

INK SLINGS.

-This is Good Friday. -Cherry and peach and pear trees are in blossom. -The opening of the fishing season has convinced us that the liars are not all dead yet. -It won't be over there until all the bills over here are paid. Buy a Victory bond. -Your service to your country will not be complete unless you buy a Victory bond. They are the benediction of the service. -The spirit of every Centre county boy who is sleeping in France will surely haunt every one who can, yet does not buy a Victory bond. -This thing of March and April getting mixed up in their receipts for weather making is rather hard on the remnants of the winter coal pile. -New Zealand voted dry at home, but her soldiers in the field were given a chance to vote on the question and they made the home-land wet again. -We say Amen! to Lloyd George's plea that "those who are trying to do their best be let alone." And this should go in all walks and vocations of life. -If the fat could only be fried out of the fish hogs Herbert Hoover would not find it so difficult rationing those foreign peoples who are crying to him for succor. -On Monday the Victory loan drive will open. The offering of bonds is the most attractive, both as to redemption and interest yield, that the government has ever offered. -Anyway, there seems to have been more done at the Peace Conference during the few days that have elapsed since the President ordered the George Washington to Brest than there was in weeks prior to that incident. -The prompt arrest of those Russians who met in secret at McKees Rocks to plan the overthrow of our government should be followed up with the deportation of every one of them. Foreigners who would bite the hand that is feeding them should find no asylum on our shores. -Just when we thought we were going to bury old John Barleycorn on July 1st Uncle Sam pulls his hands out of his empty pockets and expresses the fear that the funeral will have to be put off because he doesn't have the funds with which to buy sufficient screws to keep the coffin lid on tight. -The Germans are hawling like babies about the peace pill they will be asked to swallow very soon. They say we are "taking the last sheets from their beds." May we not rightfully ask where they got the sheets. They were probably the last ones from the beds in devastated Belgium and France. -The aviation spirit in Bellefonte was revived on Monday with the arrival of three planes from New York. How disturbing it will be to our friends in Lock Haven when they learn that the pilots actually found Bellefonte without having to stop at a lot of cross-roads stores en route to inquire the road to our burg. -The United States spent a billion dollars a month during our participation in the war. Germany is to be asked to pay an indemnity of only twenty-five billions of dollars and will be given many years in which to do it with. It seems to us that considering all the loss she caused other nations her cash reparation is very light. -If you have a position vacant that one of our returned soldiers can fill offer it to him. Let it not be said of Centre county that any of her soldier boys have returned to find that no job awaits them. This office will gladly act as a clearing house for those needing men and soldiers needing jobs. Let us know if you have a good place for a good man and, soldiers, let us know if you want a place. We will do our best to place the right men in the right places. -In five months the War Department has mustered out fifty per cent. of the officers and forty-six per cent. of the men who were in service when the armistice was signed on November 11th. At the close of the Civil war it required seventeen months to muster out 1,023,021 officers and men or 900,000 fewer than the record to date. And at the close of the Spanish-American war it required over nine months to muster out 179,397 men. These are facts well worth having in mind when blatant critics of the government start shooting off about nothing having been done. -The Hon. Josephus Daniels, Secretary of the Navy, has a right to feel proud of what has been done in the way of transporting our soldiers, with their subsistence and munitions, to and from Europe and while we wouldn't for the world minimize the glory of it all we can't help but think that Noah put it all over our Navy chief. The Ark was only four hundred and fifty feet long and had only three decks, scarcely more than a third as large as the Leviathan for instance, yet Noah got a pair of every known species of animal aboard of it. He had 4900 animals, 10,087 birds, 2,240 reptiles and over 100,000 insects. If he had forgotten to take the "cooties" aboard the Ark the soldiers might have had a pleasanter time in the trenches and Noah's achievement been all the more wonderful.

Democratic Watchman

STATE RIGHTS AND FEDERAL UNION.

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Permanent Peace in Sight.

