

INK SLINGS.

—It is beginning to look like Herbert Hoover is in danger of being kidnapped by both parties.

—March surely came in like a lamb. Let us hope that she doesn't slam the door when she goes out.

—In sixteen days spring will be here; that is if it can get through the snow in the country roads.

—The President was able to take a motor ride on Wednesday and walked from the car into the White House, without assistance. That looks good.

—A ground thaw that would open up the ice and let the water from melting snow through would go far toward removing the menace of a disastrous flood should a warm rain come soon.

—Germany's curiosity is getting the better of her and she wants to find out what "American sentiment toward her really is." Surely this is a case in which ignorance is bliss it is folly to be wise.

—Herbert Hoover says he is not Mr. Penrose's kind of Republican, nor is he Mr. Bryan's kind of a Democrat, nor is he Mr. Hearst's kind of a patriot. All of which goes to prove that whatever he is Herb must be a rather decent fellow.

—The "Watchman" is losing hope that its repeated prediction that the peace treaty would be ratified is to be fulfilled soon. The imminence of the national election has had the effect of making Senators view it through the glasses of politicians instead of those of statesmanship.

—A contemporary announces that the "New York prosecution is national hysteria against radicalism." And what is radicalism? It is the hysteria of diseased minds against government, so that it is time rational people are getting hysterical in their determination to save the government from destruction.

—Fishermen who are looking rather dolefully toward the opening of a season without the companionship of a bottle with a kick in it, should cheer up. The deprivation will be short lived. By June grasshoppers will be abroad in the land and an olive bottle filled with them will be good bait and full of kick, as well.

—If what now appears as a very serious revulsion of sentiment against the Volstead act crystallizes into power enough to revise it few people will be greatly surprised. In a great many ways the Volstead act is needlessly drastic and inquisitorial and the "wets" are seizing on these clauses, that might well have been left out of it, to make sentiment against it. And if they succeed we fear it will be bustled so wide open as to make it of little value to the cause it was enacted to uphold.

—The Democratic organization of Philadelphia has repudiated the McCormick-Palmer leadership in Pennsylvania, but if it is actuated by the desire to identify our party with the "wets" then the "Watchman" is not in sympathy with the movement nor will it lend itself to the dethronement of these arrogant bosses for any such reason. McCormick and Palmer have certainly reduced the Pennsylvania Democracy to a sorry state and if it cannot be restored without its advocacy of the repeal of the Eighteenth amendment it had far better remain so.

—The "Watchman" has received from the new board of County Commissioners a statement setting forth their estimate of the expenditures they will be called upon to make during 1920. It is interesting for several reasons; the paramount one being the announcement that our taxes are to be increased by two mills additional levy. This was announced as a probability by the "Watchman" six weeks ago. We regret that conditions over which we have had no control make it impossible for us to publish the statement in this issue, as well as our inability to present the analysis of the old Board's record which we promised to make this week, but we are hoping that by next week labor conditions in this office will have so improved as to make publication of the two, together, possible, for it seems to us that they are so correlated as to be more thoroughly understood if read at the same time.

—Otto H. Kahn, of New York, whose occasional theses on current topics have always commanded our attention has just published another under the caption "Two Years of Faulty Taxation and the Results." While no one hopes ever to obtain a perfectly equitable system of distributing the burdens of tax, Mr. Kahn's suggestion that it be imposed on expenditures rather than on savings seems peculiarly a good one since it is in entire harmony with fundamental principles of economics. In a sense it would be direct taxation and calculated to excite more interest on the part of the payer as to why and what for he pays his taxes, an end greatly to be desired, but it would be simple in its application and put a penalty on extravagance rather than on thrift as is the case under the present system. In brief, his idea is to pay all taxes through stamps on articles we purchase over a minimum value of two dollars. A rate would be established to provide for government needs that could be raised or lowered instantly, a great army of assessors, collectors and accountants would be done away with and those who have so much money to throw away in extravagant living would bear the greater burden.

# Democratic Watchman

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## Palmer a Long Distance Favorite.

