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THE
Democratic Watchman.

STATE RIGHTS AND FEDERAL UNION.

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INK SLINGS.

—Next Tuesday will be the thirsty first of July.

—What will Mr. Barkeep make of himself after next Monday.

—Tomorrow Bellefonte will look and feel like the morning after the night before.

—Wheat harvest will be on in Centre county next week and a bumper crop it will be.

—Two weeks of glorious sunshine were all forgotten in the dreary weather of yester lay.

—The "Watchman" has been right in its repeated declarations that the Germans would sign.

—Pennsylvania has ratified the suffrage amendment. Ours was the seventh State to do so.

—Everybody seemed to enjoy the air evolutions except a few of the distinguished visitors from Lock Haven.

—Few thought that grape juice would outlive William Jenning Bryan, but its era is just about to commence.

——The next unconditional surrender will be staged in Washington. The Senate will ratify the treaty "as she is wrote."

—The daily flights of airships over this section are causing a lot of people to look up, who never thought of doing so before.

—Traveling carnival companies might have to spend more time at their "cash registers" if they spent less in "crabbing."

—It was probably because Centre county had planned for a whale of a time that the weather man sent enough rain to keep the whale comfortable.

——Which is the "deadest," Senator Knox, of Pennsylvania, or Senator Reed, of Missouri, would be a fit subject for a juvenile debating society.

——There may be an abundance of food in the world, as Mr. Herbert Hoover states, but at present prices the question of quantity is unimportant.

—Now that all of the war excitement and celebrations are over candidates may hope for a patient hearing of their peculiar fitness for the office they seek.

—If some people could put the atmosphere in which they seem to be congealed to practical use there might be relief from the ice shortage we are suffering now.

—The Legislature of Pennsylvania is adjourned. In doing so little it really did a great work for the Commonwealth, for there is nothing so dangerous as too much law.

—Nobody complains that the new anti-sedition law is an infringement of his rights except the fellow who fears proper punishment for infringements on the rights of others.

—Anyway the sinking of the surrendered German fleet in Scapa Flow removes from the realms of possibilities any unpleasantness over the mooted question as to how the ships should be disposed of by the Allies.

—So far as Centre county is concerned the war is formally over. We have welcomed the boys home, there is enough money in sight to pay the bills and all that remains to be done is settle down to business again.

—With Germany defiant even at the moment of signing the peace terms a League of Nations to keep her in her place doesn't look bad to peace loving people who want to keep their sons at home and get rid of paying war taxes.

—The "Watchman" will not greet you again until after the great drouth is on. It hopes that by July 11th the last of the obsequies over poor old John Barleycorn will have been through with and the country reconciled to a libation of buttermilk.

—The big noise is really all over and Fourth of July in Bellefonte will be about as noisy as a cemetery, but in Snow Shoe: Ah, that will be the place on the Fourth, if a real old fashioned rip-roarin celebration is possible without something to light it up.

—William Howard Taft is the best chance the Republicans have for a Presidential candidate. We are not long on predictions, but we are of the opinion that he will be the nominee of that party and the League of Nations will not be a political issue in the next campaign.

—Talking about how nice big crowds will be when there is no booze to spill over in them they can't possibly have anything on the one that was in Bellefonte yesterday. Either two and three-quarter per cent. beer hasn't any power in it or everybody was getting in training for we have seldom seen so few jags.

—Great big Williamsport and Lycoming county didn't raise as much for their welcome home celebration as we did for ours and they have a deficit of nearly a thousand dollars. They never did seem to know how to do things down there and this is probably one of the reasons Lycoming motorists look with such covetous eyes on the good roads through Centre county.

—If President Wilson takes our advice he will decline to take any further action on the war time prohibition measure. He recommended that Congress declare no further need for it and Congress refused to act upon the advice. Had it done so neither party could have claimed any advantage of consideration for the wets, but since it has refused the President would clearly lay himself open to the charge of a play for the wet vote if he were to take the matter in his own hands and by declaring the army demobilized make the law inoperative until January 15th next. From the very first the "Watchman" has had no patience with attempts to temporarily prolong the leases of life of the liquor traffic. It is to no purpose. The country is going dry and the quicker the drouth comes on the quicker it will become adjusted to it. In other words, it will get alcohol out of its system and be in a position to judge whether it has been for the better or worse.

