

Democratic Watchman.

INK SLINGS.

—Just as the trout-fishing season goes out hunting season comes in.

—Former President Taft appears anxious to be the man that put "fuse" in confusion.

—The main trouble with Philadelphia is that the people there have too long allowed Dave Lane to select their public officials.

—Every day the opposing Senators and Congressmen are making new apologies and getting ready to back track on the League of Nations.

—The longer Henry Ford testifies the more we understand why he started that peace ship off to get the men out of the trenches before Christmas.

—If the price of clothing keeps on rising the fellow who is "all dressed up and no place to go" might become a headliner in museums and vaudeville.

—Really it is too bad that Japan didn't suppress publicity of her intention to return Shantung to China until after the Republicans had made a little more capital of the incident.

—If you are working for an individual or a corporation and can't say a good word for your employer get another job. That would be the decent thing to do. Nobody has much respect for the fellow who isn't loyal to his employer.

—Again we take the opportunity to remark that all the opposition to the League of Nations is political. People who love peace and want peace are for it not exactly because they are sure that it will produce peace, but because nothing better is presented.

—Surprising and gratifying as it may be it is nevertheless a fact that with all the wet weather very little of Centre county's grain crop has been damaged. Farmers, themselves, have been unable to explain how their crops came through such an unfavorable period without material loss.

—Soldier boys should keep their equipment. All of them are probably tired enough of the khaki now, but a few years hence it will be different. Then every man who has been in the service will see something new in his old uniform and equipment. It will be a present reminder of the greatest experience of his life and something really worth while for his family to cherish.

—In proposing federal supervision of newspapers William Jennings Bryan is probably trying to set the stage for a "come-back." If he or one of his friends could be put in charge of such a bureau a careful censorship of all the things unpleasant that might be said of the once Secretary of State could be maintained and the way back to fame and grape juice banquets be made easy.

—Col. Spangler should feel very much flattered that our friend Tom Harter takes his opinion on great problems as the last word. We admit a little surprise when we heard the journalist made this admission to an assembled crowd at Chautauqua for if our memory serves us right we are of the opinion that the files of the Gazette will show that Tom hasn't always written as he recently talked.

—Professor Garner's plan to develop the ape to the point where it will have sufficient intelligence to perform menial tasks might be made a very easy one if he were to cage it beside some humans who are attempting menial and other tasks now. The instinct of the ape, without any developed intelligence, would show it at a glance that hanging by its tail in the jungle is real work when compared with what some of its evolved brethren do in return for a fat pay envelope.

—Today the law hoists a tablet on the banks of every trout stream in the State and on it the angler might read "requiscat in pace." For that is what the poor little trout are doing. Every year there are fewer fish and more fishermen and, strange as it may seem, the trout are getting thinner and thinner. This, some experts say, is because the few that are left in the streams have been hooked so frequently that their mouths have grown so sore they can't eat. And we almost believe this story.

—Missouri farmers have gone to court to get relief for their cattle which they claim are being disturbed by the flight of aeroplanes. Missouri cattle are probably afflicted with Missouri human desire to be shown and spend their time with their noses in the air instead of in the grass. Now Tom Beaver's cattle never do look up and aviators have to jazz around the field in order to make a landing just like the motor driver has to worm his way through a drove he happens to meet on the highway.

—The returned soldiers of Riverside, N. J., have declared war on street loafers who swear. The mayor is backing them up by imposing a fine of one dollar per cuss word on every culprit brought before him. Aside from the fact that this is a very unique, as well as wholesome, campaign it is interesting because of the fact that soldiers are foremost in suppressing street profanity and vulgarity. Time was when the return soldier was in a class by himself when it came to up-to-the-minute profanity but probably the passing of the army mule and the "mule skinner" has eliminated the provocation and brought a new order of soldier home to us. More power to them. And every community will bless them more than ever if they succeed in breaking up a habit that is as useless as it is detestable.

