

INK SLINGS.

If Henry Ford's libel suit has accomplished nothing else it has proved that a man doesn't have to be a college graduate to become a millionaire.

Every day we get more visible evidence that the new borough manager stands in danger of wearing out a perfectly good set of legs before he has completed one year on the job.

The League of Nations may not be all that it is hoped to be but it is the only plan presented that has any hope in it for those who are thinking of saving their sons for other needs than cannon fodder.

By a vote of 107 to 3 the House refused to place a ban on having liquor in the home. It is quite possible that the three Congressmen who voted for the proposal had missed the chance to stock their own cellars.

The Bull Moose party is to hold a conference in Harrisburg next Tuesday to consider the advisability of electing delegates to the next Republican national convention who will demand a candidate pledged to perpetuate the principles stood for by the late Theodore Roosevelt, and among the list of Pennsylvania Moose scheduled to be present we failed to notice the names of any of the big bulls who were braying so ferociously in Bellefonte a few years ago.

The unusually large registration of voters in Centre county might be ascribed to an early interest in the coming fall election, but we are inclined to think it due to the activities of the assessors themselves. There is quite a material gain in the voters of each party over the vote cast for President in 1916 and while the Republicans have shown an increase of nearly a thousand in their registration our gain has not been so great yet sufficient to indicate a healthy and normal growth.

"Red Fox," the Indian chieftain who is in the east trying to obtain better treatment of his people, said in an address, the other day: "I have always wanted to see as far as I could across the unbroken space * * * when I went up into the mountain top at sunrise I felt that I saw God, and met him, face to face." What beautiful thoughts and how little sordidness there would be in the world if we all tried to see as far as we can across unbroken space and go more often to the mountain tops at sunrise.

If the grain hasn't moulded or grown in the shock because of the intermittent showers and heat that have prevailed since it was cut it has been more because of providential preservation of the bread supply than natural consequences. Probably half of the wheat in Centre county is still in the field where it has been exposed to rain during every one of the past ten days, with intense heat and humidity in the interval between storms. For the most part the weather and not labor shortage prevented a prompt housing of the crops. Hay making and the grain harvest having come so close together farmers with their normal supply of help were unable to get both crops into the barn before the rains came to delay the work.

Township supervisors should be encouraged to more careful work by the new road bill which Governor Sproul has just affixed his signature. It provides that the State Highway Department shall pay a reward of thirty-three and a third per cent of the cost of any piece of road, not less than half a mile in length, which the township authorities have graded and drained and covered with gravel, cinder or macadam according to specifications. The road can be any width over twelve feet. This law should prove of immense help to the townships; for the specifications are such as to insure a durable and economic construction and even if there were no bonus for following them it would be to the interest of the tax payers if all road work was done upon advice of experts rather than according to the notion of the fellow who happens to get elected supervisor without regard to his qualifications.

Local political gossips are having a busy time getting their heads together to swap stories as to what they hear is to happen to a lot of those Republican gentlemen who are now laboring under the delusion that they have a chance to get a place on the ticket. If it were not so apparent that they should be able to see it themselves we would pity them. The slate is all made up and has been for weeks. Quietly the word is percolating through to the leaders and when the time to strike comes the rank and file will be told what the organization wants and it will be done. For treasurer, for instance, Ad Hartwick is to be shelved again because they know he will stand for it and come around as he has done twice before. Frank Mayes is slated for the treasurer's nomination. So many hard working Republicans are spending time and money trying to get the nomination for Commissioner that it seems a shame that seven of them are not told to quit and go home, for they have no chance for that thousand dollar job. Gossips tell us that it is so plain that even Tom Harter has slipped out the back door of his office and gone fishing to avoid being asked to sign the petition of one of the aspirants and has assured the two favorites that it is all over but the publication of their pictures as the newly elected Board. Verily these are sad days for a group of men who have a right to expect a fair field and a square deal, if nothing more.

Democratic Watchman

STATE RIGHTS AND FEDERAL UNION.

VOL. 64.

BELLEFONTE, PA., JULY 25, 1919.

