

INK SLINGS.

Joy be, Bellefonte has a brass band again. Take all the Victory bonds you want. It's the last time 'round. We are wondering as to why no report has been forthcoming as yet to the killing of the Delaware peach crop. The Pennsylvania Legislature is beginning to make noises like a body that intends to give the women suffrage.

Centre county must not fall down on the last bond issue. Her record thus far is one to be proud of and it must be kept unsullied.

Nearly every man in Bellefonte who hasn't anything else to do goes fishing and a lot of us go fishing when we ought to be doing something else.

It is a fine "Welcome Home" banner that the county and the borough have hung to the breeze in Bellefonte. Let us make the actual welcome just as pretentious.

Centre county is not going to make an unseemly clamor for war trophies. The ones she will cherish most are her brave boys who have been spared to return.

Memorial day is approaching and we hope the war has consecrated it in the minds and hearts of later generations so that it will be more reverently observed than it has been for years.

President Wilson might lead the George Washington to Premier Orlando if he wants to leave Paris in a hurry. She is at Brest, with steam up, and all rigged for just such an emergency.

We can't get back to normal until we get our war debts paid. The more Victory bonds we buy the sooner it will all be over and we can settle down to doing undisturbed business again.

The Kaiser persists in his previous statement that he didn't want the war. All he wanted was control of the whole world and if that had been conceded the war might have been averted.

A bit of Bolshevism won't hurt Turkey. The red hand of the Ottoman empire has caused such sorrow in Armenia and Syria in years gone by that its bloody grip on its own throat might prove a very salutary lesson.

Respect the laws of the land and you will take a long step toward making American soil barren for the seed of Bolshevism. It is what one fellow does, and gets away with, while the other fellow has to suffer that makes for unrest.

Pay your part of the cost of your war by buying Victory bonds. It is an easy way to pay a debt, because you will get 4 1/2 per cent. interest on all the money you pay and the money, itself, back in a few years. You can't pay any other debt that way.

The German government's representatives have been invited to go to Versailles to hear the peace terms read on April 28th. They will be given until May 15th to consider and sign and no time in which to put the question of signing to a vote of the German people will be given.

A girl packer at the Pennsylvania Match factory put a love missile into one of the boxes she recently packed. Yesterday a stranger arrived here to see if it was a regular matrimonial match factory, but he was doomed to disappointment for the match he thought he had wouldn't strike.

It is fine to plan a great welcome home for our soldier boys, but what if they should ask us about what we did on the Victory loan. They won't have much faith in the genuineness of a welcome that isn't backed up by service to the country and service to the country means buying its Victory bonds. Have you bought any?

Giff. Pinchot is out to make General Leonard Wood the Republican nominee for President. Giff. doesn't always accomplish what he sets his head to do, but he usually stirs up no end of trouble in his party. And it might also be added that Gen. Wood's chances are not improved by the service which has launched his boom.

President Wilson's statement to the world concerning the Italian claims in the Peace Conference may not convince our Italian allies that they are asking for more than it is possible to grant them, but it will convince all others of the righteous and open attitude he has taken on behalf of our own country. We want nothing but peace and we can scarcely be called upon to let the cupidity of another nation stand in the way of securing that.

Italy is kicking up a fuss in the Peace Conference. She wants Fiume and her delegates threaten to leave Paris if her demands are not satisfied. While the world knows very little of the merits of any of the claims it is quite apparent that many of them must be prejudicial to permanent peace, else our own delegates, for instance, who have no axes to grind themselves would be disposed to favorable action on all of them. Italy's part in the war was wonderful, but then it was only part and she should give and take with all the other nations in interest in order to bring about a permanent settlement of the questions at issue. And it is only reasonable to suppose that the judgment as to Fiume of the three other members of the Big Four should be predicated on sounder premises than her own.

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Disgrace of American Politics.

