

—Oh, for the good old days when the grocer occasionally hung out the sign: "20 lbs. of granulated sugar for \$1.00."

—The country is to be saved. It has been discovered that Senator Penrose will be well enough to attend the Chicago convention.

—We are still of the opinion that San Francisco will do best for Democracy if it makes either McAdoo or Cox the party standard bearer.

—Many people who are interested in the "back to the farm" movement only expect to go back provided they can find some-one else to do the farming.

—The name of William G. McAdoo must have been easy for Phillipsburgers to write for he carried every ward of that town over Palmer, whose name was printed on the ballot.

—Of course you are going to take the kids to the circus on Monday. Don't cheat the little folks by showing them the parade and then telling them that that is all there is of it.

—Of course every boy expects to be President of the United States some day but he knows that he'll have to earn the mazzima necessary first—and it takes a pile of that to turn the trick now.

—Before we extend prohibition to cigarettes and tobacco suppose we try it on some people who talk too much. Temperance in talk is not a bad thing for the individual and it saves the community many a fake scandal.

—No wonder Gen. Wood's campaign has been running so smoothly. Col. Procter put five hundred thousand dollars into it himself and as he is the Procter of the Procter and Gamble soap he knows the kind of "soap" necessary to grease the ways for a Presidential launching.

—New York has legalized the manufacture of two and three-quarter percent beer, but as New York voted her rights to legalize anything in the alcoholic drink line away when she ratified the Eighteenth amendment the recent action of the Legislature of the Empire State looks like an attempt to lift itself by its own boot straps.

—That Spruce Creek farmer who failed to get all his potato crop raised last year was in luck for once. Had he gotten them out of the ground he probably would have sold them for \$1.50 or \$2.00 the bushel, but he did not get them out until last week when he ploughed them up and sold all he had for seed at from \$4.00 to \$5.00 a bushel.

—Mr. Gompers is of the opinion that the present Congress should be replaced with one that will do something more than try to keep the President from undoing anything and Mr. Gompers expresses the thought of most everyone else who is more interested in seeing the country in a settled condition than in making bullets for Republican politicians to shoot.

—The latest canvas of the Republican vote for National delegate in the Twenty-first district indicates that Capt. Mel. Gillette has beaten the Hon. Harry Scott. It may take the official count to decide the matter, but the chances favor the young Smethport free lance. Of course defeat will be a bitter disappointment to Mr. Scott but he is not without consolation in the primaries because we opine that he would sooner have Harvey's scalp dangling at his belt than a seat in the Chicago convention.

—The escape of the millionaire-slacker, Grover Bergdoll, from the federal authorities in Philadelphia last week calls for the immediate dismissal from the service of every man who had official connection with the incidents that made it possible. "Passing the buck" and pleading surprise won't do. His place was in a prison cell and every official, from the higher-ups to the two non-coms in whose custody he was, who had a finger in throwing the bolts on his cell door should be fired in the hope of partially stifling such rottenness.

—Vintena! Vintena everywhere and not a drop to drink. That was the cry on Bishop street Tuesday evening when a party of ladies started dumping the stock of that once very popular panacea for everything from ingrowing toe-nails to the green apple jazz into the sewers. They were cleaning out the Ammerman properties and oodles of the stuff was found there. Eighty-five per cent. port wine and fifteen per cent. rain water it sure was an exhilarating concoction in its day and it isn't any wonder that the old tanks view with alarm such destruction of the good old cure-all.

—The Commissioners of Blair county were recently compelled to go to New York to borrow fifty thousand dollars with which to keep the county treasury in position to pay current bills. And they had to pay seven per cent. for it too. To the casual reader it might seem strange that the banks of Blair county were unable to extend this accommodation. They might have been and might have refused for reasons not given to the public, but if they were not it is really not a surprising matter. These are times when all banking institutions must guard most jealously their reserves. And so many of our banks immolated themselves on their country's altar in order that the various Liberty loans would be successful that much of their resources are tied up in the best securities possible though unhappily removed from use in making current loans.

