

Democratic Watchman

INK SLINGS.

—The new Congress was elected to save the country and it adjourned without making good.

—Recent rains have stretched the grass out wonderfully, made the corn and oats jump, and shot the wheat in to head.

—William Jennings Bryan is at Chicago, merely as a looker on, however. At San Francisco he will appear in a different role, we think.

—Politics has ruined many a man within the last half century but it never made as complete a wreck as it has in the case of Herbert Hoover.

—So Senator Penrose really was too ill to risk going to Chicago. His bed room is connected up with the convention hall, however, by private telephone so that he may be able to give a little "absent treatment" and long distance wire pulling exhibition.

—Two beautiful "buns" rolled into this office Monday evening and offered to lead us to the source where it can be had at ten dollars a quart. But as both of them were in too mellow a mood to even discuss a possible "touch" for the ten they rolled on their rolling way and we completed an eighteen hour day.

—General Pershing wants to quit the army in order "to engage in something more active." Those two years in France evidently stirred "Jack" up to the point where he looks with horror on the peace time occupation of an army officer. This thing of steering a bevy of tea-hounds around Washington evidently doesn't appeal to the man who led two millions of America's bravest boys in the biggest scrap there ever was.

—One gentleman in Bellefonte is right up to a decision as to whether he will drive his many little admirers away or give up the practice of wearing ice cream trousers. It appears that the kiddies are so fond of him that every time he passes they run from their play and climb all over him and, unfortunately for the ice cream trousers, the play is very often the delightful but more or less slimy pastime of making mud pies.

—Before Henry Lane Wilson can expect the people of this country to have any respect for him or give credence to the guff he gave to the Chicago convention about Mexico he should explain why the late Theodore Roosevelt didn't settle the difficulties south of the Rio Grande when he was President and why President Taft observed a "hands off" policy all through his administration. The situation was as alarming then as it is now.

—President Wilson's answer to the Railroad Brotherhoods, as to why legislation solving the problems that they have asked the government to settle for them, has not been passed, was right to the point. He laid the blame at the door of Congress and there is where it belongs. Had Congress seriously tried to enact remedial legislation only a few of the troubles that have arisen out of the war there would be much less unrest than there is. Instead it has done absolutely nothing but play politics with the hope of bettering the chances of the election of a Republican President next fall.

—If a story that was told in Bellefonte on Saturday about the profit there is in paper manufacturing is true surely there are a lot of boss little profiteers who seem determined to take the very hides off the country publishers now handling the newspaper mills in this country. Our informant named a Pittsburgh man, who is largely interested in paper mills, who closed a contract in Cleveland a few days ago for paper at fifteen cents a pound that he later declared he could manufacture at six. And the contract was large enough to give him a profit of something over two million dollars. That's going some, isn't it?

—The Republican national convention is under way in Chicago but signs point to an open rupture over a platform plank on the League of Nations. The irreconcilables declare they will leave the party if a plank favoring the League in any form is adopted and the mild reservationists insist that some cognizance of it be taken. Thus far plans for harmony have been in vain and even the candidates for nomination are receiving secondary consideration. The whole gathering seems to be up in the air, without an outstanding figure in control and we would not be surprised if it were to blow up and split the party wide open, thus paving the way sure to the election of a Democratic President in the fall.

—The decision of the Supreme court ruling that the Eighteenth amendment is constitutional was not surprising. It was only disappointing—to some. Now that every shadow of doubt as to its validity has been cleared away it is the fundamental law of the land and should be enforced. The amendment, itself, will probably never be repealed but the Volstead enforcement act might be changed from time to time, but that depends on whether the law that now stands is properly enforced. It has always been our opinion that the use of alcoholic drinks is a matter of habit and not of necessity. The sooner they are put beyond the reach of the individual the sooner his habit of using them will be broken and with that gone the demand for a revision of the Volstead enforcement act will die a bornin'.

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Potent Reason Plainly Expressed.