Democratic Watchman.

STATE RIGHTS AND FEDERAL UNION.

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Some of Mitchell Palmer's Troubles.

There is something like poetic justice in an incident developed in Washington, the other day, when the confirmation of Mitchell Palmer's appointment as Attorney General was held up in a Senate committee on a charge made by Leslie S. Kennard, of Indiana, a clerk in his office while he was Custodian of Alien property. Mr. Palmer informed the committee that Kennard "was an inconspicuous, \$2000.00 clerk," but at that his betrayal of his late chief was base ingratitude. Still Mr. Palmer has no just right to complain of ingratitude. He has himself revealed that detestable characteristic. It will be remembered that the late Senator Hall financed his early political ambitions yet he maligned that gentleman most outrageously before he died.

One of the charges made by Mr. Kennard against Mr. Palmer was that he appointed "inconspicuous men as the trustees for enemy property." As a matter of fact Mr. Palmer converted that bureau, or whatever it was, into a sort of an asylum for political "lame ducks" and after Mr. Joe Guffey, of Pittsburgh, had been overwhelmingly defeated for the Democratic nomination for Governor of Pennsylvania last year, Mr. Palmer consoled him by appointment to one of the most important and probably the most lucrative offices at his disposal. Political lame ducks are not a very dependable type of men, and possibly Kennard belongs to that category. Anyway Mr. Palmer got him to make an affidavit "admitting that many of his charges were untrue."

Of course Mr. Palmer's confirmation ought not to be defeated upon the statement of an ingrate who was willing to swear subsequently that he had lied and Kennard's affidavit submitted by Mr. Palmer is complete proof on that point. Mr. Kennard is probably a Republican. At least his charge against Palmer was given to a Republican Senator and used to aid a Republican purpose. Another claim that Palmer is disqualified for the office because the "Department of Justice must pass on many acts and claims of the Alien Property Custodian's office," is equally without merit. The courts may be depended upon to hold the Attorney General to the lines of the law. But other reasons against the confirmation of Mr. Palmer might have been brought forward.

—Between the Bolsheviks in the cities and the Senators in Congress the United States are slowly but surely moving along in the direction of anarchy. The people are patient and long suffering but there is a limit to human endurance of evil.

Rather a Good Precedent.

In vetoing the bill "requiring the Fish Commissioner, within a year, to certify whether an adequate fishway has been built in the McCall's Ferry dam, and instructing the Attorney General to proceed to action if it has not been constructed," Governor Sprout has disappointed a great many good citizens of Pennsylvania. That meritorious piece of legislation was forced through the recent session in the face of a most formidable lobby. It has been a subject of contention in the General Assembly ever since the erection of a dam some fifteen years ago. It will probably continue to be so for a long time to come because of the corporation interests involved.

Previous to the construction of the McCall's Ferry dam, the Susquehanna river was a prolific source of food supply for a vast number of residents of the State. All kinds of fish were plentiful in both the great branches of this historic stream from Sunbury to the Northern border on the east and from the same point to the New York line on the west. From Sunbury down to tide water the main stream was equally productive of food, pleasure and romance, before the building of that dam. Thousands of shad were taken from its waters every spring and an equal number and in great variety of other game and food fishes were caught in it every year.

But the dam has put an inglorious and lamentable end to all the pleasures and profits of fishing in the Susquehanna. Of course McCall's Ferry dam is a valuable acquisition to the industrial life of the Commonwealth. It has proved a great force and produced much wealth. But it is believed by many intelligent people that an adequate fishway might be constructed so as to avert the evils which have resulted from it, without impairing the advantages. That was the purpose of the legislation the Governor vetoed on the ground that "it would make a mischievous precedent," without stating how. Precedents that accomplish good results are not mischievous.

—Former King Constantine, of Greece, is reported to be "hard up." Well, his brother-in-law, former Kaiser William, who got him into his present predicament, has plenty to provide luxuriously for both families.

