

INK SLINGS.

—Just twenty-nine more days. Have you started it yet? —Again we rise to remark that we know who isn't going to be the next postmaster of Bellefonte.

—Lots of people who hadn't turkey on the dinner table yesterday talked "turkey" about the reason they didn't have one.

—Happily the base ball leagues settled their troubles before the League of Nations began its wrestling match.

—My, what a celebration we could have if we were only invited to those sixteen "Golden Wedding" cases that have been hidden away in the post-office cellar in this place.

—The election of Harding hasn't brought prices down to any great extent thus far, but it has put skids under the wages of labor and a movement may soon be expected.

—Almost we were going to say that the announcement that the doleful droning of that old organ at the skating rink is to be stopped tomorrow night was the thing we were most thankful for.

—A lot of old tanks have always known that drinks never taste as good coming up as they do going down and now most merchants are discovering that prices aren't half as pleasant coming down as they were going up.

—Many of the boys who were making fabulous wages in distant cities are filtering back home and perching themselves behind Dad's and Mom's warm kitchen stoves without a word of explanation as to where it all went to.

—All the big cities are trying to rid themselves of the hordes of criminals that infest them but the cross-roads towns need have no fear. The yeggs and the dips, the boot-leggers and gun-men have no hankerin' for small town life.

—We believe France is right in the stand she is taking in regard to settlements with Germany. France, more than any other country engaged in the war, fought for security and if she is not to be certain of that what was she bled white for?

—One section of the country tells us that the stock of lard now on hand is the lowest that it has been for years and another tells us that the reason pork is so high in the shops is because of the over-supplied lard market. Which are we to believe?

—Under the new assessment that is about to be made the ladies will be paid due consideration. All their professions are given valuations and they will have to stand up like a man and pay regular taxes. To some this will be a pleasure, no doubt, but to others —Well, we'd just as soon not be a tax collector.

—This thing of trying to fool the people into thinking that an Association of Nations isn't a League of Nations reminds us so much of the days when the late James G. Blaine, the plumed knight from Maine, thought he would swipe the free trade doctrine from us and have his Republican followers digest it as "Reciprocity."

—And now the Philadelphia Public Ledger thinks that "too much bigoted ignorance has been allowed full sweep throughout the country in the fight on the Wilson League." We use now advisedly, for immediately preceding November 2nd the Ledger was doing all it could do to promote the sweep of "bigoted ignorance" that it is complaining of. The difference between then and now, so far as the Wilson League was and is concerned, is all summed up in lust for office and bigoted partisanship and if the Ledger has not already placed itself in one or the other of these two despicable classes many of its readers have.

—The return of President-elect Harding from Panama, which is scheduled for two weeks hence, will be plenty of time to begin to look for signs of a cleavage in the Republican party over the League of Nations, or, as they prefer to call it, an association of nations, meaning, of course, one and the same thing. The Harding leaders feel rather comfortable over the situation because they expect the Democratic Senators to pour the oil of support on their troubled waters and it will be because the Democratic Senators are more concerned about the welfare of the country than they are in partisan politics that they will probably do it. It seems to be all right for Republican Senators to obstruct and tear down, but all wrong for Democratic Senators to do the same thing.

—Harry Yingling, a freight car inspector in the Altoona yards, has brought suit against the director general of railroads to recover fifty thousand dollars because of the loss of his voice through an accident while at work. He was hit on the neck by a flying steel plate which injured his vocal organs so that he can't speak above a whisper. From many angles this should prove an interesting case. In the first place his injuries would seem to be covered by compensation insurance. In the second, the accident evidently happened at the time when the workers themselves were really running the railroads and their own inspectors, among whom Mr. Yingling was numbered, were primarily responsible for this particular accident. And in the third the claimant avers impairment of his earning power through the loss of his voice when it is generally supposed that car wheels are tapped with a hammer and not with the vocal chords.

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Getting Ready to Share Profits.