One of the reasons for the refusal of the Senate to ratify the peace treaty is probably expressed in the report of a sub committee of the Senate committee on Foreign Relations which has been investigating Mexican affairs for some months. Senator Fall, of New Mexico, is chairman of the sub committee and an aggressive jingo. The report recommends armed intervention in the affairs of that Southern neighbor in the event that she refuses or fails to adopt such governmental policies as this country may suggest. Such a course would be subversive of every tradition of our country and in direct conflict with all our previous professions of unselfishness in foreign relations.

The peace treaty would forbid all such exploitation in the direction of conquest. One of its principal purposes is to protect weak nations in their right to self-determination in government. That purpose is expressed in Article 10 and that fact probably accounts for the bitter opposition to that feature of the treaty by the Republican Senators who are covetous of our neighbors' territory. For several years evidences of a secret purpose to invade and conquer Mexico have been unfolding themselves in the secret councils of the Republican party, but have never, heretofore, shown so plainly. Senator Fall has "let the cat out of the bag," and it is up to the public to act accordingly.

Another influencing reason for opposition to the peace treaty is in the aversion of the munition makers and war profiteers to give up the "good thing" they have in war. Hundreds of millions were made out of very crude material during the world war and a good many have been made since by profiteering in foods and fabrics. The Senators in Congress who are dependent upon these classes of men to keep them in public life are opposed to peace treaties of all kinds and especially to one which might take the United States out of the list of belligerents in the event of war. The happiness, prosperity and contentment of the people are nothing to them so long as their "angels" prosper.

Any Republican who reads President Wilson's reply to the Railroad Brotherhood's complaint of the failure of Congress to enact necessary legislation will be convinced that the peace treaty will be a feature of the coming Presidential campaign.

Grave Indictment of Congress.

President Wilson's reply to a telegram from the Railroad Brotherhoods the other day, protesting against the adjournment of Congress without action on measures affecting the cost of living is a just rebuke of that partisan conspiracy, which for nine months has been striving, not to prevent, but to prolong the evil of which the Brotherhoods complain. At the beginning of the special session in August last, the President appealed to Congress to enact necessary legislation of the kind. But nothing has been done. The time has been frittered away in partisan movements of one sort or another until the end has come and all hope for relief has vanished.

There are many expedients available to treat the subject successfully if the President had constitutional authority to apply them. Attention to this fact was called by the President at the opening of the session and the nature of the legislation was clearly defined. But the legislation has not been enacted and the President had no power to act without it. He has no more right to act outside of the law than an individual has to take the law into his own hands to redress wrongs, real or imaginary. In fact he is more firmly bound to obedience to the law than the individual because in addition to his normal obligation he has taken a solemn oath to "preserve, protect and defend the constitution."

The Brotherhoods had asked the President to prevent the adjournment of Congress until its work along the lines of relief was completed. In reply he says: "In the light of the record of the present Congress I have no reason whatever to hope that its continuance in session would result in constructive measures for the relief of the economic conditions to which you call attention. It must be evident to all that the dominant motive which has actuated this Congress is political expediency rather than lofty purpose to serve the public welfare." That is a grave charge, a serious indictment, but no man who has closely observed the operations of the body will dispute it.

The earnestness with which certain Pennsylvania Republicans lament the absence of Senator Penrose from the national convention would be tragic if it were not amusing.

Probably old John Barleycorn will now admit that he is dead.

Power of the Senate in Treaties.

Article 2, section 2 and paragraph 2 of the constitution of the United States, defining the powers of the President, provides that "He shall have power, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, to make treaties, provided two-thirds of the Senators present concur; and he shall nominate, and by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, shall appoint Ambassadors, other public ministers and consuls, Judges of the Supreme court, and all other officers of the United States, whose appointments are not herein otherwise provided for, and which shall be established by law." The authority of the Senate to ratify or reject is precisely the same with respect to a treaty as in relation to an appointment to any office.

