

INK SLINGS.

Evidently Mr. Harding doesn't propose to let his admirers "shimmy" him into office.

The electoral college for this State met, transacted its business and adjourned in Harrisburg last Monday and the average man didn't know what was going on.

When it is recalled that King Constantine got ninety-eight per cent. of the votes cast at the recent election in Greece it will be seen that Harding isn't the "whole cheese."

The experience of those three natty balloonists who were lost in the frigid fastnesses of Canada ought to be sufficient to warn us all that it isn't half as hard to fly off as it is to get back again.

Congress has struck out of the postal appropriation bill the estimate for the continuance of the aerial mail service and unless the Senate restores it Bellefonte will be in danger of being expunged from the aerial map.

The public will probably not be so much interested in the fact that Senator Penrose has changed his mind on the matter of the necessity for tariff legislation at this session as it will be as to what made him change it.

A statement crediting Lloyd George to Scotch lineage got past our proof reader's desk last week and seems to have been detected by dozens of our readers who have called our attention to the fact, which we very well knew, that England's Premier is a Welshman.

We see the peaceful quiet 'round the Bush house down on High, we note there's nothing doing at the Brock-erhoff, as we go by. Old Strickline looks as dead as a mackerel in its kit and all there is at Haag's is to just go in and sit. The Voltzard act is acting and booze is getting shy and every night will look like Sunday, in Bellefonte by and by.

Always the men are putting their foot in it. When the women first got the vote it was the men who insisted that they had to tell their age. Then it was the men who said they had to pay taxes and now that they are being drawn for jury duty the men come out and publish their occupation. Just mark the prediction that when some of them see themselves listed as "housekeeper" when others are "lady" we wouldn't want to be the culprit in the case they sit on until they have had ample time to blow it all off.

"Devil Anse" Hatfield, eighty-one years old, was laid to rest at Logan, West Virginia, on Sunday. In days gone by when a Hatfield or a McCoy ventured from his cabin in the mountains he knew his life was only secure so long as he could keep the other fellow from getting the drop on him. For fifteen years the feud that existed between those two families flamed until thirty-five men and one woman paid the price for the quarrel. They were the terrors of the mountains of West Virginia and Kentucky and "Devil Anse" was as notorious as Jesse James.

The average person has very little conception what the disparity in exchange between this country and Europe means to the people on the other side. Most of us notice it in print and pass it up as a matter in which we are not interested. But we are vitally interested. Our industries will never boom until the buying power of foreign money is raised to the point where it comes nearer to the value of the American dollar. Take, for example, the insurance question. A resident of Central Europe had a policy for two thousand dollars in an American company. He was compelled to pay his premium in American dollars and now that he is dead the company has paid the face of the policy, ten thousand kronnen, in kronnen which have depreciated so that the company was able to buy ten thousand of them with which to pay the policy for only twenty dollars of our money. Can you wonder, after knowing this, at Europe not coming into the American markets to buy. And don't you see why a League of Nations is needed to stabilize such conditions.

Bellefonte needs a lot of houses and until we get them rents are going to keep climbing. It is a mere matter of supply and demand. Generally speaking rents will not be high in Bellefonte, even after advances that we hear are being made for April 1st are operative. As a matter of fact most rents in Bellefonte have been too low. So low as to make building investment unprofitable and consequently unattractive. And when taxes run up to fifty mills they become a serious overhead on any property. To our way of thinking renters in this place in particular are to a certain extent responsible for the plight they find themselves in. Usually they are found foremost among those who agitate for every public improvement that is proposed. And usually they join the chorus that knocks the property owners who naturally enough hesitate before falling in with every proposal to increase the borough indebtedness. They do it thoughtlessly, of course, so we are writing this paragraph merely to remind them that every addition to the borough or county debt means an addition to the tax rate and an addition to the tax rate means additional rentals, if property is to yield its owner a proper return on his investment.

Democratic Watchman

STATE RIGHTS AND FEDERAL UNION.

