

INK SLINGS.

—Anyway we never did believe that the ground-hog was a serious contender as a weather prophet. —This is the all important month to some of us if for no other reason than that it brings two legal holidays. —The peace treaty is to be brought back into the open Senate next week and there it will probably lodge awhile.

—The appeal for Armenian relief is not to your patriotism but to your faith in the doctrine that you are your brother's keeper.

—Ten thousand new oil wells are being drilled in this country today and, almost we would be persuaded to hope for lower priced gas if we could only shut our eyes to the manufacture of ten thousand new automobiles every day.

—Viscount Gray's statement of the American attitude with regard to the peace treaty was so clear and so comprehensive that it has left a profound impression on the mind of the world. It can not fail to change the temper of our allies toward us nor can it fail to bring us to a fuller realization that something must be done, and speedily done if world chaos is to be averted.

—Chicago is all het up over a ruling that a man's trousers are a vehicle in the eyes of the law when he is carrying a half-pint in his hip pocket. Of course the Volstead enforcement act says that the vehicle may be seized, therefore the alarm among men lest they be caught in public and their trouser-vehicle seized as evidence with not even a friendly barrel in sight.

—Our new Secretary of Agriculture has started right in to tell us how to reduce the high cost of living. But by only telling us how and not declaring that he intends to do it he has averted riding for a fall like some other statesmen have recently done. When we read this kind of dope we always recall a little jingle that runs like this:

He wrote a book on how to get rich, It surely was a corker Next day he met me on the street And wanted to borrow a quarter.

—Japan's new naval program includes sixteen super-dreadnaughts. Forty-five per cent. of all of Nippon's revenues is to be devoted to naval preparedness and land fortifications. Is it possible that the Japanese people are so wholly under the domination of the militaristic class that they cannot prevent the imposition of such a burden? They have not yet recovered from the effects of their war with Russia, yet they go forward with such a stupendous armament, taxing themselves into continued poverty and what for? Either they expect to attack some other power or that some other power will attack them. What power could it be?

—Gen. Leonard Wood's play for some delegates from Pennsylvania may develop an interesting situation in this Congressional District. Gen. Wood and Maj. Theodore Davis both are warm personal friends. Only a few years ago the General visited at Boalsburg and the whole county turned out to hear him talk preparedness. Major Boal has frequently been talked of as a Congressional possibility of the Republicans of the District. Since then he has added to his popularity by a military record that is teeming with achievement so that if he should interest himself enough to ask that the delegates to Chicago from the Twenty-first be instructed for his friend Gen. Wood there would likely be embarrassment in no small degree in the local Penrose organization, as the Senator is for most any one else than Gen. Wood.

—We believe that Rev. Dr. Robert Westley Peach, of the Reformed Episcopal church of Newark, has forcibly brought to public attention a matter that, more than any other, lies at the bottom of the increasing troubles of protestant churches. His statement that "if not a single church had been built in the past thirteen years those standing in 1906 would accommodate at a single service in the year 1919 every Protestant and Roman Catholic communicant, baptized infants included, in this country and besides every man, woman and child in Canada, Cuba and Porto Rico," seems startling but it is founded on records that are irrefutable. We need but look about us in Bellefonte to see the effects of an over-churching town. And in the county we find them congested in small villages, whereas a distribution that would make them more readily accessible would serve a better purpose. The result of it all is that we Protestants instead of just simply seeking Christ and the establishment of his kingdom on earth are wasting half of our energy and half of our means on maintaining a lot of ritually different vehicles that we hope are carrying us all to the very same point. Good business and good sense are recognizing the value of standardization and never was the time more urgent for standardizing the Gospel chariot. Strip it of its denominational colors and it will roll to the consumption of what the Christian most devoutly prays for. Do you think for a moment that the "water wagon" would ever have crushed the life out of old John Barlevcorn had it been painted up so that none but Methodists, or Presbyterians, or Reformed, or Catholics, or Lutherans, or United Brethren, or Evangelicals, or Episcopal could ride on it?