In a speech delivered at New Orleans, on the eve of his departure for Panama, Senator Harding pretty clearly indicated his notion on the subject of readjustment of the industrial life of the country. "Unavoidably there will be readjustment. Inevitably there must be a reconstruction. The incalculable sacrifices would be vain. But there must come stability and dependability. We must put aside the debris of war and build on solid foundations. We cannot escape all the consequences of fevered war or the unsettled conditions of its aftermath. There are sure to be reverses. There will be endless discouragements," he said, "but a confident America will meet them with good courage."

There can be no misinterpretation of the meaning of that declaration. It forecasts the industrial struggle which has already set in and the purpose of which is to compel an extension of the work day and a decrease of the workman's wages. That purpose has been vaguely expressed in all the Republican speeches and literature of the campaign. It is the only basis of readjustment and reconstruction that has been considered by the leaders of the successful party in the recent campaign. The high cost of living has been ascribed to the high wages and short day and the remedy contemplated is greater production at a lower aggregate cost. It is a plausible economic fiction easily supported.

But there are other things to consider in this connection of equal if not greater importance. It has been the aim of civilization for centuries to establish the fact that human life is more important than financial accumulation, and that health is a more valuable community asset than wealth. During the past few years this wholesome and humanitarian idea has been pursued with the result that wages are higher and working conditions better than ever before. With the view of restoring "normalcy" Senator Penrose declared during the campaign that the corporations could afford to pay \$100,000,000 to get the Democratic party out of power. They paid a lot and are getting ready to take the profits.

—If Penrose gets well there will be a scampering to cover that will break all records. The senior Senator is resentful, as some of his party associates have found out in the past, and he particularly objects to blows aimed at him while in a sick bed.

Distressing and Anomalous Situation.

The illness of Senator Penrose, critical or otherwise according to the source of information, and the probable appointment of Senator Knox to the Premiership of Harding's cabinet, creates an anomalous situation in the politics of Pennsylvania. If Penrose should die and Knox go into the cabinet, the State would have two vacancies to fill in the Senate. So far as we can recall such a condition has never existed before. Of course the seats would not be empty long, for under the constitution the Governor has a right to make temporary appointments. But that fact does not detract from the novelty of the situation or take away any of the public interest in what might happen.

The office of Senator in Congress is an alluring prize and there are a good many Republicans in the State who would like to get it. Senator Crow, who has long been chairman of the State committee, has long had his ambitions focussed on the job and it is said that Governor Sproul is fondly cherishing a hope that he may move out of the executive mansion at Harrisburg and into one of the luxurious senatorial mansions in Washington. Gifford Pinchot has also had covetous eyes on a Senatorial seat for a considerable period of time, and "there are others." With only one seat to fill and Penrose in health the problem would be easily solved. He would pick out a congenial colleague and have him elected.

But the Senator is not a well man and no doubt his physical suffering as well as mental anguish is more or less augmented by the thought that some one who has vilified him in the past might be chosen to at least try on his Senatorial shoes and toy with his Senatorial toga. Then he probably feels that Governor Sproul has been taking advantage of his infirmities and that chairman Crow has shown ingratitude, and the selection of either of them to succeed him in office would embitter the closing periods of his life. Altogether the situation is distressing as well as anomalous. Yet there is a possibility that the worst may be averted. Penrose may get well and Knox may not be called to the cabinet.

—Somebody suggests our fat friend Taft for Secretary of State, but Harding is not likely to pay so high a price for help that wasn't needed.

Conflicting News of Battle.

News of the battle said to be in progress among the Republican factions of this State is conflicting. A week ago it seemed as if there would be practically no opposition to the reelection of Robert S. Spangler, of York, to the Speakership of the House of Representatives. Senator Penrose had given approval to Spangler's ambition and Joseph Grundy, who directly represented the Senator in the Chicago convention, was of the same mind. Since then it is rumored that State chairman Crow, Governor Sproul and others have brought out Representative Whitaker, of Chester county, and profess to be able to carry him through. Mayor Moore, of Philadelphia, has been striving to prevent a contest.