Trying to Defeat Ratification.

The Republicans who are organizing opposition to the ratification of the peace treaty have followed the example of the liquor dealers who are trying to nullify the prohibition amendment to the Federal constitution. That is to say they have employed former Secretary of State Elihu Root, of New York, to devise a plan or create a path which they may follow. In his efforts on behalf of the liquor dealers Mr. Root has not thus far met with substantial success. He procured an order from one of the Federal courts in New York to restrain revenue agents from interfering with the sale. But a higher court has already dissolved the injunction and the enforcement of the amendment is left to the revenue agents.

Mr. Root is a good lawyer and resourceful. Before he had been retained by the Republican Senators to guide them in their fight against the peace treaty he had openly expressed the opinion that it should be adopted. Only a few days ago he advised Lodge and his associates that the Senate has nothing to do with treaty making under the constitution until the work has been completed by the President and submitted for ratification. But since he has been retained as attorney for the objectors he has undertaken to achieve their purpose without infringing upon the prerogatives of the Executive. In other words he suggests that in the ratifying resolution they insert a provision which may influence the other signatories to refuse acquiescence or concur in something they may claim as their own.

If the result were refusal to acquiesce the treaty would, of course, fall, and the triumph which had been achieved at so great a cost in life and treasure, be nullified. Meantime, however, the American troops would have returned home and the allied armies disbanded, so that Germany could begin a new war under the most auspicious conditions. If the amendments proposed by Root were concurred in by the other nations in interest, the Republican Senators could claim that the world peace was their master work, and that Woodrow Wilson deserved no credit. Either of these results would be entirely satisfactory to them for they would rather deluge the whole world in blood debt than see President Wilson honored.

——He laughs best who laughs last and the fun the Republican Senators are now having with President Wilson will look like the dreariest gloom when compared with the fun President Wilson will have with them when he is vetoing their tariff legislation.

Germany Signs the Treaty.

The German National Assembly, sitting at Weimer on Sunday, voted 237 to 138, to sign the peace treaty agreed upon at Versailles and based on the fourteen points suggested by President Wilson in his address to Congress in January, 1918. It was the only course to pursue. General Foch, with an army of half a million trained troops, was on the border, ready to move on Berlin. The memory of the depredations and destitution inflicted in France and Flanders during the four years of hostilities, rankled in the brain of every soldier in that vast force. The time limit for action was approaching and the new Chancellor of the German government could discern no alternative

The peace terms may have seemed hard to the Germans but they are not. During half a century Germany has never revealed a single generous impulse. Obsessed with lust for power those in control of the destinies of that empire invoked every form of cruelty to terrorize those they desired to subdue. They murdered women and children ruthlessly and destroyed cherished property wantonly in the war just ended. The idea of exempting them from the just penalties of their crimes could not be entertained for a moment. A demand for full and complete reparation would have been within the bounds of reason and justice. But it would have been impossible of fulfillment within a thousand years.

The war was begun by Germany as a speculative investment. It was prosecuted in the cruelest forms that wicked hearts could conceive. It was lost to the perpetrators of the crimes because the Allies and associated people could not be terrorized. The agreement to sign made on Sunday at Weimar was the beginning of the end. The signing will complete the greatest victory for humanity and civilization since the birth of the Savior. There are no reasons to sympathize with the sufferers. They deserve all they can possibly get in the way of punishment. They approved the cruelties inflicted by their armies and merit the full measure of the penalties.

——The German government was cruelly unkind to the Republican Senators and Jim Reed in agreeing to sign just at the time that the Senators imagined their help was materializing. Senator Knox has a special reason for complaint.

——The President will be home in a few days and he will be welcomed by Republican Senators in Washington as cordially as a smallpox patient in a crowded play house.

Senator Sherman's Visions Lie.