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Lodge Betrays His Malice.

In refusing to accept the compromise on Article X of the covenant of the League of Nations proposed by former President William H. Taft, Senator Lodge betrayed the vicious purpose of his prolonged opposition to the peace treaty. In the first place there was no need for any reservations. The treaty was drawn with infinite care by the ablest minds in the world and conserved every just right of every nation which might become a member of the League. But Senator Lodge's personal animosity to President Wilson influenced him to opposition, not in the interest of public safety or national security, but in pursuance of envy and malice. To placate Lodge Mr. Taft proposed a substitute that ought to have been satisfactory.

Mr. Taft's substitute provided that "the United States declined to assume any legal or binding obligations to preserve the territorial integrity or political independence of any other country under the provisions of Article X, or to employ the military or naval forces of the United States under any article of the treaty for any purpose; but the Congress, which under the constitution has the sole power in the premises, will consider and decide what moral obligation, if any, under the circumstances of any particular case, when it arises, should move the United States in the interest of world peace and justice, to take action therein, and will provide accordingly." What hazard are we taking as a nation in that proposition?

But Senator Lodge would not consent and the twenty or thirty jumping jacks who are serving as Republican Senators, being bound by partisan pledges, supported him in his duplicity. The substitute was quite as effective as the Lodge reservation in detracting from the achievement of President Wilson, yet the friends of the President were willing to adopt it. But it wounded the vanity of Lodge because it deprived him of the privilege of boasting that he had controlled the Senate, and he refused to assent. Failure to ratify the treaty detracts immeasurably from the glory of the United States but that makes no difference to the vain old popinjay of Massachusetts. It is his own glory that he regards as paramount.

Admiral Sims writes as well as talks too much. It has been discovered that he favored giving a medal to a British sea fighter who had lost his ship and objected to one for an American naval officer under precisely similar circumstances.

Lord Grey's Letter.

If the Lord Grey letter, which seems to have pleased the Republican Senators beyond measure, means anything, it means that the Lodge reservations to the peace treaty are simply bunk. It is a plain declaration of opinion by an eminent British statesman that the Versailles treaty so completely guarantees the rights of all parties concerned in it that the quibbles of small minds are of no importance. In other words Lord Grey inferentially states that the reservations mean nothing for the reason that they are irrelevant. The obligations expressed in the covenant of the League of Nations will be fulfilled whether the reservations are adopted or not, because the people of the United States are honest.

The treaty fully safeguards the Monroe Doctrine in all its functions and the Lodge reservation on that point neither weakens nor adds to its force. Lord Grey understands this fact and while he sees no necessity for qualifying the language used in the covenant, he realizes that no great harm can come from it. The covenant requires a unanimous vote in the Council and Lord Grey knows that it makes no difference whether Great Britain has six votes in the Assembly to our one or we have one hundred votes to their one, the final result is the same. Each has one vote in the Council and neither can pass upon a question in which it is directly concerned, so that there is no discrimination.

President Wilson naturally felt a pride in the work of the peace conference and would have been glad if it had been ratified promptly in this country as it was in England, France, Italy and Japan. The Democratic Senators and people and the patriotic people of all parties wanted an early ratification in order that peace conditions and prosperity might have been restored promptly. But the vanity of Lodge interposed to prevent that consummation and now that Lord Grey publicly writes him down a stupid fool, he pretends to be gratified and expresses a willingness to make some small concessions and let the treaty go through. He is welcome to all the satisfaction he can extract from it.

That snow of Wednesday was a regular flood maker.

Costly and Futile Investigations.

Sixty-one investigations have been authorized since the organization of the present Congress, less than a year ago, at an expense to the government of two billion dollars. These inquiries have extended in various directions and cover a variety of subjects but are aimed at a single purpose, the manufacture of partisan capital for use in the approaching campaign for President. The results thus far have been disappointing to the Republican managers but apparently not discouraging, for according to published information, requests have been made for more than one hundred others. They serve a double purpose, of course, for the failure to develop scandal is recompensed by the pleasures of junketing.