VOL. 66. BELLEFONTE, PA., JANUARY 14, 1920. NO. 2.

Harding Halts Belshazzar's Feast.

Word comes out of Marion, Ohio, that the President-elect, with precision that we had not credited him with, has already read the handwriting on the wall and has cast a shadow over the magnificent inaugural functions that were planned for him.

Washington was primed for such an orgy of social dissipation at public expense as the world has rarely witnessed. The inaugural ball was to go down in history as "the most brilliant event of all time." It was to have been held in the interior court of the Pension office at an expense to the public of about \$200,000 and some considerable delay in the dispatch of the business of that bureau of the government. But as an esteemed contemporary said, "it will be some party." The average pensioner, even though hungry, would have felt fully recompensed for suffering, when he contemplated the grandeur of the inaugural ball. He has made other sacrifices for his country before and would again, if necessary, and the "most brilliant achievement of all time" would have been worth while.

Gorgeous were the plans up to yesterday when the word came from Marion that Mr. Harding has seen things and coincidental with his vision Congress threw cold water on the ardor of the shimmers by paring the appropriation to a paltry \$50,000.

During the last several months there has been a good deal of destitution throughout the world. In Europe and Asia and Africa men, women and children have been starving and American philanthropy has been heavily taxed to save humanity from the severest suffering. Even in this land of plenty the specter of want has been revealing a horrible presence and a menacing figure. Hundreds of industries have been closed up and thousands of industrious men and women thrown out of employment since the election last November. But the information that the inaugural ball will be the "most brilliant event of all time" was to reward and completely solace every right minded man and woman in this broad land.

There was no inaugural ball when President Wilson was inducted into office either in 1913 or 1917 and there would probably have been no "function" of the kind if Governor Cox had been elected. Wilson wouldn't stand for an interruption of the pension service and Washington society was deprived of the privilege of "the midnight shout and revelry, tipsy dance and jollity" at public expense. It's small wonder that he is hated by frivolous Washington and it was expected that Harding would be liked because he is so different. But the inaugural ball managers were daringly ambitious at that. Belshazzar's feast was an event of considerable brilliancy, but it would have been outdone in Washington in March had not "mene, mene, tekel upharsin" appeared too soon.

Speaking of the great humors of the United States the proclamations, promises and predictions of fair price commissioner Frank B. McClain are certainly very funny.

Where a Freight Car Spends Its Time.

People who complain of the annoyance of delayed freight know little of the causes that contribute to the hold-up of shipments between their origin and destination.

Statistics recently compiled reveal the surprising information that a freight car spends only 11 per cent. of its time in actual travel from one terminal to another. 37 per cent. of its time is spent in the hands of the shipper or the receiver. 43 per cent. of the time it is in use is required to pass it through a classification yard and get it onto a through train, and 9 per cent. of its time is required for repairs.

It will be seen from these figures that both the shipper and receiver and the railroads might combine to effect an increase in the actual carrying service of a car. If the former were to load and unload more promptly the 37 per cent. of time now consumed by them would be reduced. And the railroads, themselves, might materially reduce the 43 per cent. of time spent in classification.

If savings could be effected in these two points alone it might result in a freight car rendering twice the service that it is now doing, the railroads would be saved the costly additions they are now compelled to make to their equipment and lower freight rates might reasonably be expected.

The people of Berlin, Germany, having made a great fuss over Senator Medill McCormick creates the hope that he may remain there all his life.

One-half of the first month of the new year is already past and gone, and in ninety days the trout fishing season will open.

Unjust Charge Against Palmer.

We have no brief and not much inclination to defend Mitchell Palmer against accusations of whatever sort. But one made at a hearing before the Senate committee on Finance, in Washington, the other day, by a person called Colonel John P. Wood, of Philadelphia, against the Attorney General is so utterly preposterous, as to compel comment. This Wood person appeared before the committee in behalf of the wool manufacturers and his charge is that Mr. Palmer "was unwise in promulgating a campaign against high prices." Prices of wool and woolsens, it will be remembered, increased so rapidly during and after the war that they pushed the clouds up, and Mr. Wood thinks it was a crime to check the ascension.

