

INK SLINGS.

If it really was Senator Penrose who blew Harding off his front porch the sick man of Spruce street isn't as sick as he has been reported.

—Senator Harding is against any kind of a League and all of his utterances up to this moment lead to the conviction that he is against everything that our grand-fathers didn't have.

—The rains have put the oats ground in fine condition for plowing but the rains have also made it impossible to either cut or haul in oats; so there you are. The farmer is always in trouble.

—"I favor going in," says Governor Cox, and as we can only hope for permanent peace through the operation of some sort of League of Nations all those who favor peace will, naturally, favor Governor Cox with their votes.

—Boston and Philadelphia papers are playing up Ponzi and Pasquale almost to the point where Governor Cox and Senator Harding might stop to inquire: "Who are supposed to be in the limelight, anyhow, just three months ahead of November?"

—The Cincinnati Inquirer wants to know how those Burlington officers found that whiskey that was hidden in the bustles of a lot of Canadian girls. Why raise a question that is likely to involve the officials in divorce proceedings should any of them happen to be married.

—Governor Cox fulfilled all the expectations of his admirers in his speech of acceptance. It was a clear and convincing statement of his attitude toward questions uppermost in the public mind today. He left nothing to conjecture. His plain spoken pledges can be understood by a child while Senator Harding's ambiguous dissertations are calculated only to befog, if possible, mature minds.

—They say that Philipsburg has been making so awful much money out of fourteen dollar coal that they actually don't know what to do with it. If this is true it was a mighty nice thing in those baseball fans of ours who journeyed over to the future home of "the Philips" last Thursday, and eased them off to the amount of about two truck loads of "kale" that they had hauled out to the baseball grounds to dazzle our fellows with.

—Early Senator Harding announced that his would be a dignified "front porch campaign." But Senator Harding really isn't a candidate for President. He is merely representing some "higher-ups" and has to take orders. Accordingly he is going to leave the front porch for the hustings and, incidentally, prove to the country that either he doesn't mean what he says or he isn't his own master. And in either case he should never be President of these United States.

—Our government's note to Italy on the Russian-Poland crisis, is something of which we may all be proud. It reveals an inflexible opposition to the constituted government of Russia but the profoundest sympathy for the people of that distressed empire. And to prove the genuineness of the latter refers to several hitherto unpublished references to what took place in the supreme council at Paris. It shows that there our country stood for the territorial and political integrity of Russia and never wavered in the insistence that she should not be dismembered. Secretary Colby's note is quite in line with the friendly spirit we have always manifested for Russia. For if our country were to recognize the usurpers now in control it would be recognizing their right to despoil and dismember a country that is crying for nothing more than rest.

—The Saturday Evening Post recently published what might be regarded as documentary evidence to the effect that Czar Nicholas II, together with all the members of his family, were actually murdered in cold blood by the Reds. The statement seems to put the seal of authenticity on rumors that have been current for a year or more as to this tragedy of the imperial family of Russia. History will probably never record a more dastardly incident and to us this confirmation of a story that seemed too horrible to be credited, a grave warning is carried. Men who can conceive and carry to execution such a plot are the men who are ruling Russia today but their fanaticism is not satiated with the blood of those who "dare to wear white collars" in their own ill-fated land. It is reaching out for world conquest. It is spreading its doctrine of non-belief and immorality broad-cast and if it conquers Poland it is one step nearer to Germany. If it wins Germany, France and England must succumb unless: Unless what? Unless we go to their aid. If France and England fall to the Red vampire how long can our peaceful Christian states survive.

That is the thing men who are looking grave over the future have uppermost in their minds. There was more than politics in the treaty of Versailles, in the covenant entered into there. What should we care whether a Democrat or Republican represented us there? Is the political complexion of who shall be the next President of the United States more important to you than the sanctity of your home. And yet it would appear so if you do not favor some sort of a world alliance that will crush out the Red demon of Russia.

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STATE RIGHTS AND FEDERAL UNION.

