

INK SLINGS.

—We had lots to be thankful for yesterday, but it wasn't turkey that made us feel that way.

—Dr. Garfield always begins wrong. He wants to give the miners all they ask and the operators whatever they think they want and saddle the cost of all on the public.

—Reading's treatment of Jim Maurer and his radical friends was rather heroic, but just what they deserved. The sooner we stop feeding the dog that is biting us the quicker we'll get rid of him.

—The census enumerator will soon be on his rounds. You can make his work easy or hard, useful or useless according as you give him the facts he will be required to gather, cheerfully and accurately.

—Anyway the fellow who paid forty five cents a pound for turkey for yesterday's dinner is poorer and doesn't feel a bit better today than those of us who had a turkey appetite but only a chicken pocketbook.

—Talking about increased production, we're very much interested in that just now. The "Watchman" is sorely in need of an increased production of mazzma by those who read it every place but the label that tells them that their subscription has expired.

—Sure. If we carry the peace treaty and the League covenant into the next presidential campaign every secret sympathizer with Germany will be found voting the Republican ticket. Some of them have already started doing it right here in Centre county.

—Islam's prophet is out in a pronouncement to the effect that drinking made the Turks bad. Possibly I did, but how fortunate that none of the rest of the world took to drinking the kind of stuff that made them want to butcher helpless, inoffensive Armenians.

—Kentucky has voted dry on a prohibition amendment to the state constitution. Marsa Henry Watterson might well add another chapter to his recent "Looking Backward." The blue grass country was ever lovely under the mellowing influence of bourbon and julep and the veteran journalist should not write "finis" to his latest reminiscent work until he has sung their swan song.

—From now until the first of the New Year we are going to permit each one of our readers to send in the names of as many new subscribers to the "Watchman" as they care to. The only condition being that one dollar and a half in regular money, or its equivalent, must be sent for each name on the list. While it is our present intention to terminate this unprecedented offer on January 1st next, at that time, there appears to be a great clamor to have it continued indefinitely we will consider the matter with open mind.

—Organized labor having decided to enter the political field with a national labor platform and candidate for President the "Watchman's" surmise of two years ago has come true. Immediately following the adjournment of the great meeting at Buffalo to which President Wilson hurried to speak a word of patriotism to labor, this paper predicted that the day would not be far distant when organized labor would be a thorn in the flesh of both of the great political parties. And with the labor organizations drifting into the control of radical socialists it required not a long look into the future to see a coalescence of Democrat and Republican to save the overthrow of the government by radicalism. In name only is the American Federation of Labor American. Foreign fanatics of all isms are "boring from within" its organization until it is so honey combed with the most dangerous objectives that even the true Americans who are affiliated with it seem to be no longer able to hold its course true to the principles that called it into existence.

—State Highway Commissioner Sadler, in announcing that the association of his name with the gubernatorial nomination in 1922 is very distasteful to him, took the opportunity to state that his "department has been divorced from politics." At the time of Mr. Sadler's appointment the "Watchman" predicted a very capable administration of the department, for it knew him to be the type of man who would not permit political favoritism to hamper the great plans for highway improvement which Governor Sproul announced were to be carried to completion through him. If what we have heard recently concerning the attitude of certain of the employees of Mr. Sadler's department, in this district, is to be credited it would appear that he was not well advised when he spoke so positively of his department's divorce from politics. A story is in circulation here that a young employee, a Republican at that, was peremptorily discharged because he unwittingly recounted an old grievance he had against one of the Republican candidates for office in Centre county at the recent election. The young man asked for the cause of his dismissal and was told that no such disloyalty would be tolerated. Of course Mr. Sadler is not supposed to have his finger on every one of the thousands of men in his employ and we are not absolutely certain of the truth of the incident related, but if it is so it would seem that the chief had better be sure of his ground before making such positive statements.

Democratic Watchman

STATE RIGHTS AND FEDERAL UNION

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Germany the Only Beneficiary.

