

INK SLINGS.

Get your green necktie out tomorrow. What is Bellefonte going to do on the next Fourth of July? In the death of the Hon. Henry Houck the Commonwealth has lost a consistent and president office holder. An opinion doesn't have much value unless you have confidence in the one who expresses it. Onions won't be six dollars a bushel next year if everybody who has the ground to raise his own does so. And just to dump one more fly into the ointment the railroad brotherhoods are out with another threatened strike and general tie-up of all railroads. German authorities are positive that arming merchant ships is "an act of war." But then German authorities are equally positive that sinking merchant ships is an expression of affection. Poor President Wilson. Just to add more to the awful load of trouble he has had to carry for the Nation the railroad brotherhoods are threatening trouble. The President would be entirely justified in dealing very summarily with them. With geese selling at four dollars each at Tommy Jodon's sale the opinion seems to be general that there were more geese at the sale than the ones auctioneer Mayes knocked down. British troops have taken Baghdad, the city of the Caliphs. The Turks have been made to pay dearly for the defeat they administered to the British at Kutelamara early in the war. Now that Ambassador Gerard is home we are likely to get some really unprejudiced views as to the situation in Germany. Strange that there are no two stories alike. The American correspondents who were in Germany and returned with him do not seem to have gained the same impression as to anything. Their published stories differ greatly on important matters. So much so that little or no real value as to the situation in Germany can be gleaned from them. The railroad brotherhoods had little public sympathy the last time they threatened to strike. They will have far less now. The freight congestion is already so great that coal and food are almost beyond the poor man's reach in many localities and for a great organization, that is already receiving wages far in excess of almost any other class that can be named, to deliberately resolve to make it worse by striking in the face of such conditions, is almost criminal. Chairman Woodward's very favorable comment on the condition of things at The Pennsylvania State College and at the new Western Penitentiary is encouraging. If the appropriations committee was so favorably impressed those two institutions ought not to have trouble in getting their appropriation bills reported out of committee in very satisfactory amounts. If the State is serious in its intent to complete the big penitentiary it has begun at Rockview it ought to provide sufficient funds to keep the work moving. The penny-wise and pound foolish attitude of the last Legislature has already cost thousands upon thousands of dollars to the tax payers because insufficient funds were provided and opportunities to contract for materials needed at a time when their cost was considerably less than now could not be taken advantage of. Representative Rich, of Clinton county, has introduced a bill in the Legislature the provisions of which if enacted into law, would detach Clinton county from the Twenty-fifth Pennsylvania judicial district and make a separate district of it to be known as the Fifty-seventh. Two years ago an attempt was made by Clinton county interests to reapportion so that Clinton would be taken out of the combination with Elk and Cameron, but it failed because of its unconstitutionality. It is believed that the movement grows out of opposition to Judge Hall in certain quarters in Clinton. However this might be the present arrangement, if carried through, would scarcely be objectionable to Judge Hall, for he could be re-elected in a district comprising only Elk and Cameron much more handsily than he could were Clinton to remain in it. Besides it would reduce the work of the Judge very materially without affecting the compensation. However the result may be Judge Hall will likely be a candidate to succeed himself and since the removal of Henry Hipple Esq., from Lock Haven, around whom the opposition to Judge Hall seemed to be concentrating, it is altogether probable that he will have no serious opposition.

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Bright Prospects in Mexico.

