

# Democratic Watchman

## INK SLINGS.

—Germany is heading toward a condition of chronic revolution.

—It wasn't much of a climax that Kapp capped in Germany after all.

—It seems reasonably certain that the water will be both high and cold for the opening of the trout season.

—After reading his Harrisburg speech almost are we persuaded to believe that Mitch Palmer put up the moon.

—Yesterday made us think of one of those rare days in June, though we listened and looked in vain for a robin or a blue-bird.

—Piles of ice and snow everywhere remind us that winter intends to linger in the lap of spring for awhile, at least, after it's arrival on Sunday.

—If the price of anthracite is to be advanced thirty per cent. we know of no easier way of making a little money than investing in your next winter's supply of coal right now.

—Gen. Wood is gathering up a few delegates here and there. In fact he has more than any of the other Republican aspirants, but that's no sign that he'll get a look in at Chicago.

—Emigration is exceeding immigration in this country, so the port records show, and inquiry as to the cause brings the information that foreigners declare that if they have to live in a desert they prefer Sahara to the United States.

—A consignment of three thousand gallons of good red liquor on its way from Baltimore to Henry Bradley, of New York, was discovered and held up by Philadelphia police on Tuesday. Poor Mr. Bradley, how near he came to being a mighty popular fellow.

—Might we ask those who are so terribly afraid that our joining the League of Nations will involve us in foreign warfare how we became involved in the late unpleasantness? Could any agreement we might make with other powers occasion greater self denial and sacrifice than we are just now starting to recover from? The League at least aims at and points toward security and is therefore that much better than no League at all.

—Why put water meters on the homes of Bellefonte? With millions of gallons of water overflowing the spring every day certainly scarcity doesn't necessitate a check on consumption. Water is the one thing we have plenty of in Bellefonte and of all of nature's gifts it is one that we should use lavishly, if it is to be had, and we are to keep clean and well. If the borough needs more revenue lay the tax necessary to raise it on the interest or street duplicates for the water rent is and has been more than paying its way. Why make the frugal wife of the poor man hesitate every time she starts to scrub the kitchen or back porch lest the wheels on the meter roll up a few cents more of tax? Why put a penalty on keeping the dust layed on the streets in summer, or washing off dirty pavements with a hose? Furthermore, meters cost more now than they ever did and we doubt whether the additional income or saving in expense of pumping that they would produce would pay the interest on the inflation in their present price. The borough would have to buy them because the water is a rent and not a tax and the consumer cannot be charged, directly, with the device for determining what the rent shall be.

—Both the Gazette and Republican have gone into hysterics over the "Watchman's" analysis of the work of the old Board of County Commissioners, which we published in last week's paper. We are at a loss to understand why either one of our contemporaries should become so excited unless they both came to the conclusion that neither one of them have been paying any attention to matters of real public interest for years and hoped to cover up their delinquency as public newspapers by making the grandstand play they are doing this week. The Republican thinks the county treasury was "virtually depleted" when the new Board took charge yet it doesn't deny that they found \$10,720.85 more in the treasury than was there when the old Board took charge eight years ago. Nor does it deny that the new Board has \$115,363.27 less debt staring it in the face than the old Board had to contend with in 1912. Facts not theories count in such matters. And the Gazette illuminates the situation with the profound statement that "a Democratic Board can't pay any more debts with the same amount of money than a Republican Board." What idiocy. It isn't paying bills that the people of Centre county are concerned about half as much as making them. Economies in government are not effected through paying the bills. They are results of prudent and careful expenditures. Furthermore, the "Watchman" stated during the campaign last fall that in all probability there would have to be a raise in the county taxes and it believes with the increase that has been announced the new Commissioners should at least break even at the end of this year and that their statement to the effect that with this extra millage they will still be forced to go in debt \$20,000 more this year is not an accurate forecast of their hopes. It is designed, as we stated last week, to give them a great margin of safety and a claim to having made good and for the sake of the tax payers we would be delighted to see them pull it off.