The formal invitation issued by the Council of Four, to the German delegates to the Peace Conference to attend the meeting one week from today, April 25th, indicates that the work of the Conference is substantially finished. An herculean task has been completed in a marvelously brief period of time. No other peace conference in the history of the world had such burdens to bear. No other peace conference in the history of civilization has had so many and such perplexing problems to solve. But every question has been met and disposed of in a manner that justifies the hope that the world is entering upon an era of perpetual peace and enduring happiness and prosperity. Germany will no doubt complain that the terms imposed are hard and may sign under protest. But as a matter of fact the terms are not severe. The war was an unprovoked attack upon humanity. It was conceived in iniquity and brought forth in sin. On the part of Germany it was a speculative operation from which vast profits were expected. It was conducted in a cruel and barbarous manner. It cost vastly more than the indemnities imposed and Germany will sign because there is no alternative. And there will be no danger of subsequent reprisals. Less severe terms might have encouraged the Hun to future enterprises in the same direction, but the conditions imposed will teach a lesson that will last. Every American heart, rightly attuned, will thrill with pride at the part taken by the representatives of the United States in this magnificent achievement. The protocol which will be signed by Germany on or about the 25th of April is practically the product of the brain and heart of Woodrow Wilson, President of the United States. There have been suggestions by others and from the beginning his mind was held open for ideas from other sources and every thought expressed was carefully considered. But the completed text is the expression of his great thoughts and has been unanimously accepted by the leading minds of the world notwithstanding the perfidious nagging of traitors at home. -The Rev. Russell Conwell, of Philadelphia, appears to be "seeing things." Because somebody asked him to recommend the Victory loan from his pulpit he imagines that somebody is trying to mix church and State. Let him compose his perturbed spirits. He has been diluting his religion with machine politics so frequently and so long that he has contracted mental strabismus.

Philadelphia Bosses Agree.

For the time being the seat of the Legislature of Pennsylvania has been removed from Harrisburg to Philadelphia. There is no authority in law for this flitting and for that matter it is without precedent. It may, therefore, properly be tagged as the illegitimate child of necessity. The contending factions of a predatory organization found it necessary to consider their differences secretly and with the consent of Senator Penrose and the Vares the General Assembly of the State submerged itself for a period in order that the principal conspirators might map out a plan by which each would get a share of the spoils without exposing the other to just public condemnation. We referred last week to the convenient illness and consequent absence of the Governor at the time the battle royal between the factions was expected to occupy the stage. Both elements in the Philadelphia fight expected help from the executive office and the disappearance of the Governor left the contending leaders in doubt. Uncertainty is the father and mother of compromise and the Legislature was recessed in order that the differences between the factions might be compromised without exposure of the sordidness of either. During the week since the adjournment the processes of adjustment have been actively in operation. By next Monday evening the result of the sinister labor will be shown. It is semi-officially announced that Senator Penrose will be in Harrisburg next week to manage the campaign of reformers in the Legislature for Philadelphia. No doubt this promise will be fulfilled and it may be expected that Senator Vares will pretend to fight vigorously against the infringement upon his prerogatives as the boss of the city. But it will be a framed up fight. It will be a false pretense for it will result in the perpetuation of the Vares rule in the city and the abdication of the Vares claim of leadership in the State. Thus both bosses will get what they are after and the people of the city and State will suffer in common. -President Wilson is not a bluffer but he insists on a show down when the hand is called.

Penrose Presents a Program.

