

INK SLINGS.

Honestly, it does seem funny that every time we read a list of price drops we can't find a single item in it that we seem to be in need of.

Meantime arrangements ought to be perfected to guarantee just punishment for Lenine and his partner in crime when the break-up comes in Russia.

If Harding's plan to form a partnership between government and business is adopted it is a safe bet that business will hold the upper hand in the enterprise.

Senator Harding thinks it's discourteous to "heckle" a candidate for President, and we concur in his opinion. But he allows the Republican National committee to employ at large salaries a big force of ruffians to follow Governor Cox and heckle him wherever they can.

A Congressman named Edmonds, of Philadelphia, wants to impeach President Wilson. We give the gentleman credit with having brains enough, at least, to have discovered a way to let the country know that there is a person named Edmonds, from Philadelphia, holding down a seat in Congress.

Lots of people hold brewery stock but there is only one of them who is a candidate for President and that one is Senator Harding. It's nobody's business but his own, of course, but it is everybody's right to know why the Anti-Saloon League is backing a man who has a big sheaf of brewery stock in his own name.

Senator Harding was in Altoona Monday morning. Yes, he has left the front porch and is carrying his dissembling statements right to the voters. During his short stop in the Mountain city he addressed some railroad workers assembled at the station. During his remarks he took occasion to comment on the pay of railroaders but, as usual, had nothing constructive to suggest nor had he the courage to admit that the railroad workers owe neither him, nor any of the Senatorial oligarchy back of him, anything for the advances they have been given in the past three years.

The scandal in the baseball world has revealed the depths to which some men will go for money. Eight players of the Chicago team have been suspended for selling out in the world's series of last year. It is rather late to discover that Cincinnati won her victory in 1919 because a lot of gamblers had bought enough men on the Chicago team to throw the games and put them in the position of being "sure thing" betters. Late as it is, it is most fortunate. For the national game must be purged of such crook professionals if it is to hold its place in popular favor and manager Charles Comiskey, of the Chicagoans, has taken the only course open to him by dismissing eight of his best players, even though their loss may cost him the pennant this year.

The District Attorney of Centre county is in a "brown study." He doesn't know whether something that happened in court Wednesday morning was merely accidental or whether it was less majestic. Mr. Furst was examining a witness concerning the size of stones that are supposed to be covering a certain road in Taylor or Worth township. He asked him: "Are they as large as my fist?" The witness answered: "Yes." Then Mr. Furst pressed the inquiry further by asking: "Are they as large as my head?" "Well," replied the witness: "Some of them are as high, but I don't think any of them are as thick!" Intentional or not so, the court and the courtiers saw the point that the District Attorney had unwittingly drawn out of the stolid witness and everybody laughed.

The recent census reveals that the country is not quite as densely populated as was supposed. Forecasts had put the number at one hundred and ten million, but the count has progressed far enough to indicate that the total will not be more than one hundred and seven million. The quality, and not the quantity, of our population should concern us most. The census will show that about one-eighth of our people can neither read nor write and that fifty-two per cent. of them live in the cities where the congestion is conducive to illiteracy and is not calculated to engender that broad spirit of Americanism to be found in the rural districts. These are none too pleasant revelations, but we are fortunate in having them for they should admonish us that quality, not quantity, is the thing we should strive most for.

The Phillipsburg Ledger announces that Tom Beaver's "good, cool judgment will give us representation at Harrisburg like we used to have." It being inconceivable that the Ledger could want such representation as many illustrious Democrats have given Centre county in the General Assembly just who, of its own party, it had in mind when setting a goal for Tom: Was it the Hon. Phil E., or John K. Thompson, or Ives Harvey, or the Ledger's own "good angel," Harry B? But why worry about this anyway. Frank Nagney will represent Centre county in Harrisburg. Nobody has anything against Tom Beaver personally, but there are a lot of people in Centre county who think he had no right to jump in and snatch two years of the Honorable right out of the life of "poor, dear Mr. Harvey."

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Harding Degenerating into a Scold.

