

INK SLINGS.

—For the old tank the first six months of 1919 won't seem half as long as the last.

—Surely we all hope that the New Year will not be filled with as much gloom as was the day that ushered it in.

—The real beauty of the paving on Water street can be seen if you can only picture in your mind what it would be like now if it were not paved.

—That the war is over is proved by events. Senator Knox is just about lawyer enough to know that reasonable talk in peace times is not actionable.

—What a difference between New Year's day this year and that of last. Wednesday it rained most of the day and last year the thermometer was just sixteen degrees below zero.

—The 1919 war savings stamps are to be blue and you will be bluer if you paste one of them on a 1918 certificate because you will later discover that it won't be any good there.

—Resolve to look at the doughnut, not the hole it surrounds, during 1919 and you'll be surprised how well you get on, how happy you will be and how much your society is sought.

—It doesn't seem possible but it is a fact that four years have almost rolled around since we elected a full county ticket and we will have that job on our hands again next November.

—April 1st has been set as the date when the first flight in air across the Atlantic is to be made. The date is suggestive because if it isn't pulled off how easy it will be to say that it was an April fool.

—Somehow or other that coal pile of ours has been disappearing during this mild winter weather quite as rapidly as it did last year when the average temperature was fully thirty degrees lower than it has been thus far.

—Fancy colored yarns will again be good form in the knitting bags of the ladies. The khaki colors have all been called in as there is an ample supply of knitted garments on hand to fill all the demands the soldier boys may make on it.

—Though a green Christmas is supposed to make a fat graveyard the "Watchman" does not carry nearly as many death notices in this issue, covering a two week's period, as it did for any single week during November or December.

—Henry Ford has raised the minimum wage scale in his factories to six dollars a day. The increase is designed to make the living conditions of the makers of the tin Lizzie easier. The riding qualities of the flivver will remain unchanged, however.

—Only about three more weeks until the new Legislature gets under way in Harrisburg. Let us hope that it will occupy its time with weeding out obsolete and unenforced statutes more than with adding new and useless ones to the laws of Pennsylvania.

—Viewed from the reports in the local columns of this issue the holiday week seems to have been the one during which scores of Centre counties decided to transfer themselves and their property. Both the real estate transfer and the marriage licenses made records for the old year.

—The cables tell us that when President Wilson was in France he was a Frenchman and that when he was in London he was an Englishman, so readily did he adapt himself to his environment. So far as London was concerned it was easy, for there he needed only to roll up his pants.

—Justice should move swift and sure to apprehend and punish the terrorists who are back of the wholesale bombing that occurred in Philadelphia on Tuesday. Men and women who know no law and want no law are a menace to society and should be permanently confined in a place where their diseased minds can work no harm to any one.

—Up to this moment the aerial mail service has been little more than a hunt for lost aviators and hauling in smashed ships. The failure of the service to function has been ascribed to the use of machines that are not adapted to the work and when the heavy DeHaviland bombing planes are replaced by lighter ships it is expected the mails will go a flying sure enough.

—The rumor factory is working overtime these days making up stories as to how frightfully some of our boys who have been reported wounded on the other side are mutilated. What heartless, despicable business it is. And, naturally enough, most of it has been proven false. Why people spread such unfounded rumors we can't conceive unless it is to willfully cause distress for the parents and friends of those whom they chatter about.

—President Wilson's reception on the other side has been so notably cordial as to leave no doubt as to the position America has won in the eyes of the world. The old world views the new with broadened vision since it has had opportunity to study us at the close range that has afforded. And Europe especially has made the belated discovery that we are something more than a merely money making people; that we have ideals and thoughts so altruistic as to be almost beyond her grasp and that we have the unselfishness and singleness of purpose to advance them no matter what the cost.

Democratic Watchman

STATE RIGHTS AND FEDERAL UNION.

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NO. 1.

Brumbaugh Violates His Agreement.

Our more or less esteemed friend the Pennsylvania Republican machine, is greatly perturbed by the appointment of Mr. D. J. Snyder, of Greensburg, to the vacancy on the Westmoreland county bench created some months ago by the death of Judge Lucien W. Doty. According to gossip of the time Governor Brumbaugh had entered into a perfectly complete agreement with the machine managers to leave the filling of that vacancy with several others to his successor in consideration of his appointment to the \$10,000 a year job of military historian. In pursuance of this agreement the machine selected Brumbaugh for the job and therefore the appointment of Snyder is a repudiation of payment of the price.

