

INK SLINGS.

In ten days the shortest day of the year will be here. Then, oh then, as the days lengthen the cold strengthens.

As yet no sign of any of the many deer that have been shot in Centre county has been discovered in this office.

For goodness sake, if you haven't done that Christmas shopping, get busy while there is a chance to get what you want.

Some miners must be content with the wages they are taking down. Fifty cars of coal arrived in Bellefonte Tuesday.

Thank the Lord, the President was well enough to sit down on Senator Fall's attempt to plunge the country into war with Mexico.

It was forty-four degrees below zero at White River, Ontario, on Tuesday, and they say we're to get a taste of it. Me for a place behind the kitchen stove.

That Snow Shoe hunter who held his wounded deer by the tail until help came and put it hors du combat surely would have been out of luck if the tail hold had slipped, as it most always does.

The nicest Christmas present you could send a friend would be the "Watchman" for a year and your order to have it done would be a nice present for us too. What a fine way to kill two birds with one stone.

The coal strike is off temporarily. The miners have accepted the President's proposal of a fourteen per cent. advance with a commission to investigate and report within sixty days on the practicability of a further increase in the pay.

Slacking at your work is one of the causes of under production and higher cost of living. Unless a worker is really producing what he is being paid for the value of his product must be watered to cover the loss occasioned by his slacking.

The comb of the little red hen is growing redder and redder. She is beginning to sing a bit, as she scratches and pecks around the yard and her new feathers are maturing fast. Unless we miss our guess it won't be long until there is a drop in eggs.

Eleven dollar suits are quite the fad in Paris as a means of overcoming the old H. C. L. We would be glad to take a chance in one, even in a rain storm and without the protection of an umbrella, but of eleven dollar suits in this country: Well, there ain't no such animal.

A lot of the boys were getting ready to wet their whistles last Monday night when it was thought the Supreme court would hand down a decision declaring war-time prohibition unconstitutional. But who ever heard of the Supreme court handing down a decision when it was expected.

The time is drawing near when George Harter will occupy the unique position of being the only Democrat who has a continuous job in the court house of Centre county. It's pretty tough, isn't it; the way they've pried us out of everything except what the law wouldn't allow them to do.

Assuming that the miners have lost an average of twenty-five days since they went out on strike and assuming that they will go back to work soon at an increase of fourteen per cent. it will take one hundred and seventy-five full working days before the advance will have squared the loss they have suffered through idleness.

Governor Sprout declares that people want relief from governmental meddling in their private and personal affairs. He might have been talking about any one of the half dozen or more departments over which he presides here in Pennsylvania, but he wasn't. He was sounding the keynote of the Republican campaign for 1920 and was referring to the federal government. We Pennsylvanians are living in such a fragile glass house of our own that it seems very dangerous for us to be throwing stones.

Ole Hanson says that while the country is deluged with red literature designed to accomplish the overthrow of our government we have nothing to combat it but the press. In other print he finds nothing but the constitution and the Bible and, as he says, "few people read either of those." How lamentably true is this statement of the strike-breaking Mayor of Seattle, and how little need would there be for the fearless service he is rendering the country if more people did read the Bible and particularly that part of it recorded in the ninth chapter of 1st Corinthians.

Some of our readers may look upon our request for a little of that money due us on subscription as a joke, but we wish to impress upon them the fact that it is no joking matter. While very busily engaged in getting out the last issue of the "Watchman" so that all its readers might have it on time we made the horrifying discovery that the rear-bosom was out of the only pair of trousers we own. For years past we have been going around without any of nature's covering for our head and have always been able to put up a good front to the ladies and public at large, but we don't relish the aspect of not being able to turn around without laying ourself open to the charge of being double-faced and trying to work the public from both ends. So please pay up.

Democratic Watchman

STATE RIGHTS AND FEDERAL UNION

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Perturbed Republican Leaders.

"A guilty conscience needs no accuser." Since the day of Senator Lodge's victory and the German triumph in the defeat of the peace treaty the wiser Republican leaders have been in a state of consternation. All sorts of fears have sprung up before them and every imaginary evil haunts them. National chairman Hays immediately issued orders to sound public sentiment and organize defenses. Finally the bulky form of former President Taft loomed up as an avenger. It was thought that he would appear at the meeting of the Republican National committee held on Wednesday and make formal protest against the un-American action of the Senate in serving the cause of German autocracy.