Senator Harding is going from bad to worse. He has degenerated from a common demagogue to the lower level of a mendacious scold. In his speech before the commercial travelers on Saturday, he said: "A nation which prides itself upon its business sense has been forced to see its government twisted into a monstrosity of waste and slipshoddiness." Such a statement might be expected from a candidate for borough constable, but not from an aspirant for a higher office. Everybody knows that the cost of the war was enormous but not wasteful. The money was honestly spent for the good of the country and the safety of humanity. The task could not have been performed for less. And it was worth the price.

In the Civil war, under the administration of the lamented Lincoln, something like five or six billion dollars' worth of government bonds were sold within a period of about four years. Some of these bonds were sold as low as seventy cents on the dollar, and the whole financial world was the market. During the world war thirty billion dollars' worth of bonds were disposed of in a market limited to this country and without the discount of a farthing, within a period of a year and a half. Does that look like slipshod financing on the part of the present administration? Does it look like inefficiency? Nobody has ever charged Lincoln with extravagance or wastefulness. He did the best he could.

In the Spanish-American war the administration of President McKinley enlisted a volunteer army of a trifle more than 300,000 men and assembled them in training camps. They were provided with paper-soled shoes, shoddy clothing and inferior arms. They were fed rotten food and within three months after enlistment from forty to sixty per cent. of them were suffering from diseases. During the world war five million men were enrolled, assembled and trained. They were supplied with the very best clothing and equipment and the mortality in the camps was no greater than that in the best regulated cities of the country. More than two millions were shipped across the sea without the loss of a life.

Will a comparison of these records justify the charge against the present administration of inefficiency and wastefulness? We don't think so. Of course it costs money to raise and equip an army of more than four million men, provide them with the best of everything, preserve them in health and maintain a high standard of morale. But the problem was one of men or money, the sacrifice of human lives or the expenditure of a comparatively few dollars out of an abundance. We were forced into the war. Republican administrations for a quarter of a century before had failed to prepare the country for such a war and urgent necessity made hasty preparation expensive. But there was no waste or inefficiency.

In the same speech Senator Harding added: "The people knew very well that only an intelligent opposition prevented the present administration from making an expenditure of over \$11,000,000,000 in a peace year, and the \$11,000,000,000 would have been a reasonably large draft upon a people who in 1916 paid \$1,000,000,000 for their current expenses of government." The average bar room loafer would hardly venture so malignant a libel. When the \$11,000,000,000 appropriation bills were framed the war was in the height of fury and no living man expected it would end within a year. The estimates were made for a year of the most intense and expensive war of all history. Every right-minded man concurred in them.

Suddenly and unexpectedly, in response to suggestions of President Wilson, an armistice was agreed upon and hostilities ended. President Wilson immediately asked Congress for a decrease in appropriations and diminution in taxes. The Republican Congress cut down the appropriations but refused to reduce taxes because the jaundiced minds of the Republican leaders imagined that the high tax rates would supply campaign material in the Presidential contest this year. The \$1,000,000,000 expenditures of 1916 represented the standard of an efficient Democratic administration, for President Wilson was then in the White House and the people renewed his lease for that historic domicile "for four years more."

The women of Pennsylvania will have an opportunity to vindicate their claim that woman suffrage will improve the morals of politics. The Philadelphia Ministerial association condemned Boies Penrose as unfit for important office.

Senator Harding told railroad employees in Altoona that they deserved the best, and intimated that in his opinion the Cummins-Esch law is good enough for them.

Campaign of False Pretense.

The amazing thing in the campaign is that the Republican party relies entirely on the credulity of the public for its hope of victory. All the newspapers and speakers of that party faith from Senator Harding down are falsely pretending that the League of Nations is an instrument which will provoke wars rather than conserve peace. The preface to the covenant of the League declares its purpose is "to promote international co-operation to achieve international peace and security." If the distinguished gentlemen who composed the Peace Conference had had the opposite purpose in mind they would not have employed that language.