In a speech which has been pronounced the keynote of the Republican party in the coming Presidential campaign, Senator Penrose hands an enticing future for the voters of Pennsylvania. He tells the public that the first obligation of the Republican Congress is to restore the railroads to private ownership and the second to re-enact tariff legislation which will give manufacturers a monopoly in the markets. It is easy to see what will happen to the railroad employees when the first obligation is fulfilled and to the ultimate consumer when the second blow falls. Decreased wages are bad enough but when to that evil is added an increase in expenses, heaven help the poor devil with a family. Senator Penrose has always been averse to government control of prices and promises a withdrawal from that practice as a third reason for the restoration of the Republican party to power. When the Sugar trust had completed a corner on sugar a couple of years ago our senior Senator vehemently protested against the Hoover order limiting the price to a level that left the product within the reach of fairly well paid working men. He wanted prices to be determined by the law of supply and demand and as the supply was limited to one source, the demand could go high and pay whatever was exacted for an absolute necessity. This would have made it possible for the Sugar trust to contribute millions to the Republican campaign fund at the expense of a few hundred thousand lives. The Republican majority in the next Congress cost the stock brokers and the officials of the railroads millions of dollars but if the Penrose program is carried out it will be a more profitable investment than Get-Rich-Quick Wallingford ever dreamed about, to those concerned in it. Every railroad in the country with the probable exception of two will be headed toward receivership within a year and the trainmen and others who have been enjoying liberal recompense for a couple of years will be back to the old wage scales. This is precisely what the Republican leaders want. A starving workman has little heart for a fight and workmen are to be starved into agreement with the Penrose program. -Moreover this is no time for France to "get gay." The American army saved its bacon at the critical moment and the withdrawal of that influence from the councils would invite new and vast dangers.

Feasting of Doubtful Sort.

In Washington, the other day, according to news dispatches, a dinner was given by former Congressman Brodbeck, of York county, the ostensible purpose being to devise means to increase the Democratic representation for Pennsylvania in the next Congress. Those present and participating were A. Mitchell Palmer, Attorney General; W. B. Wilson, Secretary of the Department of Labor; James I. Blakeslee, Fourth Assistant Postmaster General, and one or two other office holders besides Mr. Brodbeck himself. It may be assumed, therefore, that the real purpose of the feast was to reorganize the Mutual Admiration society which has been wrecking the Democratic party for the past several years. The Democratic party of Pennsylvania certainly needs some revivification. It has fallen from one low level to another until there is hardly enough left to make a shadow. By means of trading in patronage and making bad bargains in the traffic by these party hucksters one after another of the dependable Democratic leaders of a former and better period have been driven into retirement, utterly disgusted with the selfishness of the office holding coterie in control. But dinner parties in Washington are not the medium of accomplishing the desired change. What is needed is an open forum in which to discuss the men and measures required to resuscitate and reorganize the party. Last year Mr. Palmer and those associated with him in the trading in party patronage made every possible effort to defeat two of the Democratic candidates for Congress and by his perfidious treatment of the party candidate for Governor sacrificed two or three other candidates for Congress, including Mr. Brodbeck, their host on the occasion in question. Representative Dewalt, of Lehigh county, and Representative Steele, of Northampton county, are and have been the victims of his malice and whatever the others at the Brodbeck feast had in mind A. Mitchell Palmer was probably planning to defeat their reelection. In any event Democratic candidates in Pennsylvania are not to be chosen in Washington. -Will somebody kindly tell Senator Lodge, of Massachusetts, that his round robin has lost its nest.

Very Nearly in Accord.

Speaking of a joint debate recently held in Philadelphia between George Wharton Pepper, of that city, and United States Senator Hitchcock, of Omaha, upon the question of the League of Nations, the esteemed Philadelphia Record says it wasn't very much of a debate for the reason that "the two combatants are very nearly in accord." In other words though Mr. Pepper has been airing his partisan bigotry very freely in a pretended opposition to the great work of the Peace Conference in Paris when brought to the test of presenting reasons against it he signally failed and was only able to suggest a few technical objections which were actually puerile. A few of the very narrow partisan Republicans have set up an objection to the covenant of the League of Nations, not because it is faulty, but for the reason that President Wilson had a major part in the work of constructing it. President Wilson is a "bogie" to that class of Republicans. They know he is invincibly fixed in the confidence and affections of the American people and feel that he must be destroyed in order to create even the shadow of a chance for the restoration of the Republican party in power. But they can't harm him by personal attacks. Their only hope is in confusing the public mind by an absurd opposition to the League of Nations and insinuating faults for which he is responsible. When on the platform with an antagonist who was able to present the truth concerning the subject under consideration Mr. Pepper declared that he is not opposed to a League of Nations and that he has no objections to the material features of the League of Nations under consideration. But in common with Lodge and other irreconcilables he desired to hector the President. He imagined that he could turn the tide of public sentiment against the man responsible for the covenant by loosely and vaguely criticising the instrument. But he was disappointed in his expectations. Confronted with the facts he was obliged to admit that the League of Nations is not only right but expedient. -Germany will have to pay a vast amount of indemnity but notwithstanding the fact that she has been exasperated if her hopes had been realized.