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Exceptional Honor to Penrose.

Senator Boies Penrose, who has just been nominated by his party for the fifth successive term in the upper branch of Congress, has achieved an honor never before bestowed upon a Pennsylvanian. With the expiration of his present term he will have served continuously twenty-four years. If re-elected and permitted to serve the term he will have achieved the distinction which was the pride of Tom Benton, of Missouri, who was the first to serve thirty years in the United States Senate. The late J. D. Cameron served consecutively twenty years and Simon Cameron served eighteen years, though not continuously. He was first elected in 1845 and served until 1849. His next election was in 1857 and he served to 1861. He was again elected in 1867 and served until 1877.

Mr. Penrose was given the nomination of his party for Senator originally as a "consolation prize." He aspired to the office of Mayor of Philadelphia in 1895 and was adopted as the Quay entry for that party favor. After an intensely active campaign he apparently had the nomination "tied up," notwithstanding the churches had bitterly opposed him and the clergy of the city, with practical unanimity, had denounced him as "a moral monster." When the nominating convention met Dave Martin, supposed to be one of the most earnest supporters, betrayed his pledges of fidelity and Penrose was defeated. Quay denounced Martin on the floor of the Senate as a booby and branded with a dollar mark on his forehead, and declared that Penrose would get higher honors.

During the session of the Legislature of 1896 Quay entered Penrose as his candidate for United States Senator and a bitter opposition at once sprung up. The candidate of the opposition in the Republican party was John Wanamaker, of Philadelphia, and the issue a question of moral fitness. Probably no more vitriolic campaign for the office was ever conducted in the State, though that for the renomination of Quay three years later was longed drawn out. But Penrose was elected by the party vote. Six years later he was re-elected with little opposition in his own party and in 1908 he had things equally smooth. In 1914 a bitter fight was made against him, Gifford Pinchot having run as a Progressive. Penrose was elected, however, and this year had no opposition in his party.

—The twenty per cent. off is alluring but it ought to have come before the forty per cent. was put on.

Death of President Carranza.

Of the tragic death of Venustiano Carranza one is tempted to say it was a just punishment for a misspent life. Coming to the Presidency of the Republic "at the point of the bayonet," he might have made his administration of the office a boon to the distressed people and the war-worn country whose government he had undertaken to administer. He entered the office with the good will of the government and the people of the United States and began his administration under hopeful auspices. But a perverse nature or a preposterous ambition soon led him into conspiracies to harm the only power which could have helped him to high achievement in the work of restoring prosperity to Mexico.

The manner of his taking off was as treacherous as it was brutal, but it was in line with the habits of his life. He was assassinated by those who pretended to be his friends while acting in the capacity of protectors. Probably the crime could have been committed no where else than in Mexico in this period of civilization but it was in line with his own practices and methods. He was essentially a cruel conspirator, a conscienceless traitor, and having all his life, "sowed to the wind," he has finally "reaped the whirlwind." If the process had been less cruel, if it had not involved treason and treachery as well as murder, there would be little cause for regret and less for complaint.

What effect the incident will have on the future of Mexico is left to conjecture. A few weeks ago Villa announced his intention to abandon his life of adventure and take up pursuits of peace. But since Carranza's flight from the city of Mexico he has shown no inclination to resume banditry and in the confusion incident to this tragedy he may attempt to usurp control of the government. In any event there is likely to be a period of confusion out of which anarchy is more likely to come than order. Mexico is rich in resources but poor in manhood and the hopes recently built up on the prospects of a peaceful election are fast vanishing. Probably something depends upon the coming election here.

—Mitchell Palmer now needs the Cuban sugar crop to sweeten his convention tea.

Palmer's Campaign Fund.