Moreover the Conference left nothing to conjecture as to how the high purpose of its members was to be brought about. It proposed "to promote international co-operation and achieve international peace and security," by "the acceptance of obligations not to resort to war; by the prescription of open, just and honorable relations between nations; by the firm establishment of the understandings of international law as the actual rule of conduct among governments, and by the maintenance of justice and a scrupulous respect for all treaty obligations in the dealing of organized peoples with one another." Liberally construed this means simply the adoption of the Golden Rule by the nations of the world.

The pretense that the covenant of the League creates a supergovernment, that it confers upon some alien authority the right to call our citizens into military service abroad or at home, that it impairs the sovereignty of the United States or that it weakens the force of the Monroe Doctrine is equally false and absurd. Article X binds the government of the United States to fulfill its part in an obligation assumed by all alike, to preserve the peace of the world by force if all other expedients fail, and nothing more. But it compels all other nations to do the same and thus guarantees the territorial integrity of the small nations created by the destruction of the German and Austrian Empires.

It also accomplishes another result which is repugnant to the minds of the corporation lobbyists who manage the affairs and shape the policies of the Republican party. It compels all members of the League to "the reduction of national armaments to the lowest point consistent with national safety." That would put a crimp in the enormous profits of the gun and powder makers of the country and probably cut out the fees paid by those industries to their agents in Congress. It also requires all nations within the League "to secure and maintain fair and humane conditions of labor for men, women and children." This is a set-back to the purpose of the Republican machine to re-enslave labor in this country.

Appeal to Ignorance and Perfidy.

That the Republican party depends upon the hyphenated vote to carry the election becomes more apparent every day. The German sympathizers who organized sabotage enterprises during the war are the most enthusiastic supporters of Senator Harding. Sylvester Viereck has personally assured him of the unanimous vote of the German sympathizers and a drive for the Italian vote is now in progress. President Wilson's protest against an attempt upon the part of the Italian jingoes to convert the victory of the allies into a land-grabbing triumph is being made the instrument for this propaganda.

Professing to be 100 per cent. American, Senator Harding is not only permitting but encouraging the use of the slush fund to bribe the foreign language press of the country to deceive their Americanized countrymen. Even the Irish-American voters are being appealed to under the false pretense that under the League of Nations a Democratic President would help England to retain control of Ireland, notwithstanding the fact that the covenant of the League would forbid such an interference if it were undertaken. And Harding is ready and willing to promise anything that will entice voters to him.

There are only two things that could influence foreign born voters to support Harding. One of these is ignorance and the other perfidy. The appeal to the German vote is perfidious. It is a scheme to punish President Wilson for the important part he performed in defeating the ambitions of the German autocracy. The appeal to the Italian and the Irish voters is to ignorance and cupidity. No intelligent man can be deceived by the false statement that the League of Nations will work injury to the aspirations of Ireland for self-government. No intelligent Italian believes that President Wilson was wrong on the Fiume question.

Subscribe for the Watchman.

Harding's Election Worth \$100,000,000.

In an interview published in a New York newspaper on Sunday Senator Penrose expresses the opinion that the defeat of the Democratic candidate for President would be worth a hundred million dollars to the country. He makes light of the scandal of a fifteen million dollar campaign fund and refers flippantly to a charge made by Mr. Bryan in 1896 and by Mr. Parker in 1904, which failed to shock the conscience of the country. But the funds of those years were trifling compared with the colossal collection of this year. In 1904 Judge Parker said Mr. Harriman had collected \$275,000 from corporations and Colonel Roosevelt thought it deserved a denial which he entered promptly and vehemently.

It was the fat frying of 1896 and the corporation contributions made to Mr. Harriman in 1904 that aroused public sentiment against excessive campaign funds. The open purchase of a seat in the United States Senate by Truman H. Newberry, of Michigan, following those sinister incidents strengthened the fear now firmly settled in the public mind that unless a stop is put to this evil our popular government will degenerate into a public auction of offices. No government can endure such a condition. The predatory corporations and grafting politicians would speedily enslave labor and destroy legitimate commerce because their interests would be conserved by wrecking rather than building up business.