This was a clear violation of the principle expressed in the adage "there is honor among thieves." When the Governor entered into a compact which was fulfilled strictly by his confederates in the crime, he ought to have performed his part with equal fidelity. It is true that he had some reason to doubt the purposes of his co-conspirators. A man who might easily have been controlled by the machine managers entered suit to prevent the consummation of the bargain. But it can hardly be claimed that this action was instigated by the machine managers. Not a word has been uttered to justify such a suspicion. Therefore the Governor is clearly amenable to the charge of "welching."

In any event the incident encourages the hope that the factional feud in the party will be continued. "When rogues fall out honest men come by their own," and this seems to be a falling out beyond repair or the power to retrieve. The managers may imagine that the Governor will be without power to do harm after his retirement but this is an unsafe estimate for he has a glib tongue in his head and a marvelous facility for using it. Besides that it can scarcely be expected that the Vares will abandon him in his helplessness after what he has tried to do for them during his incumbency of the gubernatorial office. Brother Ed. will not subject himself to the charge of ingratitude.

—The Bavarian General, Montgias, says his people do not want to be forgiven, but want justice. If Bavaria had got full justice it would have been wiped off the map one hundred years ago. Next to Prussians the Bavarians have the record in atrocious, perfidy and iniquity.

Work of Traitors Revealed.

An expression in one of the Paris news dispatches of the Associated Press the other day reveals the purpose of the Republican Senators in Congress in opposing the President's plans with respect to the Peace Conference. "M. Clemenceau's overwhelming majority on the vote of confidence in the Chamber of Deputies," says the writer, "makes him a commanding figure in France, similar to that of Lloyd George as a result of the British elections." The obvious purpose is to show that Woodrow Wilson is not a commanding figure in this country because traitorous politicians keep nagging him and the recent elections resulted in a majority in Congress for the party opposed to him.

There is reason in this interpretation of conditions. But it is easy to trace the cause. In France and England patriotism is the prevailing sentiment while in this country it is politics. Premier Clemenceau met with opposition in many of his war measures but when the acid test came the deputies aimed to strengthen him in the important work of the coming peace conference. In Great Britain Premier Lloyd George had opponents but upon the question of sustaining Great Britain against all others he was overwhelmingly sustained. In this country, on the other hand, traitorous politicians intervened to let the world know that the interests of any power are preferable because our Premier differs from them in politics.

The Roosevelts, the Lodges, the Smoots and the Penroses are welcome to any comfort they get out of these facts. President Wilson is at the conference in the interest of the United States primarily and of the civil liberties of all peoples of the world incidentally. But his influence is impaired by the nagging of these traitorous elements in our population who prefer party success to National prosperity. These are the conditions that confront us at this time and it is for the people of this country to properly appraise them. We had the opportunity to make the United States the dominant force in civilization but the chance may be sacrificed to the partisan prejudices of politicians.

—Senator Chamberlain is still striving to earn the poor reward of Roosevelt's praise by traducing the Secretary of War.

—If the Krupp company had passed its dividend ten years ago the chances are there would have been no world war.

Causes of European Enthusiasm.

The enthusiasm with which the people of Europe have welcomed President Woodrow Wilson in Paris and London is not entirely ascribable to his personality. Appreciation of the part the United States took in the great world war had something to do with it and the universal gladness that the war is ended was influential in the matter. Then popular resentment of the attacks made by political enemies at home may have had some influence. As the late General Bragg said of Grover Cleveland, Europe may love Wilson "for the enemies he has made." With Roosevelt, Lodge, Cummins and other scurvy politicians "barking at his heels," it is not likely that fair minded Europe would take to him in resentment.

Whatever the cause, however, the generous welcome to our first citizen by the two greatest capitals of Europe must be gratifying to all right minded Americans. It may be flattering to the individual and gratifying in a personal sense to his close friends that Paris and London welcomed him with an enthusiasm never before extended. But it must be equally gratifying to the citizens of the United States that each other citizen of this great country was honored by the tributes to our President. He is in Europe representing the United States of America. His is the voice, by practically unanimous consent, of the more than one hundred millions of people who compose this great Republic of ours.

President Wilson is in Europe representing the people of the United States in an enterprise in which the whole civilized world is directly concerned. As the President said in one of his London addresses it is the greatest enterprise of all time. It is for the safety and happiness of the whole world and there is no man so completely equipped to represent the United States in such a work as Woodrow Wilson. This is unquestionably one of the reasons why Europe has welcomed him with such enthusiasm and the other reasons are simply supplemental. We all share in the glory that has been bestowed upon Woodrow Wilson and rejoice for all the several reasons expressed. He is of us and for us.

—No country in the history of the world has ever created and mobilized an army of four million men as quickly and efficiently as the American government did in the recent war and still there are grouches in Congress and out who criticize this great record.