That "a prophet is not without honor, save in his own country," we have the inspired word of St. Matthew. The news which comes from the seat of the Peace Conference informs us that one day the Armenians appeal to President Wilson, another day the Servians ask for his good offices and so on up and down the line. The statesmen of all Europe, Asia and Africa pay deference to his wisdom and implore his friendship. In England, France and Italy he has been lauded for his unselfish devotion to the cause of humanity and wherever he has gone abroad he has been acclaimed a capable and conscientious helper of mankind. No man has exercised as great an influence in the work of readjusting the world.

But we find no such feeling in this country if the voice of the Republican politicians is to be accepted as an expression of public sentiment. They picture him as a monster of selfish ambitions and sinister purposes. Chairman Hays, of the Republican National committee, has even gone so far as to try to prostitute the Chattanooga platform to the service of his traducers. These agencies of morality and promoters of religious life have hitherto escaped the taint of politics. But the Republican managers are ready to pervert any medium within reach to their evil purposes. They hope to recover control of the government so that they may resume the looting operations of previous years.

President Wilson has given the best of his useful life to the service of the country and is now striving to extend the beneficence of civil and religious liberty to the whole world. Every decent and just man and woman in the wide world will help rather than hinder him in this great purpose. But the Republican politicians of the country have invoked every expedient fair and unfair to prevent the consummation of the Saviour's hope "on earth peace, good will to men." Chairman Hays would prostitute the citadels of christianity in order to make a renewal of his commission to plunder the resources and loot the treasuries of the country. He is the disgrace of American politics.

Former Lieutenant Governor Frank B. McClain blames the National Railroad administration for the seniority rule. The seniority rule is a concession to the Brotherhoods. But Mr. McClain knows about as much on that subject as on any other.

Slow Progress of Legislation.

The bill for the reorganization of the Department of Agriculture seems to have gone to sleep in the House of Representatives. It was read in place in the Senate on March 17th and passed finally in that chamber on the 31st of that month. It made fair progress in the House until it reached the final passage calendar where it reposes for one reason or another. It is said that the present State Board of Agriculture demands a hearing and that the hold-up is to give that organization an opportunity to muster its forces and present its objections. But the members of the board appear to be in no hurry to move. They probably imagine that delay is a wise action.

The Agricultural Department certainly needs some sort of stirring up. It costs a good deal for maintenance and gives the public little return for the money. It may be only just to say that the members of the board are less to blame for this state of affairs than the system. But that is only an added reason why the reorganization measure should be pushed along. The plan is at least promising and though it is certain to augment the cost of the service it is equally sure to increase the efficiency. The objection to the present system is not so much on account of the expense as because of its worthlessness. Poor service is expensive at any price.

The present bill will make the Secretary of Agriculture a responsible executive with power to do good if so inclined, as well as a person upon whom to lay the blame if he is not disposed to do good. He will have plenty of opportunity to promote the interests of agriculture and few to shift responsibilities for failure. This is precisely what is needed in the Department and because it will fill a long felt want its progress in the Legislature ought to be expedited rather than retarded. It provides a good many bureaus and bureaus are abominations, but they are preferable to commissions that do nothing and dodge the consequences of their neglect.

In defense of a Chicago burglar it was asserted that he was a good man who neither drank, smoked nor chewed tobacco. In view of these facts he ought to have been able to "burgle" without being caught.

An esteemed contemporary imagines that the increase of the telephone rates was an April fool joke. But those who pay the bills are of another opinion.

General Wood for Faction Favor.

It is practically certain that General Leonard Wood will be the Roosevelt candidate for the Republican nomination for President next year. There are others willing and some of them even anxious to fill that role in the inevitable factional fight but Gifford Pinchot has declared for the General and it would be something like treason to Roosevelt's memory to favor any other than the choice of Pinchot, who is the self-appointed if not the legal executor of the Roosevelt political estate. General Wood has shown no qualifications for the office so far as the public is able to discover. But he hates President Wilson with a stronger hatred than most others and that is enough.