Mitchell Palmer has formally entered the race for the Democratic nomination for President and bases his claim on a false pretense. A petition having been filed in his behalf in Georgia, Mr. Palmer telegraphed his appreciation of the favor to the secretary of the State committee, and added: "I deem it highly important that the Democrats of Georgia should have the opportunity to directly pass upon the record made by the present administration." The inference he plainly hopes to convey is that he is the choice of President Wilson for the nomination. The language quite as clearly asserts the claim that whatever good has been achieved by the present administration is ascribable to Palmer.

Mr. Palmer has been a member of the administration for a trifle more than a year. He entered the cabinet with a flourish of trumpets proclaiming that he would reduce the cost of living to a normal basis. He has since spent his time traveling over the country like a "perigrinating pilgrim" promising everything and accomplishing nothing. Within the past fortnight he has made speeches in Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, Ohio and New York, offering absurd suggestions on every conceivable subject, promoting his ambitions at the expense of the public treasury. But the cost of living has soared as regularly as he has roared assurances that he would bring profiteers to their knees and force prices down.

Mr. Palmer may be a prime favorite among the Democrats of Georgia but he doesn't enjoy that distinction in Pennsylvania. Georgia is a long way from Pennsylvania and the Democrats there may not know that Mr. Palmer is a party wrecker who betrays the party whenever such perfidy advances his personal interests. He bolted the Democratic nominee for Governor of Pennsylvania two years ago and has been rewarded by personal and political favors from the successful Republican candidate whenever there was opportunity to do so. For these reasons the Democrats of Pennsylvania, who know him thoroughly, will not favor his nomination for President unless those of Georgia may choose to do.

—The doctor who says that the city child has five times the chances to reach maturity than a country child enjoys has either great faith in the efficacy of medicine or he wants to fool the parents.

## Return of the Railroads.

Since Sunday midnight the railroads of the country have been under the control of executives chosen by their shareholders. The legislation effecting this result enacted a week previously, was signed by the President on Saturday, the law officers of the government having certified to its constitutionality during the interval. The effect of the change is, of course, problematical. As we said last week the measure is not entirely satisfactory to any interest or anybody. But the change was inevitable. The President gave warning more than a year ago of impending change and urged needed legislation. Congress dilly-dallied and finally agreed upon the bill.

It was unfair for the Railroad Brotherhoods to ask the President to veto the measure. There could be no excuse for the veto of a valid bill on the subject. Public ownership of railroads is repugnant to the minds of a vast majority of the people. Control of the properties had been assumed reluctantly by the administration only as "a war measure." The President had exhausted all his power to secure the interests of employees in making the transfer. But he is held by the obligations of the law as firmly as any other citizen and the measure being constitutional, he had no alternative. To veto an act of Congress for no other reason than that it is unsatisfactory to a group would be an abuse of power.

We hope the apprehensions of the railroad employees as to the ill effect of the private control will not be fulfilled. President Wilson will do all he can to prevent bad results and as a contemporary has said the President "has wide power" in winding up the affairs of the railroad administration. The interstate commerce commission affords an additional safeguard for the men. The law vests in that body considerable power not hitherto enjoyed by it. So there is nothing left for us but to make the best of it. The country is not going to the dogs and men earning seventy to eighty-five cents an hour, with plenty of work, are hardly heading for the poor house.

—Thirteen is President Wilson's lucky number. In view of that fact he ought to have put his peace proposition in thirteen instead of fourteen points.

—Some Europeans seem to have adopted the erroneous impression that Uncle Sam is a perpetual paymaster.

## Moving Along Right Lines.

Mr. Herbert Hoover has at last given the public a line on his political affiliations. He declares emphatically that he is not a Penrose Republican, a Bryan Democrat or a Hearst patriot. This terse statement of fact may not commend the great Food Administrator of the world to the favor of the politicians of either party who control conventions and make nominations. But it will go a long way toward commending him to the admiration of a vast number of voters who have a just and natural aversion to crooks, hypocrites and traitors. Mr. Penrose has made himself obnoxious to moral sentiment by a long life of political iniquity and his enmity against Hoover is a recommendation.