But this was only an imaginary danger superinduced by the consciousness of wrong done. Mr. Taft expressed regret that the leaders of his party were obtuse and perverse enough to perpetrate so grave a crime against the country and humanity. But his indignation never takes the form of action. He is a fine gentleman, who abhors evil and is willing to make mild protest against it if he can do so without offending any one. But the idea of him appearing in the open and vigorously protesting against anything is repugnant. He would hardly trust himself to dream anything that might disturb the equanimity of his bitterest enemy. William Howard Taft is simply about two hundred and seventy pounds of amiability.

"The wicked flee when no man pursueth." Strangely enough the fears of these guilty Republican leaders associated the person and whiskers of former Justice Hughes with Mr. Taft in an imaginary crusade against the unrighteousness of Lodge and Knox and Sherman. In the recent exaltation of Hungry Hi Johnson to the supreme leadership of the party Justice Hughes had ample reason for complaint. But for Johnson's perfidy Hughes might have been elected President in 1916 and the trend of affairs vastly changed. But Hughes is a political pacifist like Taft and neither of them is likely to lead a revolution or create even a teapot tempest. There are others, however, and the future is threatening.

Probably Senator Newberry, of Michigan, has arranged a "pair" for the period required for his trial on a charge of fraud. But he must have induced Jim Read, of Missouri, or Gore, of Oklahoma, to oblige him.

No Hope of Improvement.

The promise of "greatly improved political conditions" in Schuylkill county, will be taken with a grain of allowance by close observers of politics in Pennsylvania. It will be admitted that there are plenty of reasons why political conditions should be improved in that county. Only the other day the Republican leader and one of the foremost citizens of the county was convicted of forgery in Philadelphia, and stuffing the ballot box has been a favorite diversion of the voters in that county for years. But such crimes have been profitable to those concerned in them and as nobody else appears to take any interest in the matter, there is not likely to be any change in the program.

A few weeks ago the election board of one of the voting precincts in Pottsville was brought into court charged with a fraudulent return of the vote. Twice as many voters testified that they voted for a certain candidate as there were votes returned for him. The ballot box was opened and found empty and other evidences of fraud were presented. But the jury acquitted the defendants and the judges allowed the verdict to stand. The plain inference is that the jury as well as the court was in full sympathy with the criminals. It must have been agreed that the law shall not be permitted to interfere with the principal industry of the county. It is not an infant industry but needs nursing.

Political conditions in Schuylkill county will improve when the present leaders of the Republican and Democratic parties in that county are safely lodged in the penitentiary. In some sections where party vice prevails the death of the leaders might work reform. But that is not the case in Schuylkill county. There, when one crook dies another trained to the iniquity takes his place and the sinister progress of corruption goes on as if nothing had happened. The leader who escaped on a legal technicality last week will continue to serve in the public office into which he was pitched by fraud some time ago and will enjoy uninterrupted control of the party and the county as long as he wants to.

The withdrawal of many trains from railway service may accomplish two worthy purposes. It may conserve fuel and create the habit of staying at home.

End of Miners' Strike.

To all intents and purposes the coal strike ended when the miners in session in Indianapolis, on Wednesday accepted President Wilson's proposal for a settlement. President Wilson revealed a deep feeling of sympathy for labor interests but pointed out that the public interests are of paramount importance. He would cheerfully give assent to any scheme that might conserve the interests of the miners if it did not work impairment of the interests of the people.

The miners' strike was threatening all branches of industrial life. Every industrial activity is dependent, directly or indirectly, upon it. Without fuel shops and factories employing millions of men will be forced to shut down and the sources of supply of food will be closed. At this season of the year, moreover, the public health is imperiled by the closing of the mines. But the government cannot afford to intervene in a way that would increase rather than diminish the distress. To increase the price of fuel to the consumers at this time would aggravate instead of mitigate the evil of scarcity. The remedy had to be found in another direction and that is what the President plead for.

With this purpose in mind and with sympathy for suffering in his heart President Wilson appealed to the miners. "I ask every individual miner," he wrote, "to give his personal thought to what I say. I hope he understands fully that he will be hurting his own interest and the interest of his family and will be throwing countless other laboring men out of employment if he shall continue the present strike." That was a solemn as well as a melancholy truth. It is equally certain that "he will create an unnecessary and unfortunate prejudice against organized labor." We need the conserving influence of organization in the industrial world and to sacrifice it would be calamitous.

After considering the President's proposal during a two day's session the mine chiefs voted, with only one dissenting, to go back to work at the fourteen per cent. increase proposed. But whether the workers will remain remains to be seen. Because, in some fields, the advance allowed is actually less than they were getting when they quit. This may seem inexplicable to some, but can be explained in this way: The miners do not always work for the scale they have agreed to. In some fields they are paid more than their scale and the government increase, being based on the agreed scale, in many cases will not be as much as the premium they were receiving before.