Among the investigations is an inquiry into the cost of conducting the war. The expenses of enlisting and equipping an army of four million men are enormous and it was fondly hoped that some evidences of graft would be uncovered. But nothing of the kind happened. In the hurry of operations there was some extravagance but no venality. Then attention was turned to the Shipping Board activities. That was a promising field but disappointing. Not a single crooked movement could be found. The military camps were next tackled, with the same heart breaking consequences. It was a feverish hasty work but "clean as a hound's tooth." Nothing like the rottenness of the Spanish-American war could be found.

It is conceded that the high cost of living is the high cost of government. So long as profligacy runs riot in the operations of the government extravagance will be the order among the people. The two billion dollars wasted in malicious endeavors to involve the administration in scandal have contributed more to the high cost of living than all the pernicious activities of the profiteers throughout the country during and since the war. If there had been any reason for these expenditures of public money the evil of it might have been overlooked. But as a matter of fact there were not even grounds for suspicion. The greatest achievements of history were conducted absolutely free of graft.

—Somebody is always dragging a herring over the trail to tranquility. Congress has sixty-one investigations keeping it off the railroad track and science is gone plumb crazy over spiritualism and signals from Mars or Venus while the world needs its concentration on problems calculated to get it somewhere.

Chairman Hays' Visit.

Willie Hays, chairman of the Republican National committee, paid a friendly visit to his party associates in Philadelphia, the other day. Mr. Hays has a good deal of trouble on his mind these days and is a very busy man. But he found time to call on Senator Penrose in his sick room and to take dinner, subsequently, with Mayor Moors, District Attorney Rott and several other Penrose followers. The Vore brothers, Ed. and Will, were not invited and didn't participate in the conference, which was a most harmonious affair. Willie probably assented to every proposition made. Dave Lane and Dave Martin were also conspicuously absent, so that there was no opposition to anything.

The real reason for the visit is left to conjecture but not hard to guess. It was stated that the object was to bring the Republican organization of Pennsylvania into closer relations with the National organization of which Mr. Hays is the head. But there was no need of such a visit for such a purpose. The two organizations have always been as intimate as Siamese twins and Senator Penrose had Mr. Hays elected chairman of the National committee in order that nothing might happen to separate them. The existing fissure in the party is not between the National and Pennsylvania state organization. It is between the Republican voters of the country and both those organizations.

The real cause of the visit, however, was to head off an incipient movement to organize a Wood force in Pennsylvania. Among the friends of Roosevelt, and they are legion, there is a strong inclination to support General Wood for the nomination, and the organization realizes that it would be an absurd joke which would inevitably doom the party to defeat. Chairman Hays believes that it is up to Pennsylvania to prevent that disaster and the means at hand is to make the people here think that there is a chance for Governor Sproull's nomination. With such an impression current it would be easy to secure a delegation that would be against Wood first, last and all the time and that is the meaning of Hays' visit.

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

Governor Sproull's Fine Attitude.

We are moved to commend Governor Sproull for his frank statement recently delivered to his banqueting friends that he is unalterably opposed to the "favorite son" business in connection with the nomination for President. The favorite son dodge was a favorite device of the late Senator Quay to get a delegation to the recurring National conventions that he could use as "stock in trade" in his dealings with real candidates for personal aggrandizement. At various times he used various names of Pennsylvania Republicans in this way ranging in importance from the late Mayor Fitler, of Philadelphia, to the late General John F. Hartranft. On one occasion he even used his own name.