The Senate committee on Privileges and Elections has entered upon the inquiry as to the pre-convention campaign expenses and the sources of them of candidates for President of both parties, in pursuance of a resolution introduced by Senator Borah, of Idaho, some months ago. The subcommittee making the inquiry is composed of Senators Kenyon, of Iowa; Spencer, of Missouri, and Edge, of New Jersey, Republicans, and Senators Pomerene, of Ohio, and Reed, of Missouri, Democrats. Managers of all the candidates will be asked to testify and a thorough and searching investigation is promised. It ought to prove an interesting feature of the pending campaign and is likely to be quite amusing.

Of course the amount and source of Mitchell Palmer's campaign fund will create most general interest in Pennsylvania. It is not probable that its aggregate will show as fat figures as that of General Wood, who is believed to have the Standard Oil company and other oleaginous corporations behind it, or that of Governor Lowden, of Illinois, who is the son-in-law of the Pullman Car company. It may not reveal any very large contributions, either, though Joe Guffey is said to have gathered a snug fortune out of the alien property operations during the war. But it ought to expose the processes by which Mr. Palmer's campaign committee extracted per centages out of the meagre salaries of postmasters and other federal employees in Pennsylvania.

The high cost of living makes hard sledding for a postmaster with a family of five or six children who draws a hundred dollars a month, a fair average for those in the medium sized boroughs of the State. But according to reliable authority Mr. Palmer's committee gets under them and compels them to cough up a matter of ten or fifteen per cent. of the wages. The work is directed from the headquarters of the Palmer campaign committee in Harrisburg which is an alias for the rooms of the Democratic State committee in that city. It is a cruel process but Palmer needs the money and the suffering falls on the families of his victims. We sincerely hope the full details will be brought out.

—The Senate committee didn't get much valuable information on the subject of campaign expenditures from former Postmaster General Hitchcock. General Wood's campaign manager. Hitchcock's memory is under complete discipline.

Will Try to Deceive the People.

It may be assumed with confidence that the Republican National convention will make a false pretense of favoring a peace treaty and a League of Nations. The Versailles treaty which has been cordially and promptly ratified by all our associates in the war is not satisfactory and the League of Nations proposed by the great statesmen of the world will not do. But a pretense of favoring the things provided for in that treaty and in the covenant of that League is necessary and will be offered by the convention as a sop to popular sentiment on the subject, in the belief that the voters may thus be fooled. It shows scant respect for the intelligence of the people.

Some of the Republican Senators were frank enough to admit that they are opposed to the peace treaty and the League of Nations entirely. Senator Knox, of Pennsylvania, declares that it is too severe on Germany. Senator Borah and Senator Johnson give no reason for their opposition. Senator Lodge bases his action on a personal grudge against the President. Like others he may be concerned for the profits of munition makers and manufacturers of other war materials. The League of Nations would inevitably put a crimp in such industries and their lobbyists on the floor of the Senate are striving to prevent that. But they will yield to party exigencies and pretend to favor peace in the party platform.

The covenant of the League of Nations places no burden on the people and government of the United States that is not equally and fully shared by every other people and government within the League. It impairs no right of Americans that is unimpaired to others. What it means is a mutual agreement to prevent war at any cost to be defrayed equally by all concerned. It is simply an application of the Golden Rule to the diplomacy of the world and refusing to share in so beneficent a purpose is to encourage war, cultivate disorder and compel murder and poverty. The Republican convention will falsely pretend the contrary but it will not deceive the people.

—Charlie Donnelly and Jim Blakeslee will cut a great figure as members of "the Big Four" from Pennsylvania to the National convention.

Effect of Misusing Money.

The escape of Grover Bergdoll, of Philadelphia, convicted slacker and deserter, from the military prison on Governor's Island, New York, is ascribable to the free use of the vast fortune at his disposal. If he had been poor or only moderately well off it would have been impossible for him to secure the privileges which enabled him to get away. He has been in the toils of the law many times before and managed to worm himself out by some process unknown to the less opulent. Like the notorious Harry Thaw he has made a mockery of justice and turned the mandates of the courts into ridicule. This last venture seems to have aroused the authorities somewhat but the result is left to conjecture.