# Democratic Watchman

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## Mr. Palmer's Weak Sophistry.

Mitchell Palmer, in formally soliciting the support of Pennsylvania Democrats for the nomination for President, takes issue direct with the expressed opinions of William C. McAdoo, Champ Clark, Governor Edwards and even William Jennings Bryan on the question of instructing delegates and with characteristic stupidity justifies himself by a fallacy. In a public statement issued in Harrisburg last Saturday he says: "The members of the national convention are delegates, not representatives, and they are supposed to speak the mind of the people who send them. In order that they may surely do this," he continued, "it seems to me eminently proper, that wherever State law permits, the people should instruct the delegates with respect to both nomination and platform."

This is a fair sample of the sophistry which dishonest pettyfoggers hand out to more or less illiterate country squires to confuse their minds. According to the Standard Dictionary a delegate "is a person appointed and sent as by another with power to transact business as his representative." By the same authority a representative "is one who or that which represents another person or thing. Specifically one who or that which is fit to stand as a type. A person commissioned to represent his government at the court or in the country of another." The Dictionary also gives "representatives" as a synonym for "delegate." Webster's dictionary defines the words in practically the same language. But Mr. Palmer imagined that he could cloud the minds of those who are supporting his absurd ambition by drawing a line of difference.

Mr. Palmer may have had another purpose in his ambiguous statement, however. When the wave of prohibition swept over the country during the war Mr. Palmer outswallowed our amiable friend Silas C. Swallow, in zeal for that cause. He enlisted every available agency of the government in the enforcement of the Eighteenth amendment, the Volstead act and all other measures endorsed by the Anti-Saloon League. Recently, big signs have appeared on the political horizon indicating a strong reversal of public sentiment on that subject and with the instinct of a practiced demagogue Mr. Palmer is trimming his sails to catch the changed drift of the wind. He is striving to enlist the support of the liquor traffic by inducing liquor dealers or those in sympathy with them to stand as delegates in his behalf and imagines that he can cover his own desertion of the prohibition cause under the pretext that he was instructed by the voters to favor booze.

Two years ago Mr. Palmer perfidiously betrayed the nominee of the Democrats of Pennsylvania under the false pretense that the liquor interests exercised a potential influence in his selection. Now he is exhausting all his resources of sophistry and hypocrisy to induce liquor men to favor him. Not only that but he is invoking every expedient known to political tricksters to gain support. A candidate for borough constable couldn't dig deeper into the mire of chicanery than he has done and is doing and for three months he has been partially neglecting the public business for which he is paid in order to campaign for delegates to the San Francisco convention. Even now he is campaigning in Michigan while the business of the department of which he is the head is being done by assistants.

—The hope that there would be an appreciable cut in income and excess profits taxes soon is not to be realized. The government will need all the funds it can command, at least until 1922, so all those who come under the levy will have to continue sharing with Uncle Sam. As for us—well, we should worry.

—Just about the time the average person accumulates enough of this world's goods to enjoy life a little his blood pressure runs up, he gets dizziness or rheumatism, buys a flyover and then discovers that there ain't no such thing as taking things easy.

—While all is apparently placid on the surface of local politics there is much of dissatisfaction underneath. From what we hear it would take very little agitation to start a movement that would upset well laid plans in both parties.

—As Commissioner of Forestry for Pennsylvania the Hon. Gifford Pinchot will probably prove an eminent success, but as a part of the regular Republican organization he'll be a monkey wrench in the machinery all the time.

—Bolivia and Peru are on the point of starting something. Possibly they imagine a little war down there would prepare the way for a little financing through Uncle Sam.

## Pinchot's Appointment Surprising.

The appointment of Gifford Pinchot to the office of Commissioner of Forestry was a complete surprise to the public. Not because Mr. Pinchot is incompetent or unfit for the job. As a matter of fact measured by the standard of fitness it was an ideal selection. In similar work for the United States government he proved his value beyond question. It can hardly be said, on the other hand, that a fit appointment is surprising. Governor Sproul has made several admirable appointments and close observers were coming to the opinion that such appointments were to be expected. His Highway Commissioner, his Attorney General, his Secretary of the Commonwealth and one or two others are all that could be asked.

