

INK SLINGS.

Well, we didn't have to swear off this year anyway. Surely the righteous had trouble in trying to stand in slippery places yesterday. If the Mexican earthquake had struck the right spot it might have been forgiven. Leap year is with us and there are various other reasons why the girls should get busy. On the question of beer the Supreme court appears to be giving a "continuous performance."

Hope springs eternal in the human breast, but the brewers appear to be working the wish-bone over-time. The coal strike is over but nobody has been able to discover even a symptom of decreasing prices of coal in consequence. We dread Congressional investigations. Some one of these committees may discover that President Wilson "struck Billy Patterson."

The census man on his round of counting noses will probably find fewer of the luminous variety than he would have had his work been done a year ago. Senator Vare didn't witness the inauguration of Hammy Moore as Mayor of Philadelphia but we are willing to make a small bet that he has heard of it by this time.

We have just made the painful discovery that there will be fifty-three Fridays in 1920 and we'll have to publish fifty-one editions of the "Watchman" instead of the usual fifty. Pity the poor printer. It is wonderful winter weather that we have been having but the frequent visits to the coal pile that it compels reminds us that the high cost of keeping warm is really what busted the old Bellefonte steam heating plant.

That cow up at Snow Shoe Intersection that recently dropped three calves should have a niche in the bovine hall of fame right between the one that jumped over the moon and the other that kicked over the lamp that set Chicago afire. This thing of following civil service to the point of making a Republican postmaster of the great city of Boston will sound beautiful in an academic discussion of the ideals of great political parties and it will build ours up like the old woman kept tavern out west.

One of the speakers at the union prayer services being held in Bellefonte this week served notice that now that liquor has gone cigarettes must follow in the wake of old John Barleycorn. And after the coffin tacks are pulled out from between our teeth what next will we be asked to dispense with.

With Mr. Bryan backing McAdoo for the Presidential nomination and Joe Tumulty backing Palmer signs are good for some fun in our party before long. Don't underestimate the strength of the Nebraska apostle of grape juice. Few people understand how he does it, but he does it just the same and he might stage a comeback in politics that will throw consternation into the camps of some of the other "favorite sons" who are trying to suppress the son-in-law.

It was ever thus. The fellow who invents or discovers something rarely reaps the reward of his pioneering. Now Ralph Hartsock, who once had an ambition to step out of the County Auditor's office into that of the Commissioners, made the discovery that the County Commissioners have the power to appoint a clerk for the board of Auditors. Ralph was fitted for the position and he told the Commissioners of his discovery and of his fitness. They were pleased with part of the news. So pleased that they forthwith appointed some one else for the job.

The Supreme court has knocked the last ray of hope off the horizon of the liquor business by declaring that the Volstead Prohibition act is constitutional and dismissing all injunctions seeking to prevent interference with the brewing and sale of two and three-quarter beer. It's all off fellows, and what's worse, it now appears that even if you do happen to have a little cache of the O be joyful around your house somewhere it will be unlawful to carry even a nip of it with you on any kind of an expedition. It must be put by January 16th and then it has to stay put. You can't carry any of it along to cheer you up while hunting or to cure possible snake-bites while fishing.

There is likely to be a little fun in this Congressional district over the matter of delegates to the coming Republican National convention. Already there are five candidates in the field and a lively contest is looked for, though the first flush of strength shows that Scott, of Centre, and Gaffney, of McKean, are in greatest favor. They are the organization's candidates and Gillett, of McKean, and Boozie, of Clearfield, will have to build their own fences, as none are already made for them. Boozie, however, is not looked on as a serious contender because he is regarded as a perennial candidate with only a small strength that gets him nowhere. He is partially committed to Gen. Leonard Woods' candidacy and that, in itself, is enough to put a quietus on him, for it isn't part of Penrose's present plans to let Wood get too strong.

Democratic Watchman

STATE RIGHTS AND FEDERAL UNION.