Senator Borah, Hungry Hi. Johnson and Senator Lenroot have been mentioned prominently among the irreconcilables as eligible for the purpose of laying Senator Penrose on the shelf but Pinchot thinks that they are too new in the game and too uncertain as to the future. There would be no great gain, the original Forester reasons, in defeating the stalwarts in the convention if they are likely to be in control afterward, and Wood is the only certain proposition to prevent that result. Therefore the Roosevelt influence will be concentrated behind the General in the campaign for the mastery of the machine and the signal to mobilize has been given by the faithful Gifford.

Besides there are a good many people who imagine that General Wood is some sort of a martyr to his devotion to Roosevelt. For some time previous to our declaration of war against Germany General Wood availed himself of every opportunity to echo Colonel Roosevelt's denunciations of the administration and when the duty devolved upon the President of selecting a commander of the American forces abroad he named General Pershing instead of Wood who was then the ranking officer. He had for this selection the precedent established by Roosevelt in promoting Wood over many more experienced and quite as capable officers and the result was quite as satisfactory to the country.

Nevertheless Wood imagines it made him a martyr.

There are two things in relation to the Peace treaty that may be depended upon absolutely. One is that Germany will sign and the other that the United States will ratify.

Lloyd George Tells the Truth.

In a speech in the British House of Commons, the other day, Lloyd George expressed his opinion of those who are trying to defeat the purposes of the Peace Conference of Versailles in no unmisgiving terms. He probably had in mind some of the malicious quibblers in his own country where there are a few men and some newspapers who care more for personal than patriotic interests. But his denunciation applies with equal force to and fits quite as well the greater number of traitors in this country. The work of the conference is difficult enough at best and would involve vast labor even if all concerned were willing to help rather than hinder its progress. But the quibblers add greatly to the burdens.

After describing it as a disease the British Premier added: "When this kind of disease is carried to the point of sowing dissension between great allies whose unity is essential to the peace of the world; when an attempt is made to make France distrust Great Britain, France to hate America and America to dislike France and Italy, not even that kind of a disease is justification for so black a crime against humanity." That is precisely the right name for it. And the Republican leaders in Congress and out and a considerable number of the Republican newspapers of this country have been perpetrating this black crime ever since the Peace Conference assembled in France to rescue the world from barbarism.

These criminal conspirators have not succeeded thus far in developing discord of a dangerous character in the conference but they have tried hard to do so. They had almost induced France to dissent from the views of Great Britain and the United States and they are now encouraging Italy to make demands impossible of fulfillment. Italy performed a great part in the war. She might have thrown her vast influence and force to Germany and thereby reversed the result of the conflict. Because she pursued the other and the right course entitles her to the highest consideration. But the conference cannot reward her at the expense of other deserving units in the war. It is impossible.

An authority on food prices announces that the five cent loaf of bread will never return. Neither will the high protective tariff.

A good business in rubber-necks might be built up in Bellefonte if we remain on the aerial mail route.

A Tempest in a Teapot.

The news from Harrisburg increases in public interest. For more than three months the session of the Legislature has been listlessly dragging along. But with the opening of this week the real boss, Senator Penrose, put in an appearance and as one of the capable correspondents states, "injected pep and dash" into the proceedings. He is determined to force the Philadelphia reform bills through the Senate, the story goes, after which it may be inferred, negotiations will be in order. That is to say the measures will be held in the House committee on Municipal Corporations "until amendments are added and certain provisions eliminated." In other words until Penrose and Vare come to an agreement.

The Governor is still absent, conveniently, and both sides are confidently claiming his support. Senator Vare openly declares that the Governor takes his view of the situation and significantly adds "any program that suits the Governor will suit me. We are for the Governor and anything he desires from the General Assembly." Upon hearing this alluring offer of servility as coming from Senator Penrose remarked "the Governor and I are in entire accord on the proposition of legislation for Philadelphia." Thus these cunning political wire pullers have laid a substantial foundation upon which to place machinery that will divide the spoils in equal shares and deliver it promptly.