This is likely to cause trouble in adjustment and may keep some mines closed indefinitely.

Some Senators Snubbed.

Senator Fall, of New Mexico, will probably concur in the opinion that there is no symptom of mental weakness in President Wilson's letter concerning a resolution introduced into the Senate by Mr. Fall, the other day, "requesting the President to sever diplomatic relations with the Carranza government of Mexico." The letter also conveys a tip to Senator Lodge and other constitutional quack doctors which they might well consider carefully. The suggestion expressed in the Fall resolution was of precisely the same tenor as the Lodge resolution a couple of weeks ago proposing that Congress declare that war with Germany is over.

Senator Fall asked the President to indicate his desire with regard to the Mexican resolution. The reply was courteous as well as complete. "I would be gravely concerned to see such a resolution pass the Congress," he said, and added, "it would constitute a reversal of our constitutional practice which might lead to very grave confusion in regard to the guidance of our foreign affairs." If he had stopped there he would have said sufficient to satisfy any rational mind. But he went a step further and added, "I am confident that I am supported by every constitutional authority in the statement that the initiative in directing the relations of our government with foreign governments is assigned by the constitution to the Executive and to the Executive only."

Senator Lodge proposed in his resolution that the war with Germany be declared at an end. Senator Fall proposed that Congress instruct the President to sever diplomatic relations with the Carranza government. The propositions are equally impertinent and absurd. The President has taken an oath of obedience to the constitution and the constitution specifically fixes the President as the agent to initiate all movements in relation to affairs with foreign governments. Senator Lodge called Senator Fall and Senator Brandegee into conference upon the receipt of the letter to Fall. They probably decided that the Presidential mind is unimpaired.

Germany Getting Gay.

One effect of the refusal of the Senate to ratify the peace treaty is revealed in the refusal of Germany to sign the protocol and fulfill her obligations to pay indemnity for the ships sunk by her submarines during the war. The German autocrats interpret the action of the Senate as evidence that the government of the United States declines to aid Europe in "struggling back to consciousness and order." Without the help of America Germany could not have been "stricken to her knees." Now that the aid and support of the government of the United States has been withdrawn Germany feels that she can flout the European Allies of the United States and refuse to fulfill her pledges.

This attitude, though alarming is not surprising. Early in the Senate discussion of the subject Senator Knox, of Pennsylvania, expressed an opinion that the treaty imposed unjust conditions upon Germany and for that reason ought to be rejected. His colleagues lacked the courage to adopt his suggestion by defeating the ratification but accomplished the result by attaching reservations that nullified it. Naturally this action encouraged Germany to resist the enforcement of the conditions to which she had agreed in the peace conference. The cunning but not too conscientious Germans discerned in the situation an opportunity to repudiate the treaty and insolently declared so to the Council.

The latest information indicates that the Allies in Europe contemplate coercive measures to enforce the provisions of the treaty. This means, if it means anything, a resumption of hostilities and a renewal of the horrors of war. But probably that is what Lodge and Knox want. Their friends in New England and Pittsburgh may thus hope to get new contracts for munitions and materials of war out of which they can spare liberal contributions to debauch the vote and elect a Republican President next year. In any event a renewal of the war would discredit the present administration and help Lodge in his fight against President Wilson. And that is nourishing food to Lodge's vanity.

It would seem to the average mind unnecessary for a court mandate to prove that "strike breaking" is "an extra hazardous employment." But some people imagine that they must be shown everything.

On the sixth page of today's paper will be found the President's proclamation calling attention to the fact that work on taking the 1920 census will be begun on January 2nd, which is just three weeks away. Following the President's proclamation is given a list of questions which the enumerators will ask and which it will be up to the head of every household to answer, or every person over eighteen years of age. In order to have the answers to all the questions ready it would be well for every adult person to read the list very carefully, and it will greatly facilitate the work of the enumerator if the answers to all questions are prepared in advance. But please remember, that every answer given must be absolutely correct and truthful and no attempt must be made at evasion of any question. No information given the enumerator will be made public so far as individuals are concerned, so that there will be no reason for refusing to answer. But there is another reason why you should not refuse, and that is that any one doing so, or giving evasive or untruthful answers is liable to a fine of one hundred dollars. Just who the enumerators for Bellefonte or Centre county will be is not known at this writing.

Cut the first ice that forms thick enough for housing. Our experience during the last summer was sufficiently trying to make the ice question one worth careful attention. It behooves everyone who has an ice house to fill it and the earlier it is filled the better it will keep.

Every treaty entered into by the government involved the surrender of some sovereignty and every citizen yields some part of his personal liberty when he attaches himself to a community.