The failure of the United States Senate to ratify the peace treaty has given great satisfaction in Berlin. "It is a tremendous moral victory for the cause of universal peace," Herr Schuecking, who was a member of the German peace delegation declares. "The longer the Senate debates the treaty the better chance Americans will have to acquaint themselves with the true inwardness of this pernicious document," he continues. Plainly the hope of Germany is that while the United States refuses to ratify the treaty and enter into the League of Nations, the military spirit may be revived in Germany and that accomplished the reopening of hostilities would be easily within the range of possibilities.

No interest other than that of Germany could be conserved by the failure to ratify the treaty. First it is essential to the process of levying indemnities and exacting reparations. Every intelligent person realizes that promptness is the most important feature of reparation. The people in France and Belgium whose homes were destroyed and lands devastated need the reparation that will be awarded to them at once in order to set them on their feet to resume work. But until the peace treaty is put in force nothing can be done in the way of reparations. Germany owes the money and the sufferers need it. But so long as the restoration of peace is delayed Germany will keep the money and the victims of German cruelty and fiendishness will continue to suffer.

Of course, Senator Lodge had the interests of Germany in mind when he proposed a separate peace with Germany. In the beginning of the world war the Allies solemnly agreed that neither of them would make a separate peace with Germany and upon entering into the conflict this country accepted this condition. To make a separate peace with Germany, therefore, would be an act of perfidy to all those associated with us in the war, as well as a betrayal of moral obligations. But that would make no difference to Senator Lodge who appears to be a moral pervert obsessed with his own importance and blind to every consideration of honor. The people of the country are not in sympathy with such conduct however.

It is estimated that enforcing the prohibition law will cost the government \$4,000,000 a year and reduce the revenue nearly that much. But it was a famous victory for the anti-saloon league.

Industrial Conditions Improving.

There have been a great many labor strikes within the last year and they have cost the country vast sums of money. But so far as we have been able to find out none of them has succeeded. The reasons for this fact are plain and plenty. The public believed that most of the strikes were without just cause and the popular sympathy essential to success was withheld from the strikers. This is conspicuously true of the two great strikes, those of the steel workers and the miners. The steel workers had some cause of complaint in the autocratic attitude of the head of the Steel trust. But the untimely miners' strike was alike illegal, from the organization standpoint, and without cause.

It is estimated that the steel workers strike cost the country \$250,000,000, of which amount the Pittsburgh district lost \$30,000,000. The loss in wages may be safely estimated to be two-thirds of the whole amount, and the loss is irretrievable. The mill owners lost some business and considerable profit but the machinery and materials are there. But the operatives cannot recover the time lost or the cost of their living during the period of idleness. Like the water that has gone over the dam, lost time is beyond recovery and what is worse the future is mortgaged to pay the debts incurred while it was passing. Even a victory leaves the balance sheet of a strike in grave doubt.

The strikes of the past year were untimely, moreover, for the reason that the country has been in no condition to stand the strain of industrial paralysis. Emerging from a war, the greatest and most expensive in the history of the world, the quickening and strengthening of industry were needed to restore conditions to a normal state. Upon this country rests the obligation to supply devastated Europe with food stuffs until its own facilities and resources are restored and we could not fulfill those obligations with idle industries. But we may now hope for a renewal of the industrial life of the country and hope that in future strikers will have public sympathy with them.

The defeat of the peace treaty wrecks all hopes of the commercial supremacy of this country. But Senator Lodge has no interest in commercial pursuits.

College Chums Helping Each Other.

In an address recently delivered in Boston Governor Sproul pronounced a most flattering eulogy to his college chum, the Hon. A. Mitchell Palmer, Attorney General of the United States. A few days later, in Philadelphia, Mr. Palmer praised his college chum, the Hon. William C. Sproul, Governor of Pennsylvania, in equally generous terms. In the newspapers of the State on Monday morning an announcement appeared to the effect that "Attorney General A. Mitchell Palmer, who has been staying at the home of Governor William C. Sproul, near Chester, since Friday, is rapidly recovering from his fatigue and will leave for his home at Stroudsburg or Atlantic City on Tuesday."