The Governor's part in this party play is also revealed by the correspondent already quoted, who writes that "Governor Sprull will not stand for any legislation which would exterminate one faction and work to the advantage of the other." Certainly not. A state leader "close to the Chief Executive" confided to the correspondent "that the good of the party will be the Governor's first consideration," and added, "there must be a show down of strength and this show down will be made before the Governor and not on the floor of the Senate and the House." The interests of the public are of no consequence to either of these party leaders. The preservation of the party machine is paramount.

There are a good many people outside of Massachusetts who believe that Postmaster General Burleson "is wrecking the Democratic party."

Local druggists are very antagonistic to the passage of Senate bill No. 732, introduced by a Senator from Pittsburgh, restraining druggists from selling certain drugs only on a doctor's prescription. Included in the list of drugs mentioned are aspirin tablets, and if the bill passes any individual who wants to purchase ten cent's worth of tablets would be obliged to pay fifty cents for a physician's prescription in order to get them. This is what the Pittsburgh lawmaker considers safeguarding the public. But his bill is not any more assinine than the one introduced by a Representative from one of the northeastern counties who wants a law passed forbidding the use of wood alcohol as a face lotion or the application of any kind of lotion, cosmetics or powder on the face or skin. Freak bills both of them, but just the same they are liable to slip through and become laws simply because the houses have not sufficient interest in them to oppose them. Without doubt there are some good men in the legislative halls at Harrisburg, but the other hand there are some monumental asses and from the kind of legislation enacted at every session there is no question but that the asses are working over time.

The two airmen who flew from New York to Bellefonte on Tuesday afternoon lost their bearing enroute and after flying over Harrisburg kept almost due west to Altoona reaching that city shortly after five o'clock. After they circled over the city once or twice they evidently got their bearings and flew almost in a direct line to Bellefonte and found the aviation field without any trouble. But the people of Altoona were very much mystified over the appearance of the flyers above their city. In fact the newspapers were very much wrought up over the matter and appealed to the Associated Press for information in regard to the birdmen, but that splendid news-gathering association was unable to enlighten them. In the meantime the two aeronauts had arrived in Bellefonte, disposed of their machines and gone to a hotel for their supper and the night, wholly unconscious of the fact that they had created such excitement in other towns in Pennsylvania. For the information of our newspaper friends and others in surrounding towns we might add that in the future when you see an airplane you will be pretty safe in guessing that it is either on its way to or from Bellefonte.

President Wilson hasn't had as many vacations as some of his recent predecessors in office but he has done more good.

At the Peace Conference.

Since April 25 has officially been set as the day on which the German delegates will be received at Versailles and given the terms of the peace treaty there can be no doubt that the conference has reached a final decision. A formal declaration of peace may therefore be expected in the near future unless the enemy rejects the terms that are offered him.

Speculation on this point is rather limited by the lack of detailed information as to the terms of peace. It is known that the Germans are anxious for speedy peace that will raise the remaining economic barriers and permit the industrial rehabilitation of the nation. On the other hand, German spokesmen have been outspoken in their warnings that a burdensome peace will not be ratified by the people, who insist upon a treaty based on the fourteen points and who will overturn a government that accepts less favorable terms.

But neither the German nor the Allied peoples are to hear the terms prior to the meeting on April 25 at Versailles. The Peace Conference has done its best to keep those terms secret, believing that preliminary discussion of them would only increase the difficulty of an agreement. Yet certain details have leaked out. The reparations plan, for example, is known with great particularity.

As to the terms of the territorial settlement there are only vague opinions. In the west, Germany is to be disarmed on the Rhine and at Kiel and Helgoland. She is to be required to maintain a disarmed zone on the right bank of the Rhine. There is some question as to her possession of the Saar Valley. Some reports have it that the French will get rights in the Saar coal fields until the Lens fields have been restored to full operating efficiency. Other reports add that after a certain number of years a plebiscite will be held to determine whether the Saar shall be French or German.

In the east, the frontier problem has been decided neither in Germany's favor nor Poland's. Danzig is to be internationalized together with the "corridor" that leads to it. In this way it is hoped to satisfy both claimants.