Mr. Hoover is equally wise in disassociating himself from the Bryan Democracy. The hypocrisy of the "Boy Orator" long since distressed if not actually disgusted many of his former friends and his desertion of the President at a critical moment because he imagined it an auspicious time to enter as a Presidential candidate in 1916, alienated many others. Finally his entry on the pay roll of an organization to dictate the platform of the coming Democratic National convention served as "the last straw which broke the camel's back" and left him a pitiable remnant of his former political estate. There is no evil greater than mercenary leadership and Mr. Bryan has gone the limit in that direction.

As to William Randolph Hearst even the thought of association with him is repulsive to right thinking minds. During the world war he exhausted every expedient to help the enemies of the country and though there is doubt as to whether he was influenced by enmity to President Wilson or by pure perversity, the fact is well established that he gave aid, both in Mexico and in Europe, to the German cause. Plainly, therefore, Mr. Hoover is moving along right lines when he publicly and positively declares against Penrose, Bryan and Hearst. It is a moral as well as a patriotic duty to be against these selfish conspirators of evil and Mr. Hoover will make friends by his declaration.

—Mitchell Palmer told a New York audience, the other night, that the clothes he had on were five years old. "Mitch" must imagine that Mr. McAdoo made a strong point when he said, a couple of years ago, that he had patches on his pants.

## Interesting Contest for the Bench.

The anxiety of the Republican machine of Pennsylvania to nominate Judge Sadler, of Cumberland county, for Justice of the Supreme court is surprising in view of the facts. Six years ago Judge George Kunkel, of Harrisburg, was the candidate for that bench against Judge Frasier, of Pittsburgh, on a non-partisan ticket. Judge Kunkel carried forty-nine of the sixty-seven counties of the State and was defeated by only 8304 votes. In Allegheny and Philadelphia counties Frasier had 103,884 which gave him the election by the small margin he received. The Republican machine exerted all its power and invoked every expedient to compass the result. Even a cursory study of the returns of that election would indicate that the people favored the election of Judge Kunkel. He had a long and varied experience on the bench and proved a jurist of fine ability and discretion. In his conduct of the trial of the capital grafter he established a reputation second to that of no jurist in the country. But the machine didn't want him on the bench of the highest court. Those who manipulate the politics of Pennsylvania are anxious to keep the courts under control. As the late Senator Quay once remarked it is some times necessary to catapult favorites on to the Supreme bench but the work is accomplished in one way or another.

The anxiety of the machine leaders to nominate Judge Sadler may be accounted for, therefore, in the fact that the friends of Judge Kunkel have been urging him to again enter his name for the nomination. We have no information as to his intentions in the matter but the activity of the machine workers plainly infers that he may consent. In that event we are likely to have an interesting campaign. Judge Kunkel is well and favorably known in every section of the State and the announcement of his candidacy will spur his admirers into an earnest as well as a vigorous fight.

—President Underwood, of the Erie railroad, thinks car fares ought to be cut down to two cents a mile. Maybe he is only kidding that portion of the public that was opposed to the return of the properties to private ownership.

—The Newberry trial is still on at Grand Rapids, Michigan, and the public is still learning what an easy mark Newberry was for the Michigan bootleggers.

## Harding the Pennsylvania Favorite.

We can imagine nothing more amusing than the confidence the Pennsylvania Republican leaders have in their ability to fool the voters of that party. They have actually made a considerable majority of the rank and file believe that Governor Sproul's nomination for President is a possibility, when it is apparent to any close observer of events that his name will never be mentioned in the balloting of the Chicago convention. Governor Sproul is simply being used, with his consent, of course, to prevent the election of any delegates in this State who would vote for General Wood. Senator Harding, of Ohio, will be the Pennsylvania favorite when the balloting is in progress.