NO. 29.

Macing Public Officials.

A letter recently sent out from the Democratic State headquarters in Harrisburg and addressed to the Federal office holders in Pennsylvania, has excited considerable adverse criticism by the newspapers of both parties. The Philadelphia Ledger says the committee is trying to "mace" federal employees and the Philadelphia Record remarks that the "Democratic State committee is engaged in a contemptible enterprise which is no whit more respectable because Republican organizations, State and city, have been practicing it since time immemorial." Judge Bonniwell, the last Democratic nominee for Governor of the State, who was shamelessly betrayed by the committee, denounces it as "an impudent violation of law."

The esteemed Philadelphia Record correctly estimates the enterprise but is faulty in its comparison. The Republican organizations, city and State, have been extorting funds from office holders since time out of mind, but they have been using all the funds thus acquired for the benefit of the whole party in campaigns for the election of candidates. On the other hand the Democratic State committee maces its victims for funds to be used, not against Republican candidates, but against Democrats who aspire to nomination in the party or for party offices such as State, county and city committeemen who are not willing to yield the basest servility to the party bosses, Palmer and McCormick. Their present purpose is to create a fund, by unlawful means if necessary, to use in a worse way to elect delegates to the next National convention who may be used as trading capital by the bosses for their own aggrandizement.

Last year the Democratic State committee deliberately betrayed the party nominee for Governor and used the funds drawn by the process now proposed to multiply the Republican majority in the State. That was a measure of perfidy unparalleled in the history of Pennsylvania politics. If they succeed in putting under way the "program that will need considerable financial assistance," the nominee of the party will be defeated every time the candidate refuses to obey the mandates of Mr. Palmer. In these circumstances the Philadelphia Record is right in advising the recipients of the letters "to retain them as evidence in the event of further developments, but otherwise to pay no attention to them."

The increasing activities in air navigation has naturally suggested to aspiring minds the need of a new member of the Cabinet to be known as the "Air Secretary." It is surprising how readily the aspiring mind runs to new offices.

Bad Mixture in Business.

The failure of the North Penn bank of Philadelphia the other day, calls to mind a financial episode of a like character which occurred in that city some thirty years ago. At that time a sort of "scrambling" of banking and politics convulsed the whole city and considerably disturbed the State. John Barsley was city treasurer at the time and got into the habit of making deposits of public funds a condition for personal loans to himself and friends. One of the banks which had entered into this reciprocal relation with him failed with a large amount of city and State funds in its vaults, or at least that ought to have been in its vaults, and exposure and scandal followed.

It appears that the North Penn bank has been following the same sort of banking policy. At the time of the closing of its doors by State officials there was a considerable amount of State funds on deposit and that at least two former State officials, responsible for the fact, were borrowers from the bank, in considerable amounts. Former Insurance Commissioner Ambler had placed some \$400,000 of State insurance money in the bank and has borrowed \$60,000 while former Banking Commissioner Lafean, who had a good deal to do with the reputation of banks, had been accommodated for a less, but quite substantial sum. Both these officials were in service under the previous administration.

It seems that the institution has been under suspicion for some time and immediately after the inauguration of Governor Sproul Insurance Commissioner Ambler was removed because of his connection with the affair and his successor in office began at once the gradual reduction of the State deposit so that at present it is only about \$225,000. Mr. Lafean was removed from office at about the same time but it is not claimed that his relations with this bank had anything to do with it. Nevertheless the comment of the Governor that it "seems to be a regrettable instance of the mixture of public funds and private enterprise," is fully justified.

It looks as if the Republican politicians would be glad if General Pershing never came back.

Treaty Will be Ratified.

That the peace treaty, including the covenant of the League of Nations will be ratified by the Senate, no longer admits of doubt. The opposition continues to weaken. For example it has been practically reduced down to a set of reservations which in view of the facts seem puerile. First they insist on a declaration "that Article 10 shall not be construed to obligate the United States to enter war without a declaration of war by Congress." This is clearly implied in the text. Next "that nothing in the covenant shall in any way impair the Monroe Doctrine." That is plainly expressed in the text. And "it shall be understood that in accepting the covenant the United States does not subtract from its sovereign right to determine purely domestic problems."