Significance of the Contest.

There can be no misunderstanding of the contest in the Senate over the ratification of the Peace treaty. The treaty is the product of the labor of the leading statesmen of the world to guarantee present and future generations against a recurrence of destruction, devastation and slaughter, such as had convulsed civilization for a period of four years. It is not a perfect instrument and may disappoint public expectation as to its efficiency. There were five great powers and some thirty lesser nationalities concerned in it and each had particular interests to conserve. But it is the best that could be obtained in the circumstances and is the result of earnest, unselfish and intelligent effort.

Those Senators in Congress who favor the ratification of the convention honestly desire permanent peace throughout the civilized world. They are not convinced that this hope will be fulfilled. They are not fully persuaded that the people of every country concerned will comply with the conditions it creates for all time. But they firmly believe that it will serve the purpose for the time and that as passions give way and animosities are softened, it will afford a foundation for a peace pact that will endure forever. That is a magnificent aspiration. It is the highest aim of christian civilization. It promises the consummation of the greatest hope of the Saviour, "on earth peace, good will to men."

Those who oppose ratification represent the antithesis of this. It may be that they are influenced by politics, by prejudice against an individual or by the selfish hope of enriching constituents engaged in the manufacture of war materials or munitions. In any event they are retarding, if they do not actually defeat, the fulfillment of the highest hope of the Prince of Peace. If the treaty fails of ratification the thousands of lives of Americans killed in the war will have been sacrificed in vain. The United States representatives in the peace conference were the principal agents in the achievement and if this country fails to ratify, their labor of love is lost to the world.

—No just person will deny the right of asylum to the Crown Prince but there would likely be a wide difference of opinion as to whether it should be of the insane or feeble minded variety.

Action Rather Than Talk Needed.

Former Speaker Champ Clark, in a speech in the House of Representatives on Monday, declared that "the cost of living must be remedied, soon, or there is going to be all sorts of trouble in this country. Individually," he added, "I am in favor of sending to the penitentiary every profiteer in the land. I do not care whether he is big or small," he continued. "He is on a par with thieves and robbers." That is exactly the right line of talk, but what is wanted is not talk but action. Mr. Clark might talk his head off without influencing a single profiteer to mend his ways. But if he will take some step in the direction of sending the pirates to the penitentiary, some good may come of it.

There is no substantial reason for the prevailing prices of the necessities of life. While the war was in progress and the government was compelled to provide for the maintenance of the army, all or nearly all the products of the soil, the mills and the factories, at any price asked, there was some excuse for high prices. But hostilities ended more than eight months ago and prices are still going upward. Mr. Clark ascribes this anomaly to the operations of profiteers and a great many others concur in his opinion. If it be true the profiteers ought to be stopped and if those charged with the making of the laws are not able to provide a legal way of achieving this result another way will be adopted.

It is said that the government is in possession of surplus stocks of food and fruits of an aggregate value of nearly one hundred and thirty million dollars and that it is being withheld from the public in order to avoid a disturbance of values to the disadvantage of the big dealers. But in conserving the interests of the big dealers the vital interests of the people are being sacrificed. That being the case these stocks should be thrown on the market and sold to the highest bidders, and the big dealers should be excluded from the sale. There are more foodstuffs now than ever before and no good reason why prices are so high or necessities of life so inaccessible to consumers.

—The Peace Conference might have made things a good deal harder for the people of Germany. Suppose, for example, it had organized an anti-Saloon League over there.

—Every pan-German in or out of Germany is in complete sympathy with Senator Lodge in his fight against the League of Nations.

North Penn Bank Goat.

It is plainly a settled purpose to make Ralph Moyer, cashier of the wrecked North Penn bank of Philadelphia, the "goat." When the bank was closed by the Commissioner of Banking announcement was made that in January Governor Sproul had removed Charles A. Ambler from the office of Insurance Commissioner for the reason that he had deposited a large amount of State funds in a bank of questionable solvency. In a later statement from the same source it is alleged that the first intimation the authorities got that the bank was unsound was on July 9th, ten days before the closing, when bank examiner Ferguson made an examination in his official capacity "and found out that it was unsound."