The people of this country have been dwelling in "a fool's paradise" created by themselves, for many years. We have been flattering ourselves, and to some extent others, with a cheering fiction that equal and exact justice is meted out to rich and poor alike. We have dozed away in a pleasant dream that our courts are incorruptible and that malefactors of great wealth and criminals of distressful poverty are alike amenable to punishment for crimes or misdemeanors perpetrated. But along comes Grover Bergdoll or Harry Thaw, half crazy perhaps, but wholly vicious, with mothers willing to aid their sinister purposes, and the beautiful theory is dissipated, the baseless fabric dissolved.

But that is not all the evil which follows the misuse of vast fortunes and probably not the greatest. Within a couple of weeks we have seen a couple of millionaires manipulate the politics of Pennsylvania, so as to misrepresent public sentiment quite as decidedly as Grover Bergdoll has deceived the authorities of the prison camp in which he was confined until a week ago. By a trick only possible to those possessing large means and little conscience an absurd pretender is able to go before the Democratic National convention and claim the vote of a solid delegation, when as a matter of fact without the money expended in the enterprise he couldn't have mustered a dozen delegates.

—Prohibition workers are evidently engaged in making a survey throughout the State to ascertain what effect on crime the absence of the saloon has effected since total prohibition went into effect; at least that is the assumption from the various inquiries that have been made lately as to the number of prisoners in the Centre county jail now and the number a year ago. In this connection it might be stated that on April 1st, 1919, there were five prisoners in the county jail and there are five in it now. There has been one time since Harry Dukeman was sworn in as sheriff, the first Monday in January that he had as many as nine prisoners in jail.

—Jim Connelly, of Clearfield, is a newspaper man but it is not professional courtesy that impels us to support him for Congress. It is plain, public spirited desire to send a better representative from this district to Washington than the Hon. Evan Jones has made.

—Keep in mind the fact that next Monday will be observed as Memorial day in Bellefonte. The exercises attendant thereto will be held in the afternoon as in former years. The parade will form in the Diamond at 1:30 o'clock and move to the cemetery promptly at two o'clock.

—Senator Penrose may not be enjoying the full vigor of health but he has strength enough to direct the proceedings of the Republican National convention in the lines laid while he was suffering more.

—Vice President Marshall thinks that the effort of the church to reform Congress will be futile. Mr. Marshall has had a good deal of experience with Congress and probably knows.

—Mr. Palmer having polled a trifling less than one-third of the Democratic votes in Georgia now claims a solid delegation from that State in the National convention.

—Senator Capper, of Kansas, vehemently denounces things the Republican party stands for but he votes with those who stand for them.

—Unless some of the farmers in Centre county put on an extra sport of speed the first of June will not see all the corn in the ground.

—Probably the Supreme court thinks the country is well enough off without a decision on the prohibition problems before it.

—Subscribe for the "Watchman."

Republican Platform Struggles.

From the Philadelphia Record.

No party ever had such a struggle to get a platform as the Republican party is now going through. Of course, the two most troublesome planks are prohibition and the President. It is reported that after consulting the advisory committee of 147 persons, and examining more than 7000 proposals submitted by the readers of the New York Tribune, only 117 of which were for prohibition, and examining all the essays of school children submitted in a prize competition, it has been decided to avoid any expression of opinion on prohibition by announcing the well-known fact that the Eighteenth amendment, on the face of the returns, was adopted by more than the necessary number of States, and drawing therefrom the curious inference that the subject is disposed of and is not in practical politics.

The President is not so easily disposed of. It was under President Wilson that the country performed the greatest task in its history. Its achievements in war filled the American heart with pride, the German heart with consternation and the British, French, Belgian and Italian hearts with astonishment and gratitude. The Republican party cannot afford to attack the part America took in the war.

But of course it must "view with alarm" the Democratic President, any Democratic President, under no matter what circumstances. Therefore we are informed that the Republican platform will draw a line through November 11, 1918, and everything done before will be regarded as the act of the American people, inspired thereto by the Republican minority, and everything done since will be attributable to the President's megalomania, obstinacy, indifference to Republican advice, and general and variegated incompetence.

