

INK SLINGS.

—Christmas is just thirty-three days off. —At this time last year everything was frozen up and there was snow on the ground.

—Anyway the mild fall weather is not so hard on the coal pile even if it does complicate the matter of exterminating the flu.

—Where the soldiers left off the peace conference will begin and its work though less hazardous will be equally important.

—We will probably not need another big army in many years but it's a safe guess that when we do need it it will be ready.

—Maybe Penrose will bow to LaFollette in organizing the next Congress but there are a good many Pennsylvanians who have doubts.

—Centre Hall was the first community "over the top" in the United War Work drive and a committee of young ladies did the great work there in a surprisingly short time.

—If the Republican victory at the polls is turned into a defeat at the organization of Congress it will not be a new experience for Penrose. He has had a Brumbaugh and a Smith.

—There is one very sensational reason why the Kaiser will not imitate Napoleon's return. He made such a "ham" of himself in the windup that nobody would follow him in another war like enterprise.

—Of course the President should go to France. If for no other reason than to take a vacation. Surely no man in this broad land has had any more nerve-racking work than he has had during the past four years.

—Iron crosses which the ex-Kaiser once bestowed on his most servicable friends are now selling in Berlin at a penny a piece. The price is so low that we are denied the pleasure of remarking that they look like thirty cents.

—Our schools are closed again and about fifteen years from now there will probably be a lot of college boys and girls blaming "flunks" on the time when Bellefonte had the flu so bad they had to stay out of school and missed a lot of the rudiments.

—The public will await with interest the attitude of Roosevelt in the impending war between the stalwarts and progressives in the organization of Congress. He has been on both sides within a few years but his latest affiliation was with the stalwarts.

—If Holland doesn't want Bill Hoenzler as a guest any longer the Allies would be glad to take him off her hands as a prisoner of war. In fact we might relieve her of her unwelcome guest ere long through a polite invitation to deliver him up to justice.

—Already there is casting about for a name for the new aviation field which the government has located in Spring township. Would it not be apropos to call it the Foster-Brosius field in honor of the postmasters of State College and Lock Haven, who were so near and yet so far.

—Next week will be Thanksgiving. Of all people of earth we of America will have most to be thankful for. Let us go to our knees en masse. Let us not forget that only a few weeks ago we were there pleading with Almighty God for victory and an end of the horrors of war.

—Only the fighting part of the war is ended. Remember that the great problems of readjusting everything to a peace basis are yet to be solved. We can all help most and best in that work by being reasonable, calm and chary with our criticism. American thought must be kept away from Bolshevism. It must remain sane and even temperate.

—Old Doc. Solf can protest his head off about the hardships the armistice has imposed on Germany. The sob stuff falls on deaf ears over here. We have some misguided sentimentalists who send apple pie, carpet slippers and bunches of posies to condemned prisoners, but for the most part we just and we are going to be just just with Germany. No more, no less.

—There are to be no more Liberty bond flotations. The government will do what financing may be necessary in the immediate future with short term notes. It is well that such is the case, for with the war practically over the much of the hearty co-operation of the public would be lacking and knowing that no more great drives for funds will be necessary money will be released for use in peace time construction work, which has been practically prescribed for the past two years.

—Every day the sham of Germany's strength is being revealed. It appears now that her grand fleet, which was being prepared to rush out at any moment and give battle to the allied warships in the North sea isn't a grand fleet at all. In the first place it was rendered practically impotent by its first brush with the English in the Skagerrak, in 1917 as a result of which the Germans boastfully claimed a victory. Recognizing the weakness of their sea power then they began to dismantle cruisers, battleships and dreadnaughts salvaging the materials and guns for the building of submarines. The result is that their navy has been a bluff for two years and they will have nothing formidable to surrender.

—Nearly all lawyers when elevated to the bench sit on some sideline or other in which they can find pleasant diversion for the time which is not devoted to studying cases that are on trial before them. It has remained for Judge Quigley to break all precedents and, incidentally, blaze a new trail of usefulness for the leisure moments of the judiciary. Think of it. One evening within the week he stripped off the judicial ermine and donned the white cap and coat of the chef at the Bellefonte hospital and cooked the nice, big juicy steaks he had carried out there for some patients. We know that His Honor is a regular cook, but for those who have may have doubt as to his ability in the cuisine we would call attention to the fact that the hospital mortality record is a clean sheet this week.