In the same newspapers of the same date we get the information that Governor Sproul has chosen Attorney General Palmer a member of the State Commission on Constitutional Amendment and revision, provided for by the General Assembly during its recent session. Six other Democrats are named out of the twenty-five members of the Commission, all except one corporation lawyers and all obedient followers of Mr. Palmer and supporters of his various ambitions. The inference may be drawn, in view of these facts, that the Damon and Pythias relationship between the distinguished Pennsylvanians is welded by something more substantial than sentiment. At least it is made an instrument of mutual advantage.

In the campaign for Governor last year Mr. Palmer, in the capacity of member of the Democratic National committee, scuttled the Democratic ship in the interest of his college chum, William C. Sproul, who was the opposing candidate. Mr. Palmer set up an absurd charge against the Democratic candidate to justify his perfidy but deceived nobody who was not anxious to be fooled. He bolted the Democratic candidate and supported the Republican candidate because he believed he would have more influence with his college chum in office than with a man who had his moral and mental measure accurately charted. But the Democrats of Pennsylvania are not likely to put a premium on perfidy by honoring him this year.

Getting rid of the Reds is all right, and by whatever process is necessary, but getting rid of radicals in the United States Senate is equally important. One of these is about as dangerous as the other and "consistency is a jewel."

Will Hays' New Scheme.

That the Republican party is absolutely destitute of principles is plainly revealed by a recent action of Mr. Will Hays, chairman of its National committee. He has sent a form letter to every Senator and Congressman of that party faith to make inquiry during their brief time between the sessions concerning public sentiment on current questions, to serve as a guide in drafting the platform of the party for the coming presidential campaign. The idea is to make the party pledges suit the requirements of the voters, regardless, of course, of previous party policies. It is a sort of commercial scheme in which the dominant thought is the aim to please. "If you don't see what you want, ask for it."

Senator Lodge, obviously during one of his periods of dementia, proposed making the ratification of the peace treaty the issue of the campaign. Mr. Hays, who is not a fool, discerned disaster in that proposition, and suggested the sounding of popular opinion through inquiry by Congressmen. It is a good deal more promising scheme than that proposed by Lodge but it certainly shows an absence of party principle. It clearly indicates that the party managers are willing to stand for anything that is popular at the moment whether it be for the public good or not. Bolshevism or Bourbonism have equal chances of adoption. It all depends upon the state of the public mind at the time of the inquiry.

As a matter of fact for the past half dozen years the Republican party has been aimlessly drifting like a ship at sea without rudder or motive power. Demagogues like Sherman of Illinois, or imbeciles like Lodge, of Massachusetts, have been leading the party from one blunder to another in the hope that in the passage a popular current may be found that will convey it into a safe anchorage. Will Hays, an adventurer, who has nothing to lose and hopes that much may be gained, has at last pinned his faith upon the prospect of riding into power on the crest of some popular wave. He is welcome to all he may get out of such an enterprise. It promises little and deserves less.

It begins to look as if the presidential boom of General Leonard Wood had got lost in the shuffle.

Accept Foreign Challenge.

Senator Lodge's challenge to make the peace treaty the paramount issue in the coming Presidential campaign ought to be accepted promptly and cheerfully by the Democratic managers. The treaty represents the best thoughts of the ablest men of the civilized world. It is a product of months of labor unselfishly given in the interests of humanity. It may not be perfect for the best human endeavor falls short of perfection. But it is the best that could be obtained in the circumstances. There were many interests, some conflicting, slightly and some diametrically opposite, to reconcile and the treaty is a compromise of these conflicting aspirations and purposes.