VOL. 65. BELLEFONTE, PA., JANUARY 9, 1920. NO. 2.

Jackson Day in Washington.

Just about the time we are putting this issue of the "Democratic Watchman" to press, the big-wigs, grand-sachems and high-muck-a-mucks of the Democratic party are assembling their legs under "groaning" tables in Washington, not exactly to pick a candidate for the voters that political faith, for President, but to trot out those aspiring availables, real or imaginary, to show their intellectual paces to those of the voters who are able and anxious to make measurements. It is customary, at this time every fourth year, to stage this exhibition of Presidential timber, and out of compliment to an illustrious Democrat, it is called "Jackson Day."

Grand "Old Hickory" was born January 8th. This year the event conveys more than ordinary interest and carries more than usual significance for the reason that it is expected to reveal secrets of the highest magnitude and greatest importance not only to the voters of Democratic proclivities but to voters of all complexions in this country and people throughout the civilized world. It is expected, for example, that President Wilson will avail himself of the opportunity to express his purposes with respect to the third term and his hopes as to the ratification of the League of Nations. It is likewise, let us say, feared, in some quarters, that Mr. William Jennings Bryan will do something or other that may result in "spilling the beans."

Notwithstanding the gravity of the matter, however, there is a humorous side to the situation. According to reports published in the prints a number of aspirants for the Democratic nomination for President will speak on the occasion. Among these the name of A. Mitchell Palmer is conspicuous. With the view, no doubt, of creating a favorable impression of his powers, the Democratic State committee of Pennsylvania purchased a hundred or more banquet tickets, to be used by lusty-lunged admirers of the Attorney General, and it is safe to say they will be heard from. Whether or not the price of the tickets, five dollars a piece, was taken from the campaign fund of the party is a matter of conjecture.

Because the President didn't buy the sugar crop of Cuba without authority, according to Republican critics, he is a traitorous coward. If he had usurped the authority the same critics would have denounced him for imperialism. It's hard to please those unwilling to be pleased.

Hoke Smith's Sinister Purpose.

Senator Hoke Smith, of Georgia, may imagine he is fooling somebody besides himself in his efforts to embarrass the administration in Washington with respect to the peace treaty. Mr. Smith holds title to his office as a Democrat and makes loud professions of faith in the principles of that party. But he has long been a quibbler and fault finder and conspicuous among those who pretend to think that the covenant of the league of nations surrenders to somebody some of the sovereignty of the government of the United States which is sacred. It is precisely what Senators Lodge and Penrose and Knox want him to think and what the Populists in and out of Congress pretend to believe.

There never was a treaty between nations that did not surrender something for the common good of both signatories. That is precisely what a treaty is for. It binds each of those concerned in it to make common cause of the question involved so that both may derive benefit and neither act selfishly. From the beginning of the government of the United States such treaties have been made with one country or another and always to the advantage of both parties to the compact. The covenant of the league of nations does this and nothing less or nothing more. It binds this country to the precise things that it binds every other country which joins the league and impairs the sovereignty of none.

Grover Cleveland was one of our greatest Presidents but he was human and made mistakes. One of his mistakes, and probably among the gravest, was to dig out of obscurity, one Hoke Smith, who did more to discredit the Cleveland administration and impair the interests of the Democratic party than any other man in the country. He injected his Southern prejudices against Union veterans into his office at the head of the pension service and drove thousands of voters out of the party. But of late his loyalty to the government he tried to destroy in 1861 has become so intense that he is afraid a league of nations might do harm. His real fear, however, is that Populism will die out.

Senator Borah is probably sorry the world didn't come to an end last month. That would have defeated the League of Nations surely.

Two Rewards with One Office.

When Mitchell Palmer and Vance McCormick "bolted" the Democratic candidate for Governor in 1918, we suspected some influence other than altruism was operating in their ponderous minds. It was known that Mr. Palmer had been a class-mate of the Republican candidate and it was possibly reasoned that his social relations with the Executive Mansion in Harrisburg would be more intimate with a personal rather than a political friend in possession. Events since the election have justified such conjectures completely. The Governor has not only been a generous eulogist of his college chum, Mr. Palmer, but his house has been an asylum in illness and he has been a "guide, philosopher and friend."