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Staging a Pretty Party Fight.

Blessings frequently come in disguise and possibly curses may find it convenient to travel in the same kind of vehicle. In fact there are many reasons for thinking that the recent Republican victory will assume the form of a blessing to the Democratic party and in the opposite form to its political enemy. At least the news from Washington indicates something of that sort for the Republicans are already staging what looks like an irreconcilable quarrel among the leaders in connection with the organization of the next Congress. In the Senate the progressives have declared war against Penrose and other stalwarts and in the House Fordney, of Michigan, is scheduled for "the hook."

Senator Penrose is the senior minority Representative on the committee on Ways and Means. These committees have charge of all revenue legislation and the expectation of a restoration of the tariff graft enticed many a thousand dollars into the Republican campaign fund. Penrose in the Senate and Fordney in the House are the main cogs in the protection machine and under the long existing system of seniority are entitled to the chairmanships of those committees. But the progressives of the middle west are not in favor of the tariff graft and declare emphatically that Penrose and Fordney must be overthrown.

Of course these gentlemen will not yield complacently to the decree of the tariff reformers. Senator Penrose has already stated with some positiveness that he "will be the next chairman of the Finance committee of the United States Senate," and he is not in the habit of surrendering at the first call of the opposition. But Magill McCormick, of Illinois; Lenroot, of Wisconsin; Cummins, of Iowa, and others are equally determined that he shall not be chairman and the outlook is for as pretty a fight as has recently been seen in Washington. Of course it is unimportant to the country which wins because the fight will be carried into the campaign of 1920 and result in the election of a Democratic President.

Next Thursday will be Thanksgiving day, but the Thanksgiving turkey will be scarcer than ever, according to all reports, and higher in price. In fact turkeys haven't been as scarce in years as they are this fall. Many farmers have quit raising them because of the care and attention required to bring them through the early stages of turkeyhood, while the scarcity of help may also have had something to do with the lack of interest in turkey raising.

Taft and Roosevelt Again Rivals.

We are very likely to see another more or less spirited rivalry between Theodore Roosevelt and William Howard Taft for the Republican nomination for President in 1920. Ever since the disappointment of his absurd ambition to become an American Kaiser, Roosevelt's life has been embittered and he has taken every opportunity to rave and rant at President Wilson. Signs that Taft has been cherishing a hope of another term in the White House since his defeat in 1912 are equally obvious. But until recently they have been pursuing widely different lines to accomplish the purpose. Taft has been "following the lines of least resistance," while Roosevelt has been attacking the most formidable points.

Upon the recent death of Dr. Gallinger, of New Hampshire, and the elevation of Lodge, of Massachusetts, to leadership of the Republicans in the Senate, the national policies of that party have taken a radical turn. Gallinger was a strict partisan but the element of patriotism was strong in him and he supported the President's war measures. But Lodge has been able to see nothing in the war legislation except an opportunity to make partisan capital and Taft appears to have lately fallen into his notions. Under the delusion that brigandage is in popular favor and that Roosevelt was getting away with the bacon Taft turned from a course of mildly supporting the President to constantly nagging him.

Thus in commenting upon the abdication of the Kaiser the ponderous ex-President, the other day, thrust a dagger into the Wilson ribs. "The situation would have been much more satisfactory," he writes, "had we sent a larger force to Siberia and Archangel to enable the decent elements in the country (Russia) to organize." But the policies of the Allies with respect to Russia were not dictated by President Wilson. All those concerned in the overthrow of autocracy agreed upon the action taken and the result of the war seems to vindicate the judgment expressed. Roosevelt imagines that he could have done everything single handed but Taft, equally critical, is more cautious and less candid.

—If it be true that there is scarcity of food in Holland it may be necessary to feed the Kaiser on black bread.

No Occasion to Worry.