Governor Cox's Acceptance.

In his speech of acceptance Governor James M. Cox, of Ohio, has completely vindicated his claim to the party favor bestowed upon him by the Democrats of the country at the San Francisco convention. He has met and mastered every question involved in the campaign. More than that, he has proved his fitness for the office to which he laudably aspires. His speech is forceful, eloquent and persuasive. He evades nothing and dodges no responsibility. No reasoning mind can misconstrue his language, no intelligent man misinterpret his purpose. He has not only shown the clearest understanding of the issues, but he has expressed his views in the most lucid and courageous manner. In every respect he has done well.

The paramount issue of the campaign is the League of Nations, and Governor Cox leaves no one in doubt as to his attitude on that question. "The question is whether we shall or shall not join in this practical and humane movement. Senator Harding, as the Republican candidate for the Presidency, proposes that we remain out of it. As the Democratic candidate, I favor going in," he declares. There is no confusion of sounds or equivocation in that statement. The League of Nations is a practical and humane movement. It is the only expedient to avoid future wars and obviate the horrors of national conflicts. It is the only feasible plan of evading the vast expense of great armies and navies.

Senator Harding has announced that in the event of his election he will favor a separate peace with Germany. That is practically what we agreed not to do when we entered the war. To do so now would be a violation of a solemn pledge made to our associates in the war. Besides, as Governor Cox says, it would be "the most disheartening event in civilization since the Russians made their separate peace with Germany." It would be precisely the offence against honor and justice which Germany perpetrated when she invaded Belgium in violation of her pledge against such an outrage. That act was condemned by all the civilized nations of the world. Why should an equally dastardly fault on our part be regarded differently?

Governor Cox covered all other questions involved in the campaign in equally emphatic terms. He pledges enforcement of the laws on all subjects which includes, of course, the Volstead act, and favors woman suffrage, not as a political expedient but as an act of justice. He expresses full appreciation of public obligations to the soldiers of the great war and pledges such measures in legislation and executive policy as will in some measure recompense them for their sacrifices. He revealed full sympathy with the wage earners in their strife for fair wages and better conditions, and is mindful of the interests of agriculture and the great body of men and women concerned in that important industry.

There are many problems of government which may be solved in the interest of the people against the predatory agencies which have, until President Wilson put on brakes, despoiled the public and Governor Cox shows in his speech of acceptance that he is alive and alert to all of them. He handles the transportation question in a masterly manner and touches with keen intelligence the various other matters of public interest. But the paramount question, that which sinks deepest into the hearts of the people, is the guarantee of permanent peace and the assurance that with the Democratic victory that is certain, the horrors of war will be banished from our homes and firesides for all time.

—The unusually hard rains we have had the past week have kept the farmers back with their oats harvest. While the oats is fit to cut the ground is now so thoroughly water-soaked that it is impossible to harvest the crop, and it will be several days, even with favorable weather, before any cutting can be done.

—We haven't noticed any great number of people in any part of the country lamenting the defeat of Senator Gore, of Oklahoma, for re-election. It means the retirement of as cheap a demagogue as ever polluted the atmosphere of public life in this country.

—Possibly the terms of settlement with Villa are all right, but at this distance from the scene the price seems outrageously high.

—That big red automobile in a Philadelphia park, the other day, appears to have inspired mixed feelings of hope and terror.

—Governor Coolidge says certain language in the Republican platform is purposely broad, and all of it is studiously ambiguous.

Either a Fool or a Knave.

If anything were needed to show the meagre mental equipment of Senator Harding it is supplied in what has been given out in Marion, Ohio, on Sunday, as an answer to Governor Cox's speech of acceptance. "The speech," this absurd statement declares, "is a curious mixture of errors and misstatements as to facts so well known that mere utterance can cause nothing less than amazement." In support of this confused expression it proceeds to claim that the present Congress has reduced taxes in a little more than a year to the extent of \$2,414,115,144.13. This, in the face of the fact that the records are accessible, is most amazing. The present Congress has not reduced taxes a penny, though urged to do so.

