

INK SLINGS.

—Christianity isn't what you profess. It is what you do.

—Next week we will celebrate the anniversary of the birth of another great American.

—If the beef trust would cut out the lobby the price of meat could be lowered without impairing profits.

—Old Bellefonte never fails when she starts something. The "Watchman" knew she would put the "Y" drive over.

—If you are lucky enough to be in that class, you will have to file your income tax report not later than March 15th.

—It seems as though everybody is to have an eight hour day except the poor drudge who has the job of furnishing the pay.

—If March turns out as fine weather as January and February have given us public sales in the county will have record breaking attendance.

—Certain prognostications forecast a very "wet" spring to be followed about June 30th with a drouth the like of which the country has never experienced before.

—More power to the government in its work of deporting such undesirable as the I. W. W. and their Bolshevik abettors who aim to destroy all organized society.

—There is hope for the Sproul administration because it starts off with the purpose of governing Pennsylvania more than the hope of presidenting the United States.

—Try to put yourself in the other fellows position before you begin to pass judgment on what he has or has not done. There are lots of things that he knows about himself and his affairs that you don't.

—The gist of the Hon. Giff Pinchot's letters is nothing more than the demand for a Republican presidential candidate in 1920 whom he and his crowd can control, as against one whom Penrose and his followers might control.

—Eggs are down to forty cents a dozen and we acclaim the decline in price as though it were something worth while. We forget that only a few years ago we regarded them as almost prohibitive at twenty-five cents the dozen.

—Curb that disposition to criticize. Curb it for awhile, at least. The times are too troublesome already to add any more fuel to the fire. Often the tiniest spark starts the most disastrous conflagration and this is the time when all should be fearful of starting something that can't be stopped.

—Herbert Hoover says it is the farmer and not the packer who is responsible for the high price of pork and we are inclined to believe that he is right. Because the law of supply and demand regulates the prices and as the farmer is not raising enough hogs to meet the demand prices are bound to stay up.

—The new President of Germany, Frederick W. Ebert, is to get a salary three times as large as the one we pay President Wilson. However great the disparity may appear at first thought it must be remembered that our Chief Executive will find real mazzina in his pay envelope while Ebert's will be filled with stage money for years to come.

—Talking about putting things over Bellefonte has gotten so accustomed to doing it that it is second nature. Many people laughed the laugh of incredulity when the drive for \$15,000.00 for the local "Y" was proposed, but then they were of the kind who don't know their own town and don't know that it is usually accomplished what it undertakes.

—Japan is not spilling any oil on the troubled waters of the world. Instead, she seems to be striving to drive a hard bargain already made with China a bit harder and keep her eye open to the main chance while sitting at the peace table. World security will never be secured while selfishness thrives in the hearts of those who are assembled to plan it.

—Let us record our belief right here and now that if Centre county is to erect a memorial to the brave boys who have brought glory to us through their participation in the world war, it should be a living thing and not an inanimate, cold expression in marble or iron. Let it be a public building, a park, a community house where life and uplift breathe the spirit for which the boys fought.

—Fish Commissioner N. R. Buller has been re-appointed by Governor Sproul, but as was the case when Governor Brumbaugh named him four years ago, the Senate has held up confirmation of the appointment. While Mr. Buller has proved most capable in his department his actions have not quite suited some of the politicians of his party and we surmise that the action of the Senate in his case is more in the nature of discipline than anything else.

—The President will leave France next Sunday for his return voyage home. He expects to remain here only long enough to let the country know what is really going on in Paris and to sign or veto such bills as may come to him in the closing days of Congress; then he will return to Paris for more work at the Peace Conference. It is certain that his counsel is needed there else there would be no thought of his returning and if he is needed he should return by all means.

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Bossism Run Mad.