It may easily be believed that Senator Sherman, of Illinois, was speaking the exact truth when he said the other day that he was making his speech "against the advice of many of his friends." The speech to which he referred was delivered in the Senate last Friday and in it he made the amazing statement that the League of Nations may "bring the civilized world under the domination of the Vatican." This appeal to religious bigotry was inspired by the fact that several of the countries which will be included in the League, when it is formed, are known as Catholic countries. In support of his statement he enumerated the countries in which the populations profess the faith of the Catholic church.

By inference Mr. Sherman said that because of the religious faith of those peoples and for the reason that "the occupants of the Vatican have believed in the inherent right of papal authority to administer civil government," the creation of a League of Nations is a menace to the Protestant religion. "The Vatican," he added, "is a most earnest advocate of the covenant of the League of Nations," and he asserted that the Pope was influenced to that conclusion by President Wilson, who visited him during his recent sojourn in Rome. "It was," he continued, "a miraculous conversion of the deep, traditional wisdom of the Holy See."

Unless the Illinois Senator was too drunk with prejudice to know anything he knew that his utterance on that subject was a malicious lie. The Vatican has made no claim to authority to administer civil government since Italy established a civil government independent of the Vatican in Rome and neither the Pope nor any one in his behalf has pretended infallibility for nearly as long a time. The present Pope is an ardent advocate of peace and if he was converted to the support of the League of Nations by any influence it probably was the belief that it is the surest and quickest way of guaranteeing enduring peace to a world that has recently been devastated by the wickedest war of all time.

—Von Hindenburg refused to sign the treaty for the reason that it would seem like signing his own death warrant. He is among those who will be summoned to trial for the atrocities perpetrated during the war.

The Legislature of 1919.

The 1919 session of the Pennsylvania Legislature is a completed though not a perfect page in the history of the Commonwealth. It was a session of varying moods and surprising episodes. It began in bright promise, dragged along in aimless inactivity and wound up in fairly creditable achievement. The ratification of the suffrage amendment to the Federal constitution was its best performance. But that was less the work of the Legislature than the will of the Governor. From beginning to end the session was servile to a boss. The Governor and Penrose alternated in control. In the final operations Mr. Sproul was master and in a benevolent mood.

The value of the work of the 1919 session of the General Assembly is a matter of conjecture. The Prohibition amendment to the Federal constitution was ratified under compulsion and subsequent legislation went to the limit in the direction of nullifying it. The Philadelphia reform measures were cut and slashed to such an extent that no estimate can be made as to their utility. The appropriation bills were constructed in a hap-hazard manner that alternately caused hope and despair. But there is some reason to hope that in the end something like justice has been obtained. The State College appropriation was finally brought to a figure that will enable that splendid institution to fulfill its great work.

In the matter of volume the record of the session leaves nothing to be desired. An unusually large number of bills were introduced and more than the usual number were passed on to the Governor. But quantity is not the measure of value in legislation and it would be difficult at this time to pick out enough meritorious work to justify the long session and considerable expense attending it. If, however, the new charter for Philadelphia and the reform election bills enacted will guarantee something like fair elections in that city, the work of the Legislature will be worth all it cost and the people of Pennsylvania may rise up and bless it.

——Now that nothing more can be done for the Kaiser the Republican Senators in Washington might turn their attention to helping Villa in Mexico.

——And Senator Knox hoped that his perfidy would get him the Republican nomination for President whereas it has only procured popular contempt.

——Mr. Lenine, of Russia, has certainly operated an expensive machine for a considerable time on small resources.

——The news from France ought to admonish Mexico to behave.

——Subscribe for the "Watchman."

Knox's Resolution Buried.

Senator Knox's plan to prevent the ratification of the peace treaty has proved a dismal failure. After all his labor in preparing his resolution and the speech supporting it, his fellow conspirators have practically abandoned him to public ridicule. In delivering the oration at the funeral Senator Lodge said he would like to have seen the resolution adopted. No doubt that is true for next to the Kaiser himself there is no human creature as anxious to embarrass President Wilson as Senator Lodge. But the scheme was so absurd that even malice couldn't stand behind it "with a straight face" and the pressure of important business gave a plausible excuse for letting it drop.