Ambler was removed in January, nearly six months before the bank was closed for the declared reason that he deposited State funds in an unsound bank and subsequently borrowed for personal use large sums of money from the bank. If that was the real reason for the removal of Ambler it was the palpable duty of the State Banking Department to make an examination at once, in order to protect the State as well as the other depositors in the bank from loss. But nothing was done in this direction until the affairs of the concern had become so involved that the loss of considerable money to the State was inevitable. Another statement indicates that the State authorities hoped to get the State funds out of the bank before its tottering condition was known to the public.

The chances are that Ambler was removed from office because he was identified with the Brumbaugh faction of the past and supported Denny O'Neil for the Republican nomination for Governor last fall with more zeal than discretion. The investigation into the affairs of the bank since the failure indicates that Ambler will be able to extricate himself from the wreckage and it will be necessary to provide a "goat." Moyer had been indulging in practices which pointed him out as the logical "it" and the State authorities will likely try to "save their own faces" by fastening the culpability on him. Probably he deserves this sinister distinction for slovenly banking is inexcusable.

—Probably England won't be ready the next time Germany attacks France, but it will be a good while before Germany will be ready for such an enterprise again.

Victor Berger's Foolish Notions.

Victor Berger, of Wisconsin, who is still trying to "jimmy" his way into Congress, is showing no signs of repentance. In a statement before the committee investigating his claim, the other day, he expressed a preference for the Industrial Workers of the World as labor organization to the American Federation of Labor. He also characterized the recent world war "as the greatest crime ever committed," and said that while he was "in favor of intervention in Mexico, in 1916," he was "greatly opposed to the draft and its effect in forming the army in 1917."

Mr. Berger's reason for opposition to the American Federation of Labor, is Samuel Gompers. That distinguished labor leader has always advised against violence and the destruction of property while murder and sabotage are the principal instruments of the I. W. W. and the A. F. A., has been consistently loyal to its obligations of patriotism while the other has been invariably "agin' the government." Naturally Mr. Berger, who is under conviction and sentence for treasonable actions, under the espionage law, favors the organization of evil impulses.

In 1916 every enemy of the United States at home or abroad, favored intervention in Mexico for the reason that such an enterprise might so tax the military resources of the United States as to make intervention in the world war impossible. Careless thinkers pretend to believe that the invasion and conquest of Mexico would be a sort of holiday diversion for the United States. But Victor Berger is under no such delusion. He knows that undertaken in 1916 it would have required years of time, millions of men and billions of money to settle that trouble.

And that is precisely the reason that Mr. Berger favored intervention in Mexico. While our armies and energies were being wasted in the pursuit of Mexican bandits the armies of Germany, Austria and Turkey would be overrunning and devastating Europe and completing plans for the conquest of America when their other tasks were finished. In view of these facts, Victor Berger has no right to occupy a seat in the Congress of the United States and we sincerely hope that the present Congress will so determine.

—If the recent Washington outbreak could be ascribed to that pestiferous old sinner, John Barleycorn, everything would be easy.

The Issue is War or Peace.

From the Philadelphia Record.
Senator Harding, of Ohio, may be securing instructions from his constituents. He would not do anything against their wishes for the world. He has been in a state of considerable uncertainty as to the path of duty—and popularity—in the matter of the peace treaty. However, he has gone with the Republican crowd against the treaty, but public sentiment, quite as much Republican as Democratic, is plainly becoming more impatient of the factious and partisan hostility to the only possible means of giving the world reasonable assurance against war. It is getting to be a dangerous thing for a Senator to stand out for war when there is a possibility of securing permanent peace.