Before Senator Penrose left home for Florida last week Mr. Harding visited him in Philadelphia. When he reached Washington on his way South Senator Watson, of Indiana, Harding's Washington manager met him and they held a prolonged conference. Since he has been in Florida his most frequent guest has been Mr. John T. King, of Connecticut, who is the director general of Harding's campaign. Mr. King is an expert political manipulator, a political "soldier of fortune," who had been engaged to manage the General Wood campaign. But when the "old guard" determined to defeat Wood, King abandoned him and swore allegiance to the favorite. He is now operating under the directions of Senator Penrose.

But the Republican voters of Pennsylvania like to be fooled and they will probably enjoy themselves before measure when they find out in Chicago in June that the talk of Governor Sproul for President was nothing more or less than a camouflage to conceal the plans and purposes of Senator Penrose who hopes to displace the vast patronage of the President in Pennsylvania during the next four years. Of course the Senator will make wise use of the party capital thus bestowed upon him by a trusting constituency, if he gets a chance. But he will be disappointed in the results for the next President will be a Democrat and one who has the interests of the people, rather than those of politicians at heart.

—Learned agriculturists are now throwing a scare into farmers by alleging that the wheat crop has been smothered by the ice and snow, particularly the former. If the writer is not mistaken last year about this time they claimed the wheat had been frozen out because of the lack of covering of snow, and yet last year's crop was one of the best harvested in some years. Because of this fact farmers should not become worried about their wheat crop until the snow goes away and nature has time to show what it can do. It might here be added that up to this time nobody has told us what the peach crop and the apple crop will be the coming year, but we are watching every day to see some smart Aleck predict the ruin of both by the long, cold winter.

—A peculiar story comes from Levistown in connection with Mrs. Samuel Myers, thirty years old, who it is claimed, has recovered the sight of her left eye which had been blind for twenty-two years. According to the story the eye was injured in a coasting accident near Bellefonte when she was eight years old and she had no use of that eye until just recently, when without an operation or anything else being done, her sight was restored and now her left eye is as good as her right.

—So far as the general public could observe the passing of the railroads from government to private control on Monday morning did not cause even a ripple of excitement in Bellefonte. Everything moved along as systematically as of old; in fact, it might be added a little more so, as the trains have been coming into Bellefonte closer to schedule time this week than they have done for some time.

—We feel like apologizing to our readers this week for yielding to the unusual demand for advertising in the columns of the "Watchman," but it so happened and as a business proposition we had to make the best of it. The result is that local matter will be found on most every page of the paper, so don't fail to look for it. And at the same time, read the advertisements, they are all worth it.

—Even the Senators have come to realize that the peace treaty will be a campaign issue.

—It can hardly be said that the woman vote will be the much talked of "silent vote."

—The few days of warm weather we had this week cut down the big banks of snow along the streets very appreciably.

—Subscribe for the "Watchman."

## Canada in the League.

From the Philadelphia Record.  
The Governor General of Canada has expressed to the Dominion Parliament his satisfaction that "the status of Canada as a member of the League of Nations has been definitely fixed." This means that Great Britain is firmly committed to the representation of the self-governing dependencies in the League. As we have not ratified the treaty, and are not a member of the League, we are not in a position to object to this, even if it were adverse to our interests, which it is not.

The only reservation which Lord Grey thought his government could not accept was the one which would have deprived the British dependencies of membership in the League. But this reservation was not procured by Great Britain, and it was not demanded by the dependencies in the interest of the empire, but in their own interest. The imperial control of the dependencies is very slight, and they are extremely jealous of their practical independence. At Paris the dependencies demanded membership in the League as a recognition of their status as almost independent nations. In the great war it rested with the dependencies whether they would go to the aid of Great Britain or not. They went, and went enthusiastically; but they went as more than semi-independent States. The peace conference conceded their right of membership, not as a concession to Great Britain, but as a concession to Canada, Australia and the other dependencies.