But Senator Knox's resolution can't be buried without putting Senator Knox's reputation as a constitutional lawyer in the grave with it, or in another grave by its side. The questions involved are purely and entirely constitutional. The fundamental law provides the processes of making treaties and until Elihu Root, of New York, was called into the case the Republican Senators may have actually believed that they had a right to intervene at any stage of the proceedings. But Root promptly warned them to "keep off the grass." He told them how and when they had authority to act and his instructions left them no alternative to the fact that Knox's plan was preposterous.

Meantime the Peace Conference at Versailles went on with its work, apparently oblivious of Senator Knox and his absurd scheme to defeat the peace treaty, and completed it while he was "wind-jamming" in Washington. Taken together these incidents were too much for Lodge and Borah and Reed and Lodge as the chief mourner was called in to perform the obsequies. It was a grim joke from the beginning and properly ended as a farce comedy. It created hope for a short time in Germany and promised to make a holiday for the Hohenzollern family. But it began too soon and couldn't be kept up to any other conclusion than that which was registered when Senator Lodge preached the funeral sermon.

INTERESTING AVIATION NEWS.

A big White truck, skillfully camouflaged, pulled into Bellefonte on Monday morning with representatives of the U. S. army aviation service. Major A. H. Gilkison was in charge and with him were John P. Woodward, Arthur E. Bittle and C. S. Thornton. They came from the aviation field, Mineola, L. I., and their business was checking up the Wilson aerial mail route to see whether it will prove available for use in conjunction with the army service. The men spent Sunday night in Sunbury and it developed during their stay here that officials of that town are making strenuous efforts to land a station for that place, even going so far as to assure Major Gilkison that they rarely have any fog in that town. Major Gilkison was shown the aviation field in Bellefonte and all the advantages of this locality, and in order to give him a clearer idea of the lay of the land in this section of the State he was taken to State College and shown the big topographical map in the corridor of the main building. Then to give him an idea of the country hereabouts he was taken on toward Pine Grove Mills, to the high point in Ferguson township, from where the big white cross on the top of Point McCoy, put down as a marker, was plainly visible with the naked eye. While the Major gave no intimation of what his report would be he seemed favorably impressed with the advantages of Bellefonte and treatment shown him while here. The party left Monday afternoon for points further west.

F. H. Praeger, son of Otto Praeger, second assistant postmaster general, and Herbert Blakeslie, not a relative of fourth assistant postmaster general James I. Blakeslie, both of Washington, D. C., arrived in Bellefonte on Sunday and will remain here as part of the official force of the aviation field. E. F. White, the daring aviator who recently made the non-stop flight from Chicago to New York, was also an arrival in Bellefonte on Sunday under orders to report at the Bellefonte aviation field.

No Paper Next Week.

No paper will be issued from this office next week, in accordance with an old established custom of giving the employees a midsummer holiday of one week. The office, however, will be open as usual for business and our friends are always welcome. Come in and see us when in town.

——Now that you have officially welcomed the soldier boys home show your heart is in the right place by giving them the first jobs you have at your disposal. It will be the best way to show your gratitude for what they have done.

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

Philander's Motive.

From the Philadelphia Record.

The Peace Conference began its session on January 18, and it has, therefore, been nearly five months in perfecting the terms of the peace treaty, the most elaborate document of the kind in the history of the world and epoch-making in its importance. The work has been enormous and the difficulties almost insuperable because of the conflicting interests of the nations engaged in the task. This is so nearly finished that it is expected to give Germany the final terms and to demand a definite answer from that country this week. In view of all the obstacles encountered the time spent in drafting the peace treaty is not considered remarkable. According to ex-Senator Root between 2000 and 3000 men have been engaged in this labor.

Now along comes Pennsylvania's junior Senator, Mr. Knox, with the bright suggestion that practically everything that has been accomplished in five months of hard work should be scrapped and a fresh start be made according to ideas of his own. This statesmanlike view is hardly likely to commend itself to the representatives of the 32 nations gathered at Paris. Just as they see the end in sight Philander proposes to cut out a new job for them that would require months more of study and discussion.