Mr. Wood was arguing in favor of the Fordney emergency tariff bill upon which Senator Penrose is said to have changed his mind. Men and women have been getting garments at from thirty to forty per cent. reduction in price since New Years and though they are still from fifty to a hundred per cent. higher than before the war prices, the woolen manufacturers are striving to check the decline. Mr. Wood probably imagines that if Attorney General Palmer had kept quiet during the soaring period, public interest in prices would have been less active and militant. For that reason he boldly asserts that the campaign against high prices was unwise. The average burglar believes that policemen are an unmitigated evil and their activities exceedingly improper.

As a matter of fact, however, we can't see why Mr. Wood, even from his point of view, should object to the campaign against high prices conducted by Mr. Palmer. Mouth activities are seldom productive of results and outside of proclamations, promises and interviews Mr. Palmer never did anything toward checking high prices. Most of his time after his elevation to the office of Attorney General was consumed in his campaign for the nomination for President and it was not until some time after that pipe dream of his had dissolved "like the baseless fabric of a vision," that prices began to come down, and in the process there is no trace of responsibility leading toward A. Mitch.

We will know more about the width, depth and durability of the harmony in the Pennsylvania Legislature when the report of the Spoils committee is presented next week.

Blunder of Women Politicians.

The Democratic ladies, Lord bless 'em, who assembled in Philadelphia to celebrate the birth anniversary of the immortal Jackson, and incidentally to reorganize the party, on Saturday evening, made a bad start, according to the esteemed Philadelphia Record. "Everything was rosy while the orators confined themselves to spread-eagle efforts," the Record adds, "but the moment straightforward criticism was offered a storm of protest broke loose. For a time it looked as though the dinner, far from paving the way for rehabilitation of the party, would create another rupture and make the task of reorganization harder than ever." The purpose was to praise and not to bury the party.

The principal mistake, if the published statement of the proceedings be taken literally, was in the selection of the "orator" of the occasion. The ladies in charge of the event invited Senator Thomas, of Colorado, to deliver the principal address, and no doubt taking that as a license to speak his own mind, the Senator launched a severe criticism of the policies of President Wilson. Senator Thomas, a native of Georgia, has always been opposed to the policies of the President. Naturally he assumed that this was his recommendation to the Democratic ladies of Pennsylvania, and with characteristic southern courtesy, he aimed to please. But his animadversions on the President didn't please.

In the memorable campaign of 1892 Senator Thomas was the Colorado member of the Democratic National committee and used the powers of the office to elect the notorious Davis Waite Governor of the State over an admirable candidate fairly nominated by the Democratic party. By some curious accident of politics he was elected United States Senator in 1915, as a Democrat, and has since taken advantage of every opportunity to oppose the President and embarrass the party. The ladies who invited him to speak at the Jackson day dinner in Philadelphia may justify their blunder by pleading inexperience in political matters, but the result should admonish them to be more careful in the future.

John Bull is wondering how the Republicans of this country got the idea that he had six votes in the League of Nations.

Suggests a Business Manager.

It is a hopeful sign that leading Democrats throughout the country are seriously discussing the question of organizing now for the campaign of 1924. The failure to hold a Jackson day celebration under the auspices of the National committee this year was a disappointment to many who believed that would be an appropriate time to inaugurate the movement. But for some unexplained reason the usual Jackson day dinner at Washington was omitted this year and the opportunity to begin the new organization has been lost. The approaching anniversary of the birth of Thomas Jefferson might serve the purpose, but three months time would hardly be sufficient to prepare for so important an event.