There are impatient souls mostly selfish politicians, who are worrying their minds needlessly upon problems growing out of the termination of the war. "We are no more prepared for peace now than we were for war two years ago," they say, and they try to look sorrowful as they say it. But their fears are without foundation in fact. Conditions will adjust themselves for peace just as they did for war and nobody will be badly hurt. The only real danger comes from those who are so mortally afraid of there is little danger from that source because as a rule they are unimportant people who have little influence on the current of events and will have little to do with them.

The close of the war will release from military duty three or four million people in the course of time but there will be no such flow from the non-producing to the producing element that is likely to overwhelm or actually embarrass the industrial life of the country. It is to be expected that a reduction of wages in some important industries will ensue, but as there will be a corresponding decrease in the obligations of the individual, this fact will be less an evil than might be expected. With say fifty per cent. of the able bodied men non-producers each of the other half is obliged to produce for two. With the demobilization all may become producers and the burden on each lightened proportionately.

In any event President Wilson and those about him may be depended upon to solve the problems as they arise. The selfish politicians were greatly worried over the preparations for war and if the President had listened to their senseless babble there would have been great reason for worry. But he didn't pay any attention to them and proceeding with his work won the admiration of the whole world by his achievements. He will probably pursue the same course now, at least while he has a friendly Congress behind him and within a short time the country will have passed from a war to a peace basis with practically no serious disturbance of the industrial and commercial life of the country.

—If W. Harrison Walker Esq., does not shove the sale of war savings stamps over the top it will probably be because he is devoid of energy in pushing the good cause. Last week through his own individual efforts and personal canvassing he disposed of \$65,000 worth of stamps and over his own signature in another column in this week's paper he is offering strong inducements to the schools of Centre county to make a strong pull next week to go over the top. And just here we might add that any school or any individual who cannot secure all the stamps they want at their postoffice, if they will telephone Mr. Walker any time up to two o'clock of November 30th he will see that they get all the stamps they want at the November price, \$4.22.

Conduct After the War.

Probably the most perplexing problem the authorities will have to deal with during the next six months will be those blood-lusting persons in the newspaper offices and counting rooms of the country who insist upon reprisals against Germany. They are invariably men who remained out of danger during the fighting period, of course, but now that the danger is past, insist upon "an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth." The gallant men of the front lines, who were in the thick of the enemy's "magnanimous" desire to stop fighting and end atrocities and come home. But the editorial room and counting house warriors have a different idea of things. They want to punish Germany "properly."

During the war Germany revealed a spirit of barbarism which was surprising as it was revolting. Under instructions from some one in authority a system of frightfulness was inaugurated on the German side of the battle front that was disgusting and horrible. Washington, London, Paris, Rome remonstrated vehemently against the cruelty in battle and the beastliness in camp and denounced both as outrages against civilization. But now that ruthlessness has been stamped out and marked everywhere for popular execration, the stay-at-home warriors of this country are lusty for the bid and yelling for reprisals. Berlin must suffer as Brussels suffered, they say, and curiously enough thoughtless people who know better seem to give approval.

The war is practically over and the end a splendid triumph for civilization. But if the victorious allied armies should proceed to levy reprisals as these "carpet knights" demand, what would civilization gain as the price of the great sacrifices that have been made? So far as the people of the United States are concerned there would be absolutely no advantage. We are not after spoils or revenge. We are simply concerned in the preservation of our ideals and the diffusion of the principles of democracy. That cannot be accomplished by burning cities, mauling children or raping women. They are promoted by the opposite course and the opposite course will be pursued.

—Subscribe for the "Watchman."

Sproul for a New Constitution.

In an interview published in a Philadelphia newspaper on Sunday Governor-elect Sproul indicates a purpose to move, during his administration, for a new constitution of Pennsylvania. The present constitution, adopted in 1874, is archaic in many respects and has been patched and tinkered so frequently as to be scarcely adequate for any useful purpose. It is gratifying to note, therefore, that the newly elected Governor will take steps to provide for a convention to create a new constitution. Besides the conditions are auspicious for such an enterprise. The war is already practically ended and the people of this and other States are in a frame of mind fit for such work.

Nearly half a century ago the present constitution was created and it was a model of wisdom and efficiency. In the making some of the best minds and greatest men participated and the spirit of selfishness and partisanship was as nearly absent as it was possible to make them. But half a century works great changes in affairs and in endeavoring to adjust the provisions of the measure to the changing conditions some absurdities have unavoidably crept in and now the constitution of Pennsylvania is a poor excuse for the purposes of an organic law. The movement to abrogate it, therefore, and substitute a more modern instrument is commendable from every point of view.