It may be assumed that the main point in these proposed reservations is contained in the last. The domestic problems which are to be protected are "immigration and the tariff." It might even be conjectured that the immigration question is not a matter of supreme importance. But the tariff is paramount. The representatives of special privilege in the Senate cannot reconcile themselves to any proposition that might curtail their right to legislate the earnings of labor into the pockets of corporate capital. This is the source of the campaign corruption funds and must be guarded zealously. Every precaution must be taken to preserve the opportunities for graft and the chief of these is the tariff. But the covenant doesn't affect that.

It is of record that all the leaders of the Republican party within a quarter of a century were in favor of such an organization as the League of Nations. McKinley favored it when President and Roosevelt was an enthusiast on the subject. Senator Lodge supported it in the best speech he ever made and Mr. Taft, Mr. Root, Justice Hughes and former Attorney General Wickesham are supporting the principle now. But the fact that a Democratic administration was largely responsible for the development of the plan has turned the few scurvy politicians now in control of the Republican machine against it and any old objection satisfies them. They will not defeat the treaty, however. No Senator can face his constituents after voting that way.

Senator Lodge has hardly done himself full justice in inventing reasons for opposing the League of Nations. He might have accused President Wilson with striking Billy Patterson.

"Detective" Hunting Harry L. Davis, "Theatrical" Man.

Last week the "Watchman" published an article relative to the visit to Bellefonte of one Harry L. Davis, who took an option on a lease of the Garman opera house for a term of six years with the alleged intention of giving the people of Bellefonte up-to-date programs of high-class vaudeville and motion pictures. In the article it was stated that the man was Harry L. Davis, the big theatrical man of Pittsburgh.

On Tuesday evening of this week another stranger appeared in Bellefonte looking for the Mr. Davis above mentioned. He represented himself as a member of the Burns detective agency and while he stated that he had grave charges against Mr. Davis he failed to make them public. The alleged detective investigated Mr. Davis' movements and actions while in Bellefonte and left on Wednesday evidently to pursue his efforts to locate him elsewhere.

Thus the situation is rather complicated. So far as can now be learned, when Mr. Davis was in Bellefonte and took an option for the lease of the Garman theatre, making a deposit in one of the Bellefonte banks to cover the same, he did not assert that he was the Harry L. Davis, of Pittsburgh theatrical fame, but that was the impression the public in Bellefonte gained and no effort was made to disprove it. So far as can be learned Mr. Davis' dealings in Bellefonte were all within the bounds of the law.

Just what he is wanted for by the alleged detective cannot be learned, so that it is impossible to even say whether he has been mixed up in anything illegal or not. The "Watchman" is making no charges against the man, nor attempting anything in his defence. We are merely stating facts as far as they have developed before the public and must wait for further details until such time as the case is cleared up one way or the other.

It is said the Crown Prince is preparing to become a moving picture hero. No wonder wise people are demanding a more rigid censorship of moving pictures.

We object to Java as a suitable place to imprison the late Kaiser. He isn't entitled to that kind of coffee.

Hot Time in Harrisburg.

The call to the Bull Moose issued by Mr. Gifford Pinchot the other day must have sounded ominously in the ears of the Republicans throughout the country. The Bull Moose has already worked havoc in the ranks of the party. In 1912 it first obtruded its horns into the political arena and though much effort has since been made to force it back into the forest of forgetfulness, it refuses to disappear. Mr. Pinchot's voice is neither loud nor impressive in his adopted home State, but it has potency in more important sections, politically speaking, of the country and his call of the followers of Roosevelt to the colors of the beast may cause great disturbance.

Mr. Pinchot asks the followers of Roosevelt in Pennsylvania to assemble in Harrisburg on Tuesday next "with the avowed purpose of opening a campaign for the election of delegates to the next Republican National convention who will favor a candidate embodying the policies and ideals of Theodore Roosevelt," and the call is signed by such formidable politicians as William Flinn, Lex Mitchell, I. B. Brown and others. The similar call issued eight years ago was laughed down the wind by Senator Penrose and his faithful followers. But it created havoc with the party and though it failed of its main purpose, which was to force the nomination of Roosevelt, it elected a Democratic President.