The results of the Republican committee's "drive" for funds prove that other rich men and selfish politicians are in full accord with Penrose on the value of a Republican victory this year. The flow of funds into the party treasury has grown to the volume of a deluge and every contributor is persuaded that he is making a wise investment. With a return to the old system of tariff and other forms of graft they could soon realize profits of a hundred millions and within four years their net gain might easily run into the billions. But labor and industry must pay the tribute that yields them such profits. They can't get their money back from just salaries or fair business rewards.

Betting in Wall Street is in favor of Harding, but in 1916 big odds were given by the same gamblers that Hughes would be elected. In betting as in other things the wish is father to the act and the gamblers of Wall street feel that they would be safe with Harding in the White House.

Origin of the Opposition.

During his speech in Baltimore, on Monday evening, Senator Harding practically confirmed the statement of Senator Hiram Johnson, of California, that in the event of his election he will "scrap the League of Nations." Mr. Taft, Mr. Root, Mr. Wickersham and others who favor the League pretend to think and freely state that Mr. Harding favors the amendment of the covenant and the adoption of the League in that form. But Senator Harding has cut the ground from under them completely. He said in reply to an inquiry, "the Democratic nominee for President says he's in favor of going into the League as fashioned at Versailles. I'm not in favor of going into that League."

However party managers and political manipulators frame the issues of the campaign, the dominant purpose of the American people is to promote permanent peace. Mr. Taft, the late Colonel Roosevelt, Senator Lodge and all the leading thinkers of the country agree that the only hope of this result lies in a League of Nations in which each unit is pledged to support the others in enforcing peace. The League of Nations as fashioned at Versailles is already in existence with thirty-nine nations supporting it. It is functioning and has performed important service. It is not possible to create another League or "find another plan for an association of nations."

The opposition to the League of Nations originated in the minds of munition makers, artificers of war materials and profiteers. Senator DuPont, of Delaware, who made a profit of a quarter of a billion dollars during the world war, was the originator of the nefarious enterprise and he enlisted the support of Lodge, agent in the Senate of the woolen and cotton barons of New England. It was easy to entice Penrose, Smoot and the other Senatorial lobbyists of special privilege into the scheme under the pretense that it would promote Republican success. But the patriotic, home-loving people of the country are for peace and will elect a President who favors the League of Nations, Governor Cox.

James D. Connelly, our candidate for Congress, visited parts of Centre county last week and reports he it that he made a very good impression.

The Presidential Record.

From the Philadelphia Record.

It is one of the curiosities of contemporary politics that just as the Republican bosses are seeking to change our form of government by substituting a Senatorial committee for the President in the control of executive functions, the French Republic is swinging in the other direction and is discussing the advisability of giving the President more power and responsibility. This is the plan favored by M. Millerand, who succeeds M. Deschanel, and it seems a perfectly logical outcome of the situation developed by the war. Ever since the establishment of the Republic, in 1871, the President has been little more than a figurehead, whose time is devoted largely to ceremonial functions and who exercises little real authority. Responsibility rests with the Premier, and during a large part of the recent war it was to M. Clemenceau, and not to President Poincare, that the French people looked for guidance and inspiration in their long hours of trial. The recent illness, followed by the resignation, of President Deschanel seems to have convinced them of the weakness of this system, and it is not surprising that M. Millerand's demand that, if elected to the Presidency, he shall have some real power has received strong support in political circles.

While France thus seeks to strengthen its President's hands our Republican would-be masters aim to tie those of the man in the White House. Senator Harding, sharing the Senatorial point of view, is perfectly willing to be dethroned, if elected President, to the moment of executive direction of the G. O. P. oligarchs, taking his orders from the Penroses, Lodges, Smoots, Johnsons, etc., and filling all offices according to their dictation. In a word, he is to hold an office much like that of the executive director of the Philadelphia Republican City committee, subject to the authority of the party bosses and cheerfully obedient to their exalted rule.