Governor Sproull modestly admits that he would accept the Republican nomination for President and feels grateful to those of his fellow citizens who believe that he is fit for the great office. But he doesn't want to ask for it under false pretense that he is the "favorite son" candidate of the Republicans of Pennsylvania. He occupies a fairly safe position in the estimation of the people of the State now which has been acquired without any false or fraudulent representations and is satisfied with what he has unless he can get other favors and great honors in the same way. It is really a creditable attitude to assume and we feel like congratulating him on assuming it.

It is a great pity that Governor Sproull can't or won't infuse some of that manly and honorable spirit into the system of his college chum, personal friend and some time political helper, A. Mitchell Palmer, who is at this blessed moment employing every available resource to acquire the dubious title which the Governor rejects. Mr. Palmer has successfully "farmed" a false pretence of influence exercised at the Baltimore convention eight years ago and imagines that if he could go to San Francisco with a delegation in control absolutely, his political fortune would be assured. But the Democrats of Pennsylvania are not likely to indulge him in this pleasant pipe dream. He is not a favorite son.

—Early in the week we were inclined to scorn the ground-hog as a weather prophet and talked rather flippantly of his vaunted ability to predict the kind of weather in store for us simply by coming out of his hole and seeing his shadow, but when we got out of bed yesterday morning and were confronted with ten inches of snow on about eight hundred square feet of pavement we were constrained to say "Darn the ground-hog!" Not that the poor hog could have made the fall of snow any more or any less, but it was a relief to darn something so we just darned the hog. But at that, wasn't the snow a regular old-time record-breaker, the biggest bulk of purity let fall to earth since total prohibition struck us on January 16th, and we naturally wondered if it might be symbolical of how white this old world is going to be now that strong drink has been relegated to the dark ages.

—Herbert Hoover appears to be getting into the Grover Cleveland class who was dearly loved because of the enemies he had made. Jim Reed and Senator Gronna make a strong force for the fellow they oppose.

—If the leaders of the Irish Republic had been less friendly to Germany while the fight for the democracy of the world was in progress the people of the American Republic would be more sympathetic now.

—Judge Harman, sitting in Montour county, refused seventeen applications for license on the ground that the eighteenth amendment and the Volstead enforcement act make void the Brooks high license act.

—General Wood misinterprets the lessons of history. It is true that every war in which the country has engaged thus far developed a President. But it was fighting soldiers who were thus favored.

—Secretary Daniels told the Senate on Tuesday just what the "Watchman" told its readers three weeks ago when it said that Admiral Sims was suffering with exaggerated ego.

—Probably if Attorney General Palmer would keep quiet for a few days the high cost of living would give up the fight he is exploiting.

—At the same time it's a safe bet that the Queen of Holland would willingly give one of her crown jewels to get rid of Mr. Hohenzollern.

—So long as the constitution remains constitutional the Eighteenth amendment will continue to be valid.

—Mr. Bryan is still chattering but he excites no enthusiasm. He has lost his place on the first page.

Standards for Growth.

From the Journal American Medical Association.

The period of physical development of each individual is an era of the highest significance for his entire life. It represents a time when all manner of formative influences are brought to bear on a receptive organism; the years when the bodily background for future potentialities is being created. The forces that direct this development and make its progress possible are at least twofold: hereditary and environmental. The environmental forces include nutrition, work and play, and are in some measure controllable. If they cannot always alter the limitations set by inherited factors, they can nevertheless frequently prevent deteriorating influences from making any inroad on the growing individual or interfering with the best attainment of his developmental possibilities.

If we are to assist in any degree in facilitating a proper environment for the young, it obviously becomes essential to have some standards by which to judge the success of the undertaking. What shall be the index of successful or satisfactory nutrition and growth? In everyday life, primary emphasis is at present accorded to the body weight, for this is something measurable with accuracy, whereas the judgments formed by the appearance of the person under investigation have psychologic limitations. Diagnosis almost always gains in accuracy when exact quantitative measurement can be substituted for the guesswork or subjective impressions. Facts thus supplant hazy, hazardous assumptions which vary with the experience and dependability of the observer. To know that a patient has actually lost or gained 15 pounds in weight is decidedly more helpful than to suspect that he is "looking somewhat thin."