In point of fitness for the office it may safely be said that Mr. Whitaker has the decided advantage. He hasn't been as long in the Legislature as his rival but his superior ability more than balances the difference in time of service. However, fitness is not the standard in dispensing favors in the Republican party and Spangler gave fairly good satisfaction to the machine managers during the last session. Besides Whitaker has shown symptoms of independence on one or two occasions in the past and the organization is not in the habit of encouraging that spirit. Mr. Spangler knows what is expected of a Speaker of the House and is always ready to meet the requirements.

At this distance from the event, both in time and space, however, it may safely be predicted that unless Penrose dies meantime Spangler will be elected. Chairman Crow is a smooth politician and Governor Sproul is a shrewd manipulator. But Penrose will be the dispenser of offices, if he is alive, after March 4th next, and patronage is a powerful influence. Governor Sproul's term of office is drawing to a close, at least his opportunity to dispense favors is nearly exhausted, while Penrose is just coming into his own. It would probably be better for the State if Whitaker is chosen Speaker, but the interests of the organization will be promoted by the re-election of Spangler.

—What a pity that Congress can't pass a law to prohibit conferring the Noble Peace prize on President Wilson. Such a proof of esteem of Woodrow would be "gall and worm-wood" to the Senatorial "battalion of death."

Primaries, Direct and Otherwise.

If after what Mr. Charles Evans Hughes said about the League of Nations during the recent campaign his opinion on any subject is worth any opinion, his speech in Indianapolis the other day in favor of direct primaries might be interesting. Mr. Hughes is president of the National Municipal League and was speaking at a session of that body. Among other things he said "the primary system could be made an effective barometer of the will of parties only when primary laws provided for strict enrollment of voters," which is probably true. But primary laws never do provide for such an enrollment and as a matter of fact voters of opposite parties frequently nominate party candidates.

There are substantial reasons both for and against the direct primary as a medium of making party nominations, and Mr. Hughes employed all of them in support of his theory. If the voters at a primary were limited to the party for which the nomination was to be made it would "place a weapon in the hands of the party voters which they can use with effect in case of need." We have all seen voters of one party register as of the other party in order that they might help nominate a candidate of the other party who was really obnoxious to the majority of the voters of his own party. That is neither conducive of political morality nor efficient administration.

Admitting all the merits of the direct primary that is claimed for it, however, there is a reason in favor of the convention system which deserves serious attention. It brings into public notice and affords just opportunity to new figures in party organization and develops leadership. Since the adoption of the direct primary system in Pennsylvania no new blood has been found in the organization of either party and the party boss is supreme, because there is no chance to contend with him for popular notice. In the Democratic party, for example, when the organization is defeated for the nomination it bolts the ticket and gives a practically unopposed election to the candidate of the other party.

—The illness of the ex-Empress of Germany may excite some sympathy but nobody cares how her husband feels.

—Some potatoes are still in the ground and much corn is yet to be shucked in Centre county.

Gracious Tribute to Wilson.

One of the first official acts of the League of Nations in session at Geneva was forwarding a communication to President Wilson expressing appreciation of his work in creating it. In the estimation of the great men of all countries assembled under the provisions of the covenant "in order to promote international co-operation and to achieve international peace and security," it was a beneficent thing. Under the appraisal of those distinguished gentlemen much of the credit of it is due to Woodrow Wilson, President of the United States. Only a few men, among them Senator Lodge, Senator Penrose and Hungry Hi, dissent from this opinion. Only predatory interests want war.

This communication with President Wilson felicitating him on the achievement of a great purpose for which he was largely responsible was a gracious act. In the work achieved he sacrificed his health and probably shortened his life. But it was worth the labor to the world, and in its achievement probably worth the sacrifices to him. The highest duty of a man is to give the best that is in him to his country and his kind. President Wilson did that freely and ungrudgingly, and it must have been a great comfort as well as an infinite pleasure to know that the best minds of the world fully appreciated and cordially commended him in it. Such praise is the most generous recompense.