Would Senator Lodge, or any other man, outside of an insane asylum, hold that when the nomination of a candidate for postmaster of Bellefonte or Pittsburgh or Philadelphia is presented to the Senate for confirmation, it would be legal or in order to strike out the name of that candidate and insert that of another? Yet the Senate has precisely the same right to do that as it has to alter or amend the provisions of a treaty. The Senate has an undoubted constitutional right to reject the nominee of the President for postmaster or any other public office. But it has no right to alter or substitute a name for that of the nominee of the President. It had the equal right to reject the peace treaty but not to alter or amend it.

The peace treaty was rejected by the Senate because certain Republican leaders imagined that such treatment of it would militate to the advantage of the Republican party in the impending contest for President. Industrial paralysis and commercial stagnation under a Democratic President is the greatest available asset of the Republican machine and the most certain means of creating those conditions was by prolonging the industrial and commercial uncertainty incident to a state of war. The high cost of living is ascribable mainly to the failure to ratify the peace treaty. If ratification had followed promptly the work of restoration would have been begun immediately and completed by now and the country would have saved all the suffering of the past year.

Whoever is made chairman of the Pennsylvania delegation in the Chicago convention is unimportant, now that Penrose is unable to attend, but Charlie Donnelly must get that honor in San Francisco to maintain the civic standard of the present Democratic machine in this State.

"The Power of Money."

The highly esteemed Philadelphia Record seems to be considerably perturbed concerning "the power of money," as revealed in the escape of Grover Bergdoll, a millionaire slacker, from a military prison on Governor's Island, New York. And there is some reason for its anxiety. Some time has elapsed since the event and though responsibility has been fairly well fixed, no arrests have been made. "The Department of Justice," our esteemed contemporary complains, "manned by sworn officers and paid to enforce the law, does not act, and every day it fails," continues The Record, "adds to the growing impression that the Bergdoll money is more powerful than the law."

This is rather a startling proof of the sinister use of money but not the gravest case on record. The escape of Bergdoll is a public scandal which reflects upon the efficiency as well as the integrity of the Department of Justice at Washington. But it is a trifling affair compared with the power of money as used in politics not only in this State but throughout the country. An investigation by a committee of the Senate now in progress shows that upwards of a million dollars has been spent to promote the ambitions of one man to be a party nominee for President, nearly half a million in the interest of another and a competence, as estates are measured in rural communities, has been expended in behalf of the head of the Department of Justice himself.

But the perilous power of money can be traced to a point closer to the people of Pennsylvania in the operations of the friends of Attorney General Palmer in the primary election campaign in this State. A considerable sum of money was extracted from the federal officials within the State and used by expert political "tradesmen" in his behalf, in violation of the law, and Mr. Joe Guffey spent money so freely in behalf of Palmer and himself that he is afraid or ashamed to make the statement of his expenses in the campaign which the law requires. The Bergdoll matter may be serious and a reflection on the Attorney General, but we submit that this debauchery of the ballot is an infinitely graver matter.

The Prohibition Amendment.

There never was the slightest reason for questioning the validity of the Eighteenth amendment to the constitution of the United States after it had been ratified by the Legislatures of three-fourths of the States. Every requirement of the instrument for amendment had been complied with and that fact left nothing to conjecture. The manner of achieving the result may be open to complaint and the effect of the action subject to differences of opinion. But the main point is beyond dispute. The constitution is constitutional and an amendment, so adopted, declaring black to be white, though absurd, would be constitutional. It is made part of the instrument.

The resolution proposing the Eighteenth amendment was adopted by a two-thirds majority by both Houses of Congress and ratified by the Legislatures of three-fourths of the States. The Senators and Representatives who voted affirmatively on the measure may have been mistaken in their notion that such an amendment was "necessary," or they may have been sincere in their belief. A considerable number of them may have yielded to cowardice or been coerced by big money into voting for the amendment. But that is neither here nor there. The records show that a sufficient number voted that way, and that is the end of it. The ratification by the Legislatures of two-thirds of the States completed the work.