The election of Carranza to the office of President of Mexico by an overwhelming majority on what appears to have been a reasonably fair vote, amply vindicates the Mexican policy of President Wilson. It should be kept in mind always that the recognition of the de facto government of Mexico by the government of the United States, with Carranza as First Chief, was not strictly speaking the action of President Wilson. In the hope of pacifying that unhappy and harassed people President Wilson had procured a peace commission composed of representatives of the several American Republics south of us. This commission reported in favor of the recognition of the de facto government and Wilson ratified it. Since that the Pershing punitive expedition spent eight or nine months in Mexico and an army of about 150,000 patrolled the border for nearly that period of time. Many reasons have arisen during that interval for doubting the sincerity of Carranza. But conditions have vastly improved meantime and the other day in a comparatively peaceful and fairly just election he has been chosen by the people of Mexico to be their President and thus strengthened in his authority he may be able to restore order and give his country that stability of government which is essential to progress and prosperity. Mexico is rich in everything except tranquility and we may now hope for that in the future. The vital principle upon which the government of the United States is founded is that "governments derive all their just power from the consent of the governed." The idea of forcing any man into the office of President of Mexico is abhorrent to this sublime principle. For that reason President Wilson left to the people of Mexico the duty of working out their own destiny and if the election of Carranza serves the purpose Mexico as well as the United States will have reason to feel proud of the achievement. We are not enamored of Carranza but entertain hopes that he will be able and willing to restore order for that will guarantee the return of prosperity. Senator Stone has been re-appointed chairman of the Senate committee on Foreign Relations. Are his Democratic colleagues in the body cowardly or simply indifferent? There's something the matter. War and Strike Dangers. The menace of war is little less disturbing than the danger of a nationwide railroad strike. It was hoped that both might be averted. The President has exhausted all his powers to prevent either. But present indications are that he has failed in both instances. The moment a German submarine is fired on or an American merchant ship sunk, war will be inevitable. If the railroad managers and the railroad trainmen fail to come to an agreement before Saturday the railroad strike is certain. It is a gloomy future into which the American people are compelled to look. At this time the railroad managers and trainmen are preparing to go into conference. Both sides declare a fixed purpose to insist on their positions. The trainmen demand the ratification of the Adamson eight-hour law. The managers declare that they will not submit to the demand. The press managers of the railroads protest that a strike at this time would be unpatriotic. If it impairs or retards the work of preparedness for a foreign war, that is true. And a strike at this time would most certainly compass that result. Transportation is already congested to a measure which is menacing. Anything that will further impair the efficiency of the railroad service should be avoided, if possible. Obviously "there's nothing in a name." One of the greatest achievements of the European war was accomplished by a General named Maude. If Mr. James W. Gerard, recently Ambassador at Berlin, would write a book anybody could guess the "best seller" of this year. German conspiracies don't seem to prosper on American soil whether laid north or south of the Rio Grande.

Wilson Takes the Right Course.

The determination to arm merchant ships and instruct them to fire at submarines at sight may cause war with Germany, but it was the only course open to this country after the declaration of ruthless warfare. Our commerce was in a state of paralysis. Hundreds of ships were held in port because of the practical certainty that if they went out they would be sunk with their cargoes and their crews. This was putting the burden of the European war on the shoulders of American business. Such a thing would be intolerable. No self-respecting people could endure it and those who plead for peace in the face of such conditions are poltroons rather than pacifists. Many persons held that the merchantmen should be instructed to withhold fire in the presence of a submarine until after the attack. That would be absurd. After attack, in nine cases out of ten, the ship would be unable to fire, for the single torpedo the under sea craft projects is fatal. Possibly a well-directed shot from the sinking ship might compel the submarine to join the merchantman on the bottom of the sea, but there is little comfort in that thought either for the owner of the ship and cargo or the members of the crew. The right way to act in the circumstances is the way the administration has determined to act. That is merchantmen are instructed to fire at sight of a submarine. Of course the first submarine sunk will force Germany to a declaration of war as the first merchantman sunk ought to bring a declaration of war from Congress. But bad as that is it is not the worst thing that could happen. If Germany or any other power on earth should be permitted to drive the ships of the United States off the seas we certainly would be in public contempt throughout the world and that would be more damaging than any possible loss as the result of war. The loss of the respect of the world is the greatest that can be imagined and that is the penalty of poltroonery in the matter in mind. President Wilson may be depended upon to avoid that. The Auditor's Statement. The Auditor's statement of Centre county shows that the present board of County Commissioners have reduced the net indebtedness of the county to just \$10,159.53. The total liabilities of the county are \$104,216.92 and the assets \$94,057.39. The total receipts last year were \$121,345.35. One of the items in the statement which is larger this year than ever before is that of the soldiers' and soldier's widows' burial account, which footed up \$2,390, just forty soldiers and soldier's widows having died during the year. Fifty dollars is allowed for the burial of an old soldier and fifteen dollars for a headstone. In an effort to create interest and enthusiasm throughout the State the graduates and former students of The Pennsylvania State College have joined in publishing an eighty page book compiled by graduate manager of athletics, Ray H. Smith. The book is an illustrated treatise on every course taught at the College and presents that big institution in a more convincing manner than hundreds of pages of reading matter could do. In fact it is a photographic record of how large the State College is and how very thorough the work is done there. Any person who goes through the book carefully cannot help but be impressed with the fact that the College is deserving of every cent of money requested of the present Legislature, if it is to continue to grow in usefulness as well as in popularity. Speaker Baldwin scolded the members of the House the other day because of indifference to their public obligations. But then we have some sort of a tradition that Satan sometimes reproves sin. Secretary Redfield believes that few business men understand their business and probably he is right about it. As long as tariff taxation guarantees profits it isn't necessary to know much. Hungry Hi, of California, had a choice between two years more of Governor and six years in the United States Senate and it isn't worth while to say how he solved the problem.