Is body weight the best measure of satisfactory growth in children? Or is the determination of growth in height a better index? Can either or both of these factors be related to age in such a manner as to answer the question, What is the normal? These queries have frequently been raised and discussed. A recent critical review of selected data bearing on the subject has been prepared by Holt, of the Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons. His statistics show a wide variation in the relation of weight to age—the weight-age curve—among the European nations, all of which are represented in our present American population. With such wide variations as those noted both in foreign and in American boys, it is evident, Holt says, that weight for age is not of great importance in determining the nutrition of a child.

Holt's study shows, further, that the curves for height and age in general vary correspond to those of weight and age among the different groups in the United States and also among the foreign boys in their relation to each other, but the variations in the height-age curves are considerably narrower. As the growth impulse is essentially a hereditary factor, it can be understood why variations in height are so great. The tendency to grow often exerts itself even in the absence of adequate nutrition, so that increase in size may occur with stationary weight at times. It appears from Holt's data that a much more important relationship than weight to age or height to age as an indication of the state of the child's nutrition is that of the weight to height. This index of nutrition appears to be far more independent of nationality; but of course there must be actual increase in size as well as a proper proportionality between height and weight. The weight-height index fixes the child's status in nutrition; the annual increase in size indicates his progress. Deviations from the average may still be regarded as normal. For practical purposes Holt puts the permissible deviation at 10 per cent. The careful inspection by a good observer is by no means to be dispensed with in forming an estimate of good nutrition and growth; but it may advantageously be supplemented by the facts secured through anthropometry.

Universal Training On Its Way.

From the Williamsport Sun.

Universal military training is making its way slowly through the uncertain channels of Congress. It now has a committee endorsement which is a long step toward the adoption of a practical system of training for the country's youth.

One of the few remaining obstructionists is Republican House leader Mondell, who is frightened over what he estimated to be the cost of the plan in the United States. Mondell's pencil and pad, we say pencil and pad because we can't believe he used much brain power in arriving at his calculation, say that universal military training would cost the country one billion dollars annually. Well what if it does, the war cost that sum every month, and universal training is a war preventive.

Meaningless Now.

From the Columbus Dispatch.

The full dinner pail will not do for a campaign slogan this year, for it is an institution that has passed, and the employee either takes his course dinner at a restaurant or patronizes a cafeteria.

—Subscribe for the "Watchman."

SPAULS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

—While the family of Charles Koffel, of Lansdale, were eating dinner on Sunday a sneak thief entered the house, and stole \$117 and a gold watch.

—Thieves broke into a farmhouse in Jefferson county and stole a barrel of elderberry and a half barrel of blackberry wine. In their thirst and wickedness they ignored hams, silverware and Liberty bonds.

—Hiram Bomberger, of Lancaster county, who is using electric lights in his pen, is gathering thirteen dozen of eggs a week from thirty-two hens. One hen laid nineteen eggs in November, the same number in December, and up to Tuesday of last week, twenty-two eggs for January.

—The Susquehanna river is frozen from shore to shore at Liverpool, Pa., and the ferry men are using horse and sleigh to transport mail and passengers. Ferryman Long and Miller are hauling thousands of railroad ties which formerly were ferried across the river in flats, across in sleds, and bringing back coal on their return trips.

—The Blair county court granted thirty-seven new and three renewed license applications at Hollidaysburg on Monday. Judge Thomas J. Baldrige condemned the practice of grocers and fruit dealers in selling near-beer as unlawful, and declared that the sales of all beverages containing less than one-half of 1 per cent. alcohol must be licensed under the law of Pennsylvania.

—The Eagle fire brick plant of the Eastern Refractories company, at Mill Hall, which was burned some time ago, will be replaced by a structure which will have double the capacity of the destroyed plant. The old plant required between forty and fifty men to operate. The new plant will require nearly one hundred and will turn out 50,000 machine made bricks and 20,000 hand made bricks daily.