We learn through the daily newspapers that a special meeting of the Democratic State Executive committee was held in the Bellevue-Stratford hotel on Monday evening at which a candidate for Congress was nominated to fill a vacancy in the district composed of Butler and Westmoreland counties and Senatorial candidates were named to fill vacancies in Delaware and Dauphin counties. The Democratic State Executive committee is composed of Charles P. Donnelly, Philadelphia; J. L. Sherwood, Wyoming county; J. J. Brennan, Carbon county; L. H. Rupp, Lehigh county; Jacob Weaver, York county; F. R. Zimmerman, Northumberland county; C. H. Uhl, Somerset county; John F. Short, Clearfield county; W. W. Hindman, Clarion county; Joseph F. Guffey, Allegheny county, and Warren VanDyke, Secretary of the State committee.

Home Rule is one of the fundamental principles of the Democratic party. Under Home Rule the right of the people of each district to name their own candidates is inherent and indefeasible. Under that Democratic principle no man or power had any voice in the selection of a Democratic candidate for Congress in the Butler-Westmoreland county district except the Democratic voters living within those counties. Nobody other than the Democratic voters of Dauphin and Delaware counties had a right to a vote in the selection of candidates of the Democratic party for Senator in those counties. But in pursuance of the arbitrary methods of the patronage trading machine, the State Executive committee usurped the right to select candidates and the Democratic people of the districts concerned must submit or bolt like Palmer and McCormick did last fall.

We have no fault to find with the candidates chosen to fill the vacancies in question. The nominee for Congress in the Twenty-second district, General Richard Coulter, is superb. He fulfills every requirement and has every qualification. The nominee for Senator in the Dauphin county district, Mr. L. Vernon Fritz, is equally deserving of praise and the nominee in Delaware county is probably up to the same high standard. But what right have the members of the State Executive committee to a voice in the selection of candidates for Congress and Senate in districts in which they have no vote? It is subversive of Democracy, abhorrent to every principle expressed by Jefferson and destructive of self-government. But it is a device of the office brokers to maintain their control of the party organization.

President Wilson will be home in a short time and when he arrives it will be interesting to see his critics "running to cover."

Servility of the Legislators.

No Governor in recent years has so completely dominated the Legislature as Governor Sproul appears to. This fact is revealed in the votes in the House of Representatives on the ratification of the Prohibition amendment and the bill creating two new judges in Allegheny county. Precisely the same policies were involved. The additional judges in Pittsburgh are demanded by the wets. The ratification was the last word of the dries. On one question Governor Sproul was with the dries and on the other with the wets and in both instances he won. By the same test it would seem that the Governor is not too strongly attached to either side of the issue.

Of course it is that species of gratitude which shows appreciation of favors expected that makes the Governor's influence with the Legislature so great. At the assembling of the first Legislature under Governor Brumbaugh a very considerable measure of servility was shown. It looked then as if the Governor could have had anything he wanted and it will be remembered that he wanted almost everything from the presidential nomination down. But the line was not so distinctly drawn in his case as it has been in that of Sproul. That is the reversal was not so clearly defined. But in Brumbaugh's case the influence didn't last long. After the spoils were divided the fealty diminished.

It is not creditable to the Legislature that the membership is so servile to the dispenser of spoils. Senators and Representatives in the General Assembly are chosen for more important work than trading in offices and men who will reverse themselves so important a question as prohibition are scarcely fit to perform the more important duties that devolve upon them. The defeat of the bill increasing the number of judges in Allegheny county would have been creditable for such legislation is clearly subversive of public morals. But the failure of the Governor to hold out the restraining hand gave loose rein to the wild passion for spoils and carried the measure through.

Harmful Attack on the President.

Governor Sproul has done so many commendable things during the brief period that has elapsed since his induction into the great office he occupies and has said so many wise and appropriate things, that his thinly veiled thrust at President Wilson in his speech eulogizing the late Colonel Roosevelt, in Philadelphia, last Sunday, seems like a discordant note. Speaking of Roosevelt he said "he called about him in the affairs of government the strongest men he could find, and did not soar into the midst of the unattainable. He was intensely practical in every thing he did, practical so as to get results. He walked with Kings and yet he never lost the common touch. His passing in a time of lack of purpose is a national calamity."