The Republicans began immediately after the election of 1916 to prepare for the campaign of 1920 and the completeness of their organization and the effectiveness of their work shows that it was both wise and expedient. Even before the National conventions were held the Republican organization had victory "wrapped up," and from the beginning of the campaign to the end there was never, except for a day or two, a doubt of the result. Governor Cox's Pittsburgh speech exposing the profligate plans of the Republican machine dazed the Republican managers for a few days. But when Penrose assured big business that putting a Republican in the White House would be worth \$100,000,000 to them, the courage of the managers returned and confidence was restored.

But there should be no friction among the party leaders in leading up to a movement for reorganization. In a speech at a Jackson day dinner at Los Angeles, William C. McAdoo suggested the appointment of a business manager for the party and some of the friends of Governor Cox are trying to torture that into a criticism of the management of chairman White. Clearly Mr. McAdoo had no idea of reflecting upon chairman White, who made as strong a campaign as was possible under existing conditions. Nevertheless it was a good suggestion. An efficient manager and assiduous effort from now on would get the party in shape for the next campaign and the result of the election will be vastly different.

The best minds may be making the Marion hotel keepers rich but so far they have made no perceptible improvement in public affairs.

Needless Worry About the Cabinet.

Some of our esteemed contemporaries are wasting mental energy in worrying over the personnel of the incoming President's cabinet. No very definite information as to who will be called to his council table by Mr. Harding has been revealed, and the fact is causing a good deal of comment. As a matter of fact, however, it is not a subject of surprise. Most Presidents-elect have concealed from the public the names of the men subsequently appointed to the cabinet, until after the inauguration and in many cases the announcements have created both disappointments and surprises. It is regarded among those active in public affairs as a largely personal affair and the right to secrecy is generally acknowledged.

It is true, probably, that there was a widespread notion that Mr. Harding would pursue an unusual course in this respect. He is different from the type of men who have been honored with the great office in the past, with the possible exception of Rutherford B. Hayes, and nobody has ever been able to figure out how Hayes got the nomination. The nomination of Harding was forced by the Senatorial bunch which imagined that the Senate had been slighted in various ways by President Wilson and it was expected that the Senators rather than the President-elect would select the official advisers. Therefore the fact that Penrose and Lodge and Smoot have not spoken on the subject have excited mental speculation.

The truth is, probably, that the President-elect has had some difficulty in getting men to accept the several portfolios in his cabinet. The Senators have about made up their minds to run the administration and the average man of cabinet calibre would hesitate to accept the responsibilities involved under such conditions. Senator Penrose said the other day that it didn't make any difference who is Secretary of State as the Senate intends to shape the foreign policy of the administration. Of course men of the type of Root wouldn't stand for such a thing and Harding would like to get some respectable dummy who would. We can imagine nobody except Justice Hughes or our friend Taft as available.

Penrose made a sudden jump from low to high tariff but it remains to be seen whether or not he landed on his feet.

Keeping Up With Boies.

Senator Penrose's flippancy on the emergency tariff bill has its amusing as well as its political aspects. Of course, his enemies say that it reveals his weakness, both physical and as a party leader, and that he no longer has to be regarded as an important factor in the councils of his party. That is a matter for Republicans to decide for themselves. To the disinterested observer the contention would seem to possess considerable force.

In another way the Senator's complete about face, after his contemptible references to "popgun" tariffs and the necessity for proceeding with the revision of the existing duties in a scientific and orderly manner, has its distinctly humorous features. When he announced his stand all the loyal party organs hastened to point out how correct his position was and how absurd an emergency tariff bill would be under present circumstances. For once they told the truth about the tariff. Here, for instance, is The Harrisburg Telegraph, which speaks of the Senator, "with the clear vision of an experienced statesman," opposing a bill "which certain special interests make an excuse for protective tariff enactments." It then goes on to ridicule the plan for boosting the prices of food and manufactured articles, as follows:

The public will agree with him that this is no time for hasty legislation. The times are fluid. Every day sees a change. We are in the midst of a trying period, it is true, but tomorrow will see an improvement and early spring will witness most industries back to normal and business going ahead under full steam.