Of course, the delegates of other countries assembled at Paris can't be expected to know that this is only a move in the American political game, and that Mr. Knox really has no serious convictions on the subject of the peace treaty or the League of Nations. He has, however, some well-defined opinions on the desirability of Republican success in 1920 and the especial availability for the Presidential nomination of a distinguished corporation lawyer from Pennsylvania. So he projects himself into the limelight, even at the possible expense of his own country's welfare and of great international confusion. Doubtless the German peace delegates are well pleased with Mr. Knox's sideshow. It is difficult, however, to see why anybody else should approve a move which is so obviously political in its origin and which, if successful, will only complicate an already difficult situation.

Get Back to a Peace Basis.

From the Lancaster Intelligencer.

At the recent Democratic national conference in New York, a resolution was introduced and referred to the National committee advocating the repeal of the Espionage Act, the abolition of postoffice censorship and opposing compulsory military training. It is a pity that these three matters were tied together in one resolution, for opinion upon the last named is not likely to be as unanimous as upon the other two.

The war fully convinced a good many people that universal military training would be a mighty good thing and that, for a great war, selective draft is the only just and effective reliance, but there is very little disagreement upon the advisability of getting rid of such war-time necessities and nuisances as the Espionage Act and the postal censorship; measures not at all to the taste of the American people or of any people who value personal liberty and don't like official nosing in private affairs.

It may be that we will yet need, for a considerable period, some such safeguard against the sinister plotting of foreigners as the Espionage Act supplied, but it would seem that that should be furnished by a new measure particularly designed to meet Bolshevist and other crazy propaganda rather than by the Espionage Act, which was made to deal with furtive menace of the sort offered by the late German government.

As for inquisitive postal censorship, we should have no use for any other form of it than may be necessary for keeping the mails as clean and harmless as possible.

The National Democratic committee may be expected to consider these matters in the right spirit and particularly with a determination that the Democratic party shall hold the leadership in putting the country back on a peace basis, while seeing to it that it is also a basis of ample preparedness for war until such time as the League of Nations, or other efforts toward millennial peace, shall show reassuring progress.

France to Buy U. S. Equipment.

From the Williamsport Sun.

A commercial transaction before which all other deals that have marked this as the greatest age of business in the history of the world pale into insignificance, is soon to be completed between the United States and France. Negotiations, which have been under way for some time are to be completed with the sale to France of all the overseas' property of the American Expeditionary Forces, costing $1,500,000,000. The selling price is not yet divulged and may not be when the transaction is completed but it will not be over the original cost as value of much of the property is no longer estimated on wartime standards. The property includes the largest ice plant in the world, the Bordeaux harbor improvements, warehouses, railroad tracks and supplies, motor equipment, foodstuffs, lumber mills and many other materials. France will undoubtedly get a bargain but that method of disposing of this vast equipment is nevertheless the only feasible one.

——For high class job work come to the "Watchman" office.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

—Pleading guilty in Blair county court to operating an automobile while intoxicated, George M. Hoover, of Yellow Creek, was sentenced to pay $150 fine, serve until September 1 in jail and lose his license. Hoover said he never would run a car again.

—The final account of an estate in Mercer county was filed in the office of the clerk of court the past week and among the items charged was one of $15 by the son-in-law of the deceased for horse feed and meals for the mourners who attended the funeral.

—Captain W. C. Kress, of Lock Haven, has celebrated the eighty-third anniversary of his birth. Captain Kress has been an attorney in Clinton county for nearly 60 years, and for several years was Supreme court reporter. He is one of the few surviving members of the old Cataract Steam Fire Engine company, of Lock Haven.

—Mrs. Charles Yurasleviz, 20 years old, a bride of five months, was killed by lightning during a severe storm on Friday at her home near Hazleton. Teresa Titer, aged 14, a berry picker, was killed by lightning near Tompicken, and her sister Mary was badly burned. Fourteen-year-old Mary Pinter was struck by lightning in her home at McAdoo and died instantly.

—Walter S. Greevy, superintendent of the State Employment Bureau, Altoona office, was acquitted on Saturday of the murder of Edward H. Steckroth, near the Greevy home, May fourth. The trial lasted four days and the jury was out a little more than an hour. Greevy is the son of Thomas H. Greevy, prominent attorney, and is the man who instituted the Bellefonte Lodge of Moose.

