "has gone through the usual course of consideration in secret Democratic caucus to which the public was not admitted. It was a usurpation of the legislative functions of the Senate by the majority." How atrocious! And Senator Penrose is the man, of all men, to re-monstrate. There has never been, in the whole world, a spectacle more imposing, than "Satan reproving sin." Of all the political pirates who have outraged public decency and propriety, Boies Penrose is the most persistent and defiant. His whole life has been and is a flagrant violation of moral and political ethics.

The several revenue bills enacted by the Democratic majority in Congress have been to meet extraordinary conditions and unexpected exigencies. The Underwood bill would have met every requirement of conditions as they existed at the time it was passed. But soon afterward the European war disorganized all commercial calculations and the bill of 1916 was enacted to meet the new conditions which have developed under reasonable prospects of peace to this country. Since then conditions have again changed and enormous extraordinary demands upon the treasury to meet impending war expenses compel additional revenues. The pending bill is to meet these new requirements which could not have been foreseen.

In opposing this necessary measure of defense Senator Penrose is simply writing himself down a demagogue and a traitor. The contemplated preparedness legislation will involve an extraordinary expenditure of more than half a billion dollars. If the preparedness legislation is not enacted, the country will be at the mercy of any foreign foe that chooses to attack us. Boies Penrose imagines that he can obtain partisan advantage by exposing the country to this humiliation while it is under a Democratic administration, and he makes an insidious attack predicated on a false pretense, to compass this treacherous purpose. It is a crime against the country without parallel.

Mr. Penrose pretends to think that an increase of tariff taxation would supply the revenues essential to meet the unusual and extraordinary expenses. Unless he is a fool he knows better. With the menace of ruthless submarine war in view commerce is in a state of paralysis, and practically no revenues can be depended upon from customs whether the schedules be high or low. The government is confronted by these facts and cannot evade them. Boies Penrose understands this as well as any living man. Therefore his vicious attack upon the pending revenue bill is the outpour of treason in his heart.

—Admiral Fiske is reported to have said that "We are a degenerate people." This fault-finding and mischief making mariner may have a correct understanding of himself but recent events have clearly proved that he is wrong in his estimate of the people of this country generally speaking.

—Let us also hope that there will be no gubernatorial parade over the State at public expense next summer. With public officials paying their own gasoline bills and this item of expense lopped off the cost of the State government will be considerably less in the future.

—Probably Penrose is as glad as Brumbaugh that an investigation has been averted. There might have been a great scattering of reputations if the resolution had been approved.

Wilson Asks Authority to Act.

On Monday afternoon President Wilson appeared before the Congress in joint session and asked authority to put the country into a condition of "armed neutrality." As he states "there is abundant precedent" for such action. And there is abundant reason for it at this time. Congress will adjourn, of necessity, in a few days. It may and probably will take considerable time to assemble in extraordinary session and organize the new Congress. But the necessity for action may arise at any moment and it would be a crime if the government were not equal to any emergency. The request of the President is to meet such an exigency and it should be granted promptly and with unanimity.

The German Empire, drunk with ambition, has inaugurated a policy for the control of the seas which not only impairs the rights and curtails the opportunities of American commerce, but puts the lives of American citizens in jeopardy. Such a condition cannot be endured without sacrificing every principle of honor and manhood. The authority to declare war is limited to Congress and Congress cannot act except while in session. The present Congress expires on the 4th of March and its successor cannot meet in regular session until the first Monday in December. It cannot even be summoned in extra session until after the expiration of its predecessor. With a practically even division of the new House the organization may be delayed for weeks.

Under the circumstances there was but one thing to do and that is what the President has done. He has asked for authority to meet any emergency that may arise. He might have assumed the authority and been within the limit of precedent. But being a man of honor he has respect for the restraints of law and asked, as Washington under similar conditions asked, to be legally and lawfully invested with the power he may be required to exercise. Of course the authority will be voted to him unanimously. Only a traitor or a poltroon would stand out against such action and let us hope there are neither in the American Congress.

Remedies for Existing Evils.

In a recent interview Hon. A. Mitchell Palmer declared his opinion that no legislative remedies will cure the evil of high prices. "I believe the situation is due to natural causes," he says, and adds: "We are paying our price of the war in Europe." Under the economic theory that commodity prices are governed by the law of supply and demand, that is true. But the economic theory is based upon natural, not artificial conditions. In the event of the failure of crops and a necessary shortage of products without diminution in the demand, an increased price is inevitable. A shortage in the supply of any commodity without impairment of the demand must cause an increase of values.