If a tariff measure is to be worth anything it ought to be based upon normal conditions, and in the present unstable state of business no basis of that can be reached, for the whole intent of the emergency tariff appears to be to maintain certain lines upon an abnormal basis, while the readjustment process. There is no more call for an emergency tariff now than there is for the re-establishment of food control, with the hope of keeping prices of provisions up.

If this was true on Wednesday, before the Senator made his abject surrender to the high tariff advocates, we cannot see how it is less true on Saturday, after the backdown of the Hon. Boies. Economic truths do not depend upon the stand taken by a single politician, even though he may be a high priest of the G. O. P. sanhedrin. The Republican papers in endorsing Senator Penrose's views as first formulated about this preposterous tariff bill stated the truth about it. When they crawfish in order to keep in line with the Senator's surrender of conviction they do not change the facts in the case. "There is," as The Telegraph says, "no more call for an emergency tariff now than there is for the re-establishment of food control," and if such a bill is passed it will be purely for political, not economic, reasons.

The "Movement on Foot."

From the New York World.

Sir Robert Horne, president of the British Board of Trade, is making the suggestion in a published interview that the United States cancel its war loans to Great Britain on condition that France and other European Allies would have a "forgiveness of debts all around."

This seems to give the proposition the sanction of the British government and the fact is of interest at this end of the line of forgiveness. But even more interesting is Sir Robert's further statement in the London Daily Graphic that "the attitude of America is strictly self-contained but there is a movement on foot which I hope may lead to something."

There is evidently such a movement on foot and it is located in America, as indicated. It began with the Home Market club some months ago and it maintained a lively if whispered existence in high tariff circles all through the Presidential campaign.

Just a Matter of Clothes.

From the Charlotte Observer.

Mr. Knox is now finding so much of good in the Versailles treaty that he would hold Germany to fulfillment of the pledges exacted of her in that treaty, and then, in place of Article X, he would adopt a section providing that when the peace of Europe is again threatened "the United States would regard such a situation as a menace to its own peace and freedom, and would consult with the Powers with a view to co-operating in the defense of civilization." In short, he would disguise the League of Nations in a Republican made suit of clothes and bow down to it.

If some one will provide a way to limit the home brewery to less than one-half of one per cent, we will all agree that he is a public benefactor.

SPAULS FROM THE KEYSTONE.

Frank Sarvi, who discovered a burglar in his store at Williamsport shortly after 10 o'clock Saturday night, engaged in a pistol duel with him, and was shot just above the heart, in the shoulder and through the thigh. He is in the Williamsport hospital in a critical condition. The burglar got away but blood marks show he was hit. The police are searching for him.

Five members of the Tyrone basketball team were on their way to Huntingdon last Wednesday night to play the High school five, when their automobile went through a fence on a sharp curve near Alexandria and rolled down a 125-foot embankment. The branch of a tree tore off the top of the car as it turned over and the boys were dumped out, escaping serious injury.

Walter Frederick, aged 67 years, was instantly killed at Lewisburg on Saturday night, when struck by an automobile driven by Lester Horam. The accident occurred on the main street and was witnessed by a large crowd. The aged man became confused while crossing the street, momentarily hesitating when he saw the machine approaching, and then stepped back in its path.

After the Lehigh county grand jury had found a true bill against Miss Ella Riegel, of Bryn Mawr, her trial was continued until the April term. Miss Riegel is charged with manslaughter in causing the death on October 12th last of Miss Mabel Thompson, assistant city librarian in Allentown, whom she struck with her automobile as Miss Thompson was alighting from a trolley car. Miss Riegel's bail was increased from \$3000 to \$4000.

Michael O'Connor, register and recorder of Elk county, has held nearly every office of any importance (except that of Judge) in his county during the last quarter of a century. Just what the court house at Ridgway would be without him Elk countians wouldn't want to imagine. Mr. O'Connor belongs to a number of organizations, including the Elks. He is a charter member of the Ridgway Lodge, having been a member of Renovo Lodge.