It may be said, therefore, that the instrument is the best that could be got and that being true it ought to have been ratified promptly. Besides the purpose it is intended to fulfill should and would recommend it to all except vicious minds. It is intended to obviate future wars for all time and the worst enemy it had in or out of the Senate could not deny that it would have in some measure accomplished that result. Such an organization is admittedly the only means of attaining that end. The defeat of the League of Nations, therefore, is equivalent to a declaration in favor of war with its attendant horrors, cruelties and suffering. There are only two sides to the question.

In defeating the ratification of the peace treaty and proposing to make that action an issue in the campaign Senator Lodge reveals the motives that have influenced the Republican Senators during the six months of their contention in the Senate. They want wars and rumors of wars to keep the munition makers busy and give profiteers plenty of opportunity to loot. Mr. Lodge's rich friends in New England will grow richer if there are large armies in camps and cantonments to feed and clothe. And Mr. Lodge's rich friends, like Mr. Lodge himself, care more for the profits of business than for the prosperity of the people. They are selfish seekers after personal advantage at any price.

In a decision handed down by chairman Ainey at noon on Wednesday the Public Service Commission refused the application of the Bell Telephone company to keep the federal rates in effect after December 1st and orders the company to return to the rates established by the Commission in 1917, and which will expire April 1st, 1920. In his decision chairman Ainey said that "the evidence as to the financial condition and prospective revenues submitted by the company is not sufficient to convince the Commission of the necessity of the increase prayed for," but adds that "if the future reveals necessity for rate adjustment prompt relief can be readily secured and will be granted."

Under a law passed by the last Legislature candidates for office who did not receive any contributions for campaign expenses nor make any disbursements are not required to file any statement of expenses. Under the old law all candidates were required to file a statement, but if the amount spent was less than fifty dollars no itemization is required. It is a well known fact that very few, if any, borough or township candidates spend much money in their campaign, and yet under the old law they were required to file a statement that they expended "less than fifty dollars." Under the new law this will not be necessary.

Henry Harrison, colored, was to have been hanged in Chicago last week, but his sentence was commuted to life imprisonment. Henry's wife did not know of his good fortune until she called at the jail to have a last look at her man before he swung off. When she heard the news that he was not to be hanged at all she flew into a rage of disappointment and cursed her luck because, as she said: "He was a worthless coon and I've been keepin' up the insurance on him for five years."

It should be held in mind that the court order was not that miners return to their work but that officers of mine labor organizations may not prevent them from returning if they want to.

Lady Astor, who has ambitions, says that "but for women there would be no people." True, and it may be added that if there were no men the people would be up against it likewise.

The Hohenzollern hopes are building high on the defeat of the League of Nations. They are talking now of an imperial republic with Dr. Helfferich as President.

In Huntingdon turkeys were sold for forty cents a pound, dressed.

"Government by Injunction."

From the DuBois Express. Labor leaders continue to clamor intemperately against what they describe as judicial bondage against enslavements by the courts and the restriction of their liberties through decrees of Federal judges on the bench. The proceedings brought by the government to halt the strike of bituminous coal miners is made the basis for the lamentations and the warnings which now arise from the ranks of labor spokesmen.

Honest and law-abiding workingmen throughout the country should not be misled by these outbursts. They should be made to understand, if possible, that the Federal government is not seeking to bind and gag them; that it is not invoking the power of the courts to force men to work against their will or their wish; that it is not abridging their liberties or destroying their natural and constitutional rights as American citizens.

The injunction sought and granted against the coal strikers was a proceeding to outlaw an unjustifiable and an illegal act on the part of the miners' representatives. The government, under its war powers, prohibited any conspiracy on the part of two or more men in this country to limit the production of food and fuel. A special act of Congress, passed by the united vote of Republicans and Democrats alike, makes it unlawful for men to organize to limit the output of food and fuel, the great basic commodities of life.

They did not contend that their strike order would be lawful, if the act were in force, but contended that the act had ceased to operate since in their judgment the war now is over. But the courts and the government itself insist that the war is not over and will not terminate until peace proclamation has been issued by the President. The food control act is as much in effect as war-time prohibition or any other war measure.