With the Governor's opinions of Mr. Roosevelt the public has no quarrel and probably little interest. But when the Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania lends himself to a propaganda which has for its sinister purpose the traducing of the President of the United States, the public is interested directly and intensely. Every attack on the President while he is representing the government of the United States in an international Congress is an attempt to diminish the influence of the government in the Congress. There is no question of individuality in the matter. Woodrow Wilson is absorbed in the Ambassadorial character he has assumed which have commended themselves to him and which the people appear to approve.

We understand that our government is partisan and that the Governor of Pennsylvania has the legal and moral right to make his administration partisan. But he has neither legal nor moral right to aspersion the President of the United States even by innuendo, when such aspersion impairs the influence of the United States in an international convention of the gravest importance. In doing that he is doing harm to the country. It may be that he is discrediting Woodrow Wilson but he is doing so at the expense of the interests of the people. Every citizen of the country is benefited by an enlargement of the influence of the country in the affairs of the world. In belittling the President the influence of the country in world affairs is diminished.

Mr. Taft may not be able to recover the position in public favor he held before he joined the Lodge gang just previous to the last election but he is doing his best in that direction.

Present and Pressing Menace.

The labor troubles throughout this country and Europe are a present and pressing menace. The high cost of living makes high wages essential to prosperity. Men who work must be paid enough to provide their families with such necessities and comforts as health requires. Unsanitary conditions are no longer tolerable either for the wage earner or the employer. Proper housing and ample clothing are community problems that must be solved by the co-operation of capital and labor. That "the laborer is worthy of his hire" is more a truth than ever. The health of the neighborhood as well as the working capacity of the individual are elements in the equation.

The high cost of living is ascribable in part and possibly in large part to the cupidity of men who have taken advantage of opportunities to overcharge. In the cities and industrial centers rents have been raised beyond reason and food and clothing increased in price to a degree without excuse. We all agree that those responsible for this are despicable and "profiteer" has become justly the most opprobrious epithet. But there isn't a vast difference between the profiteering landlord and the profiteering mechanic or laborer. They are alike exacting unearned tribute from the victims of their rapacity. They are equally amenable to censure because they are alike selfish.

In any event this is no time for labor strikes if they can be avoided. The readjustment of conditions following a great war is a difficult problem in any circumstance. The aim of all should be to improve rather than impair the path over which we must pass. There will be plenty of work if conditions are favorable to enterprise. But if the excessive cost of materials is supplemented by unreasonable demands of labor, industrial paralysis is more likely to ensue. Labor organization is more perfect now than ever before but its vast power should be used to construct instead of destroy prosperity. Good wages instead of extortion should be the rule.

It may have been noticed that Von Bernstorff's suggestions concerning the peace terms made little or no impression on the conferees.

The next one will be called a "Victory Loan" but it will be in the interest of liberty just the same.

Senator Frelinghuysen Outraged.

President Wilson continues to be the leading figure in the Peace Conference in Paris. His voice is heard on every important question and his opinions are respected by his colleagues in the Congress from every country concerned. But the nagging continues in Washington in full force. Lodge, and Sherman and Hale, like "Tray, Blanche and Sweetheart" keep on barking. Borah, of Idaho, and Smoot, of Utah, probably please their Mormon constituents by joining in the cry as frequently as possible. But the depth of imbecility was sounded the other day when Frelinghuysen, of New Jersey, cast his hat into the ring. All other criticisms faded before his masterful array of complaints.