Rebecca Conroy, alias Edith Grant, aged 40, and her brother, Charles Conroy, 27, were shot and killed by farmer, constable William Miles, at Reading, Sunday evening. Miles then turned the weapon on himself and killed himself. The tragedy occurred at the woman's home. She had recently resented the attentions of Miles, and the supposition is that when the brother arrived home and found him in the house, a quarrel ensued and the shooting followed.

Before Samuel Knely, a young farmer of Black Creek township, Schuylkill county, left last week for State College to take a winter course he had a thrilling battle with a bull that attacked him as he was at work in his barn. Fortunately Knely was handling a pitchfork at the time and he used this in repelling the charges of the infuriated animal, which finally gave up the fight after being severely cut about the eyes and head with the sharp prongs.

Major William G. Murdock, adjutant of the Pennsylvania Department of the American Legion and who served as chief draft officer for Pennsylvania during the world war, is spending some of his leisure time in collecting autographs of the most collections in the State. He has all of the Presidents, including some of their autograph letters, nearly all of the Vice Presidents and Speakers of the House, many Congressmen, Governors, Cabinet officers and statesmen, as well as most of the signers of the Declaration.

Eighty head of cattle at the State hospital for the insane at Danville, one of the finest herds in the entire State, were sold last Thursday to butchers, breaking up the herds that had taken fifteen years to breed. The eighty cattle sold had reacted to the tuberculin tests conducted by the State, and while it was possible to use the meat of the animals, it was no longer safe to use their milk. Of the herd of 130 cattle, there are now left only fifty, twenty of them being cattle of more than two years, while thirty are calves and young heifers.

Gold medals to ten men who had been in their employ fifty years or more and bronze medals to fifty-two men who have been employed more than forty years were presented last week by the American Car and Foundry company. Each of the medals presented bears the words "The Old Guard," inscribed on a tiny metal passenger car. Sofarus Smethers, who has been an employee of the Berwick plant for sixty-seven years, was honored with a special gold medal. He has worked at the plant twelve years longer than any other man.

Associate Judge George E. Boyer, of Duanecon, slept undisturbed over \$500 tucked under his pillow on Friday night while thieves ransacked his big general store. A preliminary investigation Saturday showed that no great amount of merchandise was taken, but Judge Boyer is particularly aggrieved by the audacity of the thieves who built a fire in the kitchen adjoining his storeroom, where which the Judge lives, and cooked themselves a meal of ham and eggs. That the men rested long after their night's work was evidenced by 20 or 25 cigarette stubs strewn about the kitchen floor.

Three suits were filed last week in the United States District court, Pittsburgh, against Charles E. Specht, of Johnstown, to recover the sum of \$448,200, as the aftermath of a coal brokerage business he is said to have engaged in. The largest of the three suits was filed by Victor Guinonet, of 13 east Thirty-sixth street, New York city, who seeks to recover \$370,000. The other two suits were filed by Louis N. Small, of Riverside, Conn., who seeks to recover \$74,000. The bill sets forth that Guinonet and Small acted as agents for Specht, who had for sale certain coal and his failure to deliver the coal in accordance with a contract resulted in losses to the agents.

For six hours on Saturday two fire companies fought to save Louis Bolick, of Pittsburgh, from being sucked down to death under a mass of coal in an automatic stoker in the plant of the Armstrong Cork company—and won after Bolick's arms, neck and head only remained visible. Bolick had charge of six boilers in the factory, all fed from a coal bin twenty feet square and twenty feet deep. He climbed to the top of the bin to loosen the coal when he lost his balance. Bolick shouted for help, but it was ten minutes before he was heard. A pole pushed to him was useless as the coal pressed about him too firmly. Firemen were called. After stakes had been driven as close to the helpless man as possible, the firemen were able to loosen the coal about him sufficiently to pull him out.