

INK SLINGS.

How many times have you written it 1919?

Let's all do a little less pulling down and a little more building up during 1920.

Let us all resolve to do a dollar's worth of work for every dollar of pay we take down.

Ask him girls! You get a chance to do it only once in four years and if you can't make some fellow say yes during 1920 you'll probably be part of the decorations around the wall by the time 1924 rolls around.

We are having real winter weather; just about right, with enough snow for good sledding and some to drift in cross-roads deep enough to hang-up motorists who imagine their machines can go where they can't.

The chronology of 1919, which appears on page 2 of this issue will prove a very handy reference sheet if you preserve it. No telling just how many times during the coming year you will want to know some of the dates recorded there.

Beware of wood alcohol, toilet water, hair tonics, prune juice and all other substitutes for liquor. They may be all right when applied externally, but they're not the stuff that you used to sneak through the swinging doors to get. They may be like it in so far as they don't taste as good coming up as they do going down but the trouble with them is that they don't come up quick enough to keep you out of the clutches of the undertaker.

The "Watchman" extends greetings to the men who will assume charge of the affairs of Centre county next Monday. It favored only three of them for the election, but they were successful notwithstanding and we hope the faith that the majority of the voters of Centre county had in them will be fully justified by four years of economical, constructive service. They can be assured of our hearty co-operation in and approval of every undertaking for the public good and we hope that their course may be so straight in the line of duty that we will not be called upon to criticize a single act.

The announcement of Melville Gillett, of Potter county, that he is a candidate for delegate to the Republican national convention from this district, reminds us that our party will have a national convention also and that Centre county is entitled to one of the two delegates from the district. Clearfield and McKean had the honor four years ago so that Centre has a claim that can scarcely be ignored. While we have heard no names mentioned in this connection the "Watchman" feels that a long step would be taken toward solidifying the ranks of Democracy in Centre county if Dr. F. K. White, of Phillipsburg, were to be offered and would accept the nomination as one of our delegates. Certainly the district couldn't hope to secure a more creditable representative.

When William H. Noll, D. A. Grove, and David Foreman relinquish their official positions in Centre county next Monday three splendid officers will retire to private life. All are men of more than ordinary ability and they have given the county service that has been a real benefit. A resume of the work done by the retiring Board of Commissioners would show that they have handled an immense volume of business in a highly satisfactory way for the taxpayers and in this accomplishment Isaac Miller, the minority member of the Board, shares honors equally with them. The county can't hope for a more capable Prothropony than Mr. Foreman has been. Certainly such an one would be unnecessary. If they do as well for themselves in private life as they have done for the county in public their future will be freighted with great success.

Several weeks ago in commenting on a statement made by Highway Commissioner Sadler to the effect that his "department has been divorced from politics" the "Watchman" intimated that the Commissioner was talking ill advisedly. We supported the inference by a statement charging one of the district officers of the Department with "dismissing" men for purely political reasons. While we did not specify the particular officer that we then believed was not as much divorced from politics as its chief would have the public think it was only natural that most of our readers should accept the charge as being preferred against the Bellefonte office of the Department, where Mr. D. C. Stackpole is resident engineer in charge. It was. However, we have since learned that while our information concerning the actual dismissal of the man in question was correct the cause he gave was wholly imaginary, when he said it was for the reason that he had refused to support part of the Republican county ticket last fall. We now know that even by inference an injustice was done Mr. Stackpole and hasten to correct it by saying his action in the matter was solely for the good of the service. And further, we might add that Mr. Stackpole is an engineer and not a politician. His work here is technical and his sole ambition is to make a record for his district in road building such as will be a credit to the Commonwealth and men who will help him achieve that end will be employed, whether they be Republicans or Democrats, and no others.

Democratic Watchman

STATE RIGHTS AND FEDERAL UNION.

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Railroad Control to be Returned.