"It is all very well for the President to break the precedent of a century and a third," shrieked this pigeon-brained pretender to statesmanship, "that he may head triumphant processions in foreign capitals, sleep in the chambers of royalty and dine off gold plates in the palaces of the modern Caesars, and have his photograph taken standing in line with Kings, Queens and Princesses." Those are certainly grave offenses and it is small wonder that Frelinghuysen's blood boiled when he heard of them. But it is hardly just to blame Wilson. Being an American gentleman he slept in chambers to which he was assigned by his hosts and ate off the plates set before him. Probably he ought to have thrown the royal bed out of the window and kicked over the royal table.

But as a matter of fact he just acted as any other well bred American citizen would have acted in the circumstances. Through him the Kings and Queens of England and Italy, neither of whom act like the ancient Caesar, and the President of France bestowed upon the government and people of the United States the highest honors at their command, through their accredited representative, President Woodrow Wilson, and he, in the name of the people of the United States received them fittingly. Probably Senator Frelinghuysen would have done the same if he had had opportunity to do so, but in any event it is safe to say that his purpose in criticizing was to harm the man rather than object to the things.

The final vote on the revenue bill indicates how Republican Senators will act on the peace treaty when it is finished. They talked strongly against the tax bill but nearly all of them voted for it. On the peace treaty the vote will be unanimous.

Supervisors Should Get Busy.

The road supervisors association of Centre county will hold its annual meeting in Bellefonte next Tuesday, February 18th. While an interesting program has been arranged for the meeting there are other reasons why every supervisor in the county should attend this meeting.

Every indication points to the fact that the year 1919 will witness the greatest road improvement in Pennsylvania ever made in one year. Already plans are being mapped out for the building and improving of state highways, but the state highway men can be depended upon to look after Centre county's interest along this line. Considerable money, however, will be available for the improvement of dirt township roads and it is in this direction that the road supervisors must put forth their best efforts. Centre county is literally spider-webbed with a system of township roads that must be kept up. They are as much of a necessity as the main highways, and no opportunity should be allowed to pass whereby the supervisors can secure aid, even if it is not as much as they would like to have, to improve such roads. And this is one big reason why every supervisor should attend the convention next Tuesday. Representatives of the State Highway Department will be present to give any and all information desired by the men who are responsible for the upkeep of the township roads, and they ought to be there to hear it.

Now that the Y. M. C. A. drive is out of the way everybody will have time to get themselves in shape for the Victory loan drive which will start on April 21st.

Probably the Republican Senators don't know that the war is over and still imagine that they are helping the Kaiser by fighting the President.

Fortunately the peace conference will have had time to complete its work before the opening of the ball season crowds it off the first page.

The Kaiser may be growing a beard as the reports indicate but whiskers will never conceal his character.

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

What Saved the Small Nations.

Nearly ten years before the war Belgian and Dutch publicists were discussing the means of resisting armed annexation by Germany. Sometimes the demand was for Holland rather than Belgium; often it was for both. Switzerland was threatened, not with open annexation, but with enforced incorporation into the German zollverein.

No small nation was safe. The invasion of Belgium was not incidental; it was not the only or the shortest road into France. It was the least defended, but the Germans knew that the four French fortresses as easily as it destroyed the Belgian fortifications. All that saved Verdun was the quickness of General Sarrail in learning the lesson which Germany taught at Liege. Recognizing the vulnerability of any permanent fortifications, he immediately removed the guns from the forts of Verdun and put them in concealed positions, with earth defenses, a few miles outside of the fortress.

The Germans could have blasted their way into France as easily as they blasted their way through Belgium, but they took the Belgian route because they wanted Belgium; they wanted Antwerp and the manufacturing districts. One of the principal motives of Germany in springing the war on the world was to annex Belgium.

All that saved the independence of the small nations around Germany was the resistance of the Entente powers. In view of this fact it was not unreasonable to hope for some help from the small nations. They might have been expected to do something for the preservation of their own independence. Germany had not taken Belgium and Holland and Denmark and Switzerland because it was not ready to fight all Europe. But if it had crushed the Allies it would have appropriated all these nations, and the Dutch, Belgians, Swiss and Danes knew it. These small neutrals depended upon their independence absolutely upon the defeat of Germany, but they left the Allies and America to fight their battles for them and, except Belgium, they cared only to avoid giving offense to Berlin, and to make as much money as they could.