—The Ideal chocolate factory, of Lititz, now has sugar on hand for its needs without curtailing, as had been the case for some months previous to January. Four hundred thousand pounds of Brazilian sugar was received in the early part of January, and five carloads of American sugar were unloaded since then. Fifteen cents a pound is being paid. Fifty barrels a day are required.

—At a special session of court held at Lock Haven on Saturday, Aaron Bartiges entered a plea of guilty to the charge of unlawfully selling, dispensing and distributing sulphate of morphine. He was sentenced to pay \$1 fine and to undergo imprisonment in the county jail for a term of one year. Bartiges is up in the seventies and his health is not good, hence the court imposed a jail sentence instead of sending him to the penitentiary.

—Altoona firemen discovered a funny one some weeks ago, when called to a fire. Upon entering a room where the seat of fire was located the firemen fell over something. Turning on the search light, it was found to be a home still at work. Evidently, a short time ago, was the experience of an undertaker of that city who was called to the home of a recluse who died, and while the body was cold in death, the faithful still nearby was running full blast.

—Having just a short time ago subscribed \$10,000 within one hour to help finance a tap, die and reamer works, citizens of Newport eclipsed their own good record last week by raising \$25,000 in one hour to secure a branch of a knitting factory. With the trade reports showing hosiery jobbers "sold up" for May, June and July, Newport looks quite reasonably upon its latest acquisition as being another good one for that lively, co-operating Juniata river town.

—Clover seed is selling in Lancaster county at \$35 a bushel, the highest price ever known. This will bring the price of a bag to \$100. Last year on account of the high price of clover seed many farmers mixed alfalfa with it. This year alfalfa is selling at the same price as clover, an advance of \$10 a bushel. Last year the high price of clover was said to be caused by dry weather. No reason has been given this year and many believe it is speculation pure and simple. Many farmers are contemplating sowing alfalfa with their clover.

—Dr. Walter H. Parcels, 72 years old, is dead at Lewistown. Deceased enlisted in the army of the Potomac when only 15 years old and saw hard service in the Wilderness and at Appomattox. He was in active practice as a physician for forty-four years. He was a Democrat in politics, and represented Millfin county in the State Legislature in 1893, 1894, 1895 and 1896. He took up his residence at the Millfin county pest house during the small-pox epidemic of 1894 and administered to his patients, including the burial of the dead. Doctor Parcels was known as a poet and orator and made three trips to Europe in search of health.

—A bullet, lodged in the brain of Lydia Jackson, a negro, of Chester, who was shot by Hillman Mitchell, on Christmas, when she declined his invitation to attend a moving picture show, does not now cause her serious inconvenience. She was sent to the Chester hospital, but the doctor who gave her first aid said it would be little use, as she could not live an hour. Now she is out of the hospital, and expects soon to be able to return to work. She says the bullet in her brain does not bother her, except at intervals, and the trouble is growing less all the time. The woman's case has puzzled physicians, who say it is the only case on record where a person has lived with a bullet in the brain. An attempt was made to probe for the bullet, but when the surgeons ascertained its location they said to remove it would mean death at once.

—The Lewistown housing proposition went over the top with a clear margin of \$29,300 over and above the \$300,000 required and the event was celebrated by a luncheon held at the Coleman hotel. This means that 250 modern dwellings will be erected along south Main street in the eastern part of that city at once to be sold to working men under conditions that they can be paid for without too much sacrifice. As soon as these are disposed of others will be built and financiers now say that the future of Lewistown is assured. The Lewistown Housing and Developing company has 275 acres of the best land in the Juniata valley for home sites which will be utilized for the promotion of the good of the community. The Viscose Silk company has established local offices in Lewistown for their engineers and the work of building their \$3,000,000 plant will be hurried through as rapidly as possible. Their plans include a modern village of 275 dwelling houses to front on Belle avenue.