For months President Wilson has been traduced and his achievements belittled because such expression of malice gave promise to vicious minds of a political triumph. Senators Lodge and Penrose and Johnson have vilified him ruthlessly, and our fat friend Taft misrepresented him and maligned his work. But what they say and do is of little consequence in the long run, for history will justly and properly fix the places of all men in the estimation of posterity. The League of Nations, through its illustrious President, has securely settled the place of Woodrow Wilson for the present, and the records of time will justify that intelligent verdict as the voice of history.

—Golden weddings are just rare enough to make them an object of interest at all times, and ordinarily they are heralded with all the publicity possible, but last week sixteen cases of Golden Wedding were included in the cargo of booze captured by the state police up Bald Eagle valley and they have been assigned to the post-office cellar along with the ordinary headache stuff that has been accumulated there by the busy agents of Uncle Samuel. The three men captured with the booze were taken to Williamsport last Saturday by a United States marshal.

—Thirty-three years ago the price of gasoline was nine cents a gallon, and in those days the old Atlantic Refining company station in Bellefonte sold an average of three barrels a month. The first sale of a full barrel was made to Peter F. Keichline for use in his peanut roaster. Today the price is 34 cents a gallon and the Bellefonte Fuel & Supply company alone sold three hundred thousand gallons during July. The automobile, of course, is the big consumer of the energized fluid.

—Yesterday—turkey day—officially ended the football season, and the hundreds of college students who have been identified with the sport will now break training and hereafter devote all their time to cramming their craniums with scientific facts which are designed to help them carry out their future careers.

—The weather man was not very particular with the kind of weather doled out to us for Thanksgiving. In fact it has been a dismal, rainy week so far, with no immediate indication of a let up.

—If the Democrats of Pennsylvania intend to make any fights in the future they would better erect a toboggan for the Palmer-McCormick-Donnelly crowd now.

—It may as well be understood in the beginning that William Randolph Hearst must "get his" or trouble will begin early.

The Way for Labor to Help.

"If labor will join whole-heartedly in doing its share" to eliminate evils which have contributed toward unemployment it will reduce unemployment to the minimum, and the most important thing for labor to do is for it to increase production. A fair day's work for a fair day's pay should be a point of honor with every man, whether his labor is manual or mental.

—Subscribe for the "Watchman."

Preventing War.

From the Philadelphia Record. The decision made at Geneva to send an armed force to Vlna to secure a free and honest plebiscite to determine whether the city shall be Polish or Lithuanian convinces The New York Tribune that the Republican charges that membership in the League might easily involve us in war were well founded. We have no objections to the statement of facts made by The Tribune, but its inferences bear no sort of relation to its facts. "The armed force," says The Tribune, "is to be composed of contingents furnished by Great Britain, France, Belgium and Spain. What would our government do were it an unreserved member of the League when a case similar to that of Vlna arose? Would our executive department assume the power to join in the expedition, or would it say that Congress must first be consulted?" And then, in bland unconsciousness that it is destroying its own argument, The Tribune cites two cases—and it should have cited two more—in which the President acted first and consulted afterward. The Tribune says: "This was the course pursued when our troops helped make up the international expedition to Peking. It was the course pursued when President Wilson landed forces at Vera Cruz." Two cases not mentioned by The Tribune are the dispatch of the marines by President Cleveland to keep the Panama Railroad open, in compliance with our treaty with Colombia, and the dispatch of troops to the Isthmus by President Roosevelt to the Isthmus of Panama to suppress a petty insurrection, which was a violation of our treaty with Colombia.

Here, then, are four instances in which without any league a President has used troops abroad without consulting Congress. If both Republican and Democratic Presidents may do that now, why should there be any objection to their doing a similar thing in association with the other members of the League for the purpose of preventing war?