But there is no perceptible decrease in the volume of foodstuffs, at this time and the diminution of supply is clearly the consequence of manipulation by speculators. Our exports of foodstuffs this year are less than that of last year in greater ratio than the volume of last year was greater than that of this year. Of course we are paying part of the cost of the war in Europe. We are sending millions of dollars in money and vast quantities of products to feed and clothe the devastated sections of the European war zone. But that is not the principal reason for the high cost of provisions and other necessities here. Our suffering in that respect is ascribable to the perversion of the laws of supply and demand.

There are plenty of foodstuffs in this country to supply the reasonable demands of the people if left to the regulation of the laws of supply and demand. But human vampires are speculating in the products of the earth and the fruits of labor and nature and legislation ought to find a remedy for such evils. According to current reports, official and otherwise, there are thousands of bushels of potatoes in Pennsylvania being held for prices greater than the outrageous figures now demanded. If that be true those holding the tubers are violating the laws and ought to be brought to account. If there are no remedies in law some ought to be discovered.

Brumbaugh Defeats Investigation.

Governor Brumbaugh has vetoed the Sproul resolution providing for an investigation of his administration. In the veto message he declares, by quoting from a previous message on the subject, that he "invites the widest and fullest investigation of his official acts and those of all associated with him in public service." That is palpably a false pretense and pure demagoguery. He resisted the passage of the resolution in question with all the force, legal and lawless, that he could command. He vetoed the resolution because he was afraid of a full exposure of his official delinquencies, and the veto message is a confession on every count of the indictment against him.

If Governor Brumbaugh had approved the resolution a thorough and searching investigation of the public life of the Commonwealth might have been obtained. The Governor says: "The committee it creates would have full power to investigate all State, city, county, borough and township officials." If that be true it was certainly comprehensive enough to cover both factions of the Republican party. Yet the Governor declares that he vetoes it because "it is solely a partisan, factional measure to give to an interested faction a powerful political club to compel its opponents and indeed all independent citizens, to bow a subservient knee or suffer the consequences."

The truth is that Governor Brumbaugh vetoed the resolution because he was afraid of the consequences of an investigation. It was a mistaken notion because no further exposure can do him harm. He is now in public contempt of every man, woman and child who respects integrity and pays tribute to honor and honesty. But he has saved the Vares and Shunk Brown and thus fulfilled the only obligation which appeals to him. He has saved the face of the Penrose machine, moreover, and after the expiration of his term of office when he has been thrown upon the party scrap pile, the Senator may take care of him as a lame duck. But he has side-tracked all investigation for this year.

—The Johnstown "Democrat" is making a big fuss about the item of \$350,000 for a new armory in the appropriation budget asked for by the Pennsylvania State College, all because the editor believes it smacks of militarism. In condemning the request the editor says: "Our recollection is that State has a very large gymnasium. What's the matter with that?" We are not so sure that State needs an armory quite as much, perhaps, as a large dancing floor, but why doesn't it say so? "As a matter of fact the editor of the "Democrat" should recall that the armory at State is also used as a gymnasium, and the fact that a larger building is needed is not because State is going into the military business but in order to accommodate those students of the college who are compelled to take regular drills in the cadet battalion.

—Centre county was visited by a severe thunder and lightning storm on Monday evening with a terrific downpour of rain while it lasted. Of course old weather prophets at once predicted very much colder weather for Tuesday but it did not come. In fact most of the past week has been somewhat like spring, and with the long hard winter we have had it has proven a very agreeable change.

—As an illustration of the tied up condition of freight traffic at present and the stringency of the blockade order the American Lime & Stone company on Wednesday shipped four cars of hydrated lime by express to the DuBois glass company at DuBois. It was absolutely necessary that the latter have the lime and the only way to be sure of getting it was to have it sent by express.

—The postmaster question at Blanchard has finally been settled by the appointment of Norris Harter as postmaster. The office will be moved from the Milford Gardner building into the store of the new postmaster's father, W. I. Harter.

—"Hammy" Moore, of Philadelphia, is a lonesome Congressman but he always did think he was too good to associate with others.

—For high class Job Work come to the "Watchman" Office.

Let's Get Down to Bed-Rock.

From the Chicago Herald.

The Federal Trade commission is about to start an investigation of the rise in food prices. It will ask the President to approve an appropriation of \$400,000 for that purpose. It proposes to cover every side of the food situation.