It will probably be difficult for Mr. Pinchot to find a candidate "embodying the policies and ideals of Theodore Roosevelt," for during the last period of his life Mr. Roosevelt altered his policies and ideals so frequently that it might be hard to catch on. But Mr. Pinchot is willing to take a chance with Senator Poindexter and it is quite likely that Mr. Flinn, of Pittsburgh, will be satisfied with anybody who is opposed to Penrose. The logical candidate of the conference to be held in Harrisburg next Tuesday, however, is H. Johnson, of California, who has no policies or principles beyond an abnormal desire to defeat President Wilson. Still there will be fun in Harrisburg on Tuesday.

Governor Sproul is not going to let a little thing like the provisions of a law limit his powers. The law creating the Board of Registration for Philadelphia declares that not more than three of the five members shall be of the same political party and Governor Sproul proceeded to appoint four Republicans.

Passengers on the evening train on the Bald Eagle Valley railroad have recently noticed electric light signals flashing on and off as the train speeds down the valley, and the other evening the peculiar action of the lights attracted the attention of a lady passenger and she decided to find out the cause. When the brakeman passed through the train on his next trip she asked him and he informed her that they were electric brake signals. He further explained that the Westinghouse company has perfected an electric automatic brake for railroad trains to use instead of the air-brake and that the Pennsylvania railroad company is now engaged in testing them out on two trains. One is the train on the Bald Eagle Valley and the other is a through train from Pittsburgh to Philadelphia, and these are the only two trains in the United States equipped at the present time with electric brakes. Just what the test will develop remains for the future to disclose but so far they have been deemed very satisfactory and superior in some ways to the air brake.

The falling of that monster dirigible in Chicago with the resultant death of eight employees in the bank the roof of which it crashed through, reminds us that sitting on the lid of a powder keg isn't any more dangerous than moving about under a sky filled with aeronautic experiments.

Congressman Evan Jones has introduced a bill in Congress providing for the purchase of a site and the erection of a public building in Bellefonte at a cost not to exceed \$125,000. But don't get excited as it takes quite a while to get the building even if the bill passes.

Maybe the coal dealers, having failed to entice some of us into early purchases, are now trying to scare us by their talk of higher prices in the near future.

It looks as if those "good fellows" in Congress who have vast quantities of the "hard stuff" stored away in their cellars will escape the search.

Just one year ago the Centre county boys with the Twenty-eighth division were in the thick of the fight against the Huns above the Marne in France.

Al S. Garman has been re-appointed postmaster at Tyrone.

Japan's Confession.

From the Altoona Tribune.

The report on the Korean situation given out by the commission on relations with the orient of the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America adds a little in the way of facts to what has generally been accepted as the truth about Japan's method of putting down liberal demonstrations in Korea. It does, however, add to the weight of authority necessary to convince a great many persons that Japan's conduct was deplorably Prussian. The Japanese confession of guilt, made by the premier to the commission and printed in the report, is especially significant, even though its sincerity may be doubted.

As has been repeatedly proved, admission of guilt is not always a virtuous expression of contrition. Sometimes it is profitably used by unrepentant felons. But on the other hand it may be accepted as the herald of a change of heart. If so, Japan's program is made. Having admitted her mistake, she can now do the just and honorable thing and rectify it in as far as military outrages can be rectified. Failing in this, she can compromise upon a new policy of non-interference, allowing her mistake to stand as a painful but irreparable reminder of bad days.

The report also quotes Viscount Uchida, the Japanese foreign minister, as thanking the United States for its "sane and moderate attitude" toward the Korean trouble. The people of the United States will doubtless join in a hearty "You're welcome!" When pressed, they are quite equal to the demands of obsequious diplomatic repartee. Nevertheless, Japan's lost prestige in the United States is not to be regained by a confession of guilt unaccompanied by a prompt and acceptable form of penance. What, for instance, is the present Japanese policy behind the Shantung peninsula award?