It may be possible to make a Presidential candidate out of General Wood but nobody will ever succeed in making a military hero of a man who never fought a battle.

Senator Fall's Mexican mare's nest hasn't stamped the country to a great extent. But it probably raised the hopes of munition makers.

Free speech is a great asset but licentious mouthing is a dangerous liability frequently mistaken for free speech.

Don't guess in your business dealings. Try to know it.

Leaving the Treaty.

The determination of the President not to withdraw the treaty, but to leave it where it is for the present, is obviously proper. In the exercise of his constitutional authority he has negotiated a treaty; the Senate has not consented to it, and there it is; there is nothing at present to do with it. There is no use in withdrawing the treaty and re-submitting it, or of continuing the debate on the treaty until it has been ascertained that 64 Senators will vote for it. Amendments or reservations may be made to it, but they must be of such a character that after they are agreed to 64 Senators will vote for the treaty.

It is better that the treaty should fall than that it should be ratified and repudiated by the same vote. The treaty with the present reservations has no more effect than no treaty at all, but it makes the United States ridiculous; it invites contempt for us by making certain promises and then reserving the right to keep them or not, as we shall please when the occasion shall arise.

If the Republicans had honestly desired certain changes in the treaty they would have voted for them as amendments. They did not do this because their purpose of defeating the treaty would have been too evident; they pursued what they deemed the more cunning method of adopting the reservations, which have the effect of destroying all the agreements. The responsibility for the failure is on the Republicans. It was they who attached to the treaty reservations which nullified the agreements. They may remain under the guilt of sacrificing the treaty in an effort to score on their political opponents, or they can agree on such reservations as will not nullify the treaty. That is entirely possible, and the President has already indicated his willingness to accept reservations which would not defeat the treaty itself.

If the Republicans do nothing they will go into next year's campaign with the sole responsibility for defeating the peace treaty and arraying the United States against the League of Nations, and by the side of Germany and the militarists. If the Republicans care to go into the campaign with such a handicap, we admire their daring more than their sense. The country wants peace throughout the world, and would be glad to join other nations in giving the world assurance of this. If the Republicans choose to go into the next national campaign as the allies of Germany, as the champions of big armies and navies, and as the champions of force represented by military power, rather than the champions of right, pledged to prevent any nation from attacking another till all the resources of a peaceful settlement have been exhausted, they have a right to commit suicide. But they will not carry the country.

Why Worry?

From the Lancaster Intelligencer.

Verily these are the days of hope triumphant. All sorts of alarms are sounded in the daily news, but nobody bothers. The placid serenity of the public, in the face of the successive development of all sorts of strikes, the sugar shortage, the failure of the Senate to ratify the peace treaty, the prospect of a coal famine, and last and decidedly least—the appearance of another of those pesky Mexican war clouds, remains undisturbed. There are lots of howls continuously fill the air; but nobody really minds. Nobody appears to care a continental what threatens, or even what happens. The stock market may show considerable nervousness of speculator investors in addition to its chronic depression, but even speculation goes merrily on—for money is scandalously cheap and quite a few people have more of it than is good for them while more of it than is merrily busy gathering fifty-cent dollars to pay the H. C. L. to bother about anything else of merely human importance. The most startling news provokes only the most casual comment—ever placid and philosophical. Why worry?

The cause of this apparent indifference is distinctly evident in the bed rock conviction that all troubles and disturbances are merely a part of the after-war readjustment and will fade away in good time. It is a warranted conviction. What if the world is turned upside down. It will all come right with patience and when it does those who best mind their own business—and best understand what it is—have the best chance of finding themselves on top; or at least right side up.

So let us, in the words of the war song, "Pack up our troubles in our old kit bag and smile, smile, smile."

Warning to Bachelors.

From the Columbus Dispatch. With the greatly increased disparity between the sexes that the war has caused there may be more than the ordinary danger to bachelors in the leap year that is only a month away now.

Is There a Connection?

From the Knoxville Journal and Tribune. It is claimed there is more money in the United States than ever before, and it has been said, that the love of money is the root of all evil.

They are all good enough, but the "Watchman" is always the best.

SPAULS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

The killing of two bandits at Orwell, Ohio, Tuesday morning was the result of information as to the attempted bank robbery that was given the Ohio sheriff by the Pennsylvania state police.

After walking fourteen squares out of his way to save a few cents on a peck of apples he purchased, Jacob Luciewicz, 58 years old, of Mount Carmel, who has only one eye, was hit by an automobile at a street crossing and sustained two broken legs.