To most Americans this will not seem a dignified role for the President of the United States, and there is no reason to suppose that such an experiment can be made a permanent success. The great Presidents—Washington, Adams, Jefferson, Jackson, Lincoln, Cleveland, Roosevelt and Wilson—have always upheld the honor of their high office and have had frequent clashes with the Senate. This is almost inevitable where the White House is occupied by a man of strong and commanding personality. A colorless individual like the proprietor of the Marion Star may be willing to sink to the level of an office boy, but he will not gain popularity thereby. It seems to us that in this very important matter the innovations proposed in France are more in keeping with the trend of events than the plans of the Republican oligarchs for making the Presidency an annex of the Senate.

Falsehood or Ignorance?

Senator Harding's inaccuracy of statement is so persistent that to ascribe it to intentional misrepresentation would be a severity which most Americans would gladly escape, but for a man in his position reckless misinformation is almost as discreditable. Discussing the Shantung award in the treaty of peace, Mr. Harding said that China had been persuaded by the United States to enter the war on the side of the Allies, and yet, "when the war settlements came about, China sought to be represented at the peace conference, and they ought to have been represented, but for some reason they were not," and for this reason millions of Chinese "were delivered over to a rival nation with the consent and approval of those who spoke for America in Paris."

Without considering the merits of the Shantung dispute, this statement contains so many untruths that its acceptance cannot fail to vitiate any judgment founded upon it.

Real Americanism.

From the Doylestown Democrat.

"The shrines of government are in the communities of the land." In that one sentence, fresh from his heart and brain, Governor Cox shows more real Americanism, more sympathy with the visions and ideals of our country, than can be found in all the deliberate utterances and calculated phrases Senator Harding ever wrote or spoke.

It is in the communities of the land—the small country communities as well as in the great metropolitan cities—that the shrines of government, the altars of patriotism, the councils of Americanism, are found. It is not in great organizations, not in theatrical leagues or political clubs that the foundations of our nation are laid. It is in the quiet homes, on farms, in the villages and towns, as well as in cities, that the broad and deep basis of the fabric of our nation is laid.

A separate peace with Germany would be dishonorable as well as dishonest, but what else can be expected from a man who follows Senator Lodge?

If Senator Harding follows the example of Senator Newberry an election to the office of President will be an empty honor.

SPAULS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

Governor William C. Sproul granted a respite staying the execution of John Morrison and Samuel Coles, of Philadelphia, fixed for Monday of this week, until the week of November 1, which will permit their cases to go before the meeting of the State Board of Pardons in October.

Raymond Malanapy, aged 12 years, was drowned in Jack creek, near Lewistown, late Sunday afternoon while swimming in company with other boys. John Malanapy, aged 13, tried to save his brother, diving twice into the deep water, but was unable to drag him to the shore.

Finding a purse containing several hundred dollars in the waiting room of the New Jersey Central station, at Allentown, Benjamin Benow, a newsdealer, scolded about until he found the owner, a woman, whom, he says, not only did not reward him or say "thank you," but "looked daggers" at him.

Three men were killed by lightning during a heavy storm which swept Butler county on Monday. Two of the men took refuge from the storm in a miner's shanty at Fenelon. They were killed when lightning struck by lightning while working in a corn field near his home.

While digging a grave in the Reformed cemetery at Osterberg, Blair county, sextons P. C. Carn and Frank Otto discovered a den of copperhead snakes in a pile of rubbish on the lot next to the one at which they were working. They dispatched twenty-seven reptiles ranging in size from eight inches to three feet.

Displaying plenty of nerve, burglars early last Thursday entered the Liberty jewelry store in the heart of Scranton and stole jewelry valued at \$3000. Four patrolmen were on duty within a block of the store at the time. The burglars put up a ladder and climbed up ten feet and went over a transom. Watches, rings and silverware were taken, while diamonds valued at \$50,000 in a safe were not touched.