In deciding the Dalmatian coast controversy between Italy and Jugoslavia it seems likely that the Peace Conference will resort to the same policy of compromise. To internationalize Fiume would wholly satisfy neither claimant to the Adriatic port, yet it would prevent the bitterness which its award to either would create. Having disposed of the German treaty it is expected that the Peace Conference will now address itself to the Italian and Austrian questions.

As to Russia it is reported that the French objections to a neutral relief commission for selling food to the Russians have been withdrawn. If this is the case, an early truce on the Bolshevik fighting fronts may be expected and the withdrawal of Allied American forces from Russia. There is, however, no intention of recognizing the Lenine government. On the contrary, the latest rumors—supported by a paragraph of Lloyd George's recent speech—are to the effect that the Kolchak government at Omsk in Siberia is to be recognized as the de facto government of Russia. Such a course seems inconsistent, however, with the plan of a truce with the Bolshevik forces.

Disorders in Turkey have caused the Peace Conference great concern and anxiety and has been expressed concerning the attitude of Japan who, disgruntled by the failure of the "racial equality" amendment to the League of Nations covenant, seems determined to hold out for dominant rights in the Far East.

Germany's New Poet.

From the Cincinnati Times-Star. It was in August, 1914, that the Hun put a copy of Nietzsche in his pocket and set forth to conquer the world. He believed that he was "super-man," appointed by Jehovah or Wotan or what other god was at hand, to let the blood of the world and give it a Teutonic renaissance. "It is not surprising," says Nietzsche, "that the lambs should bear a grudge against the great birds of prey, but that is no reason for blaming the great birds of prey for taking the little lambs." With this inspiration, the German eagle flew low and struck hard.

They are not reading Nietzsche in Germany now. The German eagle is back, with a broken beak, two lame wings and clipped talons. The lambs did not play fair. They hit back. The superman theory is absolutely discredited. The young Hun has turned from such material things as war and indemnities, and now is reading a poet named Stephen George, a product of the war. Herr George is said to be a cross between our own Longfellow and Whitman. He teaches the soul to rise, not as a bird of prey, but as an innocent little thing, and to sail the empyrean, far from mundane things.

All right. It is an accomplishment to make the bloodthirsty throw away their copies of Nietzsche and to buy a million copies, as reported, of a cross between Longfellow and Whitman before the war. Had the Hun, there would have been no war. But Young Germany should not let Herr George take him too far up there in the "intense inane," as Shelley called it. There is work down here for him to do, a little bill to pay.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE

Plans for a modern ten-room brick structure, to replace the Mill Hill High school building, which was destroyed some weeks ago, have been prepared and submitted to the proper State officials for approval. The estimated cost of the building is \$32,000.

A fire supposed to have been caused by candles used at the Easter vesper service burned to the ground St. Joseph's Catholic church in Bellwood Sunday night. The loss is about \$40,000. The pastor, Rev. Father Hourdy, is a chaplain now with the American army in France.

Mrs. Henry Kratzer, of Lewisburg, mother of Bright Kratzer, a member of the Trench Mortar Battery, who was killed in service, lapsed into unconsciousness when she received definite information that her other son, William, also of the battery, would reach home within a few hours, and died without being able to greet him.

A State Highway Department bulletin says that C. C. Young, a member of the Jersey Shore borough council, has filed with the department an objection to the use of the old canal as a route for the new state highway from a point near Larry's Creek to the borough. The department has informed Mr. Young that it will select the most feasible location. It has already been announced that the road will follow the canal route.

A masked man entered the bedroom of Sarah Palestine, nineteen years of age of Ambler, Pa., forced her to cut off enough of her hair to serve as a gag and then, after he had gagged and bound her to a chair, cut off the remainder of her thick, black tresses. After robbing the young woman of her hair, he heard noises and climbed through a second-story window. In his descent to the ground the man lost the parcel containing the hair.