The appointment of Pinchot was surprising, nevertheless, just as his appointment of Vance McCormick to the Commission to revise the Constitution was surprising. Mr. McCormick had had no experience and had never revealed the least adaptability for the work. He had traitorously supported Mr. Sproul for election, though as chairman of the Democratic National committee he was morally bound to oppose him to the limit. But it was imagined that he would reward the perfidy in another way. Appointing him to office was a trifle raw. In the Pinchot case it is different. The surprise in his case comes from the fact that he has so long and so vehemently denounced Senator Penrose as a moral monster and the appointment is like taking him into the arms of Penrose.

When Pinchot ran for United States Senator against Penrose six years ago he declared that he was simply fulfilling an obligation to decency in thus protesting against the election of Penrose. He has the reputation of being a high minded man and in accepting office under Sproul he inferentially declares a readiness to affiliate with the man he then so bitterly denounced. Probably that is the reason why his appointment was so surprising to the public. If Penrose had shown symptoms of change in methods and purposes it would be different. But nothing of the kind has developed and the conclusion is forced that Pinchot must have changed. But "politics make strange bed-fellows."

—Admiral Sims is just as likely as not to accuse the administration of supplying the German army with war materials. Now that he has gone in to the accusing business he doesn't know where to stop.

## Peace Treaty Practically Defeated.

The vote of the Senate on Monday upon the adoption of the Lodge reservation to Article 10 of the peace treaty plainly writes the defeat of the instrument. As President Wilson has stated the reservation "cuts the heart out of the treaty." With it is a condition to ratification no true American Senator can vote for it and if there are a sufficient number of recreant Democrats in the body to carry it through, it will be the duty of the President to withdraw it to do so. In that event the irreconcilable Republican Senators will have achieved their purpose, the war will have been in vain and the grand ideals which influenced the country to action sacrificed.

Article 10 of the peace treaty exacted nothing from this country that was not freely promised and promptly fulfilled by the countries associated with us in the beneficent enterprise of crushing autocracy. Great Britain, France, Italy and Japan have all assented to every condition we were asked to approve. Patriotism is not different there from that here. The love of country is no more deeply seated or strongly felt here than there. But they cordially agreed to conditions admitted to be essential to the peace, progress and prosperity of the world and we refuse because in the bigoted mind of Henry Cabot Lodge a personal hatred, an insane enmity against the President, has developed.

The appeal must now be made to the people and it only remains to see that the case is presented to this last great tribunal in its true light. The friends of the treaty are handicapped by the attitude assumed in the vote by such political traitors as Senators Ashurst, Gerry, Gore, Henderson, Kendrick, Myers, Nugent, Phelan, Pittman, Pomerene, Reed, Shields, Smith, of Georgia, and Walsh, of Massachusetts, who voted with the Republicans for the reservation. These recreants were elected as Democrats and were morally bound to support the President in the great work for humanity he has performed. But they served the enemies of Woodrow Wilson and the country by voting to negative his achievements.

—Mr. Lloyd George also had a mistaken idea concerning President Wilson's illness.

## Mr. Palmer's Absurd Boasting.

Mitchell Palmer addressed the University club at Harrisburg, the other evening "as a college man addressing a gathering of college men," and acted the part. College men dearly love to sound the note of self-importance and as usual Mr. Palmer pictured himself as the Atlas of the day and generation. "The questions which the war has bequeathed to us for solution are of an unparalleled nature," he said, "and the Attorney General has been the favored legate. I have thought at times," he continued, "that there has been a tendency on the part of other executive departments to throw such problems to this branch." Happily we had an Attorney General equal to every emergency.