The Attorney General has declared his fixed opposition to what labor refers to as "government by injunction." He has fought that sort of thing all of his public life, he adds. He does not believe that a private employer has a right to demand of a court a restraining order which prevents employees from quitting their work whenever they choose to quit. If employers should have such power and the courts should recognize it there would be in this country very pronounced government by injunction.

But in the present case it is the Federal government and not the coal operators which intervened to prevent a violation of statutory law. The operators are not parties to the injunction proceedings. With their interests the government has no immediate concern. In fact it has gone so far as to limit the price of such coal as may be produced in order that no coal operator may possibly profit by present scarcity of fuel. When the mine leaders violated the law, however, they invited prosecution at the hands of the government. And because they appear to have violated it, believing that they had a right to strike, they are proceeded against in the civil court rather than in a criminal court. Once labor understands this, the great body of workingmen should applaud a government which is unafraid.

The "Steady, There!" Vote.

From the New York Evening World. In the French elections for the Chamber of Deputies the Socialists lost 103 seats. The Radical Socialists lost 85, more than all the other Socialist groups put together. In the election for the Italian Chamber of Deputies the Socialist candidates are reported to be losing in Southern Italy.

It would be foolish to conclude that the world is swinging back to conservatism. But it is safe to say the challenge of Bolshevism has added enormously to what may be called in any country the "Steady, there!" vote. The "Steady, there!" vote is normally a lazy vote that only shows up at the polls in force when the boat is rocking and there is danger that reckless handling may overturn it. The "Steady, there!" vote of course draws from other votes that go in different directions when times are tranquil and issues not particularly important. A big part of the "Steady, there!" vote, however, never comes out at all unless it sees something vital that needs prompt attention.

It was the "Steady, there!" vote for instance, that swelled Gov. Coolidge's recent plurality in Massachusetts to proportions that rejoiced the Nation. Now it strengthens Clemenceau against strenuous forces in France.

Senator Lodge Angry.

From the Springfield Republican. It is possible that Mr. Lodge has misread his commission and misinterpreted the minds and hearts of the rank and file of his own party. If so, the results of his defiance will be to expose him as a leader who is discredited. Certainly there are many Republicans of wide influence who will read his statement with regret, indignation or dismay, according as they assess its importance. Can it be that Senator Lodge has become so angered at the discovery that his proposed concurrent resolution to end the war lacks the approval of constitutional lawyers in his own party, that he has thrown judgment to the winds?

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

The Public Service Commission has ordered the Lock Haven Suburban Water company to make extensions in Flemington and Mill Hall boroughs to improve facilities there.

Seven tons of steel wire are required to manufacture the weekly output of mice and rat traps in Litzitz, and with the steel strike on and the production of metal restricted the rats and mice of the land are having even as good a time as when the cats are away.

Fire destroyed the original buildings of the Reading Stove works, owned by Orr Painter and company, early on Sunday. The loss was estimated at \$200,000, chiefly in the building furnishings and in molds used in the manufacture of stoves and stored in the building.

Contracts for the construction of two sections of state road in Clearfield county were awarded last week by Highway Commissioner Sadler to Gifford & Pritchard, of Philipsburg, one being for 11,222 feet at Osceola for \$97,234 and the other for 5,400 feet near Madera, for \$56,569.

Joseph Morey, of Towanda, enjoys telling of his good luck while his neighbors' moans water. Seeing bees going in a knot hole of the siding of his home, he took off a few boards and extracted therefrom sixty pounds of the honey. In the present sugar shortage this is not to be sneezed at.

F. P. Drake, aged seventy years, died at Shintown, near Renovo, Monday, at the home of his mother, Mrs. Nancy Drake, who is more than one hundred years old. Drake was the first mail carrier in the Kettle Creek district. He served Westport, Cross Fork, Germania and intermediate points when it was carried on horseback, and it took three days to make a round trip through the wilderness.