Their interests are not always those of the empire, and they would not be certain always to vote with it. But whether they would or not is immaterial, because the Council, which is the executive body in distinction from the Assembly, must be unanimous on all matters of any importance. If we were a member of the League, with, of course, a representative in the Council, we could not be out-voted. The larger the number of members the more difficult it might be to secure unanimity, and if England controlled the votes of the dependencies, we could control the votes of five members of the League, as professor Albert Bushnell Hart has pointed out—Cuba, Panama, Haiti, Santo Domingo and Nicaragua.

## Identifying Mr. Hoover.

From the New York World.  
To many professional politicians whose weather-worn principles are all summarized by a party label this statement by Herbert C. Hoover ought to be enlightening:

Mr. Penrose has declared that I am not his kind of Republican. Mr. Bryan has declared that I am not his kind of Democrat. Mr. Hearst has declared I have not his variety of patriotism. I at once agree with these gentlemen. Thus by the simple process of elimination Mr. Hoover identifies himself in politics with much greater precision than the average public man is able or willing to do. Most of the survivors of the old partyism have professed astonishment because a possible candidate for the Presidency has hesitated to call himself either Democrat or Republican, but in that they fail to realize that the same uncertainty is to be found among millions of voters. This is a time when comparatively few people know where they stand so far as party is concerned, and the organization which first recognizes that fact and the reasons for it and acts in the light of that knowledge will be the gainer.

There are enough Americans weary of the Penroses, Bryans and Hearsts to elect the next President. Perhaps they never will be able to agree on the point, but, considering past and present performances of the men who have misled them long enough, we should say that all who can subscribe to Mr. Hoover's words are almost ready to accept true Democratic doctrine, if not Democratic name.

## A Pertinent Inquiry.

From the Springfield Republican.  
The United States Supreme court is competent, perhaps, to determine when the disability of the Executive to function begins and ends, as Mr. Fess suggests; but who is to determine when the disability of Congress, especially the Senate, to function begins and ends? The Senate has had a peace treaty before it for more than six months, and the Senate in the presence of it threatens to become what the soldiers used to call a shell that wouldn't explode—a dud.

## Many Apexes of H. C. L.

From the Providence Journal.  
Some of our eminent authorities assure us that the high cost of living has now reached the apex and must descend. But recalling several similar assurances during the last six months, we are driven to the conclusion that the H. C. and L. has a lot of apexes.

## More Significant.

From the Christian Science Monitor.  
That 140,000 school teachers in the United States have deserted the business of teaching during the last year is a significant statement. But perhaps it would be more significant still to tell where they have gone.

—The postponement of military training legislation until after the election shows how confident the Republican leaders are of public credulity.

## SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

—Fire presumably caused by crossed electric wires damaged St. Peter's and St. Paul's Lithuanian Catholic church at Tamaqua to the extent of \$3000.

—Joseph Fecher, bandmaster, of Middleburg, now 82 years of age, played before President Lincoln and Admiral Dahlgren on their visit to Richmond during the Civil war. He led his band in the grand review at Washington in 1865.

—Reading city council has engaged George F. Datesman, of Philadelphia, to direct the sewer work in that city, at a salary of \$100 a day. Mr. Datesman is a native of Northampton county. The work on the sewers will be commenced as soon as weather conditions will permit.

—Lewis G. Linderth, of Reading, is suing for divorce on the ground of desertion. In his statement to the court he says that when he returned from the army his wife told him he was in the army too long and besides that he had lost his good looks. They were married in 1917 and separated two years later.

—John Sauder has been carrying mail between Farmersville and Brownstown trolley station, making two trips daily, for six and one-half years without missing a single trip. He carries the mail in a one-horse conveyance and also hauls passengers, charging a nickel for a one-way trip over a mile. He is aged sixty-five years.

—Suit for damage was instituted last week at Clearfield by Mrs. Della Kelly, widow, against the Pennsylvania Railroad company as a result of the accident on August 10, 1919, at Farley's Crossing, near Saybrook, Warren county, in which Game Commissioner E. W. Kelly, of DuBois, and Secretary Kallfus, of the State Game Commission lost their lives.