Senator Norris' Weak Defense.

Senator Norris, of Nebraska, one of that "little group of wilful men" who brought the country into public contempt by filibustering against the armed neutrality bill on the last day of the session of the last Congress attempted to justify himself in a speech in Philadelphia, on Sunday evening. But he fell far short of his purpose. He simply revealed his lack of information concerning the attitude of this country with respect to the belligerents or his absolute indifference to truth. Among other things equally absurd he asked why American sailors and guns should be used "to guarantee delivery of war munitions to one set of belligerent nations?" That question was not entirely the product of ignorance. It is steeped in malice. In the early stages of the European war that accusation was made by Germans in Germany and German sympathizers in this country. But it couldn't stand in the light of the facts. The mills and factories were open as fully and freely to the people and government of Germany as to those of England, France or Russia. But Germany couldn't avail herself of the advantage because British, French and Russian ships were too numerous and too powerful to let German purchasers through with the goods. The government of the United States maintained neutrality in the strictest sense from the beginning of the war. The so-called armed neutrality bill never contemplated the attack of German ships whether naval vessels or merchantmen. It proposed to arm American merchantmen sufficiently to defend themselves against ruthless attacks by undersea craft which had been sent upon piratical enterprises to destroy American commerce. In resisting by unfair and unjust methods the passage of any bill for that purpose Senator Norris, of Nebraska, simply wrote himself down a traitor and unless his constituents are unworthy they will visit upon his perfidiousness such punishment as treason deserves. There is no use in dilly-dallying with such persons. Couldn't 'Elp It. From Everybody's Magazine. The average foreigner can rarely comprehend the geographical area of the United States, as was quite fully illustrated by the Englishman and his valet who had been traveling due west from Boston for five days. At the end of the fifth day master and servant were seated in the smoking car, and it was observed that the man was gazing steadily and thoughtfully out of the window. Finally, his companion became curious. "William," said he, "of what are you thinking?" "I was just thinking, sir, about the discovery of America," replied the valet. "Columbus didn't do such a wonderful thing, after all, when he found this country, did he, now, sir? Hafter all's said an' done, 'ow could 'e 'elp it?" Principal Reasons for High Prices. From the Public. What are the principal reasons for the high cost of living? A group of men and women prominent in civic work in New York are directing an interesting exhibit to shed light on the elusive question so far as living in New York itself is concerned. Six main reasons are emphasized: (1) Land monopoly rules and urban. (2) High charges for transit, gas and electricity. (3) Over capitalization of railroads, and the inclusion of increases in the value of land owned by the railroads for the purpose of rate making. (4) Speculation in farm products. (5) High prices for coal, kerosene and wood. (6) High taxes. Burdens for the Centuries. From the San Francisco Star. According to Chancellor of the Exchequer Andrew Bonar Law the war is costing Britain \$28,000,000 a day, and he asks the house for new votes of credit aggregating over 2,500,000,000, to cover expenses past and start on the next financial year. Dig in, you doomed toilers, generations to come; every dol'ar of it you will have to dig out of the earth—there is no other source—and you are not able to own an acre of it! Dig and fight and die and don't stop to ask why, or for whom. Twenty-eight million dollars a day in addition to what you are doing now is quite a sum. A Diplomatic Riddle. From the Springfield Republican. A first-class man is needed to succeed the late Ambassador Guthrie at Tokio. We shall always need a first-class man in that post. There must be no politics in the selection. Our War Within. From the Baltimore Sun. The average housewife is doing her best to break into the armed neutrality of the food supply. The "Watchman" has all the news