That being the case the prohibition as defined in the Eighteenth amendment will be the law of the land until the amendment is repealed, which is not likely to occur ever. The enforcement act is susceptible of repeal or amendment, however, and therefore the question is not entirely taken out of politics. Neither can it be said that the amendment guarantees prohibition. In the South little or no attention is paid to the Fifteenth amendment and so long as the appetite for alcoholic beverages continues and there are men willing to violate law for gain, indulgence in liquor will continue. Permission to sell light wines and beer may become the real method of temperance in the end.

Various people throughout Centre county are under the impression that a good part of the county is under quarantine owing to the potato wart disease last fall and that no potatoes can be planted without a permit. This is a mistake. There are only two places in Centre county where a quarantine was laid, out near Clarence, in Snow Shoe township, and near Osceola Mills in Rush township. All other portions of the county are exempt of quarantine regulations, and Clarence people can secure a permit at O. J. Harm's store. It is not too late to plant late potatoes and the "Watchman's" advice to everybody is to plant as many as possible. Indications are they will be worth good money next fall and winter.

What it Cost to be Nominated.

The Hon. Harry B. Scott was not elected a delegate to the national Republican convention from this district but it did not cost him anyway near as much to stay at home as it cost both Col. Theodore Davis Boal and Melville Gillet to go to Chicago and mingle among the mob that has been swarming the Windy city this week in an endeavor to select a man whom they feel will be satisfactory to their party and the voters at large. According to the accounts filed in the prothonotary's office of Centre county Mr. Scott spent \$302.15; Col. Theodore Davis Boal \$1259.96; Melville Gillet \$1625.24, with bills totalling \$467.11 still unpaid.

In the Democratic household it cost J. L. Spangler only \$91.70 to be elected delegate.

For his nomination for Assemblyman Thomas B. Beaver spent \$547.20, while so far the Hon. Ives Harvey has filed no account of his expenses. F. E. Nagney, nominated on the Democratic ticket, spent less than fifty dollars.

Senator Knox might have simplified matters by introducing a resolution that he be the next President of the United States. It would have gotten him about as far as his resolution declaring war with Germany ever.

If Mitch Palmer's "college chum" should be nominated for President what would Mitch do to the Democratic nominee? We offer a leather medal for the most accurate answer to that question.

If General Wood had been sent to France instead of Pershing the war might have ended in a scandal as his campaign for the Presidency has.

The "twenty per cent. off" movement is gratifying but eighty per cent. off would put prices nearer to a just level.

REPUBLICAN CONVENTION AT STATE COLLEGE STAMPEDED.

Mere Mention of the Name of the Peerless One Started a Frenzy of Acclaim Among the Delegates.

Always State College has had a hobby. Years and years ago it was the habit of gathering on the three corners of the one and a half streets in the town to await the semi-weekly visit of old Phaz Aston and stand in gaping admiration while he told of having many a time danced with Queen Victoria. In later years it saw some occult power in our old friend Andy Lytle and made up its mind that Andy could mascot anything he lamped. And Andy did, but he built a skating pond up there also and because he couldn't make the spring water freeze his glory waned.

Now it appears that they have fallen for a new idol. Mayor John Laird Holmes, the boy orator who once made the walls of the old "polecat misery" school house fairly tremble with his thunderous declamation, has evidently pointed the thought of that enlightened community toward higher ideals and it has fallen at the feet of the big noise of the Platte.

It appears that they have a federation of men's organized Bible classes up there. It is composed of the Bible classes of all the churches in the town and once a month they have a social. From what we can learn they haven't developed far enough yet to take a chance on five dishes of ice cream and twelve pieces of cake proving ample to feed the multitude that gathers at these socials, but that as it may, they have good times.