W. H. Bohon, of Philadelphia, found a wallet in the Hotel Redington, at Wilkes-Barre, one day last week. He gave it to the clerk, Gerald O'Neill. O'Neill opened the wallet and counted \$100,000. Just as he finished a Russian rushed in and frantically cried: "I lost my pocketbook!" O'Neill gave him his \$100,000, and the Russian said to Bohon, "Here, have a cigar." Bohon doesn't smoke, so the Russian gave him a \$5 bill. The \$5 wasn't stage money.

Mr. and Mrs. George Lopek, residing near Vanderbilt, threw a wrench into the high cost of living machinery last week when they were married in the presence of their families, consisting of twenty children. Lopek was a widower with eight children romping around. Mrs. Kasasink, a widow, living nearby, had twelve young hopefuls. Lopek and the widow talked matters over, and when she told him she needed a strong supporting arm, Lopek wasted no time in preliminaries.

Henry Carson, of Slate Run, Lycoming county, shot a bear several days ago, but no action will be brought against him. He killed the bear for stealing his pigs. The animal had carried off two small porkers from Carson's pen the farmer waited for it to return. The bear came back late the next night. The moonlight gave Carson a good view of the animal as it ambled up to the pig pen and one shot from his rifle killed it. Joseph Smith, of Muncie, state game warden, decided there was no cause to prosecute Carson.

A frightened rabbit that was running a losing race with three hounds that had been taken out by the owner for early fall training dashed into the kitchen of Mrs. Samuel Koffel, near Montgomery, Lycoming county, last Saturday, and leaped into the oven of the range. There was no fire in the range at the time and Mrs. Koffel quickly shut the door. The hounds did not follow the rabbit into the house. She chased the dogs away and in a few minutes opened the range door and the rabbit scampered out and disappeared in a nearby thicket.

To have his wife beat him was bearable, but when she stealthily tiptoed up over him while he was asleep, pounced on his body and then set fire to it, was too much, he declares, so Frank Halluch, of Claridge, Westmoreland county, has filed suit against his wife for divorce. In his libel, Halluch recites a long list of alleged abuses he has undergone at the hands of his helpmeet. Six months after they were married, according to Halluch, his wife assaulted him. On several of these occasions he was forced to protect himself, and for doing so was arrested and fined.

Albert Warren Swang, 19, is at the Lewistown hospital in a precarious condition from burns sustained Sunday evening when he lighted a cigarette with his nude body saturated with gasoline, applied to remove grease and dirt accumulated while at work. Swang, as was customary, removed his clothing, then applied the gasoline in the bath room. His chest and neck were covered. Then he lighted a match and touched it to the cigarette. A flash of flame and he rushed for the bedroom to smother the fire in a blanket. Dr. W. S. Wilson sent him to the hospital, where physicians report his condition as serious.

Mrs. Annie O. Fulmer, of Williamsport, who died last week, left a fortune to charity. She bequeathed \$30,000 to the Home for the Friendless, the principal of which may be used for the erection of an addition to the home to be known as the Obit-Fulmer Memorial. To the Williamsport Training school for girls she left a valuable property in the residential section of the city, which if used by the institution is to be called Obit-Fulmer Memorial hall. To her step-daughter, Lola May Fulmer, is left a bequest of \$10,000 and in addition the sum of \$30,000 is left in trust for her, the income of which is to be paid her. Upon her death the entire principal reverts to the Lycoming county Childrens Aid society.

Announcement was made last Friday that the Valley Smokeless Coal company, operating mines in the vicinity of Johnstown, had sold its interest to Weston, Dodson & Co., coal operators of Bethlehem. The company was owned by Brown Bros. & Co., of Philadelphia. The consideration was not announced, but it is understood that the transaction involved a figure approximating a million dollars. The Valley Smokeless Coal company has local offices in Johnstown and the output of its mines is about 300,000 tons of bituminous coal annually. Everett Ake, of Glen Campbell, has also disposed of his remaining two coal mines to a company composed of Punxsutawney and Pittsburg men. The consideration was not given publicly, but it is understood that Mr. Ake realized handsomely on his investment. Both mines are in Indiana county, near Glen Campbell.