A Milk White Flag.

From the Johnstown Democrat. Reports from Harrisburg and Philadelphia are to the effect that the warring factions of the grand old party are about to kiss and make up. From each camp an emissary has gone forth, they tell us, with a milk white flag; and in the shade of the sheltering and Floridian palms rival Senators are discussing the terms of peace. There is an old saying, and a true one—spoken first, we believe, by Confucius, that the cat and the rat are friends over a carcass. And from time to time there arise conditions which prove to us that as a forecaster Confucius was decidedly no slouch. For in this instance the State of Pennsylvania is the carcass; and the cat and the rat are the frictional, factional tongs of the Republican party. This tong war, by the way, was fiercely fought, while it was fought. The threats uttered were quite as loud as those of the man who objects to the removal tax charged by a telephone company. The heathen Chinese may be peculiar, for ways that are dark and tricks that are vain, but he is a miserable amateur compared with Republican factionalists. In this particular case it required about six weeks for the trenchers to learn that the trenches of their opponents were impregnable. The mitrailleses raged and rapped, but little damage was done. Gas bombs were used, but both sides had helmets. There was some slaughter, of course, but on the whole it was in the ranks of the inconsequential or among the innocent bystanders. None of the leaders was so much as scratched. All this being true, there arose that age-long question, what's the use? Or as Sis Hopkins might have said: What's th' use of lybrin' r' do suthin' t' somebody that y' kain't simply do nuthin' to? Hence the milk white flag. Spring is coming; and June. And it is always fair weather, you know, when good fellows get together—except that when these good fellows get together somebody else will suffer. In the house the other day Mr. Woodward, chairman of the Appropriations committee, said something must be done immediately to provide new revenues for the State. That was a convincing argument that the boys'll be out of the trenches before long, because if there is need for more revenue that means there'll be lots of appropriating; and neither side will give the other side appropriations unless the split is 50-50. The Legislature meets again along about the 15th of March. Caesar took a chance. Look what happened to him. SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE. The Penny shops at Altoona have turned out a new eighty-five ton all-steel hopper car which has a capacity of 170,000 pounds. The cars weigh 60,000 pounds. Clinton county is to have a farm bureau, the vote at a recent meeting to consider the project having been in its favor by two majority out of a total vote of fifty-two. The county will contribute \$500 to aid the enterprise. Senator Boies Penrose and Dr. B. H. Warren have accepted the invitation of the West Branch Sportsmen's association to address the sportsmen of the Susquehanna valley, in Williamsport, April 24. Senator Penrose will speak upon "Wild Life and Game Conservation." William Klingensmith, aged thirty-seven, of Indiana county, died in the Danville hospital for the insane, as the result of a scalding received when left in a continuous bath, the temperature of which rose from 90 to 150 degrees. The attendant, Frank J. Stegner, neglected Klingensmith while looking after a patient in another bath. The Electric Bond and Share company, of New York city, has taken over the holdings of the Northern Central Gas company, of Williamsport, Milton and Hagerstown, Md. This important merger is one in a series of transactions involving a number of affiliated companies in the central part of the State. The merger is one of the most important utility developments that has affected this part of the State in years. Search in the humble home of Amos F. Shank and Annie E. Shank, brother and sister, who lived on a small farm near Gettysburg, and who died within a few days of each other, has revealed gold, silver and certificates aggregating between \$5,000 and \$6,000. The Shanks, who dressed shabbily and were apparently on the verge of poverty, were the owners of a large quantity of good clothing, twenty fine skirts being one item in the appraisers' list. Constable L. H. Knapp, of Lamar township, Clinton county, on Saturday placed under arrest a well known young