That the suggestion that former Secretary McAdoo extending for five years after the close of hostilities, government control of the railroads, was wise, is now generally admitted. It might have resulted in permanent operation of the roads by the government, but only in the event that such policy were successful. Mr. McAdoo believed that within the period of five years government operation would reimburse the government for the deficits of experimental control and restore the properties to good physical condition. But at that time the private managers of railroads were anxious to get into action and they elected enough Republicans to Congress to guarantee that result.

In view of these facts President Wilson was right in issuing his proclamation the other day fixing the first day of March next as the time for the transfer of the control. It will cost the country vast sums of money and afford the speculators in railroad securities a rich harvest from the speculative markets. But such things may as well come now as later, for they are inevitable. Eight months ago the President admonished Congress of the necessity of legislation to prepare for the transfer. But Congress was too busy with politics to attend to the interests of the people and the chances are that the country will be as little prepared in March as it would have been in January, the time first fixed.

We are no more in favor of government operation of public utilities now than before the war and adhere as tenaciously to the idea that government ought not compete with citizens in enterprise. But public interests are paramount and where individual enterprise fails government may act without prejudice to the rights or opportunities of citizens. Because of this fact the government took over the railroads after the private managers had signally failed to function and the control ought to have been continued until the restoration could have been made without loss to the people. The election of a Republican Congress made this impossible, however, and if the public loses it is its own fault.

The Hon. Harry B. Scott, of Phillipsburg, has been made chairman of the policy committee of the Central Pennsylvania coal operators' association. Mr. Scott is an extensive operator and knows the Central Pennsylvania field so well that his selection to this important post brings to the many conferences that will lead up to the final adjudication of the troubles of both operators and miners, a trained mind. A man well informed on both sides of the question and one with the courage to act positively on his convictions.

Lodge Will be Run Down.

The mild reservation Republican Senators are forcing Lodge and his little group of irreconcilables to act on the peace treaty. They have not resorted to desperate means as yet, for they hope to avoid anything that might cause a permanent fissure in the ranks of the party. But they realize that the treaty must be ratified before the Presidential campaign opens or the party is doomed. A vast majority of the people favor the ratification of the peace pact. They want some assurance that the horrors of war will not soon again afflict the world. The party responsible for the disappointment of this hope will suffer.

But Senator Lodge is not likely to be influenced by such appeals to reason. In his abnormal egotism he is oblivious of conditions about him. He is "fighting Wilson" and flattered by the lime light focussed upon him forgets everything else. It may be believed that in rational intervals he would prefer peace to war. He is an educated man and his association has been with cultured men and women. But ego has got the better of him and it may be doubted if he has any rational intervals. For his whole life he has never before occupied so conspicuous a position in the public life of the world. President Wilson has acquired the admiration of the civilized world and Senator Lodge has him down.

What does the peace of the world amount to in comparison with this personal triumph of Henry Cabot Lodge? In the beginning the Senator probably shared the belief with Chairman Hays, of the Republican national committee and other leaders of the party that the defeat of the treaty would be an advantage to the Republican party. But that foolish notion has been abandoned by all except Lodge, Johnson and Borah, who are impervious to reason. The others have taken an invoice of public sentiment and discovered the true aspect of the public mind and want to reverse the party policy. But Lodge will not consent. There is no way of treating him but to run him down.

Tinkers of the Constitution.

It is to be hoped that the suspicion, rapidly spreading, that the purpose of the Constitutional Revision Commission is not so much to improve the fundamental law of the land, as it is to "etherize" popular sentiment in favor of a convention to create a new constitution. The present constitution has been a safe and secure shelter for various kinds of vicious legislation for many years and there are a good many people in the State whose selfish purposes have been conserved by such legislation, unwilling to relinquish the advantage it affords. The revision commission was welcomed at first as a medium for the correction of these evils but now people are beginning to express doubts.