But until last week nobody imagined that sordid or sinister thoughts ever entered, much less found lodgment, in the mind of Mr. McCormick. He simply lived and moved in the public interest and he radiated benevolence. Therefore when he arose at a meeting of the packed State committee, of which, by the way, he was not a member, and in sobbing, falsetto voice denounced the candidate who had defeated his dummy, there was no answer. The committee proceeded, according to program and in obedience to orders, to hamstring the nominee and deliver the party over to its enemy. As chairman of the National Democratic committee that act of perfidy was so overwhelming that no voice was raised to protest.

Last week Mitchell Palmer, who had been appointed a member of the Commission to Revise the Constitution of the State, by Governor Sproul, declined the office. He has been so busy in Washington giving out interviews and promising reforms that he was unable to give attention to the duties of an office without emolument. But happily there was a way to "save the Commonwealth." The Governor promptly accepted his resignation and bestowed the honor upon his "angel," Vance McCormick. It was an expedient solution of a mixed problem, and as the late Uncle Jake Zeigler once remarked, "killed two birds with one stone." Vance has no particular qualifications for the office but "what's the constitution among friends."

Herbert Hoover might make his escape from Presidential lightning absolutely certain by laying down the proposition that he won't run for the office unless Senator Jim Reed, of Missouri, asks him to become a candidate.

Philadelphia's New Mayor.

The inauguration of J. Hampton Moore as Mayor of Philadelphia, on Monday, may mark the beginning of a decided improvement in the government of that city and a considerable change in the affairs of the State. He has chosen his official advisers with care and judgment and in other ways indicated a purpose to move forward independently of the atrocious Vares machine. The controversy which ensued was exceedingly sharp. Not only the Vares but Dave Lane, Senator Dave Martin and other so-called party leaders became involved and the Mayor-elect had to stand firmly against strong pressure, to resist them. That he did so is both surprising and gratifying.

Mayor-elect Moore has been a machine politician, obedient to whoever happened to be boss for a good many years. His first experience in politics was as secretary to the notorious Mayor Ashbridge after which he served a term as city treasurer and acted as receiver of one of the wrecked banks of the city. Fourteen years ago he was elected to Congress and has occupied the seat ever since. In that capacity he developed considerable aptitude and had attained a seat in the committee on Ways and Means well up toward the top of the list. At the organization of the present Congress he was gravely considered among the eligibles for the office of Speaker.

In entering upon the duties of his office Mayor Moore has made ample promises and assumed an attitude which looks like business. If he makes good his election will be of great advantage to the people of Philadelphia. Probably no city in the country has been looted as Philadelphia has been within the last generation and an honest government will not only serve as an inspiration there but will strengthen the hopes of the people of the State for it will mark the end of ballot pollution that has on more than one occasion reversed the result of important elections.

Those employers who are distributing big bonuses among their employees would serve a better purpose by reducing the price of their commodities.

The trouble with General Wood is that it is practically impossible to make a military hero out of a "carpet knight."

Proper Ban on Berger.

The authorities of Jersey City have very properly forbidden a speech in that city to Victor L. Berger, of Milwaukee, recently re-elected to Congress, after having been refused admission to that body upon a previous election. Of course Mr. Berger will denounce this action as a denial of the constitutional right of free speech. He and those who think as he does will vehemently declare that the most sacred and cherished rights of American citizenship have been betrayed. They will insist that the first duty of government is to protect persons while violating the law. But a vast majority of the people will adopt the opposite opinion and the rule of the majority is a real fundamental in this country.