The League of Nations.

Why is it that the matchless cathedrals of France, built hundreds of years ago, still stand to receive the hushed and wondering Yankee pilgrims, shaming by their strength and stately beauty the weaker and more tawdry structures of our own day and generation? Is it because the care and toil and love, not of a few years but of centuries, went into their building? The men who laid the first stones of the shell-torn marvel at Rheims, the hilltop cathedral at Bourges, the imperishable Notre Dame at Paris did not live to see those temples completed, knew that it would never be their lot to see them completed. Preposterously idealistic and impracticable, they worked with their eyes on the future. Their work was good because it was not done for themselves. They built for the Lord. Now, before the peoples of the world, are laid the architects' plans for a great mansion, and soon work will begin on the foundations. If, indifferent to the needs of future generations, the builders plan it only for the convenience and short-sighted comfort of their own immediate occupancy, that mansion will not be good to look upon, nor will it withstand the tempests of the waiting centuries. But it will be standing, beautiful, strong, spacious, a thousand years from now, if those who lay its foundations today build it for the Lord - for posterity. -Soldiers' Organization. From the Springfield Republican. What threatens to become a national pest is the formation of numberless organizations for veterans of the world war, many of them little more than organized raids on the national Treasury launched by self-seeking demagogues who would thus capitalize the sentiment for the old soldier which the country as a whole must naturally and properly feel. Political pressure on Congress to do something for the veterans would be their permanent plan of operations. The sooner a veterans' organization of comprehensive scope and under responsible, conservative leadership can be started the better for the country. -Once There They Will Stay. From the Philadelphia Record. Germany would rather have the Polish army sent to Poland by rail than by water, because it is afraid that the Polish troops once get in to Danzig they will never get out. Germany would be perfectly safe in taking the word of the Allies, but if the Germans are sincere in asking for the peace conditions once named by the President they must not forget that the President stipulated for a Poland embracing all the Polish populations and enjoying a seaport. -Subscribe for the "Watchman."

Republican Issues for 1920.

According to the Press' account of the dinner given in honor of Senators Penrose and Watson, at the Manufacturers' Club on Friday evening, when the participants "were typical of the manufacturing interests of the State," the platform for the Presidential campaign for 1920 was mapped out and the "principles of Republican endeavor" laid down by such high priests of progressive thought as Joseph R. Grundy. First, of course, will come a ringing demand for a high protective tariff, followed by the usual political claptrap from the opposition about the waste and inefficiency of the party in power. Then come these four planks: Denunciation of Government ownership. Return of public utilities to private management. Release of all governmental restriction on business. Retrenchment and economy in national administration. These are essentially Democratic doctrines, and there can be no objection to the G. O. P. taking them up if it wishes to. Of course the Democrats will take the same ground, and it is, therefore, impossible to see how any stirring appeal to the voters can be made on such undisputed points. The Washington Administration, as everybody knows, took over the operation of the railroads and other public utilities purely as war measures, just as Lincoln did in his day, when he also suspended the writ of habeas corpus and took other arbitrary steps in the interest of the national welfare. As soon as it is feasible these utilities will be returned to their owners. In view of the historic traditions of the Democratic party ever since the foundation of the government, the Republicans will find it impossible to fix upon it any serious deviation from its long-cherished principles. The great duty of President Wilson in 1917 and 1918 was to win the war as rapidly as possible. That required vigorous action and it was taken unhesitatingly, even though it required a radical but temporary departure from party principles. The Republicans did exactly the same thing in 1861-65. It will be noticed that the Republican platform contains no reference to the League of Nations. To be sure, Senator "Jim" Watson avowed his undying opposition to that institution; but then no one takes him seriously. The G. O. P. will doubtless find it wise to give its cordial approval to the peace treaty, including the League, when the proper time comes.