Elias Cawley, of Washington township, Snyder county, who mysteriously disappeared about eight years ago, has been declared legally dead. His will left in the custody of William Moyer, of Freeburg, has been probated in the register's office and letters testamentary issued thereon.

While members of the family of Mrs. John Fortner, of Centralia, were in the kitchen, a few days ago, the waterback in the kitchen stove exploded, blowing parts of the stove and hot coal all over the kitchen. Miss Edith Fortner was burned by hot water. The woman saved the home from being consumed by fire.

Fire destroyed the large tippie of the Pennsylvania Coal and Coke company at Winburne, Clearfield county, on Thursday evening of last week, the loss being estimated at \$8,000. The blaze is thought to have originated in a short circuit in the electric wires. The tippie is located at mines which have been closed during the strike.

Some time during Wednesday night of last week robbers entered the stationery store of J. H. Styers, in Selinsgrove, and carried off a case of fountain pens valued at \$60. Strange to say, nothing else in the store was disturbed. It is believed that an entrance was gained through a cellar window which offered easy access to the store. The robbers operating with a single clue that might aid in establishing their identity.

In his effort to slaughter a pig, Robert A. McMeans, of near Dayton, Armstrong county, shot his nine-year-old son, who is now in the hospital at Punksutawney with a bullet through his spleen. The father was just about to shoot the pig with a 22-caliber rifle, when a dog chased the pig. Mr. McMeans, in running after the porker, shot while it was on the "wing," and instead of hitting it, sent the bullet into his son's body.

Pennsylvania Railroad employees must cease "cussing" during the time they are on duty, is the edict of a new order that has come down the line. The use of profane language is being frowned on by railroad officials. On the middle division there has already been a number of employees suspended for the use of profane language. Violators of the anti-cussing edict will be harshly dealt with on the first offense, and if repeated will be dismissed from the service.

The seventh annual meeting of the Pennsylvania State Educational association will be held in Philadelphia December 29th to January 1st. Arrangements have been made with the United States Railroad administration for one and one-third fare on the certificate plan. The headquarters of the association will be at the Hotel Adelphi and the general sessions will be held in the Central High school auditorium. The department and round table meetings will be held in the William Penn High school and the Girls' Normal school.

A petty dispute between the commissioners of Clinton county and the ferryman in charge of the ferry which has been hauling men, beasts and vehicles across the Susquehanna river at Lock Haven since the old covered bridge was burned down, over whom shall assume the responsibility for purchasing poles wherewith to prop the craft, has resulted in a cessation of the traffic. While the disputants squabble scores of persons are being put to great inconvenience daily and are forced to make an extensive detour to get to Lock Haven from across the river or vice versa.

Five thousand dollars' worth of furs and high-grade women's apparel was stolen Saturday night from the store-room of P. Deisroth's Sons, of Hazleton. Entrance was gained by the transom over the main entrance, and at their leisure the thieves looted racks and display cases. Shirts of high grade, valued at about \$1000 were taken, some of the more expensive being removed from the show cases. Three valuable fur coats, forty-one neck pieces and eight muff, together with silk garments, were also included in the loot. Police are working on the theory that a gang of thieves from outside the city robbed the store.

Bears have become such a nuisance in parts of Potter and McKean counties that Seth E. Gordon, acting secretary of the State Game Commission, issued a statement in which he expressed the hope that hunters will go into that section. "I have just been investigating reports that bears have become so numerous that they are destroying sheep and raiding farms in Potter and McKean counties," said he. "I have found such reports well founded and there is good bear hunting to be had. This is the last week of the season for such hunting and I hope sportsmen can help relieve a local situation in that part of the State."

Ground has been broken for the first of a group of orphanage buildings at the Evangelical home, located just north of Lewisburg. The structure which has been erected at a cost of \$40,000. It is the plan of the board of trustees to erect a building a year during the next ten years. Plans are now under way for the first wing of a hospital building. The Rev. A. A. Winter, superintendent of the home, went there from the western conference of the Evangelical church. He has asked the church for \$100,000, to be used in extensive improvements during the next four years, and an active campaign is now on throughout the denomination to raise the amount.

The Lewisburg housing and Developing company, with a capital stock of \$300,000, became a fact last week when the directors of the local chamber of commerce decided upon a name. At the regular meeting of the organization Friday night \$55,000 of the stock was subscribed and the balance assured. This will give the organization a borrowing capacity of \$400,000 with which it is proposed to erect 200 houses to cost from \$3000 to \$3500 each when completed. The organization has already secured options on the O'Meara farm, once urgently considered in the building of the Masonic home now located at Ellensbottown, and the Fleming tracts, both located to the east of Lewisburg, and at the head of the Lewisburg Narrows.