A Reminder of Quayism.

From the Philadelphia Record.

The revelation that \$312,000 of State funds are locked up in an obscure Philadelphia bank which has just been forced to close its doors will come as a painful surprise to all those who had hoped and believed that the State Treasury and devious Republican politics had been closed forever. There is a distinct reminiscence of Quayism in this deposit of the Commonwealth's money in a small, out-of-the-way State bank supposed to do only a neighborhood business, and the matter is one that calls for investigation. Fortunately for Governor Sproul's administration, the financial dealings between State officials and the North Penn bank date back to his predecessor's regime, which was not over-nice in such matters. It was always playing politics, and its methods were not marked by a scrupulous deference to the proprieties. The Governor and his Banking Commission, therefore, probe into the affairs of this institution without caring who is hurt by the discoveries made.

For a long time the favoritism displayed in depositing State funds in privileged banks, generally with Republican leanings, played a great and corrupting part in Pennsylvania politics. It was the cause of unending scandals and contributed to the undoing of more than one financial institution. The fact that the Commonwealth did not lose heavily by this vicious system is no palliation of it. It brought ruin and disgrace to more than one politician and banker, and was universally condemned by the public so far as it knew of these tricky methods. Pennsylvania wants no return to those disreputable tactics of Quayism.

Brutality of Military Police.

From the Pittsburgh Post.

The one redeeming feature of the story laid before a congressional committee of the brutal treatment of soldiers by the American military police at Paris appears in the evidence that it was not a case of officers being banded together to oppress enlisted men. The rank of those involved apparently had little to do with the outrages, for while the witnesses who appeared before the committee were men of subordinate grades they did not accuse officers only of cruelty but mentioned enlisted men of the police force whom they charged with beating prisoners; one testified to seeing a lieutenant colonel in the prison doing menial work in the kitchen; and they admitted that a military police lieutenant whose treatment of prisoners was particularly harsh was tried before a court composed of other officers convicted and sentenced to several years of hard labor.

Officers no less than privates are bitter against the methods which were followed by the military police at the French capital. On arriving at Paris officers were required to register and were given a printed slip of regulations of humiliating character by which they were directed to govern their conduct. Treated as men who if not watched would disgrace themselves and the army, they considered that they were being insulted.

Among soldiers of all ranks of the American expeditionary forces, therefore, the inquiry into the actions of the military police will be watched with interest. There will be eagerness to learn what justification will be offered for the high-handed methods employed.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE

Exploding chemicals used to open a clogged waste pipe burned the eyes of Joseph McAleer, a plumber, former councilman, of Altoona, on Monday.

A dozen forest tracts, ranging from 5000 to 10,000, have been offered to the State Game Commission for State game preserves under the new act of Assembly authorizing the commission to purchase lands for game preserves.

The biggest real estate deal involving farm land reported for many years in Berks county was closed when William E. Schrick, of Hamburg, sold his fruit farm and orchards near there for \$115,000. It was bought by an agent of the American Orchard company, of Pittsburgh.

A total of 120 visits were paid to Altoona during the month of June by Dr. Stork, and the city's population was increased that number of times by his leaving little babies to make happier homes. These figures are shown by the June report of Mrs. E. B. Raffenparger, deputy registrar of vital statistics.

Three hundred fine Holstein and Durham-bred cows and heifers were washed and combed at Lancaster one day last week preparatory to their inspection by members of the French High Commission, for whom they have been purchased to replenish the herds of France. The cattle represent the finest in Lancaster and adjacent counties.

Plans for putting into effect the new township road reward law, which allows payment by the State of one-third of the cost of road improvements are being made by the State Highway Department. The new law, carrying an appropriation of \$1,000,000 gives the Bureau of Township Highways authority to receive and act on petitions for rewards.

Three thousand miles of travel in day coaches proved too much for the endurance of Joseph Jadvrovec, aged 28 years, an Austrian going from Sacramento, California, to his native land, and he leaped from a Pennsy car window Sunday night near Tyrone, and is now in the Altoona hospital. Jadvrovec had a ticket from Sacramento to Hoboken, N. J.