Last Tuesday night the entertainment feature was a mock Republican National convention. Programs had been sent out delegating to each member some part in the program. All the candidates who are aspiring and perspiring at Chicago today were represented. All the officers of the convention were named, the men who were to make the nominating speeches tipped off and even to make it right up to the minute of such gatherings of our Republican friends, a delegation of dusky contestants from the South was in its place.

Everything went smooth as if Penrose had not been sick in bed until all the nominees were placed before the convention. Then arose a young man, by name John Taylor, who represented some district over about Shingleton Gap, and such a flood of oratory. It rolled and avalanched in oodling, unctious verbiage. It swept, in its forensic fury, from the mucky level of the "frog pond" to the clear blue heights of Old Nittany. It sucked "Frenchy" Foster and Mayor Holmes into the swirl of its tornadic force and when they regained composure it was to find that William Jennings Bryan, the man who stretched the "three mile limit" that has surrounded State College since the wet spring of '37 until it includes everything from Alaska to Tom Harter's busted Bellefonte on the uttermost point of sand in Florida.

The convention was in a state of hypnotic desuetude. A few Lowdens and Hardings and Lodges ran hither and thither trying to break the spell but a ballot was taken before the beans were gathered up and Bryan got 22 votes, Sproul 14 and all the others were among the also rans. Of course, being a federation of Bible classes, the convention did not break up in a fight but we fancy they need study the 13th chapter of Corinthians a lot before they can take on enough brotherly love for another social of the good old kind they had before this man Taylor tried oratory, psychology and experimental politics on them.

The strike situation and incident labor troubles are still proving very annoying to railroad officials in the western part of the State and southwestern New York. Much of the Pennsylvania system and other roads are handicapped with labor troubles and manufacturing plants at Pittsburgh, Meadville and Buffalo, N. Y., are also having trouble. But so far the Allegheny division of the Pennsylvania railroad, running from Pittsburgh to Buffalo and of which Joseph J. Rhoads, a native Bellefonter, is superintendent, has been free of labor trouble, notwithstanding the fact that forty-five hundred men are employed on the division. Naturally it is very gratifying to the superintendent and his subordinate officials to know that their men are so loyal and steadfast.

The Chicago platform has not yet been adopted but it is a safe bet that boiled down it will say nothing more than to charge the Democrats with more kinds of inefficiency than have ever been heard of before.

Watch your hogs. Cholera is prevalent in Bellefonte and vicinity and yours may be next to go.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

—Prohibition enforcement officers have heard vague reports that a hearse is being employed between Hazelton and Weatherly in hauling liquor to Weatherly saloon dealers at night. An investigation is being made.

—Mrs. Elizabeth Grove, the oldest woman in East Donegal township, Lancaster county, residing on the Eshelman farm, is 95. She is in the best of health, can read without glasses and says she hopes to reach the century mark.

—The Lewisport-Reedsville Water company has filed new tariffs with the Public Service Commission entailing increases for ordinary residence rates, without bath or toilets, from \$13.50 to \$18 a year; berplugs from \$5 to \$50 a year, and other rates in proportion.

—A train consisting of thirty-three cars of crude rubber en route to Akron, Ohio, passed over the main line of the P. R. R. on Monday, hauled by two passenger locomotives, and enjoying first-class passenger privileges. The employees who came in contact with the train dubbed it the million dollar special.

Ralph Lilley, aged 25 years, of Lewisburg, is alive today after a plunge of 100 feet over an embankment to a railroad track in his automobile. The car was demolished, but Lilley suffered only a few bruises. He was driving along a road near Milton, when the steering gear broke, and the car crashed into a guard rail, held on a minute and then went hurtling to the bottom as the flimsy railing gave way.

—Commencement week at the Bloomsburg State Normal school opened on Monday with the announcement by Dr. David J. Waller Jr., of his retirement with the close of this term as principal of the school. For twenty-five years its head, he has played a big part in its success. He also preceded the late Dr. N. C. Schaeffer as State Superintendent of Public Instruction, and was for some years principal of the Indiana, Pa., State Normal school.