Most people have imagined that Woodrow Wilson has been a man of action and achievement in dealing with the problems of the period. But Mr. Palmer complacently, if not completely, proves they were mistaken. "Last fall," he assured his college-men audience, "when the coal strike became a nation-wide menace, the President made an earnest appeal without success. The Secretary of Labor called a conference without success. Another appeal by the President was a failure. Then a messenger was sent to the Department of Justice with a request that the strike be settled and be settled quick." And the Attorney General settled it by allowing the coal operators to saddle the entire cost of the terms of settlement on the public.

But that was not the only bogus achievement of the Attorney General, according to his narrative to his college men audience. "A little while earlier," he solemnly declared, "the high cost of living had been considered a serious matter. A messenger arrived from the President asking that prices be reduced and reduced without delay." The Attorney General promptly issued a proclamation that prices must come down and they with equal promptness and unexpected celerity started up, and still seem to be ascending. An audience of college men may be fooled by such absurd stories of achievement, but railroad workers and other wage-earners who have never enjoyed the advantages of college are not so credulous.

—Mr. Hoover says he was an independent Republican before the war and a non-partisan since. That is hardly satisfactory. There has been mighty little excuse for being any kind of a Republican since 1912 and less for being anything but a Democrat since the beginning of the war.

## Reason for President's Anxiety.

President Wilson is justified in expressing with some vehemence an objection to the reservation with respect to Article 10 of the peace treaty. It is the heart of the instrument and without it the treaty means nothing. It makes for the ideals for which the war was fought and won. It binds all concerned to peace and if eliminated will leave the world in practically the same state as it was before the war began. As the President states it alters no policy of administration and changes no process of action. But it "represents the renunciation by Great Britain and Japan, which before the war had begun to find so many interests in common in the Pacific," against territorial aggrandizement.

The President is naturally anxious to preserve this important feature of the treaty because without it the treaty will be a worthless scrap of paper. The other countries associated with us in the great war admit that a League of Nations without the United States would be impotent. With Article X eliminated the treaty would be impotent even with the United States included. This is the reason that President Wilson feels so keenly upon the subject. The government and people of the United States made vast sacrifices in life and treasure in the war to guarantee that for which the treaty provides and the President is reluctant to relinquish the victory for peace and justice thus achieved.

There are men and possibly women in the United States who do not want enduring peace. It would interfere with their business in profiteering. Vast fortunes are made in every war and those who profit by the processes of war are opposed to peace. The Senators in Congress who have opposed the treaty represent that element of the people of the United States rather than the welfare of the country. But the people are in accord with the President in this great strife for right and he will win because he is in the right and has the public behind him. We still hope to see the treaty ratified but a treaty with Article X eliminated would be of little consequence now or hereafter.

—Turkey is to lose its army and navy but that is unimportant. What ought to be taken away is the vicious disposition of the Turks.

## The Overturn in Berlin.

From the Philadelphia Public Ledger.

That the Allied governments will let the German people settle their own governmental affairs would seem to be the only possible attitude they can take in the face of the overturn in Berlin which, up to the present, is a change in the personalities in charge and not a country-wide junker revolution in the interest of Kaiserism.

Whatever may be thought of the character of the men who have come to the top, Kapp and his associates, and whatever may be the immediate grievance that has led the new group to call for a new deal and a new National Assembly, on the face of it that they propose honorably to fulfill the treaty of Versailles gives the Allied Commissions and the Allied governments a chance to deal with them along recognized lines.

With all the possibilities of overturn that lay in a weak government with a man like Ebert as president, a man who, by reason of his own meager abilities, never rose to the occasion and really represented new Germany, it is not surprising that there were large and powerful groups, not necessarily reactionary nor monarchistic, which would desire to change things and put men in charge more representative of Prussia, if not Germany, efficiency. At the same time, the apparent ease with which those who from their associations stand for the Pan-German ideas and represent the irreconcilable elements have brought about the Berlin coup indicates much weaker control over affairs than it has been supposed that Noske had secured through his control of the military forces. It is apparent that the recent riotous frothings of Prince Joachim and his Cafe-Chantant followers did represent an undercurrent of hostility to the government and to the Allies which has come to a head, despite the apparent ability of the Ebert government to discipline Joachim and maintain order at home and friendly relations with the Allies.