Mrs. Howard M. Oakman, a prominent society woman, was burned to death at Forty Fort, Pa., trying to save a newly hatched chick. A maid informed her that a small incubator was on fire. Mrs. Oakman rushed in her night clothes to the rear porch of her home and saw a little chick in danger of being burned. As she lifted the lid of the machine the flames ignited her garment. Her clothes were burned from her body and she died in a short time.

The seventy-third annual commencement of St. Francis' College, Loretto, will be held this spring in Altoona, when one of the largest classes in the history of the institution will be graduated. A feature of the exercises will be an address by Dr. James J. Walsh, of New York. The exercises were held in Johnstown during the past two years, but the college has accepted the offer of the Altoona Knights of Columbus to arrange for this year's commencement.

Erasmus Wilson, dean of Pittsburgh newspaper men, will be the chief guest of honor at the thirty-fourth annual banquet of the Pittsburgh Press Club, May 5.

Mr. Wilson will tell of his experiences in newspaper work and give his recollections of many prominent people he has met. T. H. Given, publisher of The Pittsburgh Post and the Sun, and honorary president of the Press Club, will preside, and George S. Oliver, of The Gazette-Times and the Chronicle Telegraph, will be toastmaster. Mayor Ole Hanson, of Seattle, Wash., will be the principal orator.

The body of Daniel C. Caseman, aged 70 years, was found in Kishacoquillas creek, near the Gibbony wocan mills, Lewistown, last Thursday, by Paul Hewick and Frank Rowe, who were out fishing for trout. Mr. Caseman was a civil engineer employed by the Kulp Lumber company of Shamokin, for thirty-five years. He was a former resident of Philadelphia. He was last seen in Lewistown on Tuesday and was supposed to have been looking over a tract of lumber when he fell off a foot log some distance further up stream. The body had been in the water two days. Heart trouble is believed to have caused his death. Valuables on his person were not disturbed.

The State Livestock Sanitary Board has ordered a quarantine effective April 28th, established against all handling of hogs in Adams, Berks, Bucks, Carbon, Cumberland, Dauphin, Delaware, Franklin, Lancaster, Lebanon, Lehigh, Montgomery, Monroe, Northampton, Philadelphia and York counties. The quarantine was ordered because reports to the board showed prevalence of hog cholera to an alarming degree in some localities and affects all stockyards, public sales premises, pens for public sales, railroads, roads, watering yards or pens, chutes and all lands, public and private where swine are handled. No hogs can be handled at all within these counties without special authority from the board and then only for immediate slaughter.

In the P. R. R. freight yards to the west of Marietta there are stored at present thirty-five hundred car loads of material of almost every description ready for shipment to France to be used in the mammoth work of reconstruction. Acting under instructions from the French High Commission, Lieutenant LaLande, who represents his country's interests here, has assembled the material at Marietta and as fast as cars are obtainable, it is reconsigned to the Philadelphia and Baltimore ports for convoy overseas. The enormous quantity of goods imparts the suggestion of a fortress and attracts the curiosity of every stranger. As rapidly as the stock is depleted, it is refilled by incoming consignments and the handling of the material furnishes steady employment to two hundred men.

Discovery of the money which was removed from the safe when Joseph Carl, an aged farmer, was murdered in his home near Bloomsburg about ten days ago, has added a strong link to the chain of evidence which is being drawn about his son Ralph, who is accused of the crime. Ralph was held for court to answer a charge of murder following a hearing before Justice of the Peace Rutter. The money was discovered on the farm of Roy Bitler. The murdered man's son had visited the Bitler farm just before his arrest, and upon his arrival there found that Corporal Ira C. Stevenson, of the state constabulary, had been there a few moments before. It is charged now that he had the money with him and that he hid it, thinking that Stevenson was after him. When he was arrested his remark was, "I haven't the money." Some money was found in the back of the wagon which he was about to drive away in when arrested. It was suspected that the missing money was about the Bitler farm and its discovery under a stone in a shed there adds to the suspicion against Ralph Carl. Among the bills was a piece of Mexican money recognized as belonging to the dead man.