Some ten or twelve years ago a movement for a constitutional convention was opposed by some of the leading newspapers of the State, including the "Watchman," for the reason that the public mind was then in an inflamed state and there were reasons to fear that a new constitution might be going from bad to worse. Sinister influences appeared to be in control of the affairs of Pennsylvania and a fundamental law issued from a convention likely to be under such influence was a grave matter to contemplate. But there seems to be no such menace to public interests at this time and as the constitution is such a patched and uncertain instrument, it might be wise to create a new one.

It may safely be said that most of the citizens of Pennsylvania who gave the subject thought, assumed that the revision commission would simply be a sort of preparatory school for a constitutional convention to follow. In other words it was widely believed that the commission would blaze the way for a convention to pursue. But this belief is giving way to the suspicion that the commission is intended to prevent a convention and do some additional patchwork on the present instrument. If that suspicion is confirmed the commission will be a disappointment. For that reason we hope there is no foundation in fact for the feeling of doubt.

That Brooklyn saloon keeper, who is also an undertaker, must have had an idea that he could make money coming and going when he shipped thirty barrels of poison, camouflaged as whiskey, into the New England States, and caused the death of several hundred persons.

"A Tempest in a Teapot."

After every war there are disputes, more or less vitriolic, over the awarding of honors to those who have rendered conspicuous service. Everybody remembers the controversy between Admirals Schley and Sampson following the close of the Spanish-American scrimmage, which was only different from others in that it became public. Just now the Secretary of the Navy has on his hands one of those unavoidable quarrels and it is giving him some concern and the country a good deal of regret. It has grown out of the award of honors among the naval participants in the world war and differs from its predecessors only in the fact that some of the tokens of merit are being declined.

As soon as possible after the close of hostilities Secretary Daniels appointed a Board of Award composed of a number of distinguished naval officers and illustrious citizens to make inquiry and report which of the officers and men of the navy were entitled to special rewards, commonly expressed in crosses or ribbons. The board made what it considered a searching investigation and reported certain officers and men as entitled to the marks of distinction. In pursuance of the law the Secretary proceeded to issue the tokens in accordance with the report of the board. Among those who were awarded the token of appreciation was Admiral Sims and he flatly refused to accept it.

Naturally this act of the head of the fighting force of the navy caused a great deal of surprise and incidentally some consternation. Republican politicians at once jumped upon the administration with all sorts of accusations of favoritism and pilloried the Secretary as a miscreant of the "deepest die." But it proved a "tempest in a teapot" for the facts show that it was the non-partisan board that was responsible rather than the President or the Secretary of the Navy, and besides Admiral Sims didn't allege that injustice had been done to him but that some of the subordinate officers of his fleet who deserve recognition were overlooked. After all it is only a mole-hill.

If something unexpected should happen to let the fence down and throw the bars open the man who has any desire to live would be scared to death to take a drink of the stuff that they used to quaff without a thought of danger for fear it is loaded with the same kind of dope that has been killing men by the score in the eastern part of the country.

New County Officials Will Take Charge Next Monday.

Next Monday, being the first Monday in January, the new county officials will be sworn into office and take charge of the various affairs pertaining to the interest of Centre county.

Sheriff George H. Yarnell will move from the jail to the comfortable home he has built for himself and family at Hecla and will supervise the cutting and storage of ice for the ice business he will conduct next summer. He will also be sworn in as County Commissioner and to attend to his duties in that office will travel back and forth. Harry Dukeman will move from Lamb street into the jail and then and thereafter for the next four years will be Sheriff Dukeman. As it looks at this writing Sheriff Yarnell will turn over to Sheriff Dukeman three prisoners for safe keeping, which is two more than he got from Sheriff Lee when he took charge of the home on the hill.

When L. Frank Mayes succeeds David Chambers as County Treasurer next Monday he will take into his office as deputy A. Clyde Smith, of Bellefonte. Mr. Mayes had originally appointed Miss Helen Robb, of State College, but the First National bank of that place, where she has been employed, made it worth her while to remain there and she so notified Mr. Mayes last Friday, and since then he has appointed Mr. Smith. Miss Verma Chambers will remain a month or more until Mr. Mayes and Mr. Smith familiarize themselves with the work of the office.