While on this subject, however, a good many clear minded persons may wonder why Victor L. Berger is in position to speak in Jersey City, or any other city in the United States, to a public audience, at this time. Some months ago he was tried and convicted, in a court of competent jurisdiction, and sentenced to penal servitude, for violating the espionage act of Congress. No snap judgment was taken against him. The hearing in court was long drawn out and he was given every legal and technical facility and opportunity to refute the charges against him. But his guilt was proved beyond a question, and if our memory is not at fault he was rather proud of the fact. At least he openly flouted the court.

The question then is, why isn't he serving the sentence? The offense was committed while he was a candidate for Congress in 1918. Upon the assembling of the body he appeared to claim the seat but it was refused him. Thereupon he took "the stump" and entered upon a series of denunciations of the government which have been continued ever since. His engagement to speak in Jersey City was in pursuance of this program. The authorities of Jersey City were equal to the occasion, however, though the matter never ought to have been put up to them. If he were in prison, where he ought to be, according to the sentence of the court in which he was convicted, there would be no occasion for refusal.

If the Russian Soviets could cut out the expenses of propaganda in this country they could feed millions of men, women and children who are starving over there.

Bad Remedy for an Evil.

If it be true that the organized railroad machinists have voted to "walk out" in the event that the anti-strike legislation now pending is enacted into law, they are taking counsel from a doubtful source. The legislation in question is faulty, beyond question. Forbidding strikes by law is a poor expedient. But defying Congress is an equally dangerous experiment for the government is obliged to enforce the law so long as it is the law. Therefore resistance of the anti-strike law by striking would make a conflict certain to prove disastrous to labor inevitable. There are better ways of meeting bad laws than resisting them by force. If railroad machinists are wise they will find a better way.

An act of Congress declaring refusal to work a crime would be unconstitutional. The right of a man to quit work is inherent and indefeasible. But the right of the public to such service as is requisite to life is quite as certain. A strike which would deprive the public of such service would take the form of a conspiracy and might easily be brought within the jurisdiction of the criminal courts. Self-preservation is as much the first law of communities as of nature and any government has the right to protect and conserve the lives of the people. In fact that is one of the most important functions of government. A labor organization that denies this plain fact will get in wrong.

The courts afford the only remedy the people have against unwise or vicious legislation. There is and has been a growing suspicion that some of the courts of this country are influenced to decisions between capital and labor by considerations other than justice and equity. It may be possible to cite instances in which this has been done. But they are exceptions that prove the rule that the courts of law in this country are just and impartial. If the anti-strike provision of the pending railroad legislation is enacted into law, it will be vetoed by the President or nullified by the courts. In view of this palpable fact railroad machinists would better invoke the courts rather than strike.

Strangely enough Mr. Bryan's description of the Democratic candidate for President is an exact likeness of Mr. Bryan himself.

Senator Lodge is going to see that Germany loses as little as possible by the war.

The "Red" Raids.

From the Philadelphia Record. Two or three thousand persons, nearly all foreign born, and a large part of them not even naturalized, have been arrested as enemies of the government, and a great proportion of them will follow the involuntary passengers of the Buford to some country where they may possibly be welcome, and where their right to remain is more obvious than their right to remain here. These people have not been arrested for their opinions. They have not even been arrested for expressing their opinions. There is nothing in their arrest and deportation that is inimical to the freedom of residence and the freedom of speech, of the press and of assembly, within the limits of the right of the community to protect itself, its institutions and its government.

These people had a right to advocate a social State in which there are no institutions and no government. They would not have been arrested for urging that the Constitution be repealed and that all civil offices be vacated on a certain date. But they did not stop with this. They are charged, according to the language of the warrants on which they were arrested, with being "members of, or affiliated with, an organization that entertains a belief in the overthrow by force or violence of the government of the United States, or advocates the overthrow by force or violence of all forms of law, . . . or teaches opposition to all organized government."