Holland was particularly in a position to render immense aid to the Allies, but it and the other small nations knew they were safe from the Allies, and fear of Germany was far more influential with them than gratitude to the Allies.

Westward the Star of Empire Takes Its Way.

Time—whimsical, inexorable—passes swiftly. The little town of Sur, on the Syrian coast, is all that remains of Tyre. The shifting sands have filled the great harbor. The crown of Tyre was worn successively during the centuries of the westward march of progress by the Phoenician step-child, Carthage; then by Italy; next by Hamburg and the leagued German cities of the Baltica; fourth by Portugal; fifth by Spain, the discoverer of the New World; sixth by Holland and seventh, until 1914, by Great Britain!

Previous to 1914 we owed England, then the richest nation on the globe, so much money that the annual interest was three million dollars. New England's debt to us requires her to pay us a hundred and fifty millions a year in interest. Before the war we owed about four billion dollars abroad. Today the situation is more than reversed—the net indebtedness of Europe to the United States government and private investors in this country is ten billion dollars. The annual interest payments which will pour into this country on such a debt will amount to at least five hundred million dollars! We possess one-third or more of the total wealth of the earth. The United States is now the richest nation and the financial center of the world. Before the war England was the greatest ship-owning country. Our ship-building schedule when carried through 1920 will give us twice as many ships as England! The world's cry today is for raw materials—raw materials—raw materials! In this connection, and now at the dawn of the greatest era in our history, every citizen of the United States should get these Big Facts indelibly in mind:

We represent but 6 per cent. of the world's population and own but 7 per cent of the world's land. But we produce 70 per cent. of the world's copper, 66 per cent. of the oil, 75 per cent. of the corn, 60 per cent. of the cotton, 33 per cent. of the silver, 52 per cent. of the coal, 40 per cent. of the iron and steel, 20 per cent. of the gold, 85 per cent. of the automobiles, 25 per cent. of the wheat, and we operate 40 per cent. of the world's railroads.

Thus for three thousand years the Lamp of Leadership has been seized by nation after nation, until now, wearied and outstripped, Europe hands it willingly but unasked to the young, strong, free land of the West—to this, the most wonderfully endowed nation of all history!

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

—When a gust of air fanned the flames of a gas heater against her clothing, 3-year-old Marion Odenoir, of Altoona, was burned to death.

—Hoping to escape in the excitement, Vincent Scummel set fire to the bedding of his cellmate in jail at Sunbury, and was nearly suffocated.

—The family of William Oberdick, of York, found in a half pound of pouhapp, or scrapple, which was purchased in one of the town markets, three teeth, a rib and a 22-caliber bullet. The Oberdicks were about to eat the scrapple at breakfast when they came upon the unusual combination.

—Williamsport is already making preparations to entertain the Pennsylvania Odd Fellows' Association in April, which will bring at least 10,000 visitors to the city for one day. The celebration, which has been entered for several years because of the war, will be more elaborate than usual on that account.

—The Hazleton Red Cross Chapter has received \$3645.78 from Alvan Markle, this sum being the total commission he received as tax collector for county and State levies in Hazleton for 1917. Mr. Markle, who is chairman of the Committee of Public Safety, took the position with the understanding that all profits would go to the Red Cross.

—Convicted of robbing the Hellam State Bank of \$5400, Edward Smith, of Red Lion, Columbia county, has been sentenced to four to five years in the penitentiary. Twenty-nine hundred dollars of the stolen money was found by Detective Charles S. White in a hog pen, where Smith had hidden it. The prisoner refuses to tell where he put the remainder of the money.