On November 12 and on each day since everything ought to have been as though there had been no war. The armies should have instantly melted away, and the costs of supporting them should have evaporated. Prices ought to have come down at once to the pre-war basis. But of course wages ought to stay up; no political platform could afford to recommend anything else.

The currency created to meet the enormous purchases of the war should have been immediately "deflated." The farmers' prices, like the laborers' wages, should stay up, but the prices of sugar and shoes would have come down if there had been a Republican President. The President should have made housekeeping easy. He ought to have reduced the price of everything we buy, without touching the price of anything we sell. He ought to have averted strikes. If he had kept the wage earners contented there would have been none. Discontent—plainly that is something to hold the President responsible for; the Republicans have been discontented ever since a Democrat was elected President.

Of course the failure of the peace treaty is entirely due to the President; if he had not been a Democrat the treaty would not have failed. We congratulate the Republican elder statesmen on discovering the secret of a platform which will thrill all Republicans and will mean to each Republican just what he wants it to mean.

Ten Thousand Brewers.

From the Detroit Free Press.

Thus far the troubles which the government has encountered in the enforcement of prohibition have come largely from cities and the offenders have been persons who engaged in distilling or selling liquor for profit.

From New Orleans comes a dispatch saying that federal officers there raided a concert dealing in the raw materials used in brewing and found evidence showing that more than 10,000 persons in the district have gone in for the home production of beer with a "kick" in it.

It is altogether probable that this discovery does not more than lift a corner of the veil which conceals what is going on in kitchens, cellars and barns of the rural districts and small towns.

Stocks of left-over whiskey will run out and the police in cities can keep distilling in check, but the discovery of books of account in a single concern carrying names of 10,000 amateur brewers shows how far from solution is the whole problem of prohibition enforcement.

Personal Politics.

From the Independent.

Senator Calder says that if it had not been for the "obstinacy" of the President the Senate would have ratified the treaty long ago.

No doubt true. But what has the President's psychology got to do with the case? The Senate has no constitutional authority to pass upon his mental traits. The President under the constitution submitted to them a treaty consisting of 440 articles—that and nothing else. The Senate was called upon to judge whether these 440 articles were good or bad for the American Republic—that and nothing else.

But by the confession of Senator Calder (corroborated by many of his conferees) that is exactly what the Senate did not do. To its everlasting disgrace the Senate decided the greatest issue before the people since the adoption of the Constitution on the President's personality. Senator Calder's explanation convicts himself.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

—One loose brick in a pavement cost the borough of Shenandoah \$247 last week. A jury rendered a verdict for this amount to Miss Annie Davis, who was injured on Gilbert street, breaking her hip bone by tripping over the brick alleged to be loose. Counsel for the borough asked court for a new trial.

—Falling in with several men with whom he went to a restaurant in Altoona on Monday night, Harry Edwards, of Glenwhite, ordered soup. When he awoke some hours later in Juniata Gap he found that he had been robbed of \$1000 in cash, \$200 of which was his, while the balance belonged to a friend.

—Joseph B. Cassell, of Centre Point, formerly of Lansdale, made sure that his recent funeral would be attended. A clause in his will stated that unless his nephews and nieces attended his funeral they would be cut off from the bequests made to them. They were on hand at the funeral. His estate amounted to \$3900.

—A Potter county resident complained that some neighbors broke into his cellar and stole five gallons of perfectly good wine and haled two suspects into court. The justice thought complainant had been negligent perhaps in tempting his neighbors and the neighbors decidedly hoggish in cleaning up all the stock. After some talk the matter was dropped.

—Mrs. William Devoe, of South Gibson, Lackawanna county, was burned to death on Sunday as a result of using gasoline to start a kitchen fire, mistaking it for kerosene. Her husband, in attempting to save her, was so badly burned that his death is expected at a hospital at Carbonate. Two of their children narrowly escaped death. The house was completely destroyed.