Running True to Form.

In all the intrigue, mendacity and duplicity practiced by the German autocracy during the war that odious conspiracy has been simply "running true to form." In the Napoleonic period it was reduced to the lowest level of national existence, mainly because of the imbecility of the King of Prussia and the perfidy of his ministers. Prince Metternich, writing in a period between 1804 and 1806 describes the work of the ministry of that time as "only a most extraordinary series of abandonment of all principle, of perfidy and false measures." The King, Frederick William III was a dupe and a coward and those about him perfidious and corrupt. There has been no change in conditions.

The question in issue at the time was a proposed alliance of Russia, Austria and Germany, with the moral support of England, to check the operations of Napoleon. Prince Metternich, representing Austria and a diplomat as capable as he was sincere, was managing the affair. The German King and his ministers professed sympathy with the movement but lacked courage to openly align that country with the other powers and according to Metternich were constantly in secret negotiations with Napoleon, not only deceiving their colleagues but betraying them. Metternich tries to acquit the German King of perfidy but excuses him on account of his weakness, putting the odium on the ministry.

The King of that time was the great-grandfather of the perfidious, cruel and treacherous Kaiser of our day. He is much the sort of person of Frederick William and equally cowardly and contemptible. His own father, who was an exception to the Hohenzollern type, distrusted him and described him accurately as deficient in intellect and unripe in knowledge. But his father's reign was brief and he early ascended the throne to work mischief which he did assiduously until he was compelled to abdicate to save his worthless life. Thus the events of the past support the conditions of the present and history "repeats itself." William II is a genuine Hohenzollern.

—"Hope springs eternal in the human breast." Though thousands of years of effort have failed to "make a silk purse out of a sow's ear," President Wilson still hopes to make Vance McCormick a political leader.

Soldiers and the Constitution.

Senator Penrose's pretense that he is influenced by opposition to a constitutional convention by consideration of the rank and file of the soldiers is the rankest kind of punk. The action of the Luzerne county Prothonotary in throwing out the votes of the soldiers of that county because a majority of them were cast for the Democratic candidate for Congress, expresses the real feeling of the Republican machine for the soldiers' franchise. That step was not taken at the initiative of the Luzerne county Prothonotary. It was dictated by the Republican machine and probably by Penrose himself. The soldiers' rights and interests are measured precisely as the soldiers help or hurt the Republican machine.

Senator Penrose is against a constitutional convention in the near future for the reason that such a body might close up some of the sources of graft which provides support for the machine lame ducks throughout the State. Upon every question of spoils Penrose and Vares get together and however bitterly they may fight on other subjects they are brought to a common purpose by the lust for plunder. The Vares are opposed to a constitutional convention and Penrose is with them. Governor Elmer Sproul expressed himself in favor of a convention immediately after election. But he has probably changed his mind since or if he hasn't he will before the Legislature can act in the matter.

There are very many reasons why a constitutional convention should be held in the near future and very few against it. So far as the participation of soldiers in the vote for delegates to such a convention it is practically certain that they will have full opportunity to do so. No provision could be made for the election of delegates to a convention before November next and by that time all the Pennsylvania soldiers who desire to quit the army whether over there or over here now will be home. Besides that the law respected by everybody except the Republican machine, provides that the soldiers' votes may be taken in the camps and counted unless they are adverse to the will of the machine.

—One of the French eulogists of the President said that "Europe loved Wilson as it had no man since Napoleon" and the President's friends are wondering whether that was a bouquet or a brick bat.

Aero Mail Service Again Postponed.

The second attempt to inaugurate the airplane mail service between New York and Chicago scheduled for yesterday did not materialize and the new venture is suffering another postponement. The reason given is that the DeHaviland aeroplanes which had been turned over to the Postoffice Department by the War Department to be used on mail carrying routes have proven inefficient for the service. The result was that one hundred DeHaviland planes have been turned back to the War Department and in their stead a dozen or more twin motor Handley-Page machines have been turned over to the Postoffice Department. But as the latter machines will have to be assembled and tested before they can be put into service it may be a week, two weeks or even longer before the next attempt to inaugurate the service.

Last Friday morning four machines of the DeHaviland type left Belmont Park, N. Y., to go over the New York-Chicago route, but not one of them reached Bellefonte that day. Two of them came down about five miles east of Huntingdon, one of them sustaining a broken propeller in landing. One other machine came down at White Haven and the fourth man got so far out of his course that he landed in Maryland. The big army truck, with the necessary repairs, was sent over to Huntingdon on Saturday and the damaged machine repaired and on Sunday the two of them started for Bellefonte. One reached here safely but owing to propeller trouble the other one was compelled to come down in the vicinity of Hunter's park. It was later brought to Bellefonte and at present there are four machines at the Bellefonte field.