—Joseph MacNamee, of Berwick, one night last week dreamed he had been caught in a bees hive and that the bees were swarming around him. He jumped from bed and out of the second story window to a porch roof and tolgged way down to the ground. The jar did not fully awaken him and his screams of "They're after me!" aroused the neighborhood. Harold Eshelman and others went to his aid to find him with a wrenched knee and bruises.

—An action in trespass has been instituted in the Cambria county court at Ebensburg by Jessie Palmer, of Emeligh, Cambria county, against the Central Light & Power company to recover the sum of \$25,000 damages for the death of her husband, the late Andrew Palmer, proprietor of the Emeligh hotel. It is alleged that Mr. Palmer caught hold of a high tension wire, which was installed in a careless manner by the defendant company in the garage in the basement of the hotel and was electrocuted.

—Dragged 400 yards through a plowed field near Northumberland on Tuesday, Joseph Bateman, aged 40 years, was instantly killed. No one saw the accident, but he evidently fell off the seat of a cultivator he was driving and his trousers caught firmly in the back of the machine. Face downward he was dragged in the soft earth by the horses, and probably was suffocated. He had left home at 7:30 and a half an hour later when it was noticed that his team stood idle in the field, his employer, G. W. Miller, found the body.

—Matt Herzog, of St. Mary's, Elk county, was awarded the prize of \$250 offered by Colonel William Kaul for the greatest number of vermin killed in the county during October, 1919, and May, 1920. The contest was determined on points, each vermin counting a stated number of points. Herzog killed four wildcats, two foxes, three mink, thirteen weasels, making a total of 51 points. It developed that the contest was won by one point, as E. J. Shriver, of Johnsonburg, had 50 points, as follows: Five wildcats, one fox, three mink, twelve weasels.

—In the interest of public economy, the Blair county commissioners recently had the court house renovated and repainted by a working force of jail prisoners. The Commissioners received a note last week when restaurant proprietors presented bills for \$1186.05 for feeding the prisoners and \$75.30 for cigarettes while the work was in progress. The jail warden also claims his regular compensation on the ground that he was keeping the jail open for the lodging and feeding of the prisoners while they were being entertained at the restaurants.

—Fake stock brokers have sold more than \$90,000 worth of stocks in Pottsville and vicinity, the transactions occurring during the last three weeks. Warned by a recent exposure of the men at the head of the selling agencies made their escape, taking with them automobiles, Liberty bonds and other property in exchange for stocks. In the majority of cases, however, the swindlers got cash, and their hurry to cash checks thus secured was among the circumstances which led to the discovery of the extent of the swindle. Many gave up their Liberty bonds for stocks alleged to be drawing 20 per cent. interest, notwithstanding warnings of only recently issued as to the danger of such transactions.

—A fortune of \$1,250,000 is said to be awaiting Thomas Neville, of Connellsville, at one time foreman of a work train on the Baltimore and Ohio railroad; Mrs. Mary Connelly, of Duquesne, and Mrs. Isabella Dougherty, of McKeesport. The information comes through a barrister from London, who went to Connellsville to locate the heirs to the money, which is inherited through their mother, and which had been accumulating since 1902. The codicil in the will directed that, in case the heirs could not be located, the money to be used for the erection of a home in Pennsylvania for fallen women. The barrister visited the Neville home in Connellsville Saturday and all necessary papers were signed by Mr. Neville and Mrs. Connelly.

—United States army general hospital, at Carlisle, which was formerly the Carlisle Indian school will be closed as a hospital, according to orders issued from the War Department, on June 30th, and reopened as a medical school for the United States army. It is understood that the army medical department has decided to give adequate training to the army in hygiene and that the institutional plant which is capable of being made one of the best educational institutions in the country, will be given over to training American soldiers along military lines. Colonel Frank R. Koefor, whose administration of the army general hospital has produced such good results for the army convalescents, may be selected to take charge of the new medical school.