The League of Nations.

From the A. E. F. Stars and Stripes. Why is it that the matchless cathedrals of France, built hundreds of years ago, still stand to receive the hushed and wondering Yankee pilgrims, shaming by their strength and stately beauty the weaker and more tawdry structures of our own day and generation? Is it because the care and toil and love, not of a few years but of centuries, went into their building? The men who laid the first stones of the shell-torn marvel at Rheims, the hilltop cathedral at Bourges, the imperishable Notre Dame at Paris did not live to see those temples completed, knew that it would never be their lot to see them completed. Preposterously idealistic and impracticable, they worked with their eyes on the future. Their work was good because it was not done for themselves. They built for the Lord. Now, before the peoples of the world, are laid the architects' plans for a great mansion, and soon work will begin on the foundations. If, indifferent to the needs of future generations, the builders plan it only for the convenience and short-sighted comfort of their own immediate occupancy, that mansion will not be good to look upon, nor will it withstand the tempests of the waiting centuries. But it will be standing, beautiful, strong, spacious, a thousand years from now, if those who lay its foundations today build it for the Lord - for posterity. -Soldiers' Organization. From the Springfield Republican. What threatens to become a national pest is the formation of numberless organizations for veterans of the world war, many of them little more than organized raids on the national Treasury launched by self-seeking demagogues who would thus capitalize the sentiment for the old soldier which the country as a whole must naturally and properly feel. Political pressure on Congress to do something for the veterans would be their permanent plan of operations. The sooner a veterans' organization of comprehensive scope and under responsible, conservative leadership can be started the better for the country. -Once There They Will Stay. From the Philadelphia Record. Germany would rather have the Polish army sent to Poland by rail than by water, because it is afraid that the Polish troops once get in to Danzig they will never get out. Germany would be perfectly safe in taking the word of the Allies, but if the Germans are sincere in asking for the peace conditions once named by the President they must not forget that the President stipulated for a Poland embracing all the Polish populations and enjoying a seaport. -Subscribe for the "Watchman."