—Harry M. Bretz, attorney and school director of Harrisburg, whose embazlements were the cause of something akin to a sensation, on Monday was sentenced to serve seven months in the county prison and to pay a fine of \$200. Bretz, who was widely known in many activities, business, church and politics, apparently was a broken man when he appeared for sentence.

—Some of the Lycoming county farmers who sold horses and mules to the government last year when the War Department was making an insistent demand upon the farmer for his surplus stock are now buying the animals back. Several down-county farmers last week attended the horse sale at Camp Meade, at which a number of excellently kept head of horses were disposed of at auction.

—The Superior court of Pennsylvania has handed down a decision in the famous Jefferson county case involving litigation over some land in Sykesville, owned by the Henry Shaffer heirs. The land in question is a strip 100 feet wide and almost three-quarters of a mile long. The Buffalo, Rochester and Pittsburgh Railway company was a contestant and the case was decided against the railway company.

—Perhaps no man in Pennsylvania has more jobs than has Frederick C. Gundy, of Sunbury. He is a borough policeman, a Northumberland county courthouse janitor, has charge of six heating plants in business buildings and raises game chickens for the market. Besides that he owns a restaurant, at which he takes turn in serving the thrifty; drives his own automobile and is thinking of seeking the nomination for county commissioner.

—Because his bride of two months ago took him in proportion to his wages as a tinner, John Slesko, of Mount Carmel, took her before a Justice of the Peace where they mutually agreed to a legal separation, the husband agreeing to pay her \$40 for her housework she had done while living with him. A monthly payment of \$20 is to be made by Slesko to his wife. He declares that the woman eats more each meal than four or five ordinary persons.

—The State Forestry Commission has in session, authorized the purchase of 20,500 acres of woodland in Clinton, Lycoming and Union counties as forestry reserve. The Commissioners went over the budget and decided to ask the Legislature for an appropriation of \$1,900,000, a million dollars more than the appropriation last session. The additional money is needed for the purchase of forest lands and the inauguration of a system of district supervision.

—Earlurs entered the Hanover post-office early one morning last week, dynamited the safe and got away with \$15,000 in stamps and registered packages. A large package of money, the exact value of which Postmaster E. K. Elcheiberger refuses to make known, was overlooked. Three charges of nitro-glycerine, it is said, were used and the safe was blown to pieces. No clue as to the identity of the burglars has been obtained. The Post-office Department at Washington has been notified.

—Edward R. duMee, of Line Lexington, Bucks county, owner of a large dairy farm, says that some enemy has caused the death of two of his cows by mixing small wire nails with their feed, and that a third cow is about to die from eating wire nails. He also says the miscreant battered one of his horses about the head, causing blood poisoning. He has notified the State police at Lansdale. Mr. duMee suspects a farm-hand whom he discharged. He says wire nails were found in the feed troughs in one of the cow stables. An autopsy showed the nails in the stomachs of the cows which died.

—It will cost the chemical, paper and leather manufacturers in Elk and adjoining counties an enormous amount of money as the result of little snow this winter. With less than two months left in which they can hope for sledging to haul their forest products out during the past summer, the outlook is gloomy. Thousands and thousands of cords of hemlock bark, chemical and pulpwood is piled in the forests where it is impossible to haul it without the use of sleds. The manufacturers are hauling what little they can with the use of wagons which is far more costly than hauling by sleds.

—To those who think there is no profit in trapping fur-bearing animals these facts, listen to this record of a few Moreland township farmers who have been spending the short winter days in tending traps. Frank Hill, of Opp, has secured \$162 for the hides of skunks he has killed near his home this winter, while he and his father, Smith Hill, have divided the price of twenty-seven coon hides and one gray fox. The two men killed that number of coons on a half-dozen hunting expeditions on moonlight nights. Since Christmas Raymond Smith has collected \$25 for fifteen muskrat skins, \$125 for fifty-four skunk hides and \$2 for two weasels.