The legislation creating the convention of 1873 was enacted in a spirit of altruism rather than partisanship and any step now undertaken to enact a new fundamental law should be guided by the same lofty ideas. We have every reason to believe that Governor-elect Sproul will approach the work, if he undertakes it at all, in the right spirit. But in that purpose he will encounter strong opposition in his own party. The selfish elements which have created factions and fostered corruption in the State will strive to inject into any contemplated constitution provisions which will serve politicians rather than public interests. It is up to the people to prevent such disaster to the State.

Wilson in the Peace Conference.

The announcement that President Wilson will participate in the Peace Conference will be gratefully received by every right thinking American. It will be equally gratifying to the advocates of democracy in every country concerned in the deliberations of the conference. He is admittedly the master mind of the civilized world. From the moment the government of the United States entered into the conflict he has been the recognized spokesman of the allies. His pronouncement was the basis of the armistice and the foundation of the hope of peace. To eliminate him from the most important service in connection with the affair would be a sacrifice of opportunity to get the best results.

The triumphs of the allied armies on the various front lines were great achievements but the final value of them depends upon the use made of them for the benefit of humanity. For that reason the deliberations of the peace conference hold big. Upon the actions of that body rests the gravest questions. A temporary peace is not worth the sacrifices that have been made to achieve it. An unjust peace will not afford recompense for the millions of lives that have been lost in attaining it. The best minds in the countries concerned should be brought to work on the problems which will be presented. They will have great men to perform and only great men are equal to the tasks before them.

Woodrow Wilson is easily the fittest man in the United States to perform this work. If tradition stands in the way of the fulfillment of this obligation to humanity, tradition must go. If there is danger in the future, the danger must be ignored. He has earned the good opinion which is entertained for him by faithful and effective public service but until the peace conference has completed its work his tasks are unfinished. Secretary of State Lansing, Col. E. M. House, and Ellhu Root are admirably equipped for the service but the presence of and participation in it of Woodrow Wilson will not only increase but multiply the influence of the United States in the greatest conference in history.

The tractor demonstration that was to have been held yesterday afternoon was postponed on account of the wet weather and will be made tomorrow afternoon. Seven of the tractors entered are here and ready for the trial.

—When Woodrow Wilson sails away to attend the peace conference Theodore Roosevelt will feel certain that the country is slipping off to the "demnition bowwows."

—The Kaiser and the Crown Prince are located but nobody has given any definite information as to the present postoffice address of Prince Max.

—A Wellsboro lad was warned not to go to the neighbors because a physician was seen to call there, and the boy was warned that it might be flu, and it would be a discretion to stay away. But he went "over the top" unbeknown to the family, and came back triumphantly with the news: "I know what all the Colonel," he said, "His liver turned over and he has billiard trouble."

WE THANK THEE.

By M. V. Thomas. We thank Thee, O Lord of the Ages, Who didst send us far over the sea; That Thou hast made us a nation To teach all the world to be free. We thank Thee, O Judge of the nations, That this is the land that gave birth To the avengers that Thou hast chosen To destroy the dread tyrant of earth. We thank Thee, O Father of Mercy, For the abundance that Thou hast decreed Shall be used for clothing the naked, The hungry and starving to feed. We thank Thee, O Father of Wisdom, That Thou hast decreed from above That all may have part in this kindness, And help in this labor of love. We thank Thee, O Fond, Loving Father, For the great gift of all Thou hast given— Thy Son, to remove the great barrier, And open the portals of Heaven.

If Germany Had Won.