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

-The body of Silvanus Haldeman, the fireman of the Reading train which was wrecked last Thursday near Locustdale, on the Shamokin division, was found on Saturday underneath a pile of soft coal along the tracks. -The Mennonites of the Weverland district recently sent to the Millersville children's home, three truckloads of cabbages, etc., and \$113.41 in cash. Among the goods were 4500 jars of fruit, 300 pounds of flour, 200 pounds of soap, 200 pounds of beans, and jellies, applebutter, pudding, meat and potatoes galore. -John Yeanish, who has lived at Columbia since he was 10 years old, observed his 90th birthday last week. In spite of breaking a leg at the age of 95, he has fully recovered and seems none the worse or weaker. He reads without glasses and likes to talk about his war experience while for three years a Union soldier. -Walter A. Godcharles, of Milton, has been awarded the contract for the construction of a concrete and asphalt road, eighteen feet wide and 20,366 feet in length, between the Milton borough line and a point beyond East Lewisburg. His figure is \$129,900.34 and was the lowest offered by a score of bidders. Work will start about May 1st. -While pruning grapes at Elizabethtown H. B. Reem found several bunches of grapes on the vines that had been tied in bags last summer. They were almost perfect and were a great treat to those who were given a taste. This is an unusual occurrence, and was due perhaps to the extreme mild winter, which kept them in an excellent state of preservation. -Justice of the Peace, C. Irwin Lewis, of Hollidaysburg, is one of Don Cupid's best officers, as he has married a large number of couples. Since taking the office on December 16th, 1915, when he succeeded the late Thomas J. Hemphill, he has performed the marriage ceremony 335 times. His first wedding was performed on December 16th, 1915, the day he took the office. -After writing a letter directing that his daughter should have all his property and enclosing a signed check with instructions that she fill in the amount and draw his money from the bank for her own use, William R. Camp, aged 32, a former farm worker of Lycoming county, died, dying before relatives, attracted by the shot, could reach him. The suicide occurred at the home of his daughter, Mrs. S. Botsford, at Halls Station, Sunday afternoon. -The "Last Man's Association," composed of the survivors of the Clemens City band, of Lancaster, who answered the call of President Lincoln in April, 1861, will hold their annual reunion this year, April 19th, in Harrisburg, instead of Lancaster, as has been the custom since organizing eight years ago. The celebration will mark the fifty-eighth anniversary of that enlistment. One of the four original members still living is Alderman George G. Myer, of Cokesbury. -While Mr. and Mrs. Bert Frost, of Bodine, were driving down the Lycoming Creek state road at four o'clock Saturday morning on their way to attend the curb market in Williamsport, they saw a panther leap into the road at a point near the village of Trout Run. Having no desire to stage an encounter with the animal, Frost sped up his Ford and soon was hitting the high spots at a rate of speed which even the leaps of the panther could not equal and thereby made a getaway. -Michael Kapellus, of East Mauch Chunk, where he had repeatedly gotten into trouble, was sentenced to pay \$25 fine and serve two years in the state penitentiary on the charge of assault and battery with intent to kill. The sentence of imprisonment was suspended pending good behavior. Mr. Kapellus is also to stay out of East Mauch Chunk unless at such times when he desires to visit the grave of his father, and at such times has to notify county detective Daniel Thomas, who is to conduct him to the grave and out of the town again. -A man who gives his name as George Brennan is an inmate of the Tioga county jail following a sensational chase after robbers who broke into the store of M. J. Smith, at Keeneyville, and lugged off their loot in suit cases. When Smith discovered the robbery a posse was formed and the county authorities notified. In the course of several hours two men carrying suit cases were overtaken, when they dropped the suit cases and ran. Brennan was captured, but the other man got away. Nearly all of the stolen merchandise was recovered from the suit cases. -Several families of foreign nationality in the Beaver and Ohio valleys, have actually mortgaged their homes for money with which to purchase liquor in anticipation of the long dry period to begin next July. Many cellars have been packed with the stuff, load after load having been delivered of all sorts of booze. Individual houses, beer and whiskey, it appears, have found readiest sales. Severely wags mysteriously loaded, it is said have been seen pulling up in the back yard of several fine homes of Americans and unloading strange looking packages into cellars, the explanation being that the packages are fruit jars. -The first plan to harness the waters of the Susquehanna river above Harrisburg has been projected by a party of Snyder county men. The place they have selected for their hydro-electric dam is at McKees Half Falls, fourteen miles south of Sunbury. At that point is a natural fall or dam of rocks, from which the town derives its name. It is proposed to harness these falls for the purpose of furnishing light and power to Sellersgrove, McKees Half Falls, Port Trevorton and adjacent vicinity. The promoters are: E. C. Williams, F. A. Bingman, Harry W. Boyer, T. M. VanZant, George C. Wagenseller and Frank S. Wagenseller. -Caught with sixty-five trout in each man's possession, Clyde Wilsoncroft and Roy Reynolds, of Dry's Run, both married, were taken into custody by state police last Friday for illegal fishing. They caught the fish at the headwaters of Two-Mile run. Being unable to pay a fine of ten dollars for each trout or \$650 apiece the men were sent to the Clinton county jail at Lock Haven to serve one day for each dollar of the fine, or nearly two years' imprisonment. Apprehended while fishing with nets in White Deer creek, Ambrose Wallner and Charles Nesbit, both of Milton, were arrested Wednesday night by game wardens Smith, of Lycoming county, and Madsenford, of Northumberland county, and have been fined \$53, lost their fishing rights and have surrendered their motorboats and nets. The men visited the creek with a boat and set nine nets, which held a quantity of food fish when found.