Mr. Harding's constituents are reported to be adopting resolutions and signing petitions to him to abandon his policy of obstruction, and if these petitions are general enough we are confident that the Senator will gracefully accede to them. It is not impossible that the prudent Senator is getting himself instructed so that he can cut loose from the narrow, partisan and reactionary crowd that he is in.

Whatever Mr. Harding's attitude really is, there is no question that the world expects the United States to sign the treaty; that our good name in the world is compromised by the attitude of the majority party in the Senate, and that the grounds of opposition are puerile. The rights of the United States are amply safeguarded in the covenant of the League of Nations, and it is the knowledge of this fact that inspired Republican indignation over the Tsingtau cession. Afraid to make any longer fight over the League of Nations, the Republicans have discovered that China was wronged by Germany 21 years ago, when the Republican party controlled the government, and the protection of China was not considered by any one.

Every Senator who fights against the treaty, whether on account of the League or of Tsingtau, knows that the treaty and the League constitute the only possible protection of the world from another such calamity as that of 1914. He knows that the United States is perfectly safe under the treaty, and that no nation would commit suicide even if it were so provided in a treaty. If the treaty proved to mean something very different from what it appears to mean, the United States would promptly withdraw from the League.

Every Senator who opposes the treaty, on whatever ground, is doing all in his power to perpetuate war.

Save the Airplane Service.

From the Philadelphia Public Ledger.
Whatever may be the nature of the special report of Benedict Crowell, Assistant Secretary of War, on the future of aviation in the United States, Congress should certainly look to it. It is showing no signs of repentance. In a statement before the committee investigating his claim, the other day, he expressed a preference for the Industrial Workers of the World as labor organization to the American Federation of Labor. He also characterized the recent world war "as the greatest crime ever committed," and said that while he was "in favor of intervention in Mexico, in 1916," he was "greatly opposed to the draft and its effect in forming the army in 1917."

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Might Take Him Up.

From the Ohio State Journal.
About everybody of supposed importance in Germany has now offered himself as a vicarious sacrifice for the Kaiser, except Count von Bernstorff, and we imagine he's afraid we might really take him up.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

—Stephen Palshisko, in ending his life at his home near Winburne, lighted a fuse attached to a can of powder, and, standing immediately over the can, waited until the explosion ended his life. He leaves a family of six.

—Joseph H. Tufts, of Pittston, had no faith in banks. He placed his savings amounting to \$300, in his sock and locked up money and sock in his trunk. He went to work and came home to find his trunk broken open. The sock was there, but the money was gone.

—Acting Chief of Police A. K. Hutchinson, of Greensburg, is suffering from an attack of blood poisoning caused, it is said, by being bitten by a prisoner he arrested on July 17th. Hutchinson was arresting Roy Shoaf, a suspicious character, when the prisoner bit the officer on the right hand.

—While emulating Benjamin Franklin and flying a kite during a thunderstorm late Saturday Andrew Loyal, of Scranton, was killed when a bolt of lightning followed the kite string from the skies. Loyal was struck in the back of the head and all of his hair burned off. Death was instantaneous.

—State Game Commission officials declare that there has been a record demand for hunters' licenses. The Legislature passed a law which advanced the season for hunting blackbirds from September 1 to August 1, because of the damage done to fields and orchards by the birds and also took the protection of the red squirrels for the same reason.

—William Packard, who is living at a cabin on "Big Mountain," near Trout Run, Lycoming county, had the scare of his life one night last week when he discovered that a big blacksnake had slipped under his bed. He was just about to occupy the bed himself when he saw its occupant and killed the snake. He spent a very restless night, imagining snakes all over the place. Many snakes have been killed in that vicinity recently.

—Thomas Welch, of Wellsboro, aged 26 years, while attempting to rescue Dorothy Shatterton, of that place, and her guest, Helen Gingrich, of Rochester, N. Y., after they had gotten beyond their depth in Pine Creek, Sunday afternoon, was seized with cramps and drowned. The girls were rescued by Miss Shatterton's father, who attempted in vain to rescue Welch. When help arrived, the body was raised, but he was beyond aid.