For it is not to participate in war, but to prevent war, that the League will send a force to Vlna to see that the people have a fair chance to decide whether they will join Poland or Lithuania. If left to the two countries concerned there would probably be war, and when a war starts no man can tell where it will stop. A military demonstration by Austria in Serbia caused the world war, in which even the United States became involved. Is it better to prevent war, or to let the war come? There is no reason to apprehend that Poland and Lithuania will offer resistance to a League of Nations force. But if they should, it would be better for us to join England, France, Belgium and Spain in suppressing that resistance than to wait till Europe was involved in another war.

Without consulting Congress, President McKinley sent American troops to co-operate with the troops of other countries in China and our troops were put under the command of a foreign general, and the Boxers resisted and were suppressed. All that could possibly happen at Vlna actually happened at Tienstin and Peking, and American troops fought on foreign soil at the command of the President and without the authority of Congress.

If we were an unreserved member of the League we should participate with other nations, not in conducting a war, but in preventing a war, and the authority of the President would not go beyond that actually exercised by Presidents Cleveland, McKinley, Roosevelt and Wilson. Why all this outcry over the League of Nations, now that the campaign is over?

Woodrow Wilson.

From the New Republic. As Woodrow Wilson passes out of our cities, the Wilson of 1920 recedes and a complete Wilson substitutes itself in men's minds. There have been many phases of Wilson besides the last phase. But for as long as anyone living can see ahead there will be no one accepted perspective on them all. For he is identified with a lurid and volcanic moment which made respond the whole range of human passion, from utter savagery to the sublimest sacrifice. He himself has been like a huge crystal in a ring of fire, glittering with the hope and anguish all about him. It was Wilson's fate to gather the impact of a universal war, and by its passions he was lifted, and he has been thrown, as few other men before him.

It is an exquisitely painful subject to think about for everyone, for at a moment like this there comes a sense that Woodrow Wilson is just a human being, with the human right to tenderness, and to that ultimate faith which insists that a man is an end not a means. The Woodrow Wilson about whom biographers will dispute is the man who was to have been, and may still perhaps be, through the influence of his ideas, the means to an ordered world. But behind that public figure, that uncommon man, there is a common man whose life is sacred and invaluable, and beyond the reach of argument.

—Wonder who is responsible for the high price of coal. Both the miners and operators assure the public it isn't their fault.

—Just now many of us are wondering as to whether we are to have any Indian summer this fall.

SPAWLS FROM THE KEYSSTONE.

—Presented with a bag of shelled corn for seed by his fellow-workmen in the Pennsylvania blacksmith shop at Altoona, on Saturday, Albert C. Shaver, just returned on a prison, thought he would examine the corn after he reached home, and found \$118.45 which his friends had placed in the bag as a retirement present.

—A DuBois young man, convinced that he could eat three pies at one sitting, made a wager to that effect and lost. He failed to state just what the contents of the pies should be, and when he rolled up his sleeves to sail in the first pie confronting him was a monster meat pie. Without tackling it, he declared himself satisfied and hurriedly walked away from the restaurant, the battleground for the contest. Now all pies don't look alike to him.

—Scipie Young, colored, age 101 years, born in slavery in Virginia prior to the Civil war, died at his home at Kane last Thursday, after a brief illness. When the Civil war broke out, Young joined the Union forces at Fredericksburg. He was made a servant to Lieutenant Wilkinson and later served General Thomas L. Kane in a similar capacity. General Kane brought Young to Pennsylvania when hostilities closed. Young's estate, valued at \$50,000, goes to his six children.

—George A. Oyer, of Dauphin county, who was married November 13, 1913, relates in detail the working of the "thirteen hoodoo" in an application to the Dauphin county court for a divorce from his wife. Oyer alleges that March 26, this year, his spouse threatened to slay him with a cleaver; that on April 20 she hid the cleaver in the bed-room, and that she frequently used abusive language and struck him, until May 6, he left for a more peaceful abode, where the number thirteen did not figure.