A week before the armistice every intelligent man, woman and child in the United States, England, France and Italy believed there would be another year of intense war and the Congress of the United States, then in session, was considering appropriations to meet the expense of such a condition. The armistice, of course, changed everything along these lines and as the appropriation bills were not passed during that session, were revised and greatly reduced at the extra session of the present Congress. These reductions amounted to about the sum that Harding says the taxes were reduced. The fact is, however, that he doesn't know the difference between an appropriation and a tax bill, or else he imagines the public doesn't and he tries to deceive it by a false statement.

When the appropriation bills for 1919 were drawn we had more than two million soldiers abroad, and as many in training camps at home. We were humping ourselves from one end of the country to the other in supplying food, clothing and equipment for this vast force. The appropriations were made with these facts in mind. After the Republican Congress came into session they were reduced to meet the changed conditions. But there has been no change in the tax laws, though President Wilson earnestly urged Congress to make reductions, and the Democratic leaders in Congress pressed the matter at every opportunity. The fact is that Harding has already shown his unfitness for the office of President by a effort at deception. Men of such calibre are not of the size that we should make Presidents of.

—It was hardly necessary for Mitchell Palmer to assure the public that he has no intention to resign. Those who know Mitch understand that he is not one of the few who resign a good thing.

Campaign Plans Altered.

"The best laid schemes o' mice and men gang aft a-gley," wrote Bobby Burns before political organizations were formed in this country or party candidates dreamed of. But it is true now as then and has been verified in a most peculiar way recently. It will be remembered that immediately after his nomination at Chicago Senator Harding announced his purpose of making a "front porch campaign." He probably had various reasons for this, the principal one being that it revived the memory of the McKinley campaign of 1896. It is a pleasant memory for Republicans. Mr. McKinley was a charming gentleman, courteous, capable and magnetic, and he was elected by a large majority.

But conditions are vastly different now and "circumstances alter cases."

Mark Hanna was head of the organization and he had more money, or could command more, than the most prosperous farmers had had, and there was nobody to question the source of the supply or the methods of disbursement. The Republican committee could easily finance any enterprise in the way of pilgrimage then, however expensive, and the excursions to the McKinley front porch were a delight at the time and a pleasant dream for weeks afterward.

Crowds came from the remotest sections of the North, South, East and West, and their expenses were freely paid, while some of them were liberally compensated for their time.

Without a thought of these important details Senator Harding planned a recurrence of these happy holiday incidents and the amateur managers of his campaign cordially acquiesced in his scheme. But when the time came to arrange for the excursions the question of funds arose. The special interests are just as willing as were those of a quarter of a century ago, but the danger of prosecution for excessive expenditures confronted them and gave them pause. Finally Mr. Daugherty, Harding's personal campaign manager, called on Senator Penrose and that astute politician, upon emerging from the sick room on Spruce street, Philadelphia, gave notice that the candidate will campaign in the usual way.

—Subscribe for the "Watchman."

Mr. Roosevelt's Speech.

Governor Cox simply expresses the sentiments of the Democrats of the country in his note of appreciation of the acceptance speech of his colleague on the ticket, Franklin D. Roosevelt. "It is a hopeful, sensible view of conditions, full of hope as to our future and radiant of the happiness of the individual," writes the Governor. "The West will like this splendid type of progressive statesman. Following the two years of gloom and carpings, captious criticism from the Republican leaders," he adds, "it will be a genuine refreshment in the great land Roosevelt now enters, for the people to meet a representative of government whose soul is possessed of the philosophy of joy."

In fact Mr. Roosevelt's speech is a pronouncement of principles which mark him as a statesman of the first rank. He is quite as enthusiastic as Governor Cox in support of the League of Nations and as clear and convincing in his expressions upon the minor issues of the campaign, for the League of Nations is the paramount question. He favors the bettering of our citizenship by improving educational facilities and strengthening our immigration laws, not upon the literacy basis but by the exclusion of criminals and those physically unfit for citizenship. He demands further development of our natural resources in methodical rather than spasmodic manner. In fact he is abreast with Governor Cox in all essential respects.