—Superintendent J. K. Johnston, has been reappointed as head of the board of managers of the State Village for Feeble Minded women, at Laurelton, Union county. The board named by Governor W. C. Sprout is made up as follows: J. K. Johnston, Tyrone; Joseph W. Cochran, Williamsport; Mrs. George H. Earle, Philadelphia; Philip B. Linn, Lewisburg; Mrs. Elizabeth C. Birney, Philadelphia, and Mrs. Harold M. McClure, Lewisburg.

—Mrs. Frank Childs, of Lewistown, has received notice from the War Department that one of the destroyers now building will be named in honor of her son, Lieutenant Earl W. Childs, who was lost at sea during the world war. Mrs. Childs will christen the ship. In spite of the fact that more than a year has elapsed since Lieutenant Childs was lost fifteen miles off the Irish coast, the mother still believes he is alive and will return to his home.

—Damages for injuries alleged to have been suffered when attacked in police court, July 1, and also for injured feelings, are sought by Edward Robling, a Socialist leader, in two suits begun against members of the Scranton police, demanding \$35,000 damages. Robling was attacked on the ground that he had stirring remarks concerning the United States, the trouble occurring when four alleged Bolshevik agents were arraigned before Police Magistrate Williams.

—Last week the Helvetia Milk Condensing company, at Westfield, Tioga county, paid over \$152,000 to the dairymen of that section for milk. The month showed an average of nearly 172,000 pounds of milk a day or in the whole month about 200,000 pounds of milk more than was received during the month of June last year. The total milk received for the month was over 5,200,000 pounds or enough to float a fleet. The list of milk checks for the month number more than 650 names, the longest list of the year.

—While playing wild west near their homes at Ludlow, McKean county, Milford Nordin, 13 years old, and instantly killed Allen Engman, 10 years old. During the past week a medicine man has been in Ludlow and wild west stunts have been numerous in connection with his spiel. Lassos and guns have been much in evidence among boys and "wild west" has been the prevailing theme that resulted in Monday's tragedy. Young Nordin found an automatic revolver in the upper apartment of his home and with a number of boys started playing wild west. Nordin, not knowing the gun was loaded, began pulling the trigger. A ball struck Engman in the neck.

—The State of Pennsylvania has on its preserves hundreds of thousands of dollars' worth of chestnut wood, with no means of getting it to market. Officials of the State Forestry Commission say if all of the dead, dying and barked chestnut trees in the State forests could be marketed speedily at least \$1,500,000 could be realized. Pennsylvania now owns 1,041,891 acres of forest land, in 53 State forests scattered throughout 27 counties. The land cost the State \$2,375,110.55. Last year 14,450 acres were added to the preserves, and during the first half of this year 9258 acres were bought. An interesting fact in connection with the State laws governing forests is that all income from that source goes into the State permanent school fund and up to July 1st, \$191,219.49 had been realized.

—Charged with stealing a money belt containing \$350 from Andy Pustay, of Carpentertown, Westmoreland county, on June 25th, Charles Markus and Pete Wajdle were arrested by the state police, on a warrant issued by Squire J. Q. Truxal. They were taken before him where Wajdle was able to give bail to the amount of \$1000, for his appearance at a further hearing. Markus was not able to furnish bail in the same amount and was sent to jail.

On the night of June 25th, Pustay lay down to sleep in his bungalow at Carpentertown with his money belt around his waist. He slept soundly and two men entered the room, cut the belt and fled hastily with the money. The act of pulling the belt away awakened Andy. Pustay had been an industrious coal miner and saved his money. He had no faith in the banks of the country and preferred to live near his roll of legal tender. He has formed an idea now that it is not safe to go to sleep with a belt of nearly \$4000 around him.