Recorder "Bill" Brown will continue in his "old home" another four years, and the same will be true of Register Frank Sasserman.

Across the corridor in the court house Roy Wilkinson will take charge as Prothonotary, but as he will keep Mr. Foreman with him three or four months that gentleman's smiling face will not be missed for some time yet. At any rate he is not worrying any. He has a nice home in Bellefonte and a good farm at Potters Mills so that there is no immediate danger of the wolf playing in his back yard.

There will be a clean sweep in the Commissioner's office, Harry P. Austin, George M. Harter and George H. Yarnell succeeding the present board, with Rash Williams and H. C. Valentine as clerks. Of the retiring board Mr. Miller lives in Bellefonte so that the change will mean little to him. Mr. Grove will be able to give all his time to his farm and Mr. Noll will devote all his time to his various business interests. Without casting any disparagement on any previous board of County Commissioners it can be said that the present board will retire with the consciousness of work well done. They performed their duties as county officials faithfully and well, and always considered the interests of the tax payers and the public at large.

About the only change in Bellefonte borough officials will be in the council, Philip L. Beizer going in as a new member from the South ward and John L. Knisely a new member from the West ward.

Will Begin Counting Noses Today.

Equipped with official authority from their Uncle Samuel eighty-six thousand men and women in the United States will begin counting noses today, figuratively speaking, to find out how many there are within the dominions of the United States. In this work all noses look alike to Uncle Sam and the hobo on the highway will count just as much as the millionaire in his castle on the Hudson.

Thirty-five of the counters, officially known as census enumerators, will do the work in Centre county and the census supervisor for this district, Frank E. Costello, of Bradford, had them all together in the court house on Monday morning and gave them their final instructions. The work must be done within ten days, so that the man or woman who has a big district in the country to cover will have to keep right on the job. The "Watchman" two weeks ago published the names of the enumerators in Centre county and when the gentleman or lady comes around you can greatly facilitate his or her work by answering all questions promptly.

The enumerators will be paid four cents each for each man, woman and child returned, which is not very big money in these times of high wages and cost of living. Ten years ago enumerators were paid three cents apiece.

The price of wheat is climbing. It is \$2.35 now and we will not be surprised to see it go much higher before the crops are harvested next fall.

We might just mention the fact that the Supreme court spared us the necessity of making the customary water wagon resolution.

Announcement was made yesterday that 1919 auto licenses will be good until January 15th.

A Reasonable Compromise.

From the Philadelphia Record. The only plausible ground for opposing the peace treaty is that the covenant of the League of Nations involves violations of the constitution. This objection is only plausible; it is not substantial or meritorious. The objection that one Congress cannot bind subsequent Congresses is refuted by the fact that this is done in every treaty; while the treaty remains in force its provisions are binding on all subsequent Congresses.

But there are persons who do not recognize this, who are friendly to the League of Nations and are not "fighting President Wilson," and who in good faith fear the treaty is an abrogation of American sovereignty and an invasion of the constitutional rights of Congress. We would be glad of a compromise that would permit these honest but misguided persons to support the treaty.

We suggest that the treaty be ratified subject to the favorable action of the Supreme court upon the constitutional questions involved. In some States the local Supreme court is required to answer questions of the Legislature regarding the constitutionality of a pending measure. It saves a great deal of time, trouble and uncertainty to know at the start whether the court of last resort is going to uphold or invalidate the proposed legislation.

There is no arrangement now in existence by which Congress can call upon the Supreme court for a decision in advance, but we presume that a resolution of Congress asking the Supreme court to listen to arguments regarding the constitutionality of certain features of the peace treaty and to give judgment thereon would be favorably acted on by the court.