—Missing since May 4th, when they broke out of the Northumberland county prison, John Culp, of Shamokin, and Charles Herod, of Milton, held for trial for the alleged robbery of a number of Milton stores, have joined the United States field artillery, according to word received by Warden Barr, of the Northumberland county prison. It is considered probable no effort will be made to bring them back.

—St. Marys is to have a modern, fully-equipped hospital. The old Benedictine Monastery building has been secured for such an institution. The equipment will be furnished by the three daughters of the late Andrew Kaul, Mrs. Julia K. Reilley, Mrs. Bertha K. Kistler and Mrs. Josephine K. Powers. It is planned to secure the services of an architect, working in conjunction with a committee of physicians, to draw up plans for remodeling the building.

—A tribute was paid to Lieutenant Daniel S. Keller, son of Superior Court Judge William H. Keller, by the Lancaster bar, when a painting of him in uniform was unveiled and placed on the wall near the Judge's bench on Saturday. The lieutenant got a furlough while in training at Camp Meade to go home to be admitted to the bar. He was the youngest member and he was the first to be admitted to practice in full uniform. He was killed in the Argonne at the head of his company.

—Farmers in Blair county are complaining that the elderberry bushes are being denuded of their blossoms by persons who desire to provide against the long dry spell. The elderberry blossoms make a wine which, when it becomes a little aged, has a decided "kick" in it. But there will be no shortage of berries. Reports from the rural districts show there will be an immense crop of huckleberries, raspberries, blackberries and elderberries, if the wine distillers do not ruin the latter crop by taking all the blossoms.

—Patrolman Tracy Miller, of Scranton, proclaims himself the champion egg eater in the United States. This announcement was made after he had eaten forty-eight eggs in twenty-four hours. Miller's feat was started when a wager was made that he couldn't eat twenty-four in fifteen minutes. Miller won easily. A few hours later another wager was made that he could not duplicate the feat. At the end of his day's work he ate the twenty-four eggs and complained that he was hungry and would like to have a steak.

—Charging that his wife was atacked by a big rooster and that as a result of fright she died two weeks later, William Frank Naylor, of Newburgh, N. Y., last week started suit against J. M. Fey, a Hazleton grocer, asking $30,000 damages. In January, 1919, Naylor charges that he and his wife lived near the Fey residence in Hazleton. The rooster came to the Naylor yard, it is charged, and as Mrs. Naylor attempted to pass it the bird flew at her. Mrs. Naylor, her husband alleges, suffered a nervous breakdown and died two weeks later.

—Lancaster county farmers have disposed of their fat cattle at fancy prices, as fancy in soce cases as 18 cents, and they made money feeding them, but cattle dealers have been less fortunate. The turn in the tide of high prices was to be expected. Nevertheless, dealers remained bulls on steers, and they are believed to have lost barrels of money. When steers go up in price beefsteak keeps perfect step to the rise, but when steers come down in price it has no more effect on the price of beefsteak than if the steers were coming down the lane.

—While on the mountain near Blakely, Lackawanna county, on Friday, looking after the family cow, Peter Knapp, seven years old, sat down to eat a sandwich, Oliver Deider, aged ten, and John Dell, aged fourteen, came upon him, commanding him to hold up his hands, while Deider pointed a revolver at Knapp and it was discharged as Dell took the sandwich, Knapp falling over dead. The revolver was stolen early in the week from the room of State Trooper Merrifield, at Mahon's hotel, Olyphant, by Deider. His mother is employed there. The boys confessed their crime, telling its full details to the state police.

—After shielding her father, James Decello, until he escaped, Margaret Decello, 16 years old, of Kane, McKean county, last Friday confessed that her father, and not she, shot and killed Tony Grecco at the Decello home on New Year's night. Until last week the girl was charged with the murder on her own confession that she killed Grecco when he attacked her. Since the night of the tragedy she has been a prisoner at the county jail at Smethport, and was to be tried at the next term of court. In making her new confession Miss Decello said that her father killed Grecco because he was an all-around bad man, a "Black Hand" operator who had terrorized Italians, among them was her father. Four weeks before the murder Grecco came to the Decello home, the girl said, and under his threats her father gave Grecco $50. It is believed that the girl's father is now in Italy.