All the buildings here have been completed on the field, a big gas tank installed and other necessary equipment added. A telephone office connecting New York, Bellefonte, Cleveland and Chicago with the Postoffice Department at Washington will be installed with Maurice A. Kelly, for some time past manager of the Western Union office in this place, in charge. Mr. Kelly has tendered his resignation to the Western Union company but at this writing his successor has not been appointed.

—The late Kaiser claims that he has friends in America and the actions of Roosevelt, Lodge and the Mormon Apostle Smoot, Republican leaders justify his claims.

—The County Commissioners have appointed Hon. John Noll mercantile appraiser for the year 1919.

FAREWELL AND HALL.

By M. V. Thomas.  
Thou sorrow-burdened year,  
Weighted with sigh and tear,  
Trembling with pain and fear,  
Thou dost depart.  
Great with the we or weal  
Mankind with thee must feel;  
Secrets thou dost conceal  
Deep in thy heart.  
Over thy heroes dead  
Numberless hearts have bled,  
Thou hast seen tyrants dread  
Flying in fear.  
Great will thy memory be;  
Down-trodden souls set free  
Ever will sing of thee,  
Thou passing year.  
Year of the future born,  
Fair as the break of morn,  
Ne'er may thy heart be torn  
With sorrow's wall.  
May thy sky not be drear,  
May'st thou be filled with cheer,  
Passing and coming year,  
Farewell! and hall!

A Test of Democracy.

From the Christian Science Monitor.

The ease with which a nation may return to peace, rather than the alacrity with which it may rush into war, is a good test of its democracy. Although repeatedly provoked, the United States hesitated long before entering the conflict now at an end. The opinion had come to be commonly held that, with regard to its own dignity, it was in danger of hesitating too long. The reason for its hesitation, or, rather, the cause of its hesitation, has been fully discussed, and, in the present opinion of those who give weight to circumstances apparently beyond human control, no discredit attaches to the nation, its sentiment, or its disposition.

What concerns us here is that, when finally it felt the impulse to move, it went forward toward its goal with a speed and perhaps unparalleled in history, changing from a condition of unpreparedness and peace to a war footing over night, and becoming, within nineteen months, a great military and naval power, with resources in men, money, munitions, and supplies sufficient to carry itself and to help to carry its associates through to a successful issue, even though the final victory should be long delayed.

All of this is fine to think and talk about, in that it proves what a peace-loving, industrious democracy she is, when once aroused to the absolute necessity of doing something on a great scale and doing it quickly. But more satisfying still is the proof at hand that, having accomplished all it went after in the way of military success, it is ready, within less than a month from the day of the signing of the armistice, to turn back to the ways of peace, to industrialism, and to the notion that the advancement of knowledge, justice, and happiness, and of the moral and spiritual ideals to which freedom leads, is a worthier ambition than the pursuit of military glory and world dominion.

The Murdered President of Portugal.

From the Lancaster Intelligencer.  
The assassination of the President of Portugal once more calls attention to a rugged little corner of the old world that seems to have had more than its share of trouble, even in troubled times; for the unsettled condition of Portugal dates from long before the world war, and its revolutions, assassinations and sudden changes of government in our times have been so many that it is generally thought of as in a class with the South American nations where revolution is chronic. Yet, in long time, making of the empire for a long time, Portugal of the empire of Brazil, a greater Portugal and even since the bloody wholesale assassination of its royal family, it has shown tendencies to royalist reaction.

It is impossible to interpret the news of the assassination of President Paes until there is more information about it, but at first glance it looks like the act of a fanatic well calculated to make a martyr hero of its victim and to strengthen the orderly and true Democracy in Portugal. For Paes was both a strong and enlightened leader.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

—The drafting of bills for the General Assembly of 1919, which will meet Tuesday, January 7th, is in full swing. At least fifty bills have been drafted at the State Legislative reference bureau, where such service is given to Legislators, and about fifty more measures are awaiting re-writing in legal form.

—Upon entering the home of her aunt, Mrs. Amelia Reutter, of South Williamsport, carrying Christmas gifts and a Christmas tree, two nephews of the woman, who was one of the oldest residents of the borough, found her dead on the floor of her home. She had been asphyxiated by gas from a coal range.

—The Lock Haven hospital was the recipient of a substantial Christmas gift in the form of three \$1,000 Liberty bonds given by R. Hayes Stewart, of Island, a prominent farmer and tobacco grower and president of the Lock Haven Democrat company. The money is to be added to the endowment fund as a memorial to his late wife, Jane Eleanor Stewart.