It is of enormous importance to this country and to the world that we should ratify the peace treaty and join in creating the League of Nations. But there are persons in and out of the Senate who have constitutional scruples, and there are others who pretend to have. The only decent excuse for defeating the treaty is the constitutional one. Under such circumstances we have no doubt that the Supreme court would fix an early date to listen to argument. But the ratification of the treaty need not wait for that. Let there be attached to the treaty one reservation, that ratification is conditioned upon the Supreme court's approval of the constitutional powers of the Senate to ratify.

The Problem is Not Solved.

From the Williamsport Sun. The President's proclamation announcing the return of the railroads to their owners on March first does not solve the railroad problem. It merely emphasizes it. Nothing short of a calamity of more or less serious nature could have accompanied a return of the lines on January first, the time set by the President in previous announcement. Postponement of the return date, therefore, is wise, just as wise as the return which was inevitable from the standpoint of the public.

The vast majority of American people are not yet ready for the startling experiment of government ownership of the railroads, although they do favor some plan of regulation, provision for which is one of the tasks of Congress during the next two months. The President's proclamation holds off a crisis over wages to railroad workers who have been straining at the leash of agreement they entered into last September to await the outcome of the government's fight on the high cost of living before pressing their demands for pay increase. The end of the government's "period of probation" and the original time set for the return of the lines came on nearly the same date which the employees had anticipated by a rustling of rumors of their intention to reiterate their proposals. The government now has a longer period in which to show the employees effects of its campaign.

In the best, the matter of railroad wages is a debatable question which must be settled before the lines go back to private ownership. Then, there is the matter of guaranteed adequate compensation to the roads, the question of the payment for new equipment, anti-strike legislation, the future of labor in the railroads, government regulation, the matter of rates, fair return to the holder of railroad securities and various other questions which attend the unscrambling of the companies.

All in all, Congress faces a two months' period which calls for the closest attention and best efforts of its members and whatever help the administration, the railroad owners, the employees and the public can offer should be freely opened to the lawmakers who are struggling with the country's biggest reconstruction problem.

Short Supply.

From the Dallas News. "Germans want to trade potash for coal," says a headline. They had better carry their potash to Newcastle. There's no coal in this country.

How to Get a Surplus.

From the Albany Journal. Mr. Burselson wouldn't have had a surplus to show for the Postoffice Department if he had provided efficient service.

Don't forget to write it 1920.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE

The skins of 35 black foxes killed at the Warren fox farm are valued at about \$25,000 in the raw.

The Centennial public school building at McKeesport was totally destroyed by fire early Monday morning, entailing a loss estimated at \$75,000. The fire is thought to have been caused by an overheated furnace.

Ellis L. McCracken, the Madera, Clearfield county, hotel man recently arrested by the United States revenue department for violation of the war-time prohibition law in disposing of a quantity of liquor in bulk after inventory had been taken, was fined \$100 by Judge Orr, of Pittsburgh.

A fellow from Rapho, Lancaster county, took out a dog license, a marriage license, an automobile license and a gunner's license within one week's time, and after he had lifted the quarter he acknowledged a certain amount of sympathy with the fellow who had to wrestle with cooties.

Braden Hurst Hayes, of Scottsdale, principal of the Herbert school in Redstone township, Fayette county, Saturday surrendered to Coroner S. H. Baum, and was held in \$3,000 bail to answer to a charge of involuntary manslaughter in connection with the death of Thomas Domer, one of his pupils.

The direct inheritance appraisal of the estate of the late James Magee, 2nd, of Bloomsburg, wealthy carpet manufacturer, filed in the office of the Register and Recorder of Columbia county, shows a valuation of \$1,400,000. The Harrisburg Trust company is administrator of the estate and paid the State tax, amounting to \$26,000.

Fines of \$100 will be imposed upon persons who kill beaver in Pennsylvania, according to game commission officials. The State has just bought 150 beaver in Canada. They will be shipped during the winter, and preparations are being made to distribute them where they can be protected. There are now colonies in three counties.