From the Philadelphia Record. If there are any persons outside of Germany who think that the armistice terms framed by the allies for the vanquished are unnecessarily harsh it may be well to remind them that, in comparison with what Germany would have demanded if victorious, they are mild indeed. Only as late as June 30, when the German offensive was still in full swing, the cry of the Junkers and Pan-Germans was that there must be no armistice until Paris was occupied and the British driven from France. If the allies acted in this spirit they would insist on the occupation of Berlin before consenting to talk of peace. They, however, propose no such humiliation for their foe, though they could easily drive his demoralized armies back to the Prussian capital if they cared to. In the final terms to be agreed upon Germany will be forced to give up Alsace-Lorraine (already lost to her); Schleswig, whose Danish inhabitants have proclaimed their province a republic, and that part of East Prussia which was sliced from Poland more than a century ago. Germany has no moral right to these territories, which were acquired by conquest, and no injustice will be done to her if she is compelled to give them up.

In comparison with this program, which cannot be called unfair, examine the plans of the Pan-Germans only four months ago, as formulated by Count von Roon, son of that Prussian Minister of War who co-operated so enthusiastically with Bismarck and von Moltke in building up the war machine which has brought such woe upon the world:

German annexation of Belgium and the Channel coast to the south of Calais; annexation of the Briey-Longwy iron region, annexation of Belfort, Toul and Verdun and all French territory east of these points; Restitution to Germany of all her colonies including King-Clou; Great Britain to cede to Germany such naval bases and coaling stations as Germany might desire; Great Britain to return Gibraltar to Spain, to surrender its naval bases to Germany, to restore Egypt to the Suez Canal to Turkey; Greece to be re-established under King Constantine, with frontiers as before the war; Austria and Bulgaria to divide Servia and Montenegro; Great Britain, France and the United States to pay all of Germany's war costs, Germany being a minimum of \$45,000,000,000. They also to be forced to deliver raw materials to Germany according to the needs of the German war effort; Occupation of France and Belgium by German armies until all these conditions are met; the costs of occupation to be borne by the enemy.

Germany will have to pay dearly for her crimes. But the penalties will be gentle in comparison with what she would have imposed in her brutal and ruthless fashion, if fortune had favored her arms.

The Tragedy of Albert Ballin.

From the New York World. The creator of the great Hamburg-American Line of steamships was representative of a small body of thoughtful opinion in Germany which will be heard more of now, but which was dragged into the mad vortex of war at the start and performance remained submerged to the end.

It had become well known that Albert Ballin's judgment was against the whole performance of the Kaiser and his military clique. Even when the fortunes of the day were brightest for them, there circulated out of Germany a story that he had said his ships were taking more trenches every day from the enemy before the war than they were claiming to have captured in a month. Whether he ever shared in the frenzied pride of the nation over the piratical doings of the U-boats is not known, but it is known that he regarded as fatal to German hopes of victory the prosecution of the submarine warfare to the point of bringing the United States into the conflict.

Wilson's Fight on the Kaiser.

From the Springfield Republican. It does not appear that the President of the United States would think of claiming the overthrow of the Hohenzollern dynasty and the downfall of the monarchy of the Prussia of Frederick the Great as a personal victory, yet the verdict of historians will have to be that no one of the ruling statesmen among Germany's foes in this war aimed at the German Kaiser so directly and so persistently as did Mr. Wilson. The abdication of William II and the smashing of the Hohenzollern family as a ruling house are the results of a political and diplomatic offensive which Mr. Wilson more than any other man conceived and directed.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

—Floyd Austin, of Austin, was working about a pulley shaft in the pump station nearby, when his clothing caught in the rapidly revolving machinery, and he was whirled around till the engine was shut down. Though he had one arm and one leg and both feet broken, as well as several ribs fractured, it is thought he will recover.

—The family of Casper Redinger, who moved to Larimer, Pa., from Ebensburg, has been almost annihilated by influenza. Casper was taken ill and died first; then his wife died leaving an infant. Two of his children then died and another one is very low. Two other children recovered, and now another son, Billy Redinger, is not expected to live.

—The Hershey Chocolate company, at Hershey, has received an order from the United States government for 2,000,000 chocolate almond bars of one-half pound each. The order will make fifteen carloads of chocolate. It is for the American army in France, must be ready for shipment December 5 and will be served as Christmas gifts to soldiers.

—The contracts for the new buildings to be erected by the New York Central Railroad company at Avon has been awarded to the Wash Construction company, of Davenport, Iowa. The extension to the car shops will be 202x350 feet, and the addition to the blacksmith and machine shop will be 126x206 feet. There also will be a steel mill building with brick wall and tie roof. The cost of these improvements is estimated at \$900,000.