The people of this country organized their government, and they can change it or dissolve it when they like. We have had plenty of revolutionary proposals, oral and in print, with which the officers of the law have never concerned themselves. Peaceful agitation for the most revolutionary purposes would be tolerated. But the communists or anarchists are not content with peaceful agitation. They urge the shooting of officials, the use of dynamite and armed resistance to make government impossible. The nation defended itself against secession, and it will defend itself against insurrection. It will deport foreigners who come here for the purpose of using force or violence against the government. It enjoys the natural and primary right possessed every by a single individual of self-defense. The majority are entitled to some rights, and they are not to be deprived of them by firearms and infernal machines.

Our Horizon Line.

From the Philadelphia Press (Rep). When we of the United States shudder at the debt that the war has put upon us and wonder when and how we can get out from beneath the burden, we have but to consider the conditions that face the other great nations of the world to picture a future that is very far from dark. Our debt is roughly some twenty-one billion dollars. It is true that this is large, but it is only about eight per cent of our national wealth, and that is indebtedness that can be paid off without national calamity. We are so much better off than are the nations with whom we stood shoulder to shoulder that in comparison our burden is a very light one.

The sum that Great Britain owes is over forty per cent of her national wealth. And so is that of France, of Italy, and of Russia. Nor do those figures tell the whole story. In France there has been an enormous destruction of wealth and an appalling death toll. Cities have been burned, lands laid waste, mines destroyed, machinery ruined. Italy has suffered likewise to a smaller extent. Russia has had both of these types of calamity. Great Britain has lost tremendously in her man power. The United States has escaped such ravages. Our farm production is at its height, our manufacturing plants are equipped for maximum output, our shipping has multiplied many fold.

Nor must we cherish the pessimistic thought that after-war recuperation is a long and seemingly endless climb. It has not been so in the past, it will not be so now. Gigantic debts have come to other nations as the inevitable payment for war. They have not been crushed. There has been instead the spur to renewed exertions which opened the way to tremendous commercial and territorial expansion. The belligerent nations of Europe have already started out anew, with high courage and wise planning. There is no occasion for us to mourn over our own condition. Wise taxation and frugality in Government expenses will gradually roll away the burden. And we must be alive industrially and keen to meet the new spirit and the trade rivalry that will come from the warring nations now at peace. It is a time for action, not for gloom.

Italy's Surplus Population.

From the Pittsburgh Dispatch. Owing to the stoppage of emigration during the war, Italy finds itself with 2,000,000 surplus population and no work for them. One case where the theory of war as a reducer of over-population didn't work.

An invasion of Mexico would be an enticing adventure to a great many citizens of the United States. The anti-saloon league is not in control down there.

SPAULS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

Burglars early on Monday secured \$500 in jewelry and cash at the home of Rev. J. C. Clark, of Harrisburg, director of the eastern Pennsylvania division for Near East relief.

"I am going away. The next time you see me I will be dead." This note was found in the room of Miss Lucy Huey, aged twenty-one, who disappeared from her home in Dorranceton, near Wilkes-Barre, on Sunday. No trace of her has since been found.

Contracts for the erection of homes for workmen and their families, totalling \$300,000, have been let by the Milton Housing company, a corporation recently formed to meet the housing problem in Milton. The H. A. Moore company, of Milton, secured the contract.

The Morris Packing company plant at McKeesport was totally destroyed by fire of undetermined origin Sunday night. Loss on the building, a four story structure, had not been ascertained, but it was estimated that more than \$50,000 worth of stock in the building was destroyed.

A group of followers of the Spiritualist sect are drilling for oil in McKean county, following directions from "spirits." They claim that they have been in communication with the spirits and that they have been given minute instructions as to where to drill to strike rich gushers.

H. L. Beck, a Sunbury resident, who operates a coal washery near Port Trevorton, has received a black hand letter threatening him with death unless he places \$2,000 on a certain spot on a mountain top near the latter place. He says if the writers expect the money they are due to be disappointed.

Fifteen head of Guernsey cattle from the Packer Island farm near Sunbury were shipped last week to Harrisburg where they will be killed. The cows were loaded into a special car for the trip. The animals are suffering with tuberculosis and are being killed, as are hundreds of others in the State to prevent the spread of the disease.