In connection with the election contest for inspector at Mill Hall, Judge Metcalf, at Lock Haven, has issued an order to Sheriff Rathgeber to secure the ballot box and hold it in his possession until called for, which indicates that the box may be opened for the purpose of examining the ballots. The petitioners for the contest have filed bonds in the sum of \$200 to guarantee payments of the costs of the contest.

At three o'clock Sunday morning two men walked into a restaurant at Franklin, Pa., and bought a penny box of matches. When the waiter opened the cash register both men drew revolvers and demanded all the money it contained. The waiter gave it to them, \$95, and the robbers departed. Neither the waiter nor another employee in the rear of the room recognized the robbers, who are thought to have been strangers. They have eluded capture so far.

Mrs. Linnie Decker, of Towanda, is being held by the state police under suspicion that she administered the poison which killed Perry Denson, 84 year old Civil war veteran, of Laceyville, last Thursday. She says that the old gentleman ate some canned peas and was taken sick. Physicians say that he did not die of that kind of poisoning and declare that some one mixed the death fluid in his food. A bottle of bisulphate of mercury was found in the house.

John G. Dengler, of Berks county, began his career as a school teacher in 1857, and, with the exception of four years' service in the war, has been teaching ever since. He is now in his eighty-second year and has been retired by the State Board, and will receive a life pension from the teachers' retirement fund. The veteran helped to educate many of the most prominent men of Berks county, and as he is a teacher of the old school, he no doubt did some thrashing in the line of his work.

Andrew Mislin, of West Pittston, shot and killed his wife because she had failed to give him the kind of food and cooking he desired and because his rage got the better of him while he was under the influence of liquor. That is the burden of the story which Mislin carried to court last Thursday in an effort to justify his crime. Mislin said he never abused his wife, for the very good reason that she was as tall as he and weighed seventy pounds more. But he said, Mrs. Mislin had abused him, even having thrown a lamp at him.

Altoona ministers are almost as well paid as mechanics, according to the replies to questionnaires sent to twenty-five of them. Their average annual salary is \$1041, or \$530 per day. A mechanic's pay is \$544 per day of eight hours. Clergymen work longer hours and every day. The average membership in the churches enumerated is 564, and they contribute the sum of \$3.44 each to the pastor's support. The average contributions per member to all purposes is \$7.80. Four times as many pastors thought the church should provide automobile equipment as those who thought not.

A year and six months in the western penitentiary was the sentence given Samuel Soliday, of DuBois, by Judge Charles Corbet, in closing Jefferson county criminal court. Soliday was charged with aggravated assault and battery with intent to kill, larceny, etc., and the jury found him guilty. Soliday discovered a bee near his home at Rochester shaft, near DuBois, September 12th. Before he had a chance to cut the tree Newton Buzzard and others commenced operations; Buzzard being shot in the back by a bullet out of the darkness. Several days later Soliday was arrested, and attempted to prove an alibi at the trial of the case. Two cousins testified Soliday had admitted the shooting to them. The jury was out for eighteen hours deliberating the case before returning with a verdict of guilty of aggravated assault and battery.

The brewery at Madera, Clearfield county, went out of business with the better day last July. It is a small plant, only the length and width of a few hatched handles, and is located down the valley in a little cluster of woods off the main road in Dutchtown, a suburban settlement of Madera. As the days lengthened into weeks and nothing appeared that would bring back those wonderful days, the brewing plant was dismantled and deliberate stealing of the goods and chattels commenced. In the cellar was a vat, partly filled with beer, turned sour with age and exposure. This was the attraction that brought plenty of people to the scene with buckets, kettles and kegs. After the crowd had filled their vessels they started in to fill up their stomachs. Before the vat was emptied there was a free-for-all fight that resembled a Bolshevik meeting, with which the local officers were not able to cope. One fellow, whose name is given as Mike Siganos, is dead, said to have been caused by drinking of the beer.