—It was definitely decided in Gettysburg Wednesday morning that Adams county will try Clarence Collins and Charles Reinecker, the confessed slayers of George J. Busman. The lads have been held in the Dauphin county jail at Harrisburg since their apprehension and arrest several weeks ago. The body of Busman was taken by them in an auto from that county to a point along the river road north of Harrisburg and thrown into the bushes.

—Frank Wheelock, of Sugar Grove, is operating an apple evaporator. To date about 8,000 bushels of apples have been run through the evaporator. By means of hot air the water in them is all taken out but the sugar remains and the industry this fall is an important one in helping the farmers to dispose of their big apple crop. He has about 2,000 bushels more on hand at the evaporator factory and probably that many more will be run through before the season closes.

—Negotiations are about being completed by the State Highway and Attorney general's departments for the purchase by the State of 2.73 miles of turnpike in Adams county to be added to the State Highway system. This stretch, which extends from the Franklin line is owned by the old Waynesburg, Green Castle and Mercersburg Turnpike company, and the State will pay \$270,000 for the turnpike. This will be about the last purchase of a toll road to be made by the State.

—After one of the hardest fought and most bitter campaigns in the history of the community the voters at the polls on November 5th, by a majority of 511, cast their ballots in favor of increasing the indebtedness of the borough of Sunbury by the sum of \$225,000 for the purpose of taking over the electric plant of the Northumberland County Gas & Electric company, for municipal and commercial purposes. In each of the nine wards the majority of the votes were in favor of the proposition.

—Former prothonotary Harry S. Myer, 63 years old, of Lycoming county, and formerly vice mayor of Williamsport and former member of city councils, died suddenly at the home of his brother-in-law, Lester W. Seamon, at Wellsboro, Wednesday, whither he had been called from Pittsburgh, where he was employed by the Westinghouse company, on account of the illness of his daughter. He was formerly in the insurance business in Williamsport and was a veteran of the Spanish-American war.

—Ira N. Mitchell, of Locks Banks, Mifflin county, shot a 200 pound black bear one night recently while hunting coons on the Seven Mountains. The dog freed something and in the darkness Mitchell mistook the animal for a large raccoon and brought it to earth with a single shot only to learn that it was a full grown bear. Mitchell went to Lewisstown the next morning and paid over \$50 to J. J. Statterbach, the local game warden, for having shot the bear at night which is a violation of the game laws.

—Edward Nicodemus, manager of the John A. Nicodemus apple orchards at Zullinger, finished harvesting this year's crop last week, the yield being 15,000 barrels. Six thousand barrels of these were placed in cold storage at Russell Station, on the Western Maryland Railroad, 5000 with the Chambersburg Cold Storage company and about 4000 barrels were sold at the orchard, much of the lot going to the various cider mills. The fruit at these orchards was unusually fine this season and brought good prices.

—The Interior Oil & Gas company, of Warren, has struck another big gusher on the new Decker field near Sheffield. The well is flowing at a rate estimated at forty barrels daily. The fact that the company has struck a big gusher in each of its three leases has caused excitement and the field is claimed to be one of the richest in that section. Leases in the vicinity of the big wells are in demand at high prices. The Interior company has started drilling operations on two other wells.

—With the probability that Camp Crane on the Allentown fair grounds, will be retained as medical corps headquarters for the large regular army that Chief of Staff March has announced will be maintained by the United States after the war, work is being pushed on the four new barracks and other extensions at the same speed as if no armistice had been signed and peace was not in sight. Col. Howard McC. Snyder, commander of the camp, said that he had no official information bearing on the War Department's intentions.

—A. W. Eckess, a state policeman, stationed at Jersey Shore, on Sunday morning arrested David S. Group Jr., and William C. Weidner, on a charge of hunting on Sunday. The men were first located in Limestone township, near the Wind farm, but before the policeman had reached them they had made their way to Clinton county. Mr. Eckess tracked them and found a wild turkey, still warm, hidden under an old iron kettle. The men were arraigned Monday before Justice of the Peace M. Edward Toner, at Jersey Shore, and both admitted their guilt and were fined \$25 each and costs.