—Henry Henzy, the blacksmith of Madera, Clearfield county, convicted in criminal court for the murder of Alex Wash, his neighbor, during a quarrel, has been sentenced by Judge Singleton Bell to pay the extreme penalty for his crime. Motion for a new trial had been refused. When sentenced to death in the electric chair Henzy showed little emotion. Henzy went to Wash's yard and deliberately stabbed him to death following an altercation growing out of trouble between the children of the two families.

—The Rev. S. B. Bidlack, pastor of the East Main street Methodist church, Lock Haven, delivered a sermon on "Thieves," on Sunday, taking his text from the gospel of St. Mark: "The thief cometh not to destroy, but to rob and to steal, but I am come that you might have eternal life." By way of introduction the Rev. Mr. Bidlack referred to a visit of some thieves to his refrigerator. When he returned home after the service, he found that while he was delivering the sermon on "Thieves" that his refrigerator had again been emptied of its contents.

—When their dogs dug around a pile of stones Walter and Gardiner Nau, and Clayton Newcomer, hunters, found 800 pounds of skinned silk, valued at \$800.00, near Columbia, York county. They reported their find to the Schwarzenbach silk mill. It had been carried from the mill by three girl workers at various times. They were arrested and held in \$300 bail. They confessed that rather than work the silk, which was tangled, they concealed it under their garments to get it out of the mill and at night the mother of one of the accused carried it to the woods and buried it.

—Lewis Wise, a miner in the Janesville section, is in the Clearfield hospital with a dangerous gunshot wound in his left breast, inflicted late Friday by some unidentified person. He comes from the territory where the miners and operators on the mines have been at odds for various times and four other victims have been shot during the period of trouble. At the present time a reward of \$5000 for the arrest of the person who killed Ole Johnson from ambush awaits some person who can land the criminal. He was killed while on his way home from work at the mines at Janesville.

—The body of Yee Sing, Chinese laundryman, found dead in his home in Hollidaysburg Wednesday, remains unclaimed, notwithstanding the fact that money and securities totaling \$988.21 were found in his possession. He literally died on a bed of silver, as other quarters, half-dollars and dollars were concealed under the mattress. His other personal property was hidden in all sorts of places, and much of it was in silver. The Chinese Consul at Washington has been notified of the death, but no word has been received from him regarding the disposition of the body. Death was due to natural causes.

—Shot high into the air when an extra train hit his automobile at a grade crossing at Sunbury, last Friday evening, Richard Thomas, aged 30 years, got a head on iron rod on the forehead, which, as he descended and when the train was brought to a stop, 300 feet further on, he was found perched on the cow-catcher, only slightly hurt. The car, a new \$5000 automobile, owned by William R. Rohrback, Sunbury's millionaire water king, was a perfect wreck, being nothing more than a pile of twisted metal. According to bystanders it was hardly believable that a human being could have sat inside of that car and escaped death.

—After ten years as a general merchant in Natrona, Allegheny county, A. Morris has announced that he will sell out his goods and quit business because of burglary losses. These losses, Morris asserts, cut up all the profits. In spite of special police guard, barricade against doors and various devices intended to serve as burglar alarms, Morris' store has been robbed several times during the last few years and hundreds of dollars' worth of merchandise has been stolen. A few weeks ago thieves, unable to gain entrance in the usual ways, sawed a hole through a wall of the store and helped themselves. This was the last straw, and Morris decided to quit.

—John B. McCrory, of near Northumberland, the father of seventeen children, fifteen of whom are living, had an eventful day last week with the stork keeping very busy among his offspring. First, he was called from his work by the announcement that a son had arrived at the home of his daughter, Mrs. B. D. Yeager. Delighted, he returned to his work to be called again by the report that his son, Irwin McCrory, had just become the father of a bouncing boy. In a short while the rule of three got in its work and the happy man received notice of the arrival of the stork at the home of another son, Walter McCrory. While the grandfather was figuring on the cost of new baby carriages over the phone came the information from another son, Harold McCrory, that he also had become the father of a daughter. Things have now returned to normal in the McCrory home.