—The theory that a woman's stocking offers a safe depository for her money got an awful wallup Saturday night, when Mrs. Anna Hayes, of Pittsburgh, was robbed of \$192, two \$50 Liberty bonds and a \$10 check while she was having her shoes polished in a downtown shop. When she discovered her loss she notified the police, who arrested the two negroes who had worked on her shoes. They had her valuables.

—John Orlandez, of Beaver Falls, was startled last week to find out that the woman with whom he had been living for ten years is not his wife, as he thought. Orlandez got a license at Pottsville in 1910, and he and his wife thought the formalities at the courthouse meant their marriage and no ceremony was performed. When taunted recently that he had no certificate to prove his marriage he decided to go to Pottsville and find out the truth. He at once sent for his supposed wife, and as soon as she arrived in Pottsville they were legally married.

—Edward Warley, of Pottstown, recently observed his 65th birthday. He continued to his room, but has good hearing and eyesight, reads and converses. He was born in a log cabin at Pottstown ten years before the borough was incorporated. He is a Civil war veteran and fought at Antietam and Gettysburg. He was a cabinet maker and one of the first railroad engineers on the Reading railway. He relates how wood was used as fuel for the engines before the Civil war. At that time 50 cents per day was considered fair wages for ten hours. He remembers that eggs sold for six cents a dozen. Chestnut coal sold for \$2 per ton and the best sirloin steaks sold for 6¢ cents per pound.

—Information has been made against a number of the employees of the Glass and Tile company, of Brookville, Jefferson county, charging conspiracy, and it is possible that other arrests will be made. It is alleged that a number of dissatisfied employees of the company threw chunks of iron and other debris into the molten glass in the tank of the plant. Fortunately, the foreign substances were discovered before any material damage had been done. Considerable excitement has been caused at the plant because of this alleged attempt to handicap the company. Had the foreign substances not been discovered in time it would have resulted in great loss to the company, perhaps the destruction of the entire tank and glass, and a shutdown of the factory for several weeks.

—District Attorney Windle, of Chester county, will invoke the aid of Maryland authorities to have the marriage of Branson Black, a negro, 22 years old, and Helen Robinson, white, 14 years old, of Oxford, annulled. The girl is the daughter of Harry Robinson. It is alleged she was enticed by the negro to Elkton, Md., on November 1st, 1919. She lived with her father and sisters, her mother being separated from the father. Following the ceremony, Black took his child wife to a farm near Coatesville, and got a job in a steel mill there. When the state affairs was discovered, Black was arrested on the charge of enticing the girl to Maryland and placed in jail. His wife is in charge of a probation officer. She declares she has no desire to continue to live with him.

—Furs and silks valued at more than \$25,000 were carried away by thieves from the Leavy Stont store in Wilkes-Barre early last Friday morning. The store is located on south Main street, the city's main thoroughfare. The section is patrolled by policemen, but despite this entrance was gained through the front door and the loot was carried out through the same door. Several fur coats, ranging in price from \$500 to \$1000, were taken. Expensive neckpieces were stolen, and the thieves ransacked the three floors of the building, selecting the finest of silk garments. The goods were boxed and wrapped before they were taken from the store. Balls of twine and wrapping paper that were left give proof of this. So carefully was the job done that the interior of the store showed no signs of the robbery until investigation was made.

—Anthony Fritchey, proprietor of the Arlington hotel, North Catasauqua, holds the hard luck record of that section of Lehigh county. Two years ago, an eight-year-old son fell through the Hokendauqua bridge into the Lehigh river and was drowned, the body not being recovered for ten days. Last summer another son was accidentally shot in the head by a companion and seriously wounded, and a few days later still another of his boys was nearly drowned while swimming in the Lehigh river near his home. Saturday evening two other sons, Berthold, aged nine, and Leo, four years old, were seriously injured when a heavy motor truck struck their sled while coasting on a hill near their home. The older of the injured boys is not expected to recover. The father of the boys was taken home from the hospital only a few days previous, after having undergone a surgical operation. Their mother has also been ill for some time.