Good! Let us hope at last we are going to have a real investigation. The country has confidence in the Federal Trade commission. Now let's have the facts. Let's go to the bottom—to the fundamentals—and really learn all that can be learned about the subject.

The problem is legal and economic. The question of whether there are combinations in restraint of trade must be decided. That has heretofore attracted the main attention. Now it's time to go more into the economic part—and go into it thoroughly. Are the people being compelled to pay too much for what they buy? Nobody can answer that until he can say with reasonable approximation what it costs to produce those things.

In some fields the trade commission will find plenty of data. The packers, for instance, can tell exactly what it costs them to turn out their products. Government attention has encouraged accurate cost accounting in their case. But these fields are limited. In the biggest part of all the work will have to be done from the ground up. There isn't a farmer in Illinois who knows what it costs him to put his product on the market today. There isn't one manufacturer in 10 who has an accurate idea of what it costs him to run his business.

Let the trade commission start literary "from the ground up." Let it start with the farmer and find what production of everything, from eggs to wheat and cattle, means in terms of money and labor expenditure. He doesn't know, and nobody else knows, how it follows the product to consumers. Many people assume high prices don't start until they reach some large organization. From the economic standpoint they are just as liable to start at the beginning as anywhere else. Prices cannot be permanently below the cost of production under any circumstances.

The country is in the mood for an investigation that will be long and deep and thorough. It is tired of these estimated figures, the "high" prices that get nothing except possibly a politician into Congress or some other job or into the newspapers. It has had its fill of half-baked remedies that spring from attention to only one-half of the great problem. Let's have an investigation that will enable the country to see it steadily and see it whole. It would be cheap at \$400,000, or \$4,000,000.

"Peace Without Victory."

From the London Nation.

The old era of short, swift wars with clean and obvious decisions has gone. Germany admits having suffered casualties which are 10 times as great as the whole army with which she invaded France in 1870. If we are looking for a victory which will see the enemy flying to the walls of Berlin, we may just conceivably see it, but we shall have to pay for it. We may preserve peace for a generation, at the price of a generation. Victory is a relative term, and will always mean in the future, when great nations go to war, the being a little more ready to shed our blood to secure terms than our enemy is to repudiate them.

The war has dragged on to a state when all of the resources of all the belligerents begin to fail. Whatever more we ask of it, we must pay for in a currency we can never recover. The wounds of the enemy are open to the world. That he has lost the prize is much; and his after-realization of what he has lost is the best guarantee for a future peace. The cardinal point in war, said von der Goltz, is to know when to make peace. It is well to consider the axiom.

The English of Our President.

Girard, in the Public Ledger.

One of the saddest things in life is an Englishman's imitation of an American's conversation. To illustrate:

A London newspaper prints a cartoon of President Wilson, and in the caption makes our scholarly Chief Magistrate pronounce "vurry" as if spelled "vurry." He also says "anyways."

I've heard the President speak at short range and long range, and I've also listened to many debates in the British Parliament. As for the English of Macaulay and Addison, it finds quite an echo in James Bryce, our Premier Asquith, Balfour, Lloyd George and the topnotchers of the mother country.

Indeed, President Wilson writes and speaks English as scarcely a living Englishman can speak or write. To pretend the contrary is piffle of a "vurry" low order.

Inexperienced.

From the El Paso Times.

Champ Clark suggests the raising of chickens as a step toward reducing the high cost of living. Evidently Champ, who is reasonably successful in his own line, has never tried raising chickens.

—Subscribe for the "Watchman".

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE

—The Historical Commission at Harrisburg has granted the request of the Fort Antes Chapter, D. A. R., of Jersey Shore, to place a tablet to mark the site of Fort Antes. Sufficient funds have been provided by the Chapter to begin the work as soon as the weather will permit.

—The Pennsylvania Coal and Coke Corporation has closed deals for the purchase of eleven small tracts of mineral in east and west Carroll township, Cambria county, all of which adjoin its holdings. The transfers were made at a cost of about \$30,000.

—Word from Philadelphia is to the effect that the Rt. Rev. Eugene A. Garvey, bishop of the Altoona diocese, who is a patient in St. Joseph's hospital, Philadelphia, has so far recovered that he will be able to leave that institution this week and will spend several weeks in Atlantic City while recuperating.

—Charles Miller, aged 19 years, residing at Warriors Ridge, met death in a drowning accident in the big Warriors Ridge dam while fishing at that place Friday night. He fell from a boat on the dam, sank beneath the icy waters and beyond the aid of those who were with him. His body was recovered at an early hour Saturday morning.