man of Salona on the charge of fishing for and having in his possession that day, a brook trout out of season. The accused was taken before alderman John E. Anderson of Lock Haven, where he pleaded guilty to the charge and paid the fine of \$10 imposed with the costs, the total sum amounting to \$16.44, which is a pretty high price to pay for a small fish. John Long, 63 years old, was instantly killed at his home near Woodland, Mifflin county, on Friday morning, when struck full in the face by lumber comprising the covering of a straw stack. The stack was thrown over to lybrin' a calf that had gotten its way far into the straw and become so tightly wedged in that it could not extricate itself. Mr. Long and his two sons, hearing the bawls of the calf, hastened to throw the stack and the lumber that formed the covering struck the father full in the face as it toppled. Justice John J. Head, of the Superior court, in an opinion handed down on Wednesday, the 7th, ordered the revocation of the license of three wholesale liquor dealers of Clearfield county on the ground that their applications were printed in but two newspapers, whereas the Act of Assembly provides that the applications shall be printed in three papers. The DuBois Brewing company is among those affected by the order. The order, we understand applies to the 1916 license, and will not affect the present cases. The tipple of the Pardus Coal Mining company was destroyed by fire thought to have been of incendiary origin on Wednesday, the 7th, with a loss of \$22,000. The tipple had a capacity of 1,800 tons daily and 250 men were thrown out of employment by its destruction. According to officials of the company, the fire originated in much the same manner as the fire that destroyed the tipple of the Jefferson and Clearfield Coal and Iron Co., on March 3. Coal mine operators believe that a group of tipple destroyers are at work. Potatoes can be used as cash at a nickelodeum in Hazelwood. The manager of the movie house recently gave a performance which he called a "potato show." For the benefit of children, admitted all children upon presentation of one potato instead of nickel. He took in over three bushels of potatoes. Youngsters of all nationalities were at the potato performance, the show proving of great interest to little ones. The other night several children offered potatoes instead of coins at the ticket window and they immediately were admitted. A damage verdict for a physician who was blockaded at a railroad crossing by a freight train from 45 to 50 minutes was upheld Thursday by the Superior court in Philadelphia. The verdict was obtained by Dr. Arthur D. Cowdrick, a Clearfield county physician against the New York Central Railroad company. One cold night in March the physician was called to attend a patient about twelve miles from his office. He drove a team of horses and a buggy. A freight train blocked the crossing and from the prolonged exposure he developed rheumatism which kept him housed up for some time. He then sued for damages. The forty-second annual meeting of the Woman's Foreign Missionary society of Huntingdon presbytery, will be held Wednesday and Thursday, March 28 and 29, in the First Presbyterian church at Hollidaysburg. The program is an exceptionally strong one, every minute being filled with good and helpful discussions. Among the speakers are Miss Catherine Woods, of Shantung, China; Mrs. Joseph Cochran, now a member of the Philadelphia board of missions; and Rev. S. M. Jordan, D. D., of Teheran, Persia. These are just a few of the very good things on the missionary program, and everyone interested in the discussion of missions will be made welcome at the sessions. Tony Rocobello, an Italian laborer, residing near Hollidaysburg, had no occasion to grumble over paying a farmer \$3 for a bushel of potatoes, as they proved to be the cheapest tubers of the kind that he had ever purchased. Tony's wife the next day after the potatoes were bought, while preparing some of them for dinner, cut into one of them, when the knife struck some hard object. It proved to be a five dollar gold piece embedded in the centre of the potato and the woman was greatly surprised when she was wiced and saw the yellow coin. So excited was she over her lucky find, that she thought that maybe all the potatoes were filled with gold and immediately set to work to cut open a number of others, but failed to find any more money.