However, Berlin is not Germany, and the success of any governmental overturn depends upon the ability of the groups in control to rally the country and the States, especially Bavaria, which have been none too friendly to Prussian domination, no matter what party was on top, and have talked separatism loudly and without reserve.

## The Capitalist.

From the Columbus Dispatch.

"They talk of destroying capitalism," says a public speaker in discussing the radicals, "but what is a capitalist in the last analysis but a man who spends less than he earns?"

According to the Bolshevik's definition of capitalism, every man in this country who owns a home, every man who owns an automobile, every one who has a Liberty bond or savings account—every individual who has laid aside a single dollar of his earnings for a rainy day—is a capitalist. Further, according to these same Bolsheviks, every one who employs a Bolshevik, every one who employs a boot-black to shine his shoes is denied the right to vote, for he is an employer of labor. One cannot take part in the soviet if he hires a cook or a washerwoman, or if he pays a portion of his wage to any one for performing a service for him.

Under communism a man could not legally save a penny. If he did so, that penny would belong to the State, not to the individual. The State would, and under communism does, take the potatoes a man raises on a piece of land, for since the land belongs to the State no one has a right to cultivate it for his own private use. Even under socialism as it is preached by many of our Socialists, a man could not lay aside a portion of his wages, for the moment he did so he would become a capitalist, to be set upon by those who oppose capitalism.

The craving for proprietorship, the desire to own something one can call his own, the determination to save a part of that which one produces today for the exigencies of tomorrow—these things are as old as the human race and they are the fundamental principles of capitalism. If indeed not capitalism itself. No theorist has ever been able to offer a substitute that will work; no school has ever devised anything better to take its place; no one has ever dreamed of a system that makes for greater happiness.

## They Keep on Joining.

From the Springfield Republican.

Norway joins Denmark and Sweden in deciding by a large majority in favor of joining the League of Nations without reservations; the vote in the Storting was 100 to 20, 18 of the opponents being Socialists and the other two extreme conservatives. In Switzerland the State Council took similar action, following that of the National Council; the vote was 30 to 6. In none of these countries is the League none of these countries is the League as perfect; on the contrary criticism has been quite as acute and searching as in this country. But it is recognized that the League is a forward step and the best hope for the preservation of peace, and the small States of Europe are falling into line.

## Yesterday and Today.

From the St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

Before the discovery of mechanical flying few believed it possible. The trouble is that now everybody believes everything possible.

## SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

—Edward Walton and Clarence Downs, both of West Chester, Chester county, were arrested at Sharon on Monday for violating the Harrison drug law. They were taken to Pittsburgh by federal agents the same night.

—Leaving the ministry to go into the tombstone business, the Rev. C. A. Sellers, of Brodheadsville, pastor of the Evangelical church at Sellersburg, Moore county, has resigned. The Rev. Mr. Sellers has been a pastor there for the last three years.

—Four thousand of the 30,000 Mexican quail ordered by the State Game Commission last year for re-stocking of areas in Pennsylvania have reached this State and many of them will be liberated as soon as weather conditions improve. The quail are being secured from the highlands of Mexico, where climatic conditions are not unlike the middle States.

—Thirty ex-soldiers from as many different counties in Pennsylvania arrived at State College recently to study agriculture for four weeks, through the national Y. M. C. A. scholarship plan. A special course has been prepared for these men that they might be provided with some of the minor fundamentals of modern and scientific farming. Many of them came direct from farms.

—Wanted for a murder in Geneva, New York, eight years ago, Angelo Orfino, aged 37 years, an Italian steel worker, was arrested at Reading Sunday night by Police detective Britton. A money order at a telegraph office was used to secure Orfino, who has lived at Reading for three years with an American wife, into a police trap. He used the name Frank Fiero at Reading. A brother, said to be under arrest in Rochester, N. Y., is wanted for complicity in the case, it was reported.