—A quarrel following the return of Mrs. Ida Anderson, of Connellsville, aged fifty-one years, from a meeting of the Ladies' Aid society late Friday night, resulted in her husband, Howard Anderson, fifty-eight, killing her and committing suicide. Anderson, a former member of the city police force, fired four bullets into his wife's breast and one through his own temple.

—Deckman brothers, of Johnstown, have begun the opening of a tract of coal land of 400 acres in Perry township, Jefferson county, which they purchased recently from Lyman Mauk and L. V. Meams. A tippie will be constructed at once, and within a month a siding to the mine from the Shawmut railroad will be laid. The tippie will have a capacity of 2,000 tons of coal daily and it is expected to be able to produce this amount by the middle of the summer.

—Phillip Haag, a well known resident of Troutville, was almost instantly killed on Saturday morning while engaged in cutting down a tree in the Grube woods, near Troutville. Mr. Haag and a companion were engaged in cutting down a split tree. When they reached the apex portion of the tree instead of it falling as they intended it should, it buckled backward. Haag was unable to get out of the way and when the tree fell it caught him a glancing blow on the side, breaking several ribs and his back.

—Fire of unknown origin destroyed the Reedsville carpet factory with the contents at an early hour Friday morning. The handsome residence of L. M. Toder, the proprietor, that stood nearby was saved from the flames only through the valiant work of the local firemen, who responded promptly with their equipment. The boiler which furnishes the steam power for the plant exploded during the most exciting period of the fire and caused firemen and spectators to scatter over a wide territory for safety.

—At 1 o'clock Tuesday morning fire of unknown origin broke out in the Clearfield opera house and the structure is a total loss. In the building were located the most prominent business firms and the total loss will be \$100,000 to \$125,000. The building was one of the finest in the town, was owned by the Clearfield Opera company. The law firm of Miller and Hartwick, one of the most prominent in the county, had its office there. G. N. Allenberger's grocery, Rosser's furniture store, a Greek candy store and the Crystal billiard rooms.

—Attorneys for Dan Alexander, charged with the murder of Alfredo Rossi in a brawl at the Nagney quarries on Sunday one week ago, will institute habeas corpus proceedings to secure the release of their client on bail pending a jury trial at the May term of criminal court. The attorney added to the effect that Alexander was over-moody to the effect that Alexander struck his victim down with a rain of blows in defense of his own life after his assailant had twice pulled the trigger of a revolver concealed in the right pocket of his coat. Alexander is the man who was captured near Potters Mills while trying to escape.

—Standing unmoved, displaying the same stoical calmness that has marked the attitude of Frank Alfred Wendt since his trial and conviction of the murder of Constable Michael McGinley, the young man at court Monday morning listened to the solemn words of Judge Baldrige, at Hollidaysburg, that committed him to the death chair. The crime for which he was sentenced was committed at the Slippery Race woods, near Altoona, on the afternoon of October 13, 1915, for complicity in which Alfred Wendt's brother, Walter, was convicted of murder in the second degree and committed to the western penitentiary.

—A bartender at the William Penn hotel, Pittsburgh, had an acute attack of hysteria last Friday when a fashionably dressed stranger, after ordering a cocktail, tendered in payment a \$10,000 bill. When he recovered sufficiently to speak, the bartender, believing the bill a counterfeit, called the house detective and a policeman, who placed the stranger under arrest. For several minutes the air was surcharged with high current, and it is likely the stranger would have been "detained" had not Assistant Manager Thomas F. Mullins, of the hotel, recognized the Croesus, who was a noted New York clubman. After explanations, the man quietly showed nine other \$10,000 bills under the bartender's nose and then disappeared.

—The will of the late Randolph McMullen, of Tyrone township, was probated in the office of Register of Wills George C. Irwin, at Hollidaysburg, Saturday. It contained one of the most unique provisions ever noted in the will books in that county. For a large slice of his estate, which is variously estimated at from \$50,000 to \$100,000, Mr. McMullen provides that the court shall appoint three men as trustees, one of whom shall be a Protestant minister, one a Catholic priest and the third a Jewish rabbi. Mr. McMullen appoints the Central Trust company, of Altoona, executor of his estate. He provides for members of his family, makes bequests to the local hospitals and a number of other institutions, then provides that the residue of his estate be placed in the hands of the men of the cloth, for the distribution in five annual payments to the poor of Blair, Huntington and Cambria counties. Mrs. McMullen will contest the will.