—A verdict for \$183,337 was awarded the Joseph Reid Gas Engine company of Oil City, in its suit against the Erie railroad, by a jury in civil court at Franklin last week. The plaintiff sought damages for destruction of its machine shops in 1918. It was alleged that live coals from the locomotive owned by the defendant, fell upon oil which had leaked from a pipe line, and started a fire which destroyed the shops.

—Alex Nellis, a Hungarian miner, of Westmoreland county, was arrested last week by Constable Patton, of Jeannette, charged with disorderly conduct and attempting to sell his daughter, Pauline Nellis, aged 12, to boarders, the highest bidder to get the girl. A large crowd had gathered, and the sale was in full swing when neighbors interfered and dispersed the crowd, many of whom were drunk, among them being the father.

—An enthusiastic mass meeting was held at Lock Haven on Saturday afternoon and steps were taken for a drive to secure funds to purchase the Grafius property, on east Water street. The building will be remodeled and enlarged as a community house and home for William Marshall Crawford Post, American Legion. The home will contain a swimming pool, gymnasium and other attractions, and will cost at least \$75,000. Philip S. Kirt, chairman of the citizens' committee presided.

—Wives of forest rangers and fire wardens will be commissioned by the State Department of Forestry as special wardens to aid in fighting forest fires. Women will be authorized to deputize persons to join fire forces, but will receive no pay. Railroad section foremen and hands are also being made special fire wardens on recommendations of railroad officials so that they can extinguish fires near railroad lines. Scout-masters and first-class Boy Scouts will be made special wardens where qualified and recommended.

—First steps to better housing facilities generally in the twin boroughs of Mifflin and Millintown have been taken by the recently incorporated Juniata Realty company, in the purchase of the National Hotel property from Dr. W. H. Banks. The boroughs have long been without adequate hotel facilities, in fact, have been practically without any recently, and it is planned to erect a thoroughly modern hotel. The company was recently incorporated at \$50,000 and it is planned to take other steps to better housing facilities when the hotel situation is once adequately provided for.

—Mrs. Charles Kibbey, aged forty-five years, was instantly killed while her husband, Charles Kibbey, aged forty-nine years, was probably fatally injured at Lewisburg, on Saturday, when a trolley car crashed into an automobile in which they were riding. Mrs. Belle Barnes, a sister of the dead woman, another member of the party, escaped with slight injuries. The motorists were en route from Buffalo to their home in Washington, D. C., having just purchased a new automobile, this being their first trip in the new machine. Mr. Kibbey and Mrs. Barnes were taken to a hospital at Danville. The machine was ground into pulp beneath the trolley.

—Assigned to conduct the Sunday morning service in the Presbyterian church, at Independence, Allegheny county, Samuel Neal, a theological student, didn't discover until after he had pronounced the benediction that he had preached his sermon in the wrong church. Arriving in the town and supposing he was following the directions given him, he entered a church on the main street. Without asking questions he ascended the pulpit, announced the hymns and preached to the mystified congregation. The dumbfounded pastor sat with the choir and listened. After the service, Mr. Neal spoke of the "fine Presbyterian church." "But this is the Methodist church," he was informed. The disconcerted young minister hurried to the other church to patch things up.

—What is easily the most sensational will case ever heard in Northumberland county is now in its fourth week before Register and Recorder John L. Carr. Henry L. Fonda, a young Milton millionaire, is trying to break the \$300,000 will of his grandmother, Mrs. Caroline Fonda, who left him nothing but the family plate, attorneys brought in by the witnesses, principally from her household, to prove that she had been addicted to the use of morphine and was not mentally capable of disposing of her property. The heirs brought many witnesses including Attorney H. W. Chamberlain, of Milton, who wrote all of her five wills, to prove that she cut her grandson off because she said he had enough already and she wanted to take care of her side of the house. In the early wills he had been given the family mansion but when his mother died after remarrying on his father's death and when she was buried in the family plot with the name of her first husband on the tombstone another will was drawn in which the youth was cut off entirely.