—Searchers found the charred body of Frank Shultz, 48 years old, of Edge Grove, Northumberland county, in the ruins of the Hatfielder wall paper plant, which was destroyed by fire last Wednesday, entailing a loss of \$250,000. Shultz, an employee, was seen after the discovery of the fire, but has been missing since. It is now believed he re-entered the burning building to recover his coat, which contained a large sum of money, and being overcome by smoke, perished. A widow and son survive.

—Numerous nominating petitions sent to the elections bureau in Harrisburg for filing in advance of the May primary have been rejected as defective and sent back to the senders. The rejected petitions consist mainly of papers on which the necessary affidavits are lacking. In one or two cases the number of signatures fell short of the requirements to qualify candidates. George Thorn, chief of the elections bureau, has called attention to the fact that the dates of signing must be affixed after signatures and that the affidavits of persons circulating petitions must be in form.

—The Robinson Tire company, of Akron, Ohio, said to be the largest concern of its kind in the United States, has purchased the Clearfield Sewer Pipe Works' plant, at Weaverhust, adjoining Clearfield. The consideration is said to be approximately \$1,000,000. The plant was erected six years ago by a company of capitalists of Patton, Cambria county, headed by George E. Prindle, president of the company and owner of a majority of the stock. In the sale of the plant there is included a large clay and coal acreage adjacent. It is said the Robinson company will greatly increase the capacity of the plant.

—Evan D. Blatt, a young man from upper Berks county, who was sued for expenses incurred in the burial of his child, said he resisted payment because the bill included \$30 for groceries for a funeral feast, more than the child's funeral alone cost. The case was heard last week before Judge Wagner, who ruled that Blatt should pay the undertaker's bill, \$25, but that he need not pay the \$30 grocery bill incurred in providing food for the attendants. "If they," referring to the prosecutors, "want that kind of a funeral let them pay for it," the court said.

—Imagine diving twelve feet through the air, striking your head squarely on a rock and living! That was the remarkable experience of William A. O'Neil, of Millersburg. He was assisting in the repair of a Wiconase creek bridge which had been damaged last week by ice and water. A sliding timber pushed him from the trestle, and he fell head foremost on the large stones at the base of the abutment. His companions were sure his neck was fractured, when they picked up the body of the dazed man, but he suffered only a laceration of the scalp and a slight contusion of the spinal column.

—Blair Ebersole, aged 21 years, of Canoe Creek, Blair county, the only survivor of the powder explosion at the Standard Powder company plant, at Horrell, which on January 22nd, instantly killed Frederick Gorsch and injured Walter Burkholder so seriously that he died about ten hours later at the Altoona hospital, is well on the road to complete recovery. The young man expects to be discharged from the hospital in a few days. His face has completely cleared up, his hair has grown in again and the only thing that now keeps him at the institution is some slight infection in the wounds of his legs.

—Worrying over the shocking death of her son, five years ago, when he was killed while dynamiting stumps and apparently tired of living, Mrs. Mary D. Glossner, wife of Fred C. Glossner, a prominent farmer of Beech Creek township, Clinton county, ended her life last Friday in a dramatic manner. Waiting until her husband had left the house to go to Lock Haven, and when alone, she carried water in a pail and filled a barrel used for pickling pork, three-quarters full of water. She then removed her shoes and a portion of her clothing and standing on a ladder plunged into the barrel head-first. When her husband returned in the evening and was finding her about the house a search was made and the body found in the barrel.

—Charles Hattie, of Pittsburgh, essaying as a rule, reached the limit of his patience when he appeared before Magistrate Wallace Borland at the Saturday morning hearing in the Frankstown avenue police court. Mrs. Hattie, a tired-looking body, testified that her husband had not worked for fourteen years. This was more than Mr. Hattie's good nature could stand. "Judge," that statement is not true. It's an insult for that woman to stand there and say such a thing. It has been only—let me see—twelve years since I stopped working." Hattie is thirty-five years old, and Magistrate Borland, after remarking that 23 was a rather early age for retirement, fined him \$25. Hattie had been picked up for loitering.