The Democrats of the country have every reason to view the approach of the contest with confidence. Our candidates measure up to the highest standard, morally and intellectually, and our purposes are progressive and inspiring. We will not have the slush fund which special privileges are ready to offer to our antagonists in anticipation of rewards at the expense of the people, but the time for such forms of campaigning is past. The recent conviction of Senator Newberry, of Michigan, and the more recent defeat of General Wood and Governor Lowden for the Republican nomination are admonitions against the corrupt use of money for the purchase of political power. The public conscience is aroused.

—If some spiritual medium would tell us what Bismarck would say under existing conditions on the subject of mercy toward conquered foes, he would contribute something to the gaiety of nations.

Then and Now.

More ink has been spilled the past year writing of high prices and in trying to assign equitable reasons therefore than in discussing any other subject, and as yet no man has been able to explain the whys and the wherefores to the satisfaction of the consuming public, that always foots the bills. Political economists excuse the high prices on the ground that they are the after the war adjustment and refer to conditions and practices that prevailed after our Civil war. But there is not even a comparison with the prices paid then and those that prevail now, with the single exception of wheat.

In May, 1866, one year after the Civil war came to a close and just when prices had about reached their maximum, wheat brought \$2.25 a bushel, but corn sold at 60 cents. Rye was 55 and oats 40 cents. Potatoes brought \$1.50 a bushel and they were considered beyond a poor man's reach unless he raised them himself, but wheat was 35 cents a pound and eggs 15 cents a dozen. Pork sold for 17 cents a pound, bacon 18 and lard 16. A bushel of clover seed could be bought for \$4.50 and hay from \$15.00 to \$20.00 a ton. And nobody was getting the wages in those days that the workmen are getting now, and to earn what they did get they worked from early morning until late at night.

Of course in those days we didn't have telephones and electric light, and nobody rode around in automobiles. The farmer had his horses to ride behind and everybody else walked. There were probably men in those days who went after the almighty dollar just as hard as they do now, but they couldn't go quite as fast as the man in his high-powered car gets there now, and yet we all wonder why prices are so high.

—Senator Harding seems to imagine that the votes of the women of the country are to be disposed of on the auction block, and he is trying to be the highest bidder.

—Don't worry about Public Service Commissioner Benn's lost salary. He'll get all that is coming to him. Cupidity as well as love "points the way" when necessary.

—Germany is trying to sell paper clothes as a novelty, but the shoe manufacturers of this country "beat them to it."

Governor Cox Accepts.

From the Philadelphia Record.

Day after day Senator Harding, who jugged words over the League of Nations so that he could get the support of William Howard Taft and Hiram Johnson, has been demanding that Governor Cox express himself explicitly on the subject. We trust he is satisfied. We wish we could believe that the example of the Democratic candidate would encourage candor on the part of the Republican candidate.

Governor Cox has made a fine, strong, clear and comprehensible address. He promised an offensive campaign. He has begun it. There is not a particle of evasion or double-dealing or apology and weakness in his address, from beginning to end. He takes up the fight for the League of Nations, for the peace of the world and for the honorable discharge of our obligations to mankind, in a firm and confident tone; and men holding diametrically opposing opinions will not support him as they are trying to support Senator Harding.

The question, says the Governor, "is whether we shall or shall not join in this practical and humane movement. President Wilson, as our representative at the peace table, entered the League in our name so far as the executive authority permitted. Senator Harding, as the Republican candidate for the Presidency, proposes in plain words that we remain out of it. As the Democratic candidate I favor going in."

Is that explicit enough? Does that leave any doubt about where the Governor stands? Declaratory and explanatory statements may be attached to the instrument of ratification on account of the scruples of the timid, but no amendment or reservation that affects the vital principle of the covenant.