Mrs. Sallie Kunkle, of Kresgeville, Lehigh county, who on September 18th celebrated her one hundredth birthday anniversary, is dead. She was the oldest woman in that section of Pennsylvania. Her husband, John Kunkle, who operated a grist mill, died many years ago. Mrs. Kunkle is survived by ten children and scores of other descendants.

County officials will be called upon by the department of agriculture to vigorously enforce the dog license code of 1917 during the coming year. All registrations will expire this week. In some sections of the State complaints have been made of dogs running at large and destroying sheep. The State has requested all counties to file reports as to the manner in which the dog law was enforced.

Out of 250,000 applications for 1920 automobile and truck licenses filed with the State Highway Department 100,000 have been found defective and returned to the applicants for correction. Most of the applications which were not in form failed to give the number of the engine, the manufacturers' number, the candlepower of the lamps and other details. The automobile division has issued more than 100,000. There were 449,000 licenses in force for 1919.

Dr. George H. Ashley, the State Geologist, who completed another study of the new gas wells in the McKeesport district, Friday reported his warning that people who "are now blindly investing in stock in undrilled wells in the McKeesport pool," are facing financial losses. Dr. Ashley has made several surveys of Pennsylvania fields where gas and oil strikes have been reported and has made formal statements against placing too much confidence in them and also warned people against investments without careful study.

That the high cost of living has no terrors for the people of Lancaster county was evidenced at a wedding reception given at the home of David E. Beller, at Bird-in-Hand, in honor of his daughter, Lizzie, who became the bride of Levi Fisher, of Intercourse. Following the ceremony, performed at the home of the bride's father, by Bishop Beller, 250 guests sat down to a wedding feast at which were served five geese, fifteen ducks, twenty-five chickens, four hams, forty custards, eight pies, twenty-two cakes, a tub of doughnuts and three bushels of celery, in addition to a number of side dishes. It was the largest wedding party ever entertained in Lancaster county.

"Aunt Sarah" Jennings, sixty-five years old, who patched 28,228 pairs of trousers since she went to work as a seamstress at the Central Pennsylvania Odd Fellows' orphanage, near Sunbury, sixteen years ago, has retired and will live at Meshoppen. She says she never will sew another patch. "Aunt Sarah" is believed to be the champion trouser mender in the State, and she asserts that no other woman ever "half-soled" so many pants. When she went to work among the 200 orphans there she started to keep a record. She has mended 27,600 pairs of stockings, made 2410 boys' blouses, 1296 nightshirts, sewed on 50,000 buttons and made 4610 pairs of garters, in addition to the patching.

When James Mell, a county detective, returned to his home in Chester before 12 o'clock Monday night, after he and members of his family had attended a wedding reception, he was greeted by a fusillade of shots as he started for the second floor of his house. Mrs. Mell and her daughters ran screaming into the street, while Mell began shooting into the darkness. The police were summoned, and a crowd quickly gathered on the sidewalk and in the street. Captain Sill led a detail of half a dozen policemen to an upstairs bedroom, where he found that a quantity of clothing in a closet had become ignited, possibly from matches gnawed by mice, the police say, and the heat caused a box of cartridges to explode.

Yeggs broke into the postoffice at Curwensville, Clearfield county, recently, blew the safe and made away with \$1000 in cash and stamps in addition to \$1500 in Liberty bonds belonging to Verne Bloom, assistant postmaster. The job was a complete one, as the robbers missed nothing of value and were seen to leave the building within three minutes after the explosion, which awakened a neighbor. Immediately all neighboring towns were notified and the local police were on the trail, but the yeggs disappeared as completely as though the earth had opened and swallowed them. The tools with which the job was done were stolen from a tool house of the Buffalo, Rochester and Pittsburgh Railroad company, and there is little doubt that the work was that of professionalists.