Mr. and Mrs. Emanuel Spahr, aged 83 years, near Emig's Mill, Dauphin county, harvested three acres of wheat in the old-fashioned way. Together they cradled, raked and bound the three acres of wheat unassisted. This feat of harvesting an acre of wheat a day was accomplished by the remarkable couple during the hottest spell of the present summer.

Dr. C. M. Stine and E. H. Holly, who were fishing along Roaring Run in the Lewistown Narrows, testify to the fish-catching propensities of the water snake. They were whipping one of the deepest pools, when a commotion occurred in the water, and a snake with a nine-inch trout in its mouth came to the surface. Deprived of its prey, the snake showed fight. It was killed by the fishermen.

Three million dollars' damage to Lancaster county's enormous wheat crop was estimated at the Farm Bureau, following an investigation which disclosed that a second brood of Hessian flies, heretofore unknown in that county, had dealt a serious blow to the fields. The few farmers who have started to check report their crops from five to seven bushels an acre less than the anticipated yield.

Money and bonds amounting to \$750 were removed from the safe at the Lang clothing store in Altoona some time between the closing hour on Saturday evening and the opening Monday morning. When the loss was discovered. The theft consisted of \$600 in coins and bills and three fifty dollar Liberty loan bonds. After taking the money the robber had gone to the trouble of re-locking the safe.

The T. W. Phillips Gas and Oil company struck a good gas well on the East Good farm, near Marion Center, Indiana county, the flow coming so suddenly that the gas was ignited from a forge nearby and the fire destroyed the rigging. The pocket of the gas was struck at a depth of a little more than 1200 feet and came with considerable force. It is estimated that the well will produce about a million feet a day.

When he heard that the farmers were short of help in their harvesting, Rev. I. E. Runk, pastor of the United Brethren church, of Scottdale, joined the members of his flock in the fields, working early and late. On his first trip to the harvest field the clergyman found that he could operate a tractor, and this he did. He told the members of his church that what knowledge he had gained at a tractor demonstration. The Rev. Runk declares that he will continue to assist in the harvest as long as his services are needed.

Joseph R. Royer, pioneer candy manufacturer of Lancaster, and originator of ice cream soda, died Friday at the age of 85 years, following a short illness. Mr. Royer, it is said, inspired John Wanamaker to take up the ice cream soda proposition, after he had made a hit with it in 1888. As had Mr. Royer learned his trade with Hershey, of chocolate war and Royer was a veteran of the Civil war and served a term in Libby prison. Joseph C. Royer, an actor, and Clarence Devaux Royer, a nationally known musician, are sons.

Two cars, weighing four tons each, loaded with ganister rock, leaped 600 feet into space Saturday when the cable broke on the incline of the Haws Refractories at Hawthorne. The cars dropped 300 feet to the tangle where they disintegrated, all safety devices and took another leap of 300 feet through the moulding room and lime bins, doing damage to the extent of \$1,000. George Yocum, the only man working in that section of the plant said, "I heard a roar and before I could look up there was a shower of rock about me. One of the smaller ones hit me on the head and put me out of commission, and when I came to myself it was all over."

George A. Heller, of Lewistown, who has just returned from overseas service in the railroad contingent had an experience with the numeral "13" that precludes all possibility of his ever being suspicious of this number again. George left for overseas July 13th, with engine No. 13 and 13 cars in the train to a point of embarkment. There were 13 boats in the convoy, 13 days going across after which they were assigned to barracks No. 13. He started his railroad career in the 13th Grand Division, engine No. 13 switches their train of 13 box cars and dropped it into the depot on track No. 13 at Verdun and while there the 13th regular officer was assigned to the organization. They set sail for return to the States April 19th, were 13 days on the way over, electrical engine No. 13 pulled the train from the point of delivery and on leaving Philadelphia en route home they boarded train No. 13 on track No. 13 with 13 cars in the train and George was just 13 months in the service without accident or mishap.