Senator Harding has promised that if he shall have the opportunity he will sign such a peace resolution as that of Senator Knox. The Governor points out that "This means but one thing—a separate peace with Germany. This would be the most disheartening event in civilization since the Russians made their separate peace with Germany. The Republican proposal means dishonor, world confusion and delay. It would keep us in permanent company with Germany, Russia, Turkey and Mexico."

Is any American proud to be in that company? "The first duty of the new Administration," says the Governor, "clearly will be ratification of the treaty."

If Germany did not assent to the terms of the separate peace that we should propose under Mr. Harding, would he send an army to Germany to enforce our demands? And in this League there is nothing unprecedented. Under President McKinley the country went outside its own boundaries to free Cuba. For nearly a century it has warned all Governments that it would go outside of our own limits to protect any State on the Western Hemisphere. And only three years ago we put two million soldiers in Europe to stay the advance of German militarism. Why falter in peace when we were bold in war?

The address covers the whole ground of pending political questions, the railroads, capital and labor, the revision of taxation, the cost of living, child labor, Amerikanization of the foreign-born, the remedy of illiteracy, the promotion of agriculture and commerce. All that the Governor says will commend itself to the impartial reader by its intelligence, its sound judgment, and its perfect fairness without the least appearance of evasion or juggling of words. He urges the ratification of the woman suffrage amendment and his only allusion to the Eighteenth Amendment is a pledge to enforce all laws. In view of the silence of both national platforms, and the fact that the President does not make, but enforces laws, this expression is sufficient.

Governor Cox's address will command him strongly to all fair and thinking persons. It is the speech of a strong, candid and broadly intelligent man. It represents the highest and best type of Americanism—an Americanism equal not only to participation in the world's war, but to participation in the world's efforts to prevent wars, and make this a better world to live in.

A Strange Crusade.

From the New York Evening Post.

It's going to be a crusade rather than a campaign, says the gentle voice of Mr. Will Hays. Unlucky choice of words, Will. For a crusade was always a rather unselfish proceeding, involving a crusade overseas and the joining of hands with other nations. A crusade was certainly an entangling alliance. Well, well! And in this crusade what part does the Lubricating Leader play—Peter the Hermit? or Urbane the Second? or Godfrey of Coule Bouillon.

But we perceive Will Hays is right. A crusade, obviously, for the purpose of double-crossing the League. The object of all crusades, one remembers, was a sepulchre. In this case the sepulchre of American idealism.

Why is This Thus?

From the New York Evening Post.

As for Senator Harding—what a position for the candidate of a great party to find himself in, with a Republican ex-President compelled to explain why he is compelled to vote with a heavy heart for the Republican candidate.

SPAWS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

—Thrown through the windshield of a baker's truck when it collided with a bus near Martinsburg, on Friday, Stiles L. Miller, 15 years old, of Altoona, had an artery in his neck severed by glass and bled to death before the flow could be stopped.

—When S. M. Weisberger, of Scranton, went to bed last Thursday night he threw his trousers, containing about \$900 over the foot of the bed. When he got up Friday morning, the trousers were in place, but the money was gone, he told the police.

—Albert Rinkenbauch, 60 years old, of Mauch Chunk, was struck by lightning on his farm in Penn Forest township, 10 miles from Mauch Chunk on Monday afternoon and instantly killed. When it began to rain, Rinkenbauch and two other men took shelter in a shed which later was struck by lightning.

—Miss Mary E. Crocker, who has been assistant librarian of the James V. Brown library, Williamsport, since 1906, will next month take charge of the Annie Hale Rose Library at Lock Haven as Librarian. Miss Crocker is a former secretary and treasurer of the state library to leading periodicals and magazines.

—R. S. Hartman, chauffeur for Frederick Rasmussen, Pennsylvania Secretary of Agriculture, in Altoona on a vacation, was robbed last Wednesday night while sleeping in a hotel. His pocketbook, containing papers and cash, was stolen, but the thief overlooked valuable state papers in his possession and a roll of bills under his pillow.

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