—The death sentence of Luther Knox, of Armstrong county, was commuted to life imprisonment, following a medical examination into his sanity, made at the instance of the board of pardons. He was to have been electrocuted during the week of December 9, but a respite was issued by the Governor, fixing the week of December 30. Commutation of his sentence was announced on Saturday.

—Dr. Sillas E. Swallow, of Harrisburg, Prohibition candidate for President a few years ago, last week conceived the plan of sending Liberty bonds to sixty of his own and Mrs. Swallow's relatives. The main stipulation is that the recipient must write once a year. To insure this Dr. Swallow has asked that each holder of the bond mail him one of the two latest-bearing coupons. The other he may keep.

—The Stanley-Anallin Chemical company, of Lock Haven, which has been engaged in making explosives for the government and which had planned the extensive manufacture of dyes, went into bankruptcy Monday morning. The plant closed down and laid off its men on December 1st, when notified by the government to cease the manufacture of explosives.

—Angelo Samone an Italian, of Punxsutawney, poured oil over his clothing and applied a match at his home at that place late Sunday afternoon, and before help could reach him, he had burned to death. Despondency is believed to have been the cause of his rash deed. A few days ago Samone's wife disappeared, taking her four children with her, and since then the husband and father had been acting strangely, culminating with suicide.

—According to figures compiled at the Adjutant General's department in Harrisburg as the result of a survey of the property in the hands of the National Guard of Pennsylvania when it was disbanded, the federal service the United States government will owe the State almost \$300,000. This will include tentage, clothing and other items which the State purchased for the guard and which were taken to camps. The matter will be taken up with Washington officials.

—Edward Smith, of Red Lion, Columbia county, charged with looting the Farmers State Bank of Hallam of \$3300, went into court at York on Monday, pleaded guilty and requested an immediate sentence. Judge Waner refused to impose punishment at this time, stating that he would remand Smith to jail until next Monday so in the meantime he might make up his mind to divulge what became of \$2500 of the booty which disappeared shortly after the robbery.

—Referee Jacob Snyder, of Altoona, has awarded Mrs. Cora B. Snyder compensation in her claim against the borough of Reynoldsville, Clearfield county. Her husband, Jacob Snyder, was employed as a laborer by the borough. April 3rd last he got a toe of his right foot was crushed by a pipe which fell on it. Blood poisoning developed, and Snyder died. His widow was awarded 45 per cent. of his weekly wage for 300 weeks and \$100 funeral expenses.

—James Thompson and John Stull, both of near Ralston, Lycoming county, met death by drowning in a bathtub at Ralston, when the horse they were driving plunged off the road and fell on top of them in a creek twenty feet below. Stull had been thrown out of his own carriage, and was found by Thompson later lying along the road unconscious. Thompson placed him in his carriage, and was turning around to go after assistance when his horse backed off the road. Both men were caught under the carriage and drowned.

—Mrs. James Dempsey and her five young children were burned to death early Saturday morning in a fire which completely destroyed their home, near Ridgway. James Dempsey, husband and father, was at work at an oil well several miles from his home at the time of the fire. There was no opportunity to save any of the inmates of the house as it was not discovered by neighbors until the whole building was in a mass of flames. The bodies have not been recovered and it is not thought that they will be, as the house was completely destroyed and the fire was so intense as to have incinerated the remains.

—The order of the War Department for the abandonment of Camp Crane, which came earlier than expected, means that after two fair seasons, the war, there will in September, 1919, be a great Allentown fair, bigger than ever. It is believed that the government will have moved Camp Crane by February 1st, which will allow plenty of time to get the grounds into shape for next year's exhibition. The lease provides that the government restore the grounds, for which the War Department has been paying a rental of \$30,000, about enough to pay taxes, interest and other fixed charges. The barracks and other buildings, which cost more than \$500,000, will be moved by the government. Nothing is as yet known as to how this work will be proceeded with.

—Laverne Scattergood, four years old of Wilkes-Barre, was pronounced dead. Her father and mother were heartbroken, and the attending nurse went about the task of getting the death robes ready and preparing the body for the undertaker. E. A. Scattergood, the father, had been accustomed to rocking baby every night and he decided to take the little one in his arms for the last time. He rocked and sobbed while the nurse went on with her work. Suddenly there came a yell from the father. The nurse hurried to him. "She is living," he said. "She is living, and I know it." The nurse thought that the father was mistaken, but she saw signs of life. Baby was placed in her bed, hot-water bottles were applied. Vile hot-water bottles started the circulation. When the doctor got there baby was very much alive. The following day the child was well enough to ask for something to eat.