Miss Laura Gilbert, a member of Emmanuel church, of Pottstown, has not missed a Sunday school session for thirty-two years, a record that is probably hard to duplicate anywhere. Secretary I. B. Stichter has held that position in the Sunday school for forty-five years, and previous to that long period was assistant secretary for two years.

The Public Service Commission has approved the merger of the Lindsey and Puxuxutawney Water companies, including four companies, into the consolidated Water Company of Puxuxutawney, but refused the application for a certificate of valuation. It has also approved the merger of the Clarion Gas company with the United Natural Gas company.

The sum of \$3,800 was found on the person of aged Louis Heisler, a supposed impoverished inventor, who was found dead in his lodging house at Lancaster. The discovery was made by the undertaker in preparing the body for interment. The money was contained in a small bag that was tied about the man's body. Relatives of the deceased have been found, to whom the cash was given.

Antonio Cuza, said to be a son of a wealthy plantation owner in Cuba, was found guilty of murder in the first degree in the Delaware county court at Media on New Year's day for the killing of Harry Schreiber, a guard employed at the Baldwin Locomotive plant at Edgestone. Cuza was charged with robbing fifteen boarders in a Spanish boarding house at Leiperville, and when placed under arrest by Schreiber, it is alleged, he shot the officer.

Pennsylvania and New Jersey State health officials are taking steps to prevent any spread of infection because of Robert Henderson, a Princeton student, living at Huntingdon, being stricken with small-pox. Henderson went home on vacation and was taken ill the latter part of the week, after having attended a number of social affairs. Wholesale vaccination has been ordered among his people, with whom the young man was in contact, and Princeton authorities also notified.

Using a rope ladder which they obtained in some manner as yet unknown, Steve Monecki, aged nineteen years, of Mile Molski, aged twenty years, James Gilipiesie, aged twenty years, Harry Houpp, aged twenty-two years, and Charles W. Giltz, aged twenty-three years, all but one held on robbery charge, and all from Shamokin, and Mount Carmel, escaped from the Northumberland county jail at Sunbury, about seven o'clock Sunday evening by going over the jail yard wall.

Arraigned before a coroner's jury to answer to the charge of being instrumental in the death of Tommy Bomer, a pupil of the Herbert school, in Fayette county, Braden Hurst Hays, principal of that school, who was placed under arrest upon his return from his honeymoon, was formally exonerated. The direct cause of death was given as cerebro-meningitis, the coroner declining to attempt to trace the origin of the disease. It was indicated that criminal prosecution against the principal will be brought by the family of the dead lad.

George C. Tompkins, of Philadelphia, convicted of murdering Mr. and Mrs. Edmund I. Humphreys and their son, Edmund Jr., near Carrolltown, nearly three years ago, was sentenced to be electrocuted by Judge M. B. Stephens, in criminal court at Ebensburg on Monday. Tompkins appeared unfeeling when the death sentence was pronounced and he showed little interest in the proceedings. Humphreys, a wealthy coal operator, and his wife and son were shot to death in their automobile near Carrolltown on July 15th, 1917. Tompkins was tried and convicted of first degree murder, but he appealed. A new trial was recently refused.

Pinned in the wreckage of the Pennsylvania-Lehigh express, Pittsburgh to Easton, at Ranshaw, three miles east of Shamokin, Saturday night, C. E. Halderman, fireman, of Sunbury, was held prisoner three hours while officials searched him to release him. Halderman was caught in the cabin of the engine, and both legs were crushed when the big locomotive plunged over a thirty-foot embankment. It was impossible to release him until acetylene gas torches were used to cut the steel and iron that held him prisoner. While rescuers applied the flame to the steel Halderman calmly ate a hot meal and directed men in charge of the torches where to melt the metal. Three physicians were in attendance to administer stimulants. When released Halderman was taken to